

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the February Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in
The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on
Monday 11th February 2019 at 2.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor B. O'Donoghue (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor D. Foley
Councillor A. Gladney
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor W. Lacey
Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor K. Murnane
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor J. Murphy
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor W. Quinn

In attendance: Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning,
Economic Development, Health and Safety,
Mr D. McInerney, Director of Services, Transportation,
Environment & Water Services
Mr. M. Brennan, Acting Director of Services, Housing,
Mr. R. Wickham, Acting Senior Engineer, Transportation
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of LEO
Ms A. Sweeney, Senior Planner
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Acting Senior Engineer, Environment
Mr. D. Mulligan, Museum Curator
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate
Services
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate
Services.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

The Cathaoirleach sought Members approval to delay the order of business to facilitate an announcement by Councillor Walter Lacey. This was unanimously agreed by the Members following a show of hands. Councillor Lacey announced that he will not be seeking re-election at the Local Elections 2019. He said the reason he is not contesting the local elections is because he has served 30 years as a local representative and feels that now is the right time to go.

Councillor Lacey thanked his fellow Councillors, officials past and present for their support and friendship over the past 30 years. He thanked his wife Bernadette, daughter Rachel and his family for their support. He thanked Noreen Whelan and Eithne Reddy fellow members of the former Progressive Democrats Party in Carlow for their continuous support throughout his political career.

The Members paid warm tributes to Councillor Lacey thanking him for his excellent service to the people of Carlow and for being the voice of reason in the Council Chamber.

The Chief Executive thanked Councillor Lacey for his outstanding service and for his support to her and to staff. She said he will be greatly missed in Carlow County Council and will be a hard act to follow.

The Cathaoirleach also paid tribute to Councillor Lacey and spoke of the high esteem that people held for him. He wished Councillor Lacey and his family well for the future.

Councillor Lacey thanked everyone for their kind words. He also thanked Senator Murnane-O'Connor for her attendance in the Chamber and for her support and friendship through the years.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Patrick Hynes, 23 Woodlawn Park, Borris, Co. Carlow on the death of his father, Patrick Snr.
- Marian Flisher & The Gaynor Family, 17 Fr. Cummins Park, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow on the death of Pat Gaynor.
- Anthony Bermingham & Family, 36 Springdale, Tullow Road, Carlow on the death of his wife Jacinta.
- The Craig Family on the death of their father Richard, 5A Burrin Arcade, Kennedy Ave., Carlow.
- John Corcoran & Family, Raheendoran, Co. Carlow on the death of his father Bernard.

- Michael Doyle, Pensioner Carlow County Council and the Doyle Family Rathcrogue, Carlow on the death of their mother Mary.
- Mary Meaney, Blackbush, Banagagole, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow and extended family on the death of Laz Costello, Monacurragh, Co. Carlow.
- Hannah Phelan & Family, Kilcloney, Borris, Co. Carlow on the death of her husband Patrick.
- Bridget Murphy & Family, Barrack Street, Tullow, Co. Carlow on the death of her husband Dom.
- Pat Somers & Family 10, Bullock Park, Carlow on the death of his wife Breda.
- Fiona Moore & Family, Knockdrumagh, Myshall, Co. Carlow on the death of her husband Bobby.
- The Cummins Family, Newbridge, Bishop Nulty, Priests of Kildare and Leighlin and parishioners on the death of Fr. John Cummins.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

- Arthur Gaskin and Brian Byrne on reaching the final of the Senior Squash Championship.
- Stephen Murphy retained Station Officer, Hacketstown on his retirement from the Fire Service.
- Carlow District Juvenile Soccer on their recent success.
- County Carlow Community First Responder Co-ordination committee on being named as 2019 finalist in the All Ireland Community & Council Awards under 'Best Community Based Initiative'.
- The Council workers for their swift response in dealing with urgent road repairs in Regent Street, Bagenalstown.
- Athlete Molly Scott on being chosen as part of the Irish Team competing in the European Indoor Championship 60m race.

1(a) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella
Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That the Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 14th January 2019 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

2. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUE, STANDING ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

(a) Commencement of taking -in -charge process of roads and services at Cuanahowan, Rathoe Road, Tullow, Co. Carlow

Members approval was sought to advertise the Council's intention to take Cuanahowan, Rathoe Road, Tullow, Co. Carlow in charge.

**Proposed by Councillor W. Paton
Seconded by Councillor J. Pender
AND**

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the necessary advertisement to enable the taking-in-charge process commence of Cuanahowan Housing Estate, Rathoe Road, Tullow, Co. Carlow in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993; Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended; and Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act, 2010.

3. DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Economic Development Progress Report

Members welcomed Local Enterprise Office/Economic Development Unit Report to February 2019 and complimented K. Comerford, Head of LEO and staff on the various initiatives.

Issues raised by the Members included the following:-

- Lack of industrial development for Bagenalstown and proposals for new industrial development in Bagenalstown Industrial Estate.
- Tender Documents in respect of key Council Projects for Carlow be brought to Municipal District meeting for discussion.
- Update on Braun site
- List of vacant sites and vacant site levies
- Proactive approach to acquire land for schools in Carlow..

- Lack of progress in relation to Penney's site.
- Slow progress on provision of footbridge and lifts by Irish Rail at Carlow Railway Station
- Update on Advance Factory for Bagenalstown
- Commuter Survey shows lack of skills locally, mainly in the trades area.
- Clamping of cars in private car park. Company in breach of regulations as no signage at front of car park advertising clamping in operation. Fines should be appealed to the Company and if appeals not successful then to the National Transport Authority as the Company is in breach of regulations with lack of advertising signage at entrance. The issue causing damage to Carlow town. Letter to issue to the Company expressing Members' concerns.

K. Comerford advised of summit on 4th March to assist groups in preparing for 2019 round of funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

K Comerford also advised that Carlow County Council has been named as one of seven local authorities as a hub for COSME (Enterprise Europe Network) and of funding under the EU Interreg Wales Funded Catalyst project.

B. O'Brien advised of significant funding secured for the County under the Towns and Village Renewal Scheme and of the importance of putting teams in place to make funding applications.

All issues raised by the Members were addressed by K. Comerford.

(b) Corporate Services Progress Report

Councillor Browne raised issue of Courthouse railings. The Chief Executive advised that a definite date is awaited from the Office of Public Works. Councillor Browne suggested that the Notice of Motion to take legal action be put back on the agenda if no agreement date for works is forthcoming.

Issues raised by the Members were addressed by the Chief Executive.

(b) Planning Progress Report

Members had Planning and Development Activity Report to 31st January, 2019.

Issues raised by the Members included the following:-

- If there are proposals for design of By-pass for Bagenalstown.
- Process for entering properties on derelict sites register and timeframe to process Compulsory Purchase of derelict properties.
- Taking in charge of housing estates and if surveys have been done on all requests to take in charge.
- Lack of Government Funding to complete unfinished estates.
- Irish Water Strategy in relation to capacity of Water Treatment Plant Ballinabranna/Raheendoran/Nurney. To urge Irish Water to consider Water Treatment Plant at Leighlinbridge.
- CPO of property at The Laurels, Tullow Road.
- Update on proposed works at Rivercourt Housing Estate, Carlow.
- That development levies received in respect of 64 houses at Ashfield, Bagenalstown be used to enhance services in Bagenalstown. The issue of funding to provide motor taxation facility in Bagenalstown was raised.
- Queries in relation to the CPO of 4 vacant properties at Granby Row for the provision of housing were raised.
- Queries in relation to derelict properties at Chapel Street, Graiguecullen and at Graiguecullen (beside old mill) were also raised.

Issues raised by the Members were addressed by D. McInerney and F. O'Neill.

B. O'Brien advised that the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and associated documents are now placed on public display. Submissions or observations on the draft strategy can be submitted by Friday 8th March 2019.

It was suggested that consultation with the elected members be conducted 25th February 2019 which will inform the Council's submission to the Draft RSES.

4. CORPORATE, PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

(a) Agriculture

There were no issues arising.

(b) Conference Attendance Approvals

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

We, the Members of Carlow County Council approve the following Conference attendance for February, 2019

Ireland and Plastic Waste,

O'Donovan's Hotel,

Clonakilty,

Co. Cork.

8th, 9th and 10th March 2019

Fee: €100

The Finance Act 2018: Cost Analysis,

The Four Seasons Hotel,

Carlingford,

Co. Louth.

22nd, 23rd and 24th March 2019

Fee: €100

Dundalk Tourism Conference,

Four Seasons Hotel,

Carlingford,

Co. Louth

10th April 2019

Fee: €100

Councillor Browne queried if funding remaining in Members Training Budget, not availed of, could be diverted to CPR training for Carlow First Responder Group.

Presentation – Carlow Universal Access Movement

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Members of Carlow Universal Access Movement to the meeting.

Ms Eileen Doyle gave a presentation to the Members on the role of Carlow Universal Access Movement (CUAM). The purpose of CUAM is to promote access and participation for all people with disabilities who live in and visit County Carlow and to raise awareness within County Carlow of Disability issues.

Members thanked Ms Doyle for her presentation and following a question and answer session the following issues were raised:-

- Upgrade to the pedestrian bridge at Carlow Train Station long overdue with no access for people with disabilities or limited mobility. The Chief Executive to contact Iarnróid Éireann

requesting that proposals for new footbridge and lifts at Carlow Station be advanced as quickly as possible.

- On the proposed new Carlow Town Bus Service that a suitable system be installed on the buses to make the service user friendly for people with a hearing disability.

D. McInerney advised that all projects are carried out to specific standards and regulations to include all issues in relation to accessibility.

5. Finance, Information Technology & Culture (Libraries, Arts & County Museum)

(a) Museum Board Annual Report

Members welcomed Museum Board Annual Report 2017 and complimented Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, his staff and volunteers for their excellent work promoting a major tourist attraction for Carlow.

Members suggested extra street signage promoting Carlow museum and suggested promoting tours of historical sites and tourist attractions around the County. CD's promoting Carlow was also suggested.

Members also thanked D. Mulligan for his work as Heritage Officer for Carlow County Council.

6. TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES, BUILDING CONTROL & EMERGENCY SERVICES

(a) Proposed Carlow Town Bus Route – Progress Report

D. McInerney presented report on proposed Carlow Town Bus Service. D. McInerney advised of Train Station Access with proposals for a new pedestrian access from the east side of the railway track. This proposed access would not enable direct access to the station for buses. D. McInerney advised that no negotiations have taken place with relevant landowners on opportunities to improve access to the station for buses. D. McInerney advised that he will continue to engage with the National Transport Authority in relation to train station access options. Members expressed concerns over NTA's reference to key deliverable being dependent on the completion of a business case for the new bus service.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Browne and seconded by Councillor Murnane and unanimously agreed, following a

show of hands, that the National Transport Authority (NTA) be requested to attend a meeting of Carlow Municipal District to discuss Members' concerns.

In response to Members' query regarding potential for a third bus route to serve the greater Graiguecullen area D. McInerney advised that the NTA met with Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District Members to discuss alternative options.

All issues raised by the Members were addressed by D. McInerney.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Members had for consideration Chief Executive Monthly Management Report for the period 1st to 31st January, 2019.

The following issues were raised by the Members:-

- Councillor Quinn raised issue of people in County Carlow not qualifying for social housing under the current social housing income thresholds but their income is not sufficient to qualify for a mortgage.
- Councillor Quinn proposed that the Chief Executive bring to the attention of the relevant bodies the issue of small businesses/ part time businesses being forced out of business in County Carlow due to increased rate demands under revised Rates Consolidation Legislation.

The Chief Executive advised that amendments to the Rates Consolidation Legislation have been requested. Some amendments have been taken into consideration while others need to go to committee stage.

The Chief Executive requested that a Notice of Motion on this issue be brought to Council.

- Councillor Paton expressed dissatisfaction with methodology of works at Tullow Footbridge creating safety issues for pedestrians. Councillor Paton also expressed concern in relation to works to realign the boundary wall to the Museum not being up to standard.
D. McInerney to raise these issues with TII.
- Councillor McDonald raised the issue of refurbishment programme for local authority houses, particularly for the elderly.
- Councillors Cassin and Pender raised issue of council tenant vacating her home due to alleged rodent infestation. M. Brennan advised that

site investigation and CCTV have been carried out and that he would now encourage the tenant to move back in.

- Councillor Browne referred to negative article in Phoenix Magazine relating to VISUAL as being damaging and spoke of excellent exhibition currently in VISUAL. He requested update on financial situation.

Councillor Murnane queried update on the recognition of VISUAL as a National and International Hub with increased funding prospects.

- Councillor Dalton raised issue of HAP payments not meeting rent required for private rented accommodation and the need for HAP payments to be increased. M. Brennan advised of availability of discretionary funding, in certain cases, from the housing department to meet the shortfall.
- Councillor Gladney raised issue of dangerous road conditions in the Mount Leinster area, particularly during frosty weather conditions and called for signage to be erected in the area advising motorists of dangerous road conditions.

Extension of time.

Proposed by Councillor A. Dalton

Seconded by Councillor K. Murnane

Following a show of hands it was resolved:-

'We, the Members of Carlow County Council, in accordance with Standing Orders, approve the continuation of the meeting to 6.00 p.m.'

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Member noted correspondence from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in response to Members' correspondence relating to works on the N7 from Naas to the M9 Junction.

Member noted correspondence from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in response to Members' correspondence regarding lighting at junctions on the M9 in County Carlow.

Member noted correspondence from the Office of the Minister of Health in response to Members' correspondence concerning the distance from emergency departments.

Members noted email from 'Home for Life' to the Cathaoirleach requesting the opportunity to address the Members of Carlow County Council at the March meeting of Council.

This was unanimously agreed by the Members following a show of hands.

Members unanimously agreed, following a show of hands, that Councillor W. Paton of Carlow First Responder Group make a brief presentation to the Members and present certificates at the April meeting of Council.

Members noted correspondence from Tullowphelim Historical Society expressing their gratitude for the Council's financial assistance in the operation of the museum in Tullow during 2018.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Standing in the name of Cllr. Walter Lacey, Cllr Brian O Donovan, Cllr Arthur Mc Donald, Cllr Tommy Kinsella, Cllr Andrea Dalton and Cllr Jim Deane. Members of the Culture Health & Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee.

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor A. Dalton

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council agree that the "Meningitis B has been the most common cause of bacterial meningitis in Ireland. Vaccines are the only way to prevent meningitis and therefore we call on the Minister for Health to make the Meningitis B vaccinations universally available free of charge."

Standing in the name of Cllr. John Cassin

Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin

Seconded by Councillor M. Doran

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council call on the Minister for Housing Eoghan Murphy to offer an immediate response to the rising figures of homelessness in Carlow having regard to the recent figures released and to address the HAP payment gap between the payment and cost of rents in Carlow to bring in line the payment with the costs of rents.'

Councillor Murnane queried the number of 2 bedroomed houses proposed for housing projects for delivery 2019/2020 and expressed the view that more 2 bedroomed homes are required to cater for people's changing needs.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CATHAOIRLEACH

There was no further business to be transacted.

This concluded the business of the meeting