

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER 2017 AT 3.30 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, J. Foley, D. Harvey, B. Killeavy, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McCormack, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond and D. Owens
<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.; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S.; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Ms. B. Maher, E.P.; Ms. O. Martin, Head of LEO; and Ms. L. Carbery. C.O.
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>The McGrath Family, Arden View, Tullamore on the death of their mother, Mrs. Margaret Walsh.</p> <p>The McGarry Family, High Street, Birr on the death of their mother, Mrs. Pauline McGarry.</p> <p>The Lowry Family, Cormac Street, Tullamore on the death of their mother, Mrs. Nuala Lowry.</p> <p>The Leech Family, Killane, Edenderry on the death of Mr. Tim Leech.</p> <p>Mrs. Sally Noonan, 50 St Joseph's Terrace, Portarlinton on the death of her husband, Mr. John Noonan.</p> <p>Mrs. Kathleen Gallagher, Syngfield, Birr on the death of her husband, Mr. Joe Gallagher.</p> <p>Mr. Jim Flattery, Oratory Row, Clara on the death of his wife, Mrs. Patricia Flattery.</p> <p>Garry &amp; Celine Sheehan, Cooldorragh Glebe, Mountbolus on the death of their son, Mr. Neil Sheehan.</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>
<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. P. Ormond, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the October meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an

	Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2017.
<b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b>	<p>The following minutes were noted by the members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017; and</li> <li>- Minutes of the Economic, Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>TAKING IN CHARGE OF PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES AT SPOLLENSTOWN WOOD, TULLAMORE AND TEGAN COURT, SCREGGAN</b>	Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S., informed the meeting that the estates at Spollenstown Wood, Tullamore and Tegan Court, Screggan comply with the conditions of their planning permission. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members resolved to the Taking In Charge of the private housing estates at Spollenstown Wood, Tullamore and Tegan Court, Screggan.
<b>PART VIII PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED AND PART VIII PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001, AS AMENDED - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT KILLANE DRIVE, EDENDERRY.</b>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S. drew the members' attention to the circulated report which provides for the development of twenty seven (27) housing units. He advised that two submissions were received during the period of public consultation. Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S. in responding to the issues raised in the submissions detailed the traffic management and health and safety plans that will be prepared noting that these will address many of the issues raised. He noted that some of the concerns raised were outside the scope of the development. He advised that a Transportation Study for Edenderry will be completed in 2018 and that this study may address these issues. Cllr. N. Bourke reiterated the importance of the development works commencing as soon as possible.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Foley, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, 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 at Killane Drive, Edenderry as circulated.</p>
<b>PART VIII PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED AND PART VIII PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001, AS AMENDED - TULLAMORE STREET ENHANCEMENT PROJECT</b>	<p>Cathaoirleach, Cllr. L. Quinn noted that this item was deferred to the December Monthly Meeting of Offaly County Council.</p> <p>Cllrs. T. McKeigue and D. Dolan expressed their frustration with the on-going delays and that consideration of the matter had been deferred to December.</p>
<b>URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING ACT 2015 - VACANT SITE LEVY IN COUNTY OFFALY. APPROACH TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VACANT SITE LEVY</b>	Ms. B. Maher, E.P., drew the member's attention to the <i>Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015</i> and outlined the Council's approach to the implementation of the Vacant Site Levy for County Offaly. She advised that the Council will be required to implement the Vacant Site Levy by means of variations to the <i>County Development Plan 2014-2020</i> ; the <i>Tullamore Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016 (Extended</i>

**IN COUNTY OFFALY AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE URBAN REGENERATION AND HOUSING ACT 2015**

until 2020); and, the *Birr Town and Environs Development Plan 2010 (Extended until 2020)*. She advised that the Vacant Site Levy had recently been incorporated into the *Edenderry LAP 2017-2023*. She advised that the process will commence in December and it is anticipated that the Chief Executive's report will be placed for the members' consideration in early 2018.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Ms. B. Maher in responding to queries raised confirmed that the levy will be 3% per annum based on the market value of the site/land applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 rising to 7% per annum from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and may, if unpaid, become a charge on the land. She advised that there is no connection between the Vacant Sites Levy and the Derelict Sites Act. She accepted that the Vacant Sites Levy Scheme may be more suitable to larger urban areas. However, she acknowledged, that the objective of the Scheme is to make lands available and progress housing developments. She advised that the discussions that may ensue with developers, following the adoption of the *Vacant Sites Levy Scheme*, may prove to be beneficial in helping to achieve this goal.

The members thanked Ms. B. Maher, E.P., for her informative update.

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE UPDATE**

Ms. O. Martin, Head of L.E.O., gave a detailed presentation updating the members on the Local Enterprise Office. She outlined that LEO have 202 businesses on their current portfolio but stressed that the Office is involved with many more businesses including training, mentoring and programmes such as Irelands Best Young Entrepreneurs. She highlighted that in Enterprise Ireland's survey Offaly LEO earned 81% customer satisfaction rate, the national average being 61%.

Ms. O. Martin, Head of L.E.O., noted the various activities pursued by the section in recent months, noting the pod cast with the Radio One Drive Time show, the National Ploughing Championship and the Most Enterprising Towns Initiative. She highlighted the success of The Junction, Business Innovation Centre and their plans for expansion. She stated that LEO are striving to market Offaly's strengths locally, regionally and nationally.

During the discussion that followed the members recognised the significant challenges that Brexit, the National Planning Framework and the accessibility of high speed broadband pose for businesses. They noted the on-going work with the tourism sector and the development of links with the diaspora. The property database and outreach clinics were welcomed as positive initiatives. Ms. O. Martin, Head of L.E.O., highlighted that affordable housing is very important in trying to attract businesses to the county.

	<p>The Cathaoirleach Cllr. L. Quinn joined with the members and thanked Ms. O. Martin, Head of L.E.O., for her presentation.</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 highlighted a number of developments that are taking place across the organisation. She expressed her good wishes to the Offaly entrants who are participating in the Pride of Place Awards ceremony, scheduled to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December in Letterkenny.</p> <p>The Chief Executive advised that a preliminary call for Town and Village Renewal proposals will be advertised in the coming week. She advised that every effort will be made, by Council officials to work with the community groups, to develop these proposals in order that applications for funding can be made when the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme is initiated.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed the Chief Executive agreed that the Directors will examine and seek to minimise the impact of roadworks in the weeks leading up to Christmas.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive agreed to circulate Offaly's submission on the National Planning Framework to the Oireachtas Members.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach informed the members that Minister Damien English, Minister for Housing and Urban Development will launch Offaly Domestic Violence Support Service's <i>Forced Out of the Home</i> report in Áras an Chontae on Friday, 1st December. He advised that an invitation will issue to all members. At the request of the members, the Cathaoirleach agreed to request a meeting with Minister English should the Minister's schedule allow.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group had considered and were proposing that Offaly County Council issue an invitation to Pope Francis to visit Clonmacnoise during his visit to Ireland in 2018. Cllr. D. Dolan seconded the proposal and the members agreed to invite Pope Francis to visit Clonmacnoise and/or Durrow Abbey during his Papal visit.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach advised the members that a Civic Reception for the Rose of Tralee, Ms. Jennifer Byrne, will be held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> December after the Council Meeting.</p>
<p><b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><b><u>Conferences</u></b></p> <p>Audit Committees in the Irish Local Government System The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth</p>

