

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McKeigue, C. Nolan, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond, D. Owens and L. Quinn.
APOLOGIES:	Cllrs. B. Killeavy and F. Moran
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr. D. Kirrane, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S; Mr. T. Mawe, Financial/Management Accountant; Ms. A. Walsh, Executive Planner; Ms. S. O' Reilly, Arts Officer; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Edward & Bernadette Dunne, St. Patricks Road, Edenderry on the death of their son, Kenneth;</p> <p>Mr. Seamus Brerton, Tyrrells Lane, Edenderry on the death of his mother, Doreen;</p> <p>Ms. Annie Mooney & Mr. Henry Ryan, 12 Fr. Paul Murphy Street, Edenderry on the death of their brother Tommy 'Snap' Ryan;</p> <p>Mr. Pdraig Fitzpatrick, Clonsast, Bracknagh on the death of his wife, Ida;</p> <p>Mr. David Fahey, Cormac Street, Tullamore on the death of his wife, Anne; and</p> <p>Mrs. Eileen Daly, Cornagark, Kilcormac on the death of her husband, Richard.</p> <p>The Chief Executive, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council joined with the members in these votes of sympathy.</p>
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:	On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the July Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 20 th July 2015.
LOCAL PROPERTY TAX (LPT):	Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. drew the member's attention to the briefing document as circulated outlying the 2016 Local Property Tax Variation Rate, the Estimation of Income and

	<p>Expenditure for 2016, and the consolidated financial position of Offaly County Council at 30th June 2015.</p> <p>Mr. D. Conlon, HOF informed the meeting that the maximum variation of the Local Property Tax (LPT), i.e., 15%, equates to an increase or decrease in the Council's Revenue Budget of €718,257.</p> <p>He outlined the LPT process and advised that one submission was received during the public consultation period. He advised that a resolution of the Council is required to vary the LPT rate and that the statutory period for informing the Revenue Commissioners and Minister of any LPT adjustment is 30th September 2015.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. for his comprehensive presentation and a lengthy discussion ensued.</p> <p>Cllr. L. Quinn proposed that the LPT rate remain at its current rate for 2016. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan. A number of members spoke in support of the motion not to vary the LPT rate.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Nolan proposed that the LPT rate be reduced by 15%. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. M. O' Reilly. In responding to a request from the Cathaoirleach to clarify what services would be reduced to accommodate the loss in revenue, Cllr. M. O' Reilly suggested that this was a matter for the executive.</p> <p>It was agreed to take a vote on the proposals.</p> <p>The members voted as follows on the proposal of Cllr. C. Nolan, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Reilly, to decrease the LPT rate by 15%: In Favour: Cllrs. C. Nolan and M. O'Reilly. Against: Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McKeigue, P. Ormond, D. Owens and L. Quinn.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.</p> <p>The members voted as follows on the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, to retain the LPT rate at its current rate: In Favour: Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McKeigue, P. Ormond, D. Owens and L. Quinn. Against: Cllrs. C. Nolan and M. O'Reilly.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried and declared that there would be no variation in the LPT rate in Offaly for 2016.</p>
POLLING SCHEME FOR	Ms. M. Cleary, S.E.O. drew the members' attention to the

<p>COUNTY OFFALY:</p>	<p>Draft Polling Scheme for County Offaly as previously circulated.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to adopt the Polling Scheme for County Offaly with the following amendment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eglish and Killyon to be moved to Thomastown. <p>The members requested an audit of all polling stations be undertaken to ensure they are suitable and that they have adequate disabled access.</p> <p>Ms. M. Cleary, S.E.O. advised the members that Offaly County Council is currently compiling the Draft Register of Electors for 2016/2017. She noted that the Register will come into effect as the Live Register of Electors on 15th February 2016. She advised that any person who will turn 18 years of age on or before 15th February 2016, anyone who has recently changed address or anyone who wants to ensure that their details are entered correctly on the register should contact Offaly County Council. She informed the meeting that the closing date for any corrections to the draft Register is the 25th November 2015. She informed the meeting that electors should check their registration details on www.checktheregister.ie.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond the members agreed to establish a sub-committee to consider how the Register of Electors registration process could be enhanced. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the following were nominated onto the committee: Cllrs. J. Clendennen, S. Dooley, J. Foley and C. Nolan. It was agreed that Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach would chair the meetings.</p>
<p>ARTS UPDATE:</p>	<p>Ms. S. O’ Reilly, Arts Officer gave a comprehensive presentation on Arts & Culture in Offaly, highlighting in particular the Music Generation Programme and FilmOffaly. Ms. S. O’Reilly informed the meeting that the Arts industry in Offaly is increasing and outlined the economic benefits for the county.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. O’ Reilly for the informative presentation and complimented her and the Arts Office staff on their continued good work and in particular on the success of the recent Culture Night that had taken place.</p>
<p>DRAFT WALKING AND CYCLING STRATEGY (CONNECTING PEOPLE-CONNECTING PLACES)</p>	<p>Ms. A. Walsh, Executive Planner, provided a detailed update on the draft Walking and Cycling Strategy (Connecting People – Connecting Places). She advised that nine submissions were received during the public consultation period, i.e., 4th August to 2nd September 2015. She advised that the following amendments were proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Section 5.3, Page 24 - Include Blackwood and Kinnitty Forest Area into list of Recreational Woodlands in Offaly (Coillte).</i>

	<p>2. <i>Section 8.4.1, Page 38 – Include following route actions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Birr to Slieve Blooms.</i> b. <i>Tullamore to Slieve Blooms.</i> c. <i>Grand Canal connecting to Barrow Line.</i> d. <i>Tullamore to Portlaoise.</i> <p>3. <i>Section 8.4.2, Page 40</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Amend RA 11 (Route 4 of Birr Cycle Hub) in consultation with Tipperary County Council.</i> • <i>Amend RA15 to refer also to improvements to the walking network around the town.</i> • <i>Include Route Action relating to investigating improved connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists between Mucklagh and Tullamore.</i> <p>During the ensuing discussion the members acknowledged that the strategy is a positive approach to tourism in the county. The proposed amendments were welcomed and on the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. P. Ormond, the members agreed to the publication and circulation of the amended draft strategy.</p> <p>Ms. A. Walsh, Executive Planner, informed the meeting that the Part VIII: Proposed Development - Grand Canal Blueway Shared Walking and Cycling Route in relation to the proposed upgrade to the existing towpaths from Digby Bridge, Cappancur, to Turraun where it connects with the existing cycle network of Lough Boora Discovery Park went on display on 16th September 2015. She advised that submissions on the Part VIII can be made until 13th November 2015.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kirrane, Chief Executive noted that the tourism brand for Offaly will be launched in Lough Boora on 28th September. He advised that this is an important event for the county.</p>
<p>LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE:</p>	<p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S informed the members that the Draft <i>Local Community and Economic Plan (LCEP) 2016-2021: Working together to shape the future</i> is being finalised. The Plan, he advised, will promote the economic and community development of the County and will provide a strong vision for the future of County Offaly centred on People, Business and Place. This vision, he advised, will be supported by strategic goals contained in both the economic and community sections of the plan. He noted that there will be a period for the public to make submissions and observations on the LCEP.</p> <p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S advised that Offaly had made four applications for funding under the Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) programme. He advised that, if successful, matched funding will be required.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>The members noted the comprehensive management report that had been circulated with the Agenda.</p> <p>Following a discussion on a number of housing issues raised</p>

	<p>by the members it was agreed that a Housing Report would be presented to the members at the October monthly meeting.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 21st September 2015 to consider the September Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group had recommended that a reception to honour the recent sporting achievements of Shane Lowry, Stuart Grehan, Alan Lowry and Darragh Kenny be arranged. This was supported and agreed by the members.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens and agreed:</p> <p><i>“That this Council calls on Irish Water to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out a survey of the estimate of lead in the water supply in County Offaly. - Prepare a Programme of Works to have all lead pipes removed from the system. - Provide grant aid to householders to assist them in removing lead pipes from their homes. - Attend a meeting of Offaly County Council to outline their proposals in this regard.” <p>The members agreed to write to Irish Water and request a meeting to discuss the issue.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, conferences and training seminars were approved as follows:</p> <p><u>CONFERENCES:</u></p> <p>Celtic Conferences “Mobile Marketing Tourist Destinations” The Clonakilty Hotel, Co. Cork 25th – 27th September 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>CMG Events New EU Data Protection Regulation Conference 2015 Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>NUI Maynooth URBACT Ireland Information Event 15th October 2015 Renehan Hall, Couth Campus, Maynooth University <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences “A practical guide to Budget 2016” The Clonakilty Hotel, Cork 23rd – 25th October 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p>

	<p>Retrospective approval was sought and agreed for the attendance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr. N. Cribbin: The Institute of Professional Training conference on <i>Government re-think on Districts, Municipal, Borough/Metropolitan</i>, held on 11th to 13th September 2015 in Whites Hotel, Wexford. - Cllr J. Clendennen: <i>MacGill Summer School</i>, Glenties, Donegal on 19th to 24th July 2015; and <i>LCDC Information Sessions</i> held on 29th July 2015 in the Longford Arms. <p><u>TRAINING:</u></p> <p>AILG Autumn Seminar Clonakilty, Cork 1st – 2nd October 2015 <i>It was agreed Cllrs. Noel Bourke, John Carroll, D. Harvey, F. Moran and P. Ormond would attend.</i></p> <p>LAMA Autumn Seminar 9th – 10th October 2015 Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny <i>It was agreed Cllrs. Noel Bourke, John Clendennen, Eamon Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, D. Harvey, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, Peter Ormond and D. Owens would attend.</i></p> <p>AILG Module 5 Tullamore Court Hotel 6th October 2015 <i>It was agreed Cllrs. E. Fitzpatrick and Peter Ormond would attend.</i></p> <p>Midlands Regional Energy Seminar 15th October 2015 Tullamore Court Hotel <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p> <p>Cllr. T. McKeigue drew the members attention to correspondence received from Gas Networks Ireland in relation to Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week, 21st to 27th September 2015.</p>
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</p>	<p><u>BioNua Ltd</u></p> <p>Cllr. T. McKeigue welcomed the announcement of the opening of a new veterinary biologics manufacturing facility in Tullamore, which will lead to the creation of up to 30 new jobs. The project, he advised, is supported by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation through IDA Ireland.</p>

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

RUNAÍ

19th October 2015