

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, E. Dooley, S. Dooley, J. Foley, D. Harvey, B. Killeavy, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond, D. Owens and L. Quinn
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F.; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Mr. T. Mawe, Financial Management Accountant; Mr. T. Shanahan, S.E.; Ms. J. Ryan, A/S.E.E.; Ms. B. Maher, E.P.; Mr. D. Meehan, E.P.; Mr. J. Cunningham, E.E.; Ms. F. Flaherty, C.O.
APOLOGIES:	Cllr. D. Dolan
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mr. James Purcell, 48 The Green, Clara on the death of his brother, Mr. Bernard Purcell.</p> <p>Mr. Michael Egan & Family, Kilbride, Clara on the death of his wife, Mrs. Kathleen Egan;</p> <p>Mrs. Patricia Dempsey & Family, Garryhinch, Portarlinton on the death of her husband, Mr. Patsy Dempsey;</p> <p>Mr. Martin Hamill, Cloneyquinn, Portarlinton on the death of Mr. Thomas Hamill;</p> <p>Mr. Sean Tobin, Cloneygowan, Tullmore on the death of his mother, Mrs. Margaret Tobin;</p> <p>The Convent of Mercy Order, Store Street, Tullamore on the death of Sr. Veronica Gilsenan;</p> <p>Mrs. Ann Foran, Ballinowlart, Clonbullogue, Edenderry on the death of her mother, Mrs. Teresa Walsh;</p> <p>Mrs. Betty Daly & Family, Rathrobin, Blueball, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Mr. Paul Daly.</p> <p>The Chief Executive, on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council joined with the members in these votes of sympathy.</p>

BEST WISHES:	The members wished all involved with the National Ploughing Championship the very best and acknowledged the preparatory work done by the Council staff, An Garda Síochána and other bodies.
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:	On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the July Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 18 th July 2016.
MINUTES FOR NOTING:	The minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Ferbane Business Park, Co. Offaly on 16 th May 2016 were noted.
S183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 1.744ac (0.706ha) AT THE DERRIES, RAHAN, TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY FOLIO NO. OY 7219F:	On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members resolved to the disposal of freehold interest in 1.744ac/0.706ha at The Derries, Rahan, Tullamore Co. Offaly Folio No. OY7219F in accordance with the terms of the S.183 notice dated 6 th September 2016, which had previously circulated.
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS	On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to take the presentations by Mr. Shane Winters, Age Action Ireland and Mr. Gerry Gallagher, OPW at that time.
AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME:	<p>The Chief Executive informed the meeting that Mr. Shane Winters, Regional Development Consultant with Age Friendly Ireland wished to give a pre-consultation presentation to the members on Age Friendly Ireland. Mr. Shane Winters noted the national and local age demographics. He detailed the four step process for a county to become an age friendly county.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. S. Winters for his informative presentation and unanimously agreed to proceed to implement the programme.</p>
DRAFT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN:	<p>Mr. G. Gallagher, OPW, provided a detailed presentation of the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans, highlighting the purpose of the plans, their structure and content, their recommendations and the implementation proposals for flood risk management plans in Offaly.</p> <p>During the ensuing discussion a number of members raised concerns with regard to flooding in a number of locations throughout Offaly and stressed their disappointment that Banagher was not included in the report. The members expressed the public's frustration that rivers and their tributaries could not be drained and thereby alleviating flooding. Cllr. J. Leahy circulated and drew the meetings attention to the issues included in his submission to the OPW.</p> <p>Mr. G. Gallagher in responding to queries raised advised that the limited resources available were concentrated on those areas where properties were within the high risk range of</p>

<p>DRAFT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN: (contd)</p>	<p>flooding. He outlined the audit and scoring mechanisms used in preparing the report. Mr. G. Gallagher recommended to the members that they include a proposal to include Banagher in the next review. He informed the meeting that minor work programmes would continue to be funded by the OPW. He noted that the government had established a single co-ordinating group to oversee the Shannon area.</p> <p>Mr. S. Murray, DOS, thanked Mr. G. Gallagher for his presentation. He advised that the Council was preparing a submission, noting that the deadline for Local Authority submissions is 17th October. It was agreed that members should submit their comments to Mr. S. Murray, DOS by Friday, 23rd September for inclusion in the Council's submission. Mr. G. Gallagher advised that individual submissions on the Shannon CFRAM report must be made by Friday, 23rd September.</p>
<p>LOCAL PROPERTY TAX:</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H. O.F, provided a detailed presentation to the members on the Local Property Tax (LPT). He advised that any decrease in the LPT would be met by a further decrease in the Equalisation Fund and that the Council would benefit, in full, by any increase in the LPT. He informed the members that it is prudent for the Council to continue to address its €4m deficit.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive recommended to the members that serious consideration be given to increasing the LPT. She outlined the various funding opportunities that would be available to the Authority had they additional funds to leverage national grants which increasingly required matched resources.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley noted that a 5% increase would provide €250,000 per annum, i.e., €750,000 over a three year period. He observed that a 5% reduction in the LPT would provide an additional 19 cents per week to the majority of householders in Offaly. Cllr. E. Dooley suggested that Offaly had not attained the level of funding that other counties had due to its inability to provide matched funding. Cllr. E. Dooley highlighted a number of initiatives that had been achieved from the West Offaly Fund, which he advised was now finished. Cllr. E. Dooley informed the meeting that community groups would be required to raise 40% matched funding for LEADER projects, heretofore this was 25% matched funding. He proposed that a Community Investment Fund be established to assist communities by providing some of the matched funding requirements. Cllr. E. Dooley proposed that a decision on the matter be adjourned until Monday, 26th September when a more detailed proposal on how a Community Investment Fund could be administered.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Clendennen seconded the proposal to defer a decision on the LPT. He proposed that funds raised from increasing the LPT should be directed towards job creation and regenerating local communities. He proposed that deferring the decision would provide the Executive a further</p>

<p>LOCAL PROPERTY TAX: (contd)</p>	<p>opportunity to evaluate if savings could be made within the Council's 2017 Budget, i.e., savings that would realise a similar sum for a fund.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Leahy welcomed the proposal. He acknowledged that the property thresholds would not change until October 2019 and that, while he did not like the LPT, it was the only mechanism available to the members to create a fund that could be used to leverage additional funds. He proposed that funds raised be ring-fenced and directed towards Town and Village Renewal and Community Groups. He recommended that the members take the unpopular decision to raise the LPT by 5% and proposed that it was not practical for the members not to do all that was within their power to maximise funds for local community developments.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll proposed that community projects, seeking matching funds from the revenue received from increasing the LPT, should be administered by the Municipal Districts.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Foley proposed that a vote be taken and that the members vote to retain the current LPT rate for 2017.</p> <p>Cllr. B. Killeavy proposed that the LPT be reduced by 2%. He suggested that the increased funds would be lost in the Council's overall budget and would not reach targeted projects. Cllr. M. O'Reilly seconded Cllr. B. Killeavy's proposal.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive welcomed the proposal to create a Community Fund and agreed that any finances raised from an increase in the LPT could be ring-fenced and administered as agreed by the members.</p> <p>Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed, on a show of hands, to defer a decision on the LPT and to reconvene at 1pm on Monday, 26th September to determine the matter.</p>
<p>OFFALY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020:</p>	<p>Ms. B. Maher, E.P. provided a comprehensive progress report on the objectives of the <i>Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020</i>. She advised that the Planning Section are reviewing recent legislation to determine if there is a requirement to amend the <i>Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020</i>.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised Ms. B. Maher, E.P., advised that the Council is required to establish a register of vacant sites by 2017 and that preliminary work had commenced. She also noted that Chapter 5 of the Plan places a strong emphasis on residential use within town centres.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. B. Maher for the presentation.</p>
<p>EDENDERRY LOCAL AREA PLAN:</p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., informed the members that the Edenderry Local Area Plan pre-consultation phase had commenced and that a public information meeting will be held in the Edenderry Town Hall on Tuesday, 27th September</p>

	<p>from 4pm to 7pm. He encouraged members and the public to take this opportunity to meet with the planners. He advised that a draft plan will be presented to the Council in October 2016. Thereafter, it will go on display and following the statutory period be presented to the members in early 2017 for their consideration and adoption.</p>
<p>2017 BUDGET MEETING DATES:</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., drew the members' attention to the circular which had issued with the agenda. He advised that 30th November 2016 is the statutory date for adopting the 2017 Budget.</p> <p>It was agreed to meet to consider the 2017 Budget as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7th November 2016: Corporate Policy Group Meeting - 14th November 2016: In Committee Council Meeting - 21st November 2016: Statutory Budget Meeting.
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive drew the members' attention to the monthly management report as circulated.</p> <p>The Chief Executive advised that the Council would avail of the National Ploughing Championship to promote tourism and business in Offaly.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 12th September 2016 to consider the Local Property Tax and on 19th September to consider the Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach advised that the Honourable Mr. Kevin O'Malley, United States' Ambassador to Ireland will visit Offaly County Council on Tuesday 20th September 2016. He invited all members to attend.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>The following motion was proposed by Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, and agreed by the members:</p> <p><i>"I call on Offaly County Council to apply to the Department for funding for a new Fire Station in Clara on the site with Folio Number 2290F."</i></p> <p>The following motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, and agreed by the members:</p> <p><i>"I call on Offaly County Council to put every support behind the efforts to bring the National Fleadh Ceoil back to Offaly in the next discussion on a future location."</i></p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><u>CONFERENCES:</u></p> <p>Celtic Conferences "Entitlement to Health Services"</p>

COMHDHÁLACHA:
(contd)

The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
22nd – 4th September 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Celtic Conferences
“Domestic Water Saving and Conservation Techniques”
The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
23rd – 25th September 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

The Institute of Professional Training
"Funding Local Government - Your View?",
Whites Hotel, Wexford,
30th September – 2nd October 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Celtic Conferences
“Brexit – The Economic Consequences for Ireland”
The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
15th- 16th October 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Celtic Conferences
“A Practical Guide to Budget 2017”
The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
28th – 30th October 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Irish Planning for Climate Change Conference
27th October in Limerick (venue to be confirmed)
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

TRAINING:

AILG In-Service 2016 Training Programme - Module 4
“Local Authority Housing & the National Action Plan on
Housing - A briefing for the Elected Member”
The Longford Arms Hotel, Co. Longford,
15th September 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

AILG Autumn Seminar
Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford.
13th -14th October 2016,
It was agreed Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick would attend.

LAMA Autumn Training Seminar
“Brexit and Ireland”
The Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co.Cork
30th September – 1st October 2016
*It was agreed Cllrs. N. Bourke, N. Cribbin, B. Killeavy, S.
Maher, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, P. Ormond and M. O’ Reilly
would attend.*

Irish Planning Institute - Autumn Planning Conference 2016
“Emerging Opportunities & Recent Developments in Planning
Practice”

<p>COMHDHÁLACHA: (contd)</p>	<p>The Gibson Hotel, Dublin Friday 7th October 2016 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>Cross-Border Local Authority Seminar "Revitalising Small Towns on the Island of Ireland: The Role of Local Government" The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan Thursday 27th October 2016 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p><i>Retrospective approval is sought for the following:</i> - Attendance of Cllr. J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, E. Fitzpatrick and T. McKeigue at the AILG Training Day at the Longford Arms Hotel, 15th September 2016;</p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p>
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</p>	<p>School Transport Cllr. J. Carroll proposed that the Council write to Bus Éireann requesting that they adopt a more flexible approach to school transport, and in particular to those who had made late payments for the service. Cllr. L. Quinn, in seconding the motion, advised that there appeared to be an inaccuracy in the website with regard to the issuing of tickets, and proposed that the motion be also forwarded to the Minister. The members proposed that eligibility for the scheme should have regard to the collection point, rather than the home address. The members agreed that the issues raised should be forwarded to Bus Éireann and the Minister for Education and Skills.</p> <p>Mobility Grants Mr. S. Murray in responding to a query raised in relation to Mobility Grants advised that the SPC is currently reviewing the administration of all housing grants.</p>

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH
RUNAÍ

17th October 2016