

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 23RD OCTOBER 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, J. Foley, D. Harvey, B. Killeavy, J. Leahy, T. McCormack, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, M. O'Reilly and P. Ormond.
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cllrs. S. Maher 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.; Ms. Jean Ryan, A/D.O.S.; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Mr. A. Murray, S.P; Ms. B. Maher, E.P; Ms. C. Hilliard, A.O.; Ms. J. Rigney, Resource Officer, H.S.E.; Mr. D. Grennan, A/S.E.; Ms. C. Dempsey, A.O.; Ms. E. Kelly, E.P.; Ms. S. O'Toole, E.P.; Ms. O. Martin, Head of LEO; Mr. L. Duffy, E.T.; Mr. J. Cunningham, A/S.E.E.; Mr. M. Duffy, A/A.P.; Ms. S. Cleary, C.O.; and, Ms. L. Carbery. C.O.
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>The Kelly family, 27 Parnell Street, Tullamore on the death of Mr. Billy Kelly;</p> <p>Mr. John Cutler and family, Church Road, Tullamore on the death of their brother, Mr. Peter Cutler;</p> <p>Mr. Frank O'Dea and family, Arden Heights, Tullamore on the death of their father, Mr. Seamus O'Dea;</p> <p>Mrs. Miriam Hogan and family, Whitehall Estate, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Mr. Donal Hogan;</p> <p>Ms. Mary Dempsey, Garryhinch, Portarlinton, on the death of her mother, Mrs. Patricia Dempsey;</p> <p>Mr. Michael Grennan, Catherine Grennan and family, Cloughatanny, Clara on the death of Mrs. Mary Grennan;</p> <p>Mr. Martin Tempany, Cork Hill, Clara, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Nancy Tempany;</p> <p>Mr. Jim Murrin, Assumption Road, Edenderry, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Eileen Murrin;</p>

	<p>Mrs. Margaret O'Brien, 28 The Green, Clara, on the death of her husband, Mr. Noel O'Brien;</p> <p>Mr. Shane Murray, Cormac Street, Tullamore, on the death of his mother, Mrs. Nuala Murray;</p> <p>Mrs. Deborah Maguire and family, Togher, Daingean, on the death of their father, Mr. Eamon Hickey;</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>- Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach and his wife on the birth of their daughter; and</li> <li>- Rhode Senior Football team on winning the Dowling Cup and Mr. Alan McNamee on winning his tenth Offaly medal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>STORM OPHELIA</b></p>	<p>Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach thanked the members for agreeing to defer the Council meeting scheduled to be held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October due to Storm Ophelia. He complemented the Offaly Crisis Management Team for their timely distribution of information on social media. He complemented the outdoor staff for their work, who in conjunction with the other agencies – ESB, Gardaí and Irish Water and thereby enabling services to be restored quickly.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive gave a brief report on the Council's preparedness for the storm. She advised that the Crisis Management Team had met throughout the storm, and that approximately 200 calls were received in relation to 110 incidents. She thanked the Council staff who worked in conjunction with the Gardaí, ESB and Irish Water to clear road blockages, and help restore power and water. She also acknowledged the support of the public throughout the event and later during storm Brian.</p> <p>The members, both individually and collectively, paid tribute to the indoor and outdoor staff of Offaly County Council on dealing with storm Ophelia. They acknowledged that the regular social media updates had kept both the members and public apprised of local events in a timely manner. They acknowledged that the council worked well with the community to ensure that emergencies and road blockages were dealt in a timely and safe manner thereby ensuring that no lives were lost in the county. They extended their condolences to the families of the three people who lost their lives, on the day, in other parts of the country. A number of members proposed that the Council's policy on tree planting should be reviewed and suggested that the Municipal Districts should arrange to examine the status of roadside trees in their area. The members also encouraged landowners to be vigilant of roadside trees on their property.</p>

	<p>It was agreed, on the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, to write to the National Coordination Team and to commend them on their emergency response.</p>
<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the September meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Cribbin, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the In Committee meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 11th September 2017.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the In Committee meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 18th September 2017.</p>
<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, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017;</li> <li>- Minutes of the Economic, Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017; and,</li> <li>- Minutes of the Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Services Strategic Policy Committee held on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017.</li> </ul>
<b>ELECTION/APPOINTMENT /NOMINATION</b>	<p>Ms. M. Cleary, Meeting Administrator informed the meeting that following the resignation of former member Ms. S. Dooley that an appointment to the following committees was now are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC</li> <li>- Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board</li> <li>- Offaly Innovation and Design Centre Ltd.</li> <li>- Joint Policing Committee</li> <li>- Offaly Local Development Company</li> </ul> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to appoint Cllr. T. McCormack to each of the above committees.</p>
<b>OVERDRAFT ACCOMODATION 2018</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, the members resolved to approve a provision for Overdraft Accommodation for 2018 in the sum of €15million.</p>
<b>PROPOSED MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF THE TULLAMORE TOWN AND ENVIRONS</b>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S., drew the members' attention to the circulated report recommending a material contravention to the <i>Tullamore Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016</i> (extended to 2020). He noted that the site is zoned 'open space'</p>

**DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
2010-2016 (EXTENDED  
TO 2020)**

in the current Development Plan. He advised that the planning application provides for a development of 5 houses at Carraig Cluain, Tullamore and that no objections were received during the period of public consultation.

Cllr. T. McKeigue advised that he was not in a position to support the material contravention and advised that he considered the development, i.e., two storey houses, inappropriate as they would overlook the neighbouring bungalows. He stated that some local residents had informed him that they were unaware of the application and accordingly had failed to submit their objections.

Cllr. D. Dolan sought clarification in relation to the zoning and queried if sufficient open space would be zoned should the material contravention be approved.

Cllr. D. Harvey also expressed his concerns with regard to the proposed development and advised that he would not support the contravention.

Cllr. F. Moran sought clarification on the process of materially contravening Development Plans.

Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach informed the members that a resolution to approve the material contravention must be made by not less than three quarters of the total number of members of the Local Authority. It was agreed to defer consideration of the matter until further clarification on the questions raised could be provided.

Later, when the meeting resumed at 5.55pm

Mr. A. Murray, S.P., clarified that the original planning application provided for a crèche and two houses at the site but that these were never developed and the area was subsequently designated 'open space'. He advised that the proposed development of five houses is in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development for the area.

Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach noted that the legislation required a resolution of not less than seventy-five per cent of the members to vote to materially contravene a Development Plan. He noted that there was not, at that time, an adequate number of members in the chamber to take a vote on the proposed material contravention of the *Tullamore Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016, (extended to 2020)*. Accordingly, the Cathaoirleach advised that the vote could not be held.

**CONNECTING FOR LIFE -  
IRELAND'S NATIONAL  
STRATEGY TO REDUCE  
SUICIDE 2015-2020**

Ms. Josephine Rigney, Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention Laois/Offaly, H.S.E., provided a presentation to the members on the *Connecting for Life Ireland's National Strategy to Prevent Suicide 2015-2020*.

During her presentation Ms. J. Rigney noted the complexity and the multiple contributory factors of suicide and provided

	<p>details of recent Central Statistics Office statistics. Ms. J. Rigney outlined some of the components of the National Strategy and informed the members that the HSE, in partnership with community, voluntary and statutory organisations, is now developing a Suicide Prevention Action Plan for Laois and Offaly. Ms. J. Rigney informed the members that there is an opportunity for individuals, service providers and members of communities to inform and influence the Local Action Plan and thereby help ensure that the national goals are translated into local actions that are consistent, efficient and effective.</p> <p>The Chief Executive thanked Ms. J. Rigney for her presentation. She highlighted the work of organisations such as Jigsaw and the Pfizer Healthy Towns Programme.</p> <p>During the ensuing discussion that followed the need to raise awareness was stressed and the success of initiatives such as MOJO, Jigsaw and the Assist Course were acknowledged. In responding to a question raised Ms. J. Rigney advised that Local Authorities have responsibility to provide relevant training for front line staff and to restrict access to suicide hot spot locations. She advised that specially qualified nurses are available during the normal working hours and that the Accident and Emergency Department at Tullamore Hospital and MIDOC provide a 24-hour service. She advised that on-going training to teachers and frontline staff is being prioritised.</p> <p>Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach on his own behalf and on behalf of the members, thanked Ms. J. Rigney for her informative presentation and encouraged all present to engage in the development of the local Action Plan.</p>
<p><b>IRELAND 2040: OUR PLAN DRAFT NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S., drew the members' attention to the Draft National Planning Framework which had circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Mr. A. Murray, S.P., provided a presentation summarising the various sections included in the framework. He noted the main areas addressed in Offaly County Council's earlier submission which had stressed Offaly's potential and stressed the need for a Midland's Gateway.</p> <p>During the lengthy discussion that followed the members voiced their concerns that the midlands was not mentioned in the framework and stressed the importance of making a further submission to the Department. They also expressed their concerns with regard to the population growth rates mentioned in the framework for the midlands and suggested that these growth rates, if approved, would have a detrimental effect for the region</p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick advised that the Regional Assembly would also be making a submission on the Draft National Planning Framework.</p>

	<p>The members agreed that Offaly’s strengths, including its transport links, proximity to the major cities, airports and ports, affordable accommodation and education resources should be highlighted. The success of Tullamore Dew and many other industries in the midlands, the county’s strong agriculture and energy resources, they proposed, should also be restated and that Offaly’s potential as a counterbalance to Dublin for work life balance should be stressed. The population growth, they advised, was too restrictive and that the Draft Framework would negatively impact on the County’s Development Plan.</p> <p>Mr. A. Murray, S.P., in responding to the members’ questions, outlined the hierarchy of plans. He reiterated the need for the development of a Midlands Gateway and stated the importance of ensuring that the region be incorporated into the National Framework so that investment in capital projects could be secured in the future. He agreed to restate the opportunity for the development of Data Centres in the midlands. Mr. A. Murray, S.P., confirmed that the Office of the Planning Regulator has not been established to date.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach, in drawing the discussion to a conclusion, advised that submissions must be made by Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 and encouraged the members to forward any further comments they may have to Mr. A. Murray, S.P. before that date.</p>
<p><b>IN-COMMITTEE MEETING</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, the members agreed to meet In Committee to discuss a matter that the Chief Executive wished to discuss.</p> <p>The members met In Committee at 4.40pm.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive advised the members that the Department of Justice and Equality had informed the Council that Offaly will receive 27 families from Syria in the coming months under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. She advised that an Interagency Group, to include the Department of Social Protection, TUSLA, Offaly Local Development Company, Gardaí, HSE, Department of Education and Skills, will be established in the coming weeks to oversee the process. She advised that Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., will chair the Interagency Group. The Chief Executive advised that the Approved Housing Bodies, funded by the Department, will source suitable accommodation. She also advised that the Council will apply to the Department for funding in order that the Council may recruit a Resource Worker.</p> <p>During the ensuing discussion the members noted the success of the previous programme in Tullamore. In responding to questions raised the Chief Executive advised that the families will be placed throughout the county but that consideration will be given to the availability of public transport, school places and further education opportunities. The current shortage of housing in the county was noted. It was agreed that a press release should issue and that the matter would be noted in the</p>

	<p>Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report. The Chief Executive undertook to keep the members briefed on this matter.</p> <p>This concluded the In-Committee meeting and the October Council meeting resumed with the item on the <i>Proposed Material Contravention of the Tullamore Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016 (Extended to 2020)</i>.</p>
<p><b>OFFALY CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY STRATEGY</b></p>	<p>Ms. J. Ryan, A/D.O.S., and Ms. B. Maher, E.P., provided the members with a presentation on the <i>Offaly Climate Adaptation and Energy Efficient Strategy</i>. Ms. J. Ryan, A/D.O.S., noting the cancellation of the Council meeting the previous Monday due to storm Ophelia suggested that this highlighted the significance of climate change. She advised that the National Strategy's aim is to achieve climate resilience for Ireland by 2050. She advised that the 5-year <i>Offaly Climate Adaptation and Efficiency Strategy</i> will be based on the National Strategy Framework.</p> <p>Ms. B. Maher, E.P., advised the members that the closing date for public submission is Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017. She noted that following this period of public consultation, a draft <i>Offaly Climate Adaptation and Energy Efficient Strategy</i> will be prepared and that a further period of public consultation will then take place.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised, Ms. J. Ryan, A/D.O.S., advised that the Strategy will focus on preventative measures noting that there is currently no state funding for the Adaptation Programme. She advised that some funding is available from the OPW towards minor remedial work programmes.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. J. Ryan, A/D.O.S., and Ms. B. Maher, E.P., for their presentation.</p>
<p><b>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Reilly, the members resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue beyond 6pm.</p>
<p><b>LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE UPDATE</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members agreed to defer the Local Enterprise update to a subsequent meeting.</p>
<p><b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members' attention to the <i>Monthly Management Report</i> which had circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chief Executive wished the business communities of Edenderry, Clara and Banagher success in the Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Awards, noting that the National Final will take place in Tullamore on 15<sup>th</sup> November. She noted that the Town and Village Renewal works had commenced in Edenderry and Kinnitty.</p>

	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive informed the members' that the Council had received notification from the Department of Justice and Equality that 27 Syrian families will be placed in Offaly under the Irish Refugee Programme. She advised that the families are expected to arrive in the coming months. The Chief Executive advised that an Interagency Group, to be chaired by Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., will be established to oversee the transition. The HSE, Department of Education and Skills, Department of Social Protection, TUSLA and Gardaí will be among those who will be invited to join the Interagency Group. Housing, funded by the Department, will be provided by the Approved Housing Bodies. She advised the members that Offaly County Council will apply for departmental approval to employ a Resource Worker for the transitional period. The Chief Executive agreed to keep the members apprised of developments.</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 advised that he was unable to attend the Corporate Group Policy meeting earlier that day and that Cllr. J. Clendennen, Leas Cathaoirleach had chaired the meeting. He advised that the Council agenda had been considered.</p>
<p><b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><b>CONFERENCES:</b></p> <p>“GeoparkLIFE: Tourism for Conservation” The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare, 23rd November 2017 <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>“Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness” The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth, 3rd -5th November 2017 <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>“Invasive Exotic Species of Wildlife in Irish Rivers, Canals and Lakes” The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, 24th - 26th November <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>“The Fair Deal Scheme” The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, 17th -19th November <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>“Fáilte Ireland - Ireland's Ancient East Visitor Attraction Interpretation Conference” 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p><b>TRAINING:</b></p> <p>“AILG ‘In Service’ Members Training programme for Module 5” Bridge House Hotel, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017.</p>



	<p><i>It was agreed Cllr. P. Ormond would attend “AILG ‘In Service’ Members Training programme for Module 5” Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, 21st October 2017</i></p> <p><i>It was agreed Cllrs N. Cribbin and D. Owens would attend</i></p> <p><b>RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL:</b></p> <p>Retrospective approval was sought for the attendance of Cllrs E. Fitzpatrick and S. Dooley at the LAMA 2017 Spring Seminar 28th - 29th April 2017, City North Hotel, Gormanston, Co. Meath</p> <p>Retrospective approval was sought for the attendance of Cllrs. N. Bourke, B. Killeavy and D. Owens at AILG Annual Conference 6th &amp; 7th April 2017 Tracey's West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare.</p> <p>Retrospective approval was sought for the attendance of Cllrs. E. Fitzpatrick, D. Harvey, F. Moran, P. Ormond, D. Owens, S. Dooley and N. Cribbin at AILG Module 2 2017 at Arklow Bay Hotel, Arklow on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2017.</p> <p>Retrospective approval was sought for the attendance of Cllrs. L. Quinn and D. Owens, at the LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, 29th &amp; 30th September, 2017 in the Hotel Minella, Coleville, Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.</p> <p>Retrospective approval was sought for the attendance of Cllr. P. Ormond at the AILG Training - Well Being for Councillor City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath on 14th September 2017</p> <p>Retrospective approval was sought for the attendance of Cllr. N. Bourke, T. McKeigue, D. Owens and P. Ormond at the AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2017, Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo, 12th to 13th October 2017</p> <p>Retrospective approval was sought for the attendance of Cllr. D. Harvey and F. Moran Celtic Conferences: “A Practical Guide to Budget 2018” The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth. 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017</p>
<b>COMHFHREAGRAS:</b>	The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.
<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b>	There was no other business.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**MINUTES CONFIRMED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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