

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 25TH MARCH 2019 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, A. Davy, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McCormack, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, P. Ormond and L. Quinn
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F.; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S.; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Mr. M. Daly, A/D.O.S.; Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meetings Administrator; Mr. M. Mahon, S.E.E., Ms. J. Ryan, A/S.E., Mr. P. Scully, Chairperson Offaly Audit Committee, Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
APOLOGIES	Cllr. B. Killeavy
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mrs. Ann O’Beirne, Westwood Park, Clara on the death of her husband John O’Beirne;</p> <p>Mrs. Marian Fitzpatrick, The Green, Clara on the death of her husband Noel Fitzpatrick;</p> <p>Ms. Ursula Fitzpatrick, Shandra, Portarlington on the death of her mother Kitty Fitzpatrick;</p> <p>Mr. Arthur Lambe, Avondale Estate, Portarlington on the death of his brother Andy Lambe.</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>
VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS	<p>Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach extended his congratulations to Special Olympic World Games gold medallists Oisín Feery, Mark Saddler and Damien Breslin, bringing home gold medals for Offaly and Ireland at the recent Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue the members resolved to confer a Civic Recognition on the medallist in recognition of their achievements in the Offaly Special Olympic World Games. Same to be held after the April Council Meeting.</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 congratulations.</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p>	<p>Cllr. F. Moran requested an amendment to the minutes to reflect his proposal, not seconded, to invite a member of the Board of the Arts Centre to the March meeting.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the February meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 18th February 2019.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>The members noted –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday, 21st January 2019;
<p>PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED – PART 8, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001, AS AMENDED - EDENDERRY INNER RELIEF ROAD</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. drew the member’s attention to the Chief Executive’s report as required under the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended and Part 8, Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended - Edenderry Inner Relief Road. Mr. M. Mahon, S.E.E. provided the members with a detailed presentation outlining the proposed development, the main issues raised by the public and the importance of the proposed relief road to Edenderry.</p> <p>In proposing the adoption of the Part 8, Cllr. J. Foley emphasised that the relief road is vital to the town of Edenderry and provides a great opportunity for future development.</p> <p>Cllr. L. Quinn acknowledge that there is a huge volume of traffic going through Edenderry. He also acknowledged that a lot of queries had been raised by the public but he felt the development was a step in the right direction and he seconded the adoption of the Part 8 – Edenderry Relief Road.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick and Cllr. N. Bourke supported the Part 8 while regretting that it did not happen a number of years ago and acknowledging that some issues need to be addressed.</p> <p>Following a query from Cllr. T. McKeigue, Mr. Mahon confirmed that the outer ring road would be considered for future development but that it would be possible to source funding for this until all the inner routes have been exhausted.</p> <p>Cllr. N. Cribbin voiced his concerns regarding the development and that too much time had passed since it was originally mooted in 2001. Edenderry had grown since the plan was first developed and it would cause further traffic problems in the town. He proposed that the previous route be revisited. No seconder was received.</p>

	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Foley, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to adopt the Planning & Development Act 2000, as Amended – Part 8, Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as Amended - Edenderry Inner Relief Road.</p>
<p>REBUILDING IRELAND HOMELOAN - €4 MILLION FOR REBUILDING IRELAND HOMELOANS.</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. drew the member’s attention to the Rebuilding Ireland Homeloan. He advised that a number of applicants are ready to drawdown their loans and approval to borrow from the Housing Agency is required.</p> <p>The members acknowledged that the scheme is working well and is essential to low income earners who do not qualify for loans from private banks or for the social housing schemes. They raised concerns that it may be oversubscribed nationally, that the time frame needs to be speeded up and it could raise the price of houses available. Cllr. S. Maher queried if people that had become bankrupt could be allowed to avail of the scheme. Cllr. D. Dolan queried if a site could be used as part payment of deposit required.</p> <p>In responding to the members queries Mr. D. Conlon confirmed that at present loans to the value of €2m has been approved by the Council. He advised that approval is based on ability to pay back the loan and credit checks are carried out. and that through regular meetings with the department and staff they could discuss policies going forward in line with the rules of the scheme.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan and seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to the borrowing of monies for Housing Loans: €4 million for Rebuilding Ireland Homeloans</p>
<p>2019 ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME</p>	<p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S. brought the members attention to the 2019 Road Works Programme. Ms. J. Ryan outlined the plan and noted that it is available on the Offaly website for public viewing. She advised the members of an increase in funding for 2019 in the amount of €2,705,764, but noted that transfers from the Restoration Improvement Grant to the Discretionary Grant is not allowable from 2019 onwards as notified in Circular RW1/2018.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. Ryan for her presentation and raised queries on the LIS and CIS schemes, the additional funding for testing on roads over peat and the LED light replacement. The members noted their disappointment that discretionary funding is no longer available to the MDs. Cllr. L. Quinn raised concerns that the roads in North Offaly are not classified as National Roads and the Edenderry MD budget has to accommodate the maintenance of all the roads in North Offaly.</p> <p>In responding to the members queries Mr. S. Murray advised that the pilot for the peat roads is to investigate other solutions to deal with peat roads, the results will be reported to the members and further funding would be pursued for the maintenance of peat roads. He noted that LED lighting has led to reduction in operation costs, which has been invested into</p>

	<p>replacement of lights and that Mr. Willie Ryan, E.E. will report to all MDs in April. He agreed that the Edenderry to Tullamore road does carry a lot of traffic. Ms. J. Ryan advised the members that the 40 applicants on the LIS list are being processed, when they are complete the scheme will be advertised again. She noted that the CIR is a 2 year programme up to 2020.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. Mc. Keigue and seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey the members resolved to adopt the 2019 Roads Programme.</p>
<p>AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT 2018</p>	<p>Mr. M. Daly, A/D.O.S. thanked Mr. P. Scully, Chairperson of the Audit Committee for the sterling work carried out by the committee in conjunction with the internal auditors, in this term of the Council.</p> <p>Mr. Peter Scully, gave a brief overview of the Audit Committee Annual Report 2018 that was circulated in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>He noted the number of meetings and audits held during the year and acknowledged the co-operation received from all parties. He complemented the members' commitment to the continued reduction of the Council's revenue deficit. He thanked the committee members, council staff and elected members for their support in their term of this Council.</p> <p>The members acknowledged the work of the Audit Committee and thanked Mr. P. Scully for his comprehensive report.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick the members resolved to adopt the Audit Committee Annual Report 2018.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Cribbin, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan the members resolved to adopt the Audit Committee Report to Council on the 2017 Annual Financial Statement and Local Government Auditor's Statutory Report.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll the members resolved to adopt the Audit Committee Charter 2019.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin the members resolved to adopt the Audit Committee Work Plan 2019.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, joined with Mr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach in thanking Mr. P Scully and his committee for their work over the term of this Council.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members' attention to the monthly management report. She outlined the Part 8's progressing for the Greenways, the National Spring Clean Initiative working with Tidy Towns and community groups, the community meeting held for the River Gageborough</p>

Catchment and the housing update. Ms. A. Delaney advised that the Tourist Office is currently being fitted out, working towards opening for Easter and that in association with Offaly Tourism Marketing (CLG) a Tourism Development Seminar on Monday, 8th April in The Tullamore Court Hotel is taking place. She noted that the Slieve Bloom branding is being finalised, to be completed for the opening of the Mountain Trails. She advised the members of the National Community Weekend from the 4th -6th May and of the Pre-Launch of e-hive a new co-working hub in Edenderry, due to open in the coming months, consisting of 12-15 hot desks situated on the first floor of Edenderry Town Hall. She congratulated Niamh McKeon from Ard Scoil Chiarain Naofa, Clara, who won the Student Enterprise Programme, the young entrepreneur will be representing Offaly in the National Final on 3rd May. She updated the members on the Arts Centre noting that meetings have taken place with the Minister Madigan and a caseworker has been assigned to assist. The Arts Officer Sally O Leary has been assigned to the Board and her expertise will be utilised to assist with funding applications and explore other streams of funding.

The members thanked Ms. A. Delaney for her report and raised some queries. Cllr. F. Moran queried if the Raheen Housing Development in Clara is running in conjunction with the new Fire Station and if the affordable sites at Cluain Fia could be developed for disabled housing units. He reiterated his proposal from the February meeting to invite the Arts Board to the meeting to make a presentation, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to invite the Arts Centre Board to the April Meeting of Offaly County Council.

The members also raised queries with regard to the Edenderry Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Rural Regeneration Fund, Slieve Bloom opening dates and Tourist Office operation. Cllr. D. Dolan raised concerns about the Arts Centre, asking what the Department requirements are.

In responding to the members queries Ms. A. Delaney advised the members that the Raheen Housing Development is at Stage 1 and the Fire Station is a different funding stream, so the 2 schemes are not running in parallel.

Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. agreed that in addition to the sites at Cluain Fia, there are affordable sites in the county that could be developed. He noted that the criteria for the Affordable Sites Scheme has changed and that all new houses have standard access as part of their planning. He advised that the affordable sites would be discussed at SPC to devise a new policy for their development.

Ms. A. Delaney advised that the Edenderry Wastewater Treatment plant issues had been resolved, the tourist office will be opened all year and staffed for various hours, which may include volunteers and that the Slieve Bloom steering group is in place with the Local Enterprise Office working on raising the profile, dates to be confirmed. She acknowledged that the

	<p>members were disappointed with the Rural Regeneration funding, but further funding would be pursued. She updated the members that all sources for the development of the Arts Centre including fund raising would be explored. She highlighted that €651k has already been invested with the purchase of the building and design fees etc.. She noted that the Arts Centre would require funding for its operation and maintenance, which would be requested in the budget. She advised that work is ongoing with the Board, the Oireachtas members and the Department and that the Board wanted to get all the relevant information together before meeting the council and she confirmed they would be invited to the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Owens thanked Ms. A. Delany and as a member of the Arts Board, he noted the frustration and also that a lot of work had been done to date.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day to consider the various items on the Council agenda. He advised the members that the organisation for the upcoming local elections was discussed and the members could contact Mary Flynn Kenny, Returning Officer, for the any information they require.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p><u>Conferences</u></p> <p>Celtic Conferences Rescheduled 'Ireland and Plastic Waste' in Carlingford, Co. Louth, 12th, 13th and 14th April 2019 at The Four Seasons Hotel Carlingford Co. Louth <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p>Dundalk Chamber of Commerce 'Major Tourism Conference – Learn from the Best and grow your visitor numbers' on Wednesday the 10th April 2019 in the Four Seasons Hotel Carlingford from 8.30am to 2pm. <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p>Dundalk Chamber of Commerce 'Irish Economy an Economic Outlook in Uncertain Times' 23rd May Crowne Plaza, Dundalk. <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p><u>Training</u></p> <p>Module 2 of the 2019 AILG Elected Member Training Programme: 21st March, Thursday, Park Hotel, DUNGARVAN, Co Waterford for Councillors from the Southern Regional Assembly area, 23rd March, Saturday, Arklow Bay Hotel, ARKLOW, Co Wicklow for Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly area, 28th March, Thursday, Radisson Hotel, Rosses Point, SLIGO for Councillors from the Border & Western Regional Assembly area <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p>RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL: Retrospective approval was approved for:</p>

	<p>Cllrs. E. Fitzpatrick, T. McKeigue and Noel Cribbin and Peter Ormond to attend the AILG 2019 Annual Conference, 21st & 22nd February 2019 in the Longford Arms Hotel, Longford;</p> <p>Retrospective approval was approved for: Cllrs. P. Ormond, T. McKeigue and D. Owens to attend LAMA 2019 SPRING TRAINING SEMINAR on 7th & 8th March 2019 The Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim</p> <p>Retrospective approval was approved for: Cllrs. P. Ormond, E. Fitzpatrick and T. McKeigue to attend the AILG Training January 2019: Module 1 Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies – A briefing for Elected Members, Northern & Western Regional Assembly, 17 January Hodson Bay Hotel, off the N61, Co Roscommon</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack, the members’ noted and approved the conferences and training seminars.</p>
COMHFHREAGRAS:	The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.
NOTICES OF MOTION:	<p>Cllr. J. Carroll:</p> <p><i>“That this Council in the context of Brexit, support Irish Citizens rights in the North of Ireland as the currently exist and not based on residency (as is presently proposed) but as a National and EU right. To this end, this Council calls on the Irish Government and their EU partners to facilitate and protect those rights in all respects as the currently exist, in the post Brexit scenario. That if adopted this motion be circulated to all other Councils.”</i></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan the members resolved to write to the Minister Simon Coveney, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with responsibility for Brexit.</p>
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	<p>Cllr. T. McKeigue voiced his concerns that Banagher was not a suitable location for the Local Election count. Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Local Elections Returning Officer advised that the location was chosen at the discretion of the European Election Returning Officer Mr. Sean Ryan. She advised that the verification process for the elections and the referendum would take place in Banagher, then the Local Election Ballots would be securely transferred to the chosen site of Mucklagh Community Centre and the Local Election count would take place there. She advised the members that tickets for the verification would be provided by Mr. Sean Ryan and if they had any further queries they could revert to her.</p> <p>Cllr. F. Moran advised the members that Rural Garda Stations would open on 27th April 2019 to facilitate the signing of register of elector forms, times to follow.</p>

