

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE ON
MONDAY, 21ST JANUARY 2019 AT 2.00 P. M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. D. Owens, 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, P. Ormond.
APOLOGIES	Cllr. L. Quinn
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S.; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S.; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S.; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meetings Administrator; Mr. M. Mahon, S.E.E; Mr. A. Murray, S.P.; Ms. O. Farrelly, S.O. and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
	<p>Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach, drew the Members attention to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The 21st January 2019 marks the centenary of the first Dail.2. The 120th year of Local Government is also being commemorated this year.3. Congratulations to Shane Lowry on winning the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship at the week end. <p>The Members joined with the Cathaoirleach in supporting both commemorations and also in extending congratulations to Shane Lowry and while acknowledging that he has previously received the highest Civic Honour in the County, some form of additional recognition would be considered.</p>
VOTES OF SYMPATHY	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Ms. Mary Scully, Arden Road, Tullamore, on death of her brother, Peter Scully;</p> <p>Ms. Catherine Longworth, New Road, Tullamore on the death of her father, Paddy Longworth;</p> <p>Mr. John Colgan, Ballinlough, Clara on the death of his mother, Rose Colgan;</p> <p>Mr. Seamus Duffy, Cushina, Portarlinton on the death of his wife, May Duffy;</p> <p>Mr. Sean O'Brien, Whitehall Estate, Tullamore, on the death of his mother Kathleen O'Brien;</p>

	<p>Mrs. Celine Ryan, Cloneyhurke, Portarlinton on the death of her brother, P.J. Coughlan;</p> <p>Mr. Sean Keeshan, Clonlisk, Shinrone, Birr on the death of his wife, Peggy Keeshan;</p> <p>Mr. Mark Corrigan, The Walk, Kinnitty, on the death of his sister, Monica Kealey;</p> <p>Mr. Dermot Egan, Carrigeen, Fivealley, Birr, on the death of his brother, Pádraig Egan;</p> <p>Mr. Tommy Murphy, Lisduff, Kilcormac, on the death of his sister, Bridie Treacy.</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>
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr. N. Bourke, the members resolved to adopt the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 17th December 2018.</p>
MINUTES FOR NOTING:	<p>The members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 19th November 2018
FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY	<p>Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meetings Administrator informed the members that that a casual vacancy had arisen in the membership of Offaly County Council following the resignation of Cllr. Martin O'Reilly. She outlined the procedure for the filling of the casual vacancy as prescribed in the Local Government Act 2001, as amended and in the Council's Standing Orders.</p> <p>Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meetings Administrator informed the meeting that a nomination had been received from the political party which had caused the casual vacancy to arise, i.e., Sinn Féin. She informed the meeting that Mr. Alan Davy, Tubberdaly, Rhode had been selected by Sinn Féin to fill the vacancy and acknowledged that Mr. A. Davy had provided his written consent to the nomination.</p> <p>Cllr. S. Maher proposed that Mr. A. Davy be co-opted onto the Council. He advised that Mr. A. Davy is a long standing member of Sinn Féin and as an electrician is very involved with his local community. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. B. Killeavy and agreed. The members welcomed Cllr. A. Davy to the Council. Cllr. A. Davy thanked the members for their good wishes, paid tribute to his predecessor Cllr. M. O'Reilly and wishes him well for the future and advised that he looked forward to working with the members and executive.</p>
ELECTION/APPOINTMENT /NOMINATION TO:	<p>Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meeting Administrator informed the meeting that following the resignation of former member Mr.</p>

<p>- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE</p> <p>-NORTH OFFALY DEVELOPMENT FUND</p>	<p>M. O'Reilly that an appointment to the following committees was now are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee - North Offaly Development Fund <p>On the proposal of Cllr. B. Killeavy, seconded by Cllr. S. Maher, the members resolved to appoint Cllr. A. Davy to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee;</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Maher, seconded by Cllr. B. Killeavy, the members resolved to appoint Cllr. A. Davy to the North Offaly Development Fund.</p>
<p>PART VIII, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001, AS AMENDED - EDENDERRY LINK ROAD – GRANARY COURT TO FAIRGREEN</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon brought the members attention to the Part VIII, Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as Amended - Edenderry Link Road – Granary Court to Fairgreen. Mr. M. Mahon outlined the Part VIII proposal to the members. The proposal provides a link between Granary Court and Fairgreen which will open up back lands for further development potential. It will also open up access to two of the opportunity sites identified within the Edenderry Local Area Plan. It will also provide an alternative route away from the town centre as well as improving connectivity and permeability. He informed the members that an application had been submitted under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and outlined the issues that had been raised in the one submission received on the proposal.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Cribbin, and seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members resolved to adopt the Part VIII, Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as Amended - Edenderry Link Road – Granary Court to Fairgreen as previously circulated.</p>
<p>STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (SID), CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT ON THE WEST OFFALY POWER TRANSITION TO BIOMASS APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANALA</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan D.O.S. drew the member's attention to the Chief Executives report on the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) on the West Offaly Power transition to biomass application to An Bord Pleanala.</p> <p>Mr. A. Murray, Senior Planner provided the members with a detailed outline on the Chief Executives report.</p> <p>The Members agreed that an addendum to the report was not necessary but that a detailed record of their observations made should be sent to An Bord Pleanala in the form of the Meeting Administrators record.</p> <p>The members welcomed the proposal from a climate change perspective.</p> <p>The members, in particular those from the Birr Municipal District were very concerned about the increase in HGV's which will arise, with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to the R357, much of which is on a peat foundation.

- Impact on the village of Shannonbridge as cited in the Municipal District Engineers report, but also on the village of Cloghan and other settlements on the haul routes.
- Safety impacts on narrow sections of the R357, the school at Cloghan and at Moystown junction (Belmont GAA pitch), also potential impact on bridges such as Shannonbridge and Clonony.

Members suggested a substantial increase on the recommended €50,000 annual charge to the ESB in light of these issues in order that the impact could be offset locally and that the focus should be on safety measures in addition to road surfacing.

The issue of haul routes was discussed at length. While noting the recommendation for An Bord Pleanala to examine the potential for a more even split of HGV's on the R357 (i.e. a reduction from the proposed 80% coming from the west through Shannonbridge village), the members noted that this would mean more coming through Cloghan and Co. Offaly in general. Members also queried if hauliers would take other haul routes, for example through Clara along the R420 and R436.

Mr. Andrew Murray, Senior Planner noted that this route was not identified as a possible haul route and presented the maps of haul routes from the application on screen. (Fig. 4.5 of the Non-Technical Summary – Delivery Routes and Figure 12.1 of the EIAR – Access Roads to WOP Station). He told the members that it would not be unusual for An Bord Pleanala to restrict haul routes to those shown in application documents (or a variation of same) for such types of development. Members queried if Roscommon Country Council had been consulted and Mr. Murray noted that An Bord Pleanala would be seeking the views of Roscommon County Council.

The Members agreed that a community gain condition should be attached and that it should be weighted in favour of those living closer to the station. The Members discussed the need for comprehensive and certain financial supports for farmers to grow energy crops, without which they considered that the viability and sustainability of the project would be in question. In addition, in the shorter term, they considered that the viability of the project could be dependent on the operator gaining additional financial supports (as the EIAR discusses, i.e. through the RESS scheme) for the viability of the project. In particular, they questioned the merits of importing biomass over the longer term.

A number of members queried the fact that all of the biomass would travel by road. One member asked if the potential of using existing Bord Na Mona transfer stations e.g. Bellair (south of Moate) to transfer biomass to the existing rail system had been examined. Mr. Andrew Murray stated that the EIAR had mentioned the possibility but stated that it would be uneconomic.

<p>DRAFT REGIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR THE EASTERN & MIDLAND REGION</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan drew the members' attention to the Draft Regional Social and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region. Mr. A. Murray provided the members with a detailed presentation outlining the main points of the proposed submission. He informed the members on the status of the policy suggestions from the pre draft stage and highlighted the concerns in relation to the designation of an outer area. He updated the members on the proposals for the draft including supporting Tullamore as a major employment centre, enhancement of Tullamores' accessibility, Tullamore as a med tech centre, the hospital as a major trauma/teaching hospital and the possibility of University status. He noted that more detail on regional connectivity and functional urban areas would be requested. He outlined other detail points such as stronger economic role for smaller towns and villages, land management resources for smaller Local Authorities, focus on other rapidly growing towns and the examination of the feasibility of a Green International Trade and Distribution zone in the Midlands north of Tullamore,</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. A. Murray and staff for their work on the Strategy and raised issues in this regard. Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick noted that this is an important document with a huge impact on the Midland Region and he advised the members that the Assembly had an issue with the term hinterland and that all major towns should be included. The members agreed that rural towns and villages should continue to grow, that wind energy was not the only low carbon option and that University status for Tullamore Hospital would be a huge boost. They raised their concerns with the lack of development of the rail network, the lack of focus on other Offaly towns such as Birr and Edenderry and the future of Bord na Mona. They noted that Agriculture is not included in the strategy and that tourism development, ILOFAR, Astronomy and indigenous industries should also be focused on.</p> <p>Mr. A. Murray responded to the member's queries. He informed the members that hinterland refers to the area immediately surrounding Dublin and that Offaly is referred to in the Outer Area and that this term may be excluded from the strategy. He agreed that more recognition is required for rural areas and advised that the County Development plan should be able to deal with the policies. He advised that he is waiting on a response from the HSE with regard to Tullamore Hospital.</p>
<p>SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2019</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., drew the members' attention to the <i>Service Delivery Plan 2019</i>, which had circulated with the agenda. He informed the meeting that the Plan preparation of an annual Service Delivery Plan is provided for on a statutory basis in the <i>Local Government Reform Act 2014</i>.</p> <p>He advised that the Service Delivery Plan for 2019 identifies the various services that the Council propose to provide in the year ahead and that it takes account of, and is consistent with, <i>Budget 2019</i>, which was adopted by the members on 19th</p>

	<p>November 2018 and the objectives in the Offaly County Council's <i>Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019</i>.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members adopted the Service Delivery Plan 2019.</p>
<p>DRAFT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2019</p>	<p>The members noted the Schedule of Meetings for 2019 which had circulated with the agenda.</p>
<p>PRESENTATION BY OFFALY TOURIST OFFICER</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney informed the members that a property in the centre of town in O'Connor Square is being developed as a Tourist Office for Offaly.</p> <p>Ms. O. Farrelly provided the members with a detailed presentation on a brief history of Offaly tourism, statistics, market trends, their focus and marketing plan for 2019. She informed the members that The Offaly Tourism Marketing (CLG) was established in 2014 with members from different sectors of the local tourism industry and there is now a dedicated team of three Offaly County Council staff to work with (CLG) to further develop concepts, work on new ideas and marketing. She drew the member's attention to the growth in tourism and the visitor numbers both domestic and international.</p> <p>Ms. O. Farrelly highlighted the trend toward slow tourism and noted that Offaly is ideally placed to provide this experience. She advised the members that work would continue with the Hidden Gem, the Ancient East and the Hidden Heartlands brands. She noted that the marketing plan would include establishing and maintaining the Tourist Office, conducting seminars and workshops, collaborating with stakeholders and promoting events and festivals. She advised that Product Development would continue for example with Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike trail, Public Wi-Fi and the Grand Canal Greenway. She outlined further development including re-development of the website, increased social media presence and participation in trade shows.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. O. Farrelly for her presentation and agreed that the Tourist Office is a great initiative in a good location and expressed concerns that it should be adequately manned. Cllr. J. Clendennen queried if in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland a seasonal office could be provided in Birr. The members agreed that Offaly has unique experiences such as Clonmacnoise, Lough Boora and Birr Castle and it is important to prioritise the main attractions. The members queried the various forms of social media that are being utilised, the availability of REDZ funding for Shannonbridge and to further promote the excellent Golf Clubs in the county.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Dolan queried if other areas such as Clara Bog and Croghan Hill would be promoted with the main attractions and suggested that publicly successful Offaly natives such as Shane Lowry and Neil Delamere should be approached to act as Ambassadors for the county.</p>

	<p>Ms. O. Farrelly responded to the member's queries, she noted that the tourism team have met with the Golf Clubs, Clara bog Group and in conjunction with Offaly Local Development Company could investigate funding for smaller local initiatives. She confirmed that they will work with the Heritage Officer to promote Croghan Hill as it is developed. She outlined the various social media that is utilised including Facebook, twitter, Instagram, You Tube and Pinterest. She confirmed that the team have reached out to a number of people in the public eye to promote Offaly and that they are working with Fáilte Ireland to ensure that the Tourist Office is accessible and adequately operated.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney advised the members that work is on-going with OPW to develop Shannonbridge as a gateway from to Clonmacnoise. She informed the members that the REDZ funding had been subsumed into the Towns and Villages Renewal Scheme and funding could be investigated from that scheme.</p>
<p>COMMUNITY CCTV UPDATE</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin advised the members that the Council is working with neighbouring counties to decide on the best option going forward with Community CCTV.</p> <p>The members responded that there has been a long delay in implementing the scheme and highlighted the need for urgency. They noted that other counties had submitted their applications. Communities such as Edenderry had already raised a lot of funding and were concerned that the government funding of €4m would be taken up by other counties. They suggested the CCTV would play an important role in the litter problem.</p> <p>Mr. F. Heslin responded to the members queries that it is important to get the Data clearance correct due to liability issues. He noted that the Edenderry CCTV is under the Gardai scheme and should be progressed accordingly.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney advised the members that the Data Protection issues was an onerous task and that role is given to local authorities in legislation. She informed the members that the CCMA have met on a national basis with the Department of Justice in relation to revised guidelines. There is a model currently being developed which may be suitable for implementation in Offaly. The Chief Executive agreed to include Community CCTV as an agenda item in the February monthly meeting.</p>
<p>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members agreed to suspend standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue after 6.00pm,</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members' attention to the monthly management report. She informed the members that the new Arts Officer Sally O'Leary has been appointed. She advised the members of the new Code of Practice for Waste Water Treatment & Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses, covering site assessment, installation, and operation of septic tanks and other domestic waste water treatment systems. She</p>

	<p>advised that there would be a housing update at the February monthly meeting. .</p> <p>She advised the members that year-end financial position is not yet finalised but the 550k deficit reduction is achievable.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report.</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 notified the members that GDPR training is provisionally planned for 18th February before the monthly Council meeting. He reminded the members of the link available to update themselves on the Code of Conduct. He informed the members that they had discussed the recent success of Shane Lowry and that the new Arts Officer Ms. Sally O’Leary had been appointed. He noted that the conferences and training had been agreed.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION</p>	<p>The Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. F. Moran was withdrawn.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to write to Minister Zappone Department, requesting that her Department acknowledges Adoptee Identity Rights and immediately allows adoptees access to their own information on health, history and heritage in line with the equality and personal equality and personal autonomy rights of other citizens.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to look at the possibility of posting our County Council meetings live on our Website.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney informed the members that it would have to be provided in the budget and could be brought to the new members after the Local Elections in May.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Maher, seconded by Cllr. A. Davy, the members resolved to write to the Minister for Health to engage constructively with our nurses and midwives on their grievances for better pay and conditions.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. B. Killeavy, seconded by Cllr. S. Maher, the members resolved to write to the Minister for Health and An Taoiseach to acknowledge, support and respond in detail to the demands of the Standing4Women* campaign in relation to the recent cervical check scandal. These include:</p> <p>Legislation and policy on mandatory open disclosure independent of the patient safety bill, Provision of a start and end date and full disclosure on the 1800 smears yet to be audited, and a breakdown of the new packages being negotiated with laboratories carrying out smear slide analysis including mandatory site audits”</p>

COMHDHÁLACHA	<p><u>Conferences</u></p> <p>Celtic Conferences, A Guide to EU Educational Programmes, Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth, 8th to 10th February 2019, €100 plus travel and expenses; <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences, Good Governance of Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisations in Ireland, O'Donovan's Hotel, Main Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, 22nd to 24th February 2019, €100 plus travel and expenses; <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences 'Retirement Entitlements and Taxation Benefits for Councillors' being held at The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork from the 25th to 27th January 2019, €100 plus travel and expenses; <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p><u>Training</u></p> <p>AILG Training January 2019: Module 1 Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies – A briefing for Elected Members</p> <p>Northern & Western Regional Assembly, 17 January (Thursday), Hodson Bay Hotel, off the N61, Co Roscommon</p> <p>Midlands & Eastern Regional Assembly, 19 January (Saturday), Mullingar Park Hotel, on the M4 J15, Co Westmeath</p> <p>Southern Regional Assembly, 24 January, Horse & Jockey Hotel, off the M8 Junction 6, Co Tipperary, €55 plus travel and expenses <i>It was agreed Cllrs. E. Fitzpatrick and T. McKeigue would attend</i></p> <p>LAMA 2019 SPRING TRAINING SEMINAR, 7th & 8th March 2019 The Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Cribbin, seconded by Cllr. S. Maher, the members' noted and approved the conferences and training seminars.</p>
COMHFHREAGRAS:	Further correspondence that issued with the Agenda was noted.
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	<p>Cllr. D. Owens reminded the members that the Political Donations Statements deadline is 31st January 2019.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll requested and update on a previous sale of land in Banagher.</p>

	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive agreed to provide an update if possible as this may refer to a current planning application
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This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

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18th February 2019