

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 18TH DECEMBER 2017 AT 2.00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McCormack, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond and D. Owens.
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Cllrs. J. Foley and B. Killeavy.
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S.; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Ms. A Pedlow, Heritage Officer; Mr. A. Murray, S.P.; Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.; and Ms. Petria Malone and Ms. Mary Lee, Inclusion Ireland.
<b>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, the members resolved to suspend Standing Orders to take Item 5: Pride of Place 2017 and Item 7: Changing Places Campaign Presentation at the start of the meeting.
<b>PRIDE OF PLACE 2017</b>	<p>Cathaoirleach, Cllr. L. Quinn welcomed representatives from the county's three applicants in the <i>IPB Pride of Place 2017</i> competition. The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in acknowledging the work done by each of the groups, congratulated them on participating and congratulated Birr Theatre &amp; Arts Centre &amp; Associated Groups on their award. A framed copy of the citation was presented to the groups as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Birr Theatre &amp; Arts Centre &amp; Associated Groups (Creative Place Initiative Category);</li><li>- Lann Elo -Tullamore Housing Association &amp; Midlands Simon &amp; Tihilly - Rights for the Elderly (Housing Estates Category); and,</li><li>- The Acorn Project &amp; Youth Café (Community Youth Initiative Category).</li></ul>
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>The Bannon Family, Pearse Park, Tullamore on the death of their mother, Mrs. Alice Bannon;</p> <p>Mrs. Olwen Cummins, Tinnycross, Tullamore on the death of her grandfather, Mr. Liam Gleeson;</p>

	<p>Mrs. Maureen Whelan, Spollenstown, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Mr. Sean Healion;</p> <p>Mrs. Annie Flanagan, Garrymona, Geashill on the death of her husband, Mr. Joe Flangan; and,</p> <p>The Cullen Family, Kilcormac and New York on the death of Mr. Jim Cullen.</p> <p>The Chief Executive, on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff of Offaly County Council, joined with the members in these votes of sympathy.</p>
<p><b>VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS</b></p>	<p>The members passed a vote of congratulations to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Alannah Donnelly, Kinnitty on winning Young Carer of the Year 2017;</li> <li>- Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore on their positive result in the Irish Times survey; and,</li> <li>- The three Offaly players on the Athlone Town FC on their victory in SSE Airtricity National Under 15 League Final against St Patrick's Athletic.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the November meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. N. Bourke, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the In Committee meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017.</p>
<p><b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b></p>	<p>The following minutes were noted by the members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017;</li> <li>- Minutes of Housing, Social &amp; Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in Housing Meeting Room, Áras an Chontae, Tullamore on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017;</li> <li>- Minutes of Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017; and,</li> </ul>

	<p>- Minutes of Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017.</p>
<p><b>CHANGING PLACES CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION</b></p>	<p>Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Petria Malone and Ms. Mary Lee from Inclusion Ireland to the meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Petria Malone and Ms. Mary Lee, Inclusion Ireland gave a comprehensive presentation outlining the role of Inclusion Ireland in advocating for changes to policy and service delivery. They outlined the main elements of the Changing Places campaign and noted the positive role that Local Authorities can make. The members thanked them for the presentation and in responding to questions raised they clarified that the campaign is supported by the various bodies in the sector and advised that no specific grants are available for the capital works involved. Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, joined with the members in thanking them for their presentation, acknowledged the significant challenges and agreed to investigate the matter further.</p>
<p><b>PART VIII PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED AND PART VIII PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001, AS AMENDED - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT TULLAMORE STREET ENHANCEMENT PROJECT</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S., drew the members' attention to the reports that had circulated to all members with the agenda. He outlined the various components that are provided for in the proposed development and noted the Chief Executive's comments in relation to the submissions received during the period of public consultation. He recommended the adoption of the Tullamore Street Enhancement Project to the members.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members resolved to adopt the Part VIII Planning &amp; Development Act 2000, as amended and Part VIII Planning &amp; Development Regulations, 2001, as amended for the proposed development of Tullamore Street Enhancement Project, as circulated.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed the members welcomed the enhancement project and acknowledged the significant funding being made available for the works. Cllr. D. Harvey proposed that the resurfacing of the streets be advanced at an early stage in the work programme.</p>
<p><b>OFFALY CULTURE AND CREATIVITY STRATEGY 2018-2022</b></p>	<p>Ms. A. Pedlow, Heritage Officer drew the meetings attention to the Government's initiative Creative Ireland and advised that the <i>Offaly Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022</i> outlined the approach being proposed for Offaly. She advised that an in-house committee was established to oversee the programme in Offaly. The committee, she advised, comprised of the Arts Officer, Heritage Officer, County Librarian, County Architect and Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, under the directorship of Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S.,</p> <p>Ms. A. Pedlow, Heritage Officer noted that the Strategy provided for the development of the joint space between the Arts, Heritage and Library service areas and that the Local Authorities will concentrate of the fifth pillar, i.e., Community.</p>

	<p>During the discussion that followed Ms. A. Pedlow, Heritage Officer acknowledged the significant attendance and engagement by the public at the various consultation events. She detailed the local projects that were initiated and supported in 2017.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, the members' resolved to adopt the <i>Offaly Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022</i>.</p>
<p><b>BIRR PUBLIC REALM</b></p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., provided a comprehensive presentation on the Birr Public Realm outlining the process involved and showed photos of the town before and after the investment.</p> <p>The members acknowledged the work done and agreed that the town had benefited from the enhancements. They stressed the importance of tourism to Birr and its environs and proposed that the Council continue to support tourism initiatives in the area.</p>
<p><b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive drew the members' attention to the monthly management report which had circulated with the agenda. She outlined the current status of the various Town and Village Renewal Programmes and welcomed the additional funding received under the Local Improvement Scheme.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report and acknowledged the work done in the various districts. The members requested that a Housing Report be presented to the members at the January Council meeting.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised the Chief Executive advised that an in-house committee was established to progress future town and village renewal applications and that they will work with all communities to ensure that applications are ready for future funding opportunities. She noted that the Council will exceed it's 2017 housing targets. The Chief Executive informed the members that Mr. T. Shanahan, Acting D.O.S. is the Council's nominee on the Task Force, established to oversee the transitional phase with Bord na Móna. Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive also advised that Ms. Sarah Morgan, Policy and Research Officer researches European Union funding opportunities for counties Offaly, Laois, Westmeath and Longford.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day to consider the various items on the Council agenda.</p> <p>He noted that the Civic Reception for Ms. Jennifer Byrne, International Rose of Tralee 2017 will be held after the Council meeting.</p> <p>He wished the members, executive and all the staff of Offaly County Council, their families and all present a happy and safe Christmas.</p>

<p><b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><b><u>Conferences</u></b></p> <p>The Finance Act 2017 in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth from 5th to 7th January 2018. <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>Entitlement to Health Services in The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 19th to 21st January 2018. <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>The 29th Colmcille Winter School - Housing Provision in Ireland from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24th February 2018. <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p><b>RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL:</b></p> <p>Retrospective approval was sought for Cllr. D. Owens at A Practical Guide to Budget 2018, Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017</p>
<p><b>COMHFHREAGRAS:</b></p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Dolan drew the meetings attention to the correspondence received from Clare County Council dated 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and suggested that the income limit for persons being allowed onto the housing list be increased from €25,000.</p>
<p><b>NOTICES OF MOTION:</b></p>	<p>The Cathaoirleach advised that it was proposed to take the two motions received, in relation to Community CCTV, together.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Leahy in introducing his motion noted the increase in burglaries and crime against the person between Quarter 3 2016 and Quarter 3 2017, as presented by the Gardaí at a recent Joint Policing Committee meeting:</p> <p><i>"That Offaly County Council support a "CCTV County Wide Strategic Policy" which would be led by the Local Authority and / or An Garda Síochána. The policy would include the planning, coordination, monitoring and future maintenance and upgrade of a County wide CCTV system."</i></p> <p>Cllr. J. Clendennen noted the large attendance at public meetings in various communities in recent weeks and stated that the fear among communities was tangible:</p> <p><i>"Offaly County Council take the lead role in association with An Garda Síochána and Local Community Alert Groups in the planning, sourcing of funding, implementation and maintenance of CCTV across the county"</i></p>

