

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING
OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 21ST OCTOBER 2013 AT 2.00P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, M. Buckley, J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, P. Clendennen, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, C. Hanniffy, N. Hogan, J. Foley, J. Leahy, T. McKeigue, T. McLoughlin, P. Ormond, D. Owens, G. Plunkett and L. Quinn.
APOLOGIES:	Cllr. P. Rowland.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. D. Kirrane D.O.S., Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Mitchell, S.E.P, Ms. C. Hilliard, A.O., Mr. D. Mahon SEO, Ms. J. Finney, A.O., Mr. M. Duffy, Technician, Ms. A. Walsh, A/S.E.P., Mr. A. Murray, S.P., Mr. D. Meehan, E.P., Ms. C. Dempsey, A.O., Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:	Votes of congratulations were extended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Offaly Ladies Junior Football team on winning the Junior All-Ireland Title;- Shinrone Minor hurling team on winning the County Minor Final;- Ms. Vivian Fitzpatrick, Resident of Cloverlodge Nursing Home, Shinrone on her 100th birthday;- Kilcormac/Killoughey Senior hurling and Intermediate football teams on winning the respective county finals;- Tullamore Senior and Junior football teams on winning the respective county finals;- Shamrocks on winning their first Minor A football title;- Birr Junior B Football team on winning the final;- Na Fianna on winning the U16A hurling championship.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:- Mr. Pat Gallagher, Co. Manager on the death of his uncle, Tom Gallagher; Marie Molloy, Kyle, Kinnitty, Birr on the death of her father Gerry Buckley; The Kenny family, Roscomroe, Roscrea on the death of Frank Kenny; Enda Kenny, Roscomroe, Roscrea on the death of his uncle, Frank;

<p>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (cont'd)</p>	<p>Anne Rabbette, Ballykilcross, Clara on the death of her husband, Paddy;</p> <p>Ann Meehan, Garran an Chaislean, Clara on the death of her mother, Rita Devine;</p> <p>Gerry Egan, 20 The Willows, Clonminch, Tullamore on the death of his mother, Eileen;</p> <p>Rosaleen O' Meara, Ballymooney, Geashill on the death of her husband, Sean;</p> <p>Deirdre Duffin, Ballard, Tullamore on the death of her mother, Eileen Egan;</p> <p>Tom O' Connor, Breaghmore, Clareen, Birr on the death of his mother Bridie;</p> <p>Paddy Kelly & Family, Ballymacrossan, Cloneygowan on the death of his sister Ann Marie Carter;</p> <p>Aidan Egan & the Egan Family C/O Milne O' Dwyer, Kilbride Street, Tullamore on the death of his mother, Eileen;</p> <p>Sean Aherne, Arden Lane, Tullamore on the death of his sister, Eileen Kirk;</p> <p>Andy Gallagher, Henry Street, Tullamore on the death of his brother, Tom;</p> <p>Josie Fitzgerald & Family, Curraghavarna, Banagher on the death of her husband, Jimmy;</p> <p>Myra Flannery & Family, Creevagh, Shannonbridge on the death of her husband, Johnny;</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley, the minutes of the September Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 16th September 2013 were agreed and adopted.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>The minutes of the following meetings were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 15th July 2013; - Housing, Social & Cultural SPC Meeting held on 23rd May 2013; - Edenderry Area Committee Meeting held on 19th June 2013; - Birr Area Committee Meeting held on 11th June 2013; <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ferbane Area Committee Meeting held on 11th June 2013.
<p>MIDLANDS REGION HOMELESS ACTION PLAN 2013-2016:</p>	<p>Ms. J. Finney, A.O. Housing informed the members that the current <i>Midlands Region Homeless Action Plan 2013-2016</i> was adopted in March 2013. The revised <i>Midlands Region Homeless Action Plan 2013-2016</i>, which was</p>

<p>MIDLANDS REGION HOMELESS ACTION PLAN 2013-2016: (contd)</p>	<p>circulated with the Agenda, had regard to the Homeless Policy Statement, published by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in February 2013. Ms. Finney advised that the revised policy outlines the renewed commitment to end long term homelessness by the end of 2016.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. N. Hogan the members' agreed to suspend Standing Orders and to allow Cllr. M. Buckley's Notice of Motion to be considered:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly Co Council contact the Minister for Housing and Planning to request an urgent meeting between Service Providers in the Midlands and the Minister so as ensure that the cuts to the Homelessness budget in Offaly is reversed.”</i></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. N. Hogan, the members' resolved to adopt the motion.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. N. Hogan, the members' resolved to adopt the <i>Midlands Region Homeless Action Plan 2013-2016</i>.</p>
<p>DRAFT TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2014-2018</p>	<p>Ms. J. Finney, AO Housing informed the meeting that that the provisions of the <i>Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998</i> requires Offaly Local Authorities to prepare, adopt and implement a Traveller Accommodation Programme. She advised that the existing programme will expire on 31st December 2013.</p> <p>Ms. J. Finney drew the meetings attention to the main provisions included the <i>Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018</i>, which was circulated with the Agenda. She advised that the Draft will be placed for public consultation and that submissions are invited by 31st December 2013. She advised that the Draft Plan will be prepared and thereafter placed on the Council Agenda for the members' consideration and adoption.</p> <p>During the ensuing discussion a number of issues were raised. Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., noted the members' concerns and advised that they should forward their observations by 31st December 2013.</p>
<p>ELECTORAL, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2013: EXTENSION OF THE LIFETIME OF TOWN DEVELOPMENT PLANS</p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., informed the members that the <i>Electoral, Local Government and Planning and Development Act 2013</i> was enacted on the 22nd July 2013. He advised that Part 8 of the Act covers amendments to Chapter I of Part II of the <i>Planning and Development Act 2000</i> concerning development plans.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kirrane advised that the <i>Birr Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016</i> was adopted in January 2010. The review of the plan is due to commence in December 2013. The <i>Tullamore Town and Environs</i></p>

	<p><i>Development Plan 2010-2016</i> was adopted in May 2010. The review of the plan is due to commence in April 2014.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kirrane informed the meeting that Section 11(a)(2) of the Planning and Development Act, as amended, provides that members can decide not to review the development plans and accordingly recommended that they should formally decide not to review the plans and thereby allow for the appropriate notice to be given as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in writing to the Minister, • where the planning authority is a town council, is given in writing to the council of the county in which the town council is situated, and • is published in a newspaper circulating in the area to which the development plan concerned relates. <p>Mr. D. Kirrane noted that if members refuse to make the decision not to review the plans, the provisions of Section 11(C) of the Planning and Development Act, as amended still apply (the lifetime of the plans will be extended) but the formal notification process is not required.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll the members resolved not to review the <i>Birr Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016</i> and the <i>Tullamore Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016</i> where they apply to the administrative area of Offaly County Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 11(A)(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, as amended, and to carry out the notification procedures in accordance with Section 11(A)(3) of the Planning and Development Act, as amended.</p>
<p>REVIEW OF THE OFFALY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020</p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S, informed the members that the <i>Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020</i> had been prepared. He advised that the Draft Plan will be on public display from Wednesday 16th October 2013 to Monday 6th January 2014, both dates inclusive.</p> <p>He advised that written submissions or observations with respect to the Draft Plan and/or the accompanying reports are invited from members of the public and other interested parties. Submissions will be accepted up to midnight on the 6th January 2014. Mr. D. Kirrane advised that a Manager's Report on the submissions or observations received during the above time period will be prepared.</p> <p>Mr. M. Duffy, Technician gave a comprehensive presentation demonstrating the online interactive mapping information which is available on www.offaly.ie and can be used in conjunction with the <i>Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020</i>.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. M. Duffy for his presentation and complemented the Council on the user-friendly manner by which the Development Plan can be demonstrated.</p>

<p>DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2014-2020</p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS, directed the members' attention to the <i>Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2014-2020</i> which was circulated with the Agenda. He advised that money accruing to the Council under the Scheme can only be applied as capital for public infrastructure and facilities and he outlined the basis for determining the contributions to be paid in respect of public infrastructure and facilities which are provided or are to be provided by the Local Authority.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kirrane informed the meeting that the Draft Scheme proposed to reduce Development Contributions to €6,300 per residential unit and €27.50 per square metre of floor area for industrial/commercial development. He advised that the Draft Scheme proposed that a 20% reduction will apply for developments in the core retail areas of Edenderry, Portarlinton, Clara, Ferbane, Banagher, Daingean and Kilcormac and that a 20% reduction will also apply to businesses grant aided or supported by the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, County Enterprise Board or Local Enterprise Board.</p> <p>A lengthy discussion ensued during which a number of issues were raised including the appropriate level of Development Contributions to be levied for wind turbines.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Butterfield, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy, the members resolved to refer the <i>Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2014-2020</i> to the Planning and Economic Development SPC for further consideration.</p>
<p>FINANCE REPORT</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., confirmed that the Council's deficit at the end of Quarter 2, 2013 was €377,352. He advised that future financial reports will be circulated to members in a revised format. Mr. Conlon reiterated that all service areas are seeking to minimise expenditure in an effort to reduce the deficit.</p> <p>Mr. D. Conlon informed the meeting that Water Services, Division C, Draft Budget 2014 was submitted, as required, to Irish Water. He noted that the Draft Budget submitted was based on 2012 outputs and amended to reflect additional known items and reflect a realistic analysis of the operation of the service. He advised that the Draft Service Level Agreement was being considered by individual Local Authorities, CCMA and the Irish Water Transition Office. Mr. D. Conlon advised that meetings with Irish Water to consider the Service Level Agreement were arranged for 5th and 20th November 2013. Mr. D. Conlon informed the meeting that the full implications of Irish Water on the Council's 2014 Budget and the Local Government Fund remained uncertain at this time.</p> <p>The County Manager stressed that the pace of change with regard to Irish Water had intensified significantly over the previous number of weeks. He reiterated that members would be kept apprised of developments.</p>

<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that the Council Agenda was considered and a list of conferences were approved at the Corporate Policy Group meeting held earlier that day.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach advised that Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS had informed the Corporate Policy Group that the <i>Local Government Bill 2013</i> was published the previous week and that the <i>Transition Framework for Sub-County/Municipal Reorganisation Guidance</i> had issued to members via email earlier that afternoon.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. G. Plunkett, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, and agreed:</p> <p><i>In light of the proposed Wind Energy Developments in County Offaly and in line with the County Development Plan's Wind Strategy (2009-2015) Offaly County Council agree that:</i></p> <p><i>"It is imperative that the planning process is robust and acknowledges the constitutional role expected of the planning authorities. I propose that Offaly County Council call on Government to ensure that national guidelines be put on a statutory basis where such guidelines will be more reflective of the advance in size and technology of wind turbines in general."</i></p> <p>(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, and agreed:</p> <p><i>"That Offaly Co Council adjust their 2014 homelessness budget upwards to respond to the increasing demand for homeless services."</i></p> <p>Mr. S. Murray D.O.S agreed to meet with members' to consider appropriate solutions within the resources available.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, conferences were approved as follows:</p> <p><i>"Douglas Hyde Conference – Gathering Ourselves Again: The Legacy of Douglas Hyde, the Life & Death of the Irish Language"</i> <i>BMW Conference Room, The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon</i> <i>25th October 2013</i> It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</p> <p><i>"Training Seminar – Future Energy Needs: Wind Turbines to Nuclear"</i> <i>Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal</i> <i>25th – 26th October 2013</i> It was agreed Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick would attend.</p>

“Design Guidelines for the Planning & Development of Rural Housing”

Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarberry, West Cork

25th – 27th October 2013

It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

“Professional Development Seminar for Councillors – Putting People First – Update on its implementation to date”

Grainne Suite, Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare

25th – 26th October 2013

It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

“Training Seminar for Councillors – The Local Government Budget 2014”

The Holyrood Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal

1st – 2nd November 2013

It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

“Councillor Seminar & Professional Development Day – Poverty & Migration in Ireland today – overview of contemporary facts and figures”

Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare

1st -2nd November 2013

It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

“Electoral, Local Governments & Planning & Development Act 2013”

Wesport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo

1st – 2nd November 2013

It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

“Council Budgets – Preparation, Adoption and Amendments”

Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

1st – 3rd November 2013

It was agreed Cllr. E. Dooley would attend.

“Local Authority Rates & Diminishing Returns”

The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway

8th – 9th November 2013

It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

“Debt Solutions – The New Personal Insolvency Legislation”

Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarberry, West Cork

22nd – 24th November 2013

It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

“Early Education & Childcare in your Community”

Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry

29th – 30th November 2013

It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

“Local Government Bill 2013”

	<p><i>The Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford</i> 29th – 30th November 2013 It was agreed Cllr. M. Buckley would attend.</p>
COMHFHREAGRAS:	The correspondences circulated with the Agenda were noted.
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	<p><u>Durrow High Cross Site</u> Cllr. D. Owens sought an update on developments regarding the entrance to the Durrow High Cross site. The members praised the voluntary groups and committees involved in the works progressed to date.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley, the members agreed to write to the Minister seeking that the works at the entrance be completed.</p> <p><u>Slieve Bloom Cycle Track</u> Cllr. P. Clendennon sought clarification on the status of the Slieve Bloom Cycling Track. The County Manager advised that the project is being pursued by Offaly and Loais County Councils in partnership with Coillte. He advised that a number of meetings had taken place and that it was anticipated that a planning application would be made in the near future.</p> <p><u>EJ Press Release</u> Cllr. P. Clendennen drew the meetings attention to the press release issued by EJ advising that they had notified their staff earlier in the day that the facility in Birr is to be downsized and may result in the closure of the iron foundry and the potential loss of 32 jobs. Cllr. P. Clendennen's proposal to invite Minister Bruton to a meeting to ascertain what assistance will be provided to the staff of EJ was seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll and agreed.</p>

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNAÍ**

18th November 2013