

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council,
held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow,
on Monday 12th March 2018 at 2.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor W. Paton (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 B. O'Donoghue
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor W. Quinn

In attendance: Ms. K. Holohan, Chief Executive
Mr D. McInerney, Director of Services, Transportation,
Environment & Water Services
Mr P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Ms A. Sweeney, Senior Planner
Ms F. O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Planning
Mr. K. Cullinane, Senior Engineer, Water Services
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Acting Senior Engineer, Environment
Mr. R. Wickham, Acting Senior Engineer, Roads
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of LEO
Ms. P. Hctor, Business Advisor, LEO
Ms. A. Oakes, Acting Senior Executive Officer, Corporate
Services.
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate
Services

In commemorating the 1916 Rising the National Anthem was played.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- Sharon Malone, Water Services on the death of her father, John Malone, Ballyroan, Co. Laois.
- The Coady Family, Newtown, Borris, Co. Carlow on the death of their father Patsy.
- Tom Cox and Family, Station Road, Borris, Co. Carlow on the death of his wife Catherine.
- The Mahony Family, Ratheadon, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow on the death of John.
- The Moran Family, Beechwood Park, Pollerton Carlow on the death of Margaret.
- Imelda Curran and Family, Coolnasnaughta, Myshall, Co. Carlow on the death of her husband James.
- The Keating Family, 136 O'Hanrahan Ave., Carlow on the death of their mother Mary.
- The Bradley Family, 3 Maryboro Street, Graiguecullen, Carlow on the death of their mother Alice.

Severe Weather Event

Councillor Kinsella, Chair of Transportation, Environmental and Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee complimented the Crisis Management Team, indoor and outdoor staff, ambulance service, farming community, Gardai, civil defence, fire service, contractors, voluntary organisations and volunteers for their great efforts in dealing with the severe weather conditions. He also thanked his fellow members for their efforts during the severe weather alert.

Each Member wished to be associated with these remarks and praised the efforts of all involved.

D. McInerney acknowledged Members thanks to staff and to a wide range of organisations during this taxing period.

4 (a) Report on Severe Weather

D. McInerney presented a report to Members on the Severe Weather Event. He said going forward P3 routes will be examined in severe

weather conditions and additional strategic routes may be identified for salting.

The Chief Executive paid tribute to the Elected Members and acknowledged the work of D. McInerney and all staff involved for their commitment and professionalism. She acknowledged the work of all agencies, farming community and volunteers that contributed greatly to the people of Carlow during the adverse weather conditions.

Councillor O'Donoghue complimented Alan O'Reilly of Carlow Weather for his role updating weather alerts.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Councillor Murnane requested that the minutes of the February Meeting be amended to include his request that the Audit Committee, include in its 2018 Work Programme a report on Community, Recreation and Amenity Development Contributions collected in Carlow over the past four years and with particular mention of the Tullow Road area.”

The minutes of the February Council Meeting held on 12th February, 2018 were

Proposed by Councillor W. Lacey

Seconded by Councillor J. Deane

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That the Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 12th February, 2018 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed subject to the following amendment:-

‘That the Audit Committee, include in its 2018 Work Programme a report on Community, Recreation and Amenity Development Contributions collected in Carlow over the past four years and with particular mention of the Tullow Road area.’

2. CIRCULARS

(a) Circular 10/2017 Commencement of Forestry Act 2014 and Tree Felling

Members had Circular 10/2017 Commencement of Forestry Act, 2014 and Tree Felling. The Circular set out the principal changes to the control of Tree Felling.

Issues raised by the Members were addressed by E. Brophy.

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

- (a) To consider Chief Executive’s Report on submission to the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Amendment No. 2 to the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow and Graiguecullen Urban Area incorporating the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as extended)**

Ms. A. Sweeney, Chief Planner updated Members on Chief Executive’s Report on submission to the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Amendment No. 2 to the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow and Graiguecullen Urban Area incorporating the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as extended)

**Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor J. Pender**

And following a roll call vote

<i>Member of Carlow County Council</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Fergal Browne	√			
John Cassin				√
Andrea Dalton	√			
Jim Deane	√			
Michael Doran	√			
Denis Foley				√
Andy Gladney	√			
Thomas Kinsella	√			
Walter Lacey	√			
Arthur McDonald	√			
Ken Murnane	√			
Charlie Murphy	√			
John Murphy	√			
Brian O’Donoghue	√			

William Paton	√			
John Pender	√			
Fintan Phelan	√			
William Quinn	√			

The vote resulted in: 16 for, 2 absent.

The motion was carried.

‘that we, the Members of Carlow County Council, having considered and approved the Chief’s Executive Report on submissions made to the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Amendment No. 2 resolve to make Amendment No. 2 with all Material Alterations to the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow and Graiguecullen Urban Area incorporating the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as extended) in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2017.

Members raised issue of Circular Letter circulated to the Elected Members on discussion of live planning applications at Council and Municipal District Meetings. Clarification is to be sought for Members on the Circular.

(b) Approval of Community Tourism Festival, Event & Community Tourism Venue Funding.

**Proposed by Councillor J. Deane
Seconded by Councillor F. Browne
AND**

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘that we the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the projects selected under the 2018 Community Tourism Festival, Event and Community Tourism Venue Funding’.

Issues raised by the Members in relation to funding for St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Tullow Show were addressed by K. Comerford.

(c) To approve the Signage Policy for County Carlow

Members had for consideration and approval Signage Policy for County Carlow.

Members sought clarification on certain criteria in relation to signage erection and raised issue of incorrect spelling on signs citing Rathoe and Browneshill as examples. Incorrect grammer in relation to road markings was also raised.

Councillor Phelan queried the removal of 'political' from Section 7.0 of the revised Policy. The Cathaoirleach queried the legality of inclusion of signage not permitted at specific locations, namely; - Tullow Street, Potato Market and Kennedy Avenue.

Issues raised by the Members were addressed by B. O'Donovan, Acting Senior Engineer.

Following discussion it was

Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'that we, the Members of Carlow County Council approve Signage Policy for County Carlow as set out in Policy Document dated 6th March 2018 subject to inclusion of 'political' in Section 7.00 and the reference 'No signage will be allowed at the following locations:- Tullow Street, Potato Market and Kennedy Avenue be removed'.

4. TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES

(b) Carlow Southern Relief Road Phase 1 – Progression of Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO).

Members welcomed report from D. McInerney, Director of Services on the Carlow Southern Relief Road, Phase 1, Progression Compulsory Purchase Order.

Members supported the progression of Compulsory Purchase Order and suggested a joint meeting with Laois County Council to advance the objective for the construction of proposed Southern Relief Road.

5. DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS REPORTS

(a) Community, Recreation/Amenity & Sports Partnership Progress Report

M. Brennan, Senior Executive Officer presented the Community, Recreation/Amenity and Sports Partnership Progress Report to February 2018.

Members raised issue of fencing at Borris Viaduct making the area inaccessible to people and queried the reason for this action.

M. Brennan advised that he will enquire as to the reason and revert to the Members.

Queries raised by the Members were addressed by M. Brennan.

(b) Economic Development Progress Report

Members noted Economic Development & Enterprise Support Report from E. Brophy, Acting Director of Services.

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

(a) Agriculture

Councillor C. Murphy raised issue of suckler farming being at a critical juncture and suggested that the Minister be requested to put in place a reasonable subsidy for suckler cows.

Councillor McDonald advised that Fianna Fáil have tabled a Motion calling for a €200/cow suckler payment.

Following discussion it was agreed that a Notice of Motion be brought to the next meeting of Council on this issue.

(b) Conference Attendance Approvals

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, approve the following forthcoming conferences for March, 2018.

Citizens Assembly or An Assembly of Citizens,
Whitford House Hotel,
Wexford.

9th to 11th March 2018

Fee: €145

National Planning Framework,
"Project Ireland 2040",

Silver Tassie Hotel,
Letterkenny,

Co. Donegal.

6th to 8th April 2018

Fee: €145

New Affordable Houses Schemes,
The Four Seasons Hotel,
Carlingford,

Co. Louth.

9th to 11th March 2018 (**Rescheduled**)

Fee: €100

PRESENTATION BY MUSIC GENERATION

Members welcomed Ms Paula Nolan, Programme Director of Music Generation, Carlow to the meeting.

Ms Nolan gave an overview of the innovative music education programme and the benefits it brings to young people and communities throughout the county.

Music Generation is co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and Skills and Local Music Education Partnerships.

Ms Nolan advised of operational costs and in addition to seeking grant aid, investment or sponsorship from local sources the programme relies on fundraising to supplement funding.

Members complimented Ms. Nolan on her presentation and said the achievements and impact of Music Generation in Carlow had been remarkable and wished them well with their future endeavours.

Members expressed vote of congratulations to Carlow Voices Choir on their recent wins in Kilkenny.

7. FINANCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & CULTURE (LIBRARIES, ARTS & COUNTY MUSEUM)

(a) Membership of Centenary Committee

P. Delaney advised that following the establishment of a Centenary Committee membership of the committee is now being sought.

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor W. Lacey

AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, approve the following Elected Members to be appointed as members of the Centenary Committee:-

Councillors F. Browne, J. Cassin, A. Dalton, J. Deane, M. Doran, D. Foley, A. Gladney, T. Kinsella, W. Lacey, A. McDonald, K. Murnane, C. Murphy, J. Murphy, B. O’Donoghue, W. Paton, J. Pender, F. Phelan, W. Quinn.

(b) Right to Read

John Shorthall, Acting County Librarian introduced Carlow County Council Right to Read Programme.

Ms. Patricia Nolan, Executive Librarian gave an overview of literacy levels in Ireland and of the Right to Read Programme. Carlow County

Library Service will take a leading role in delivering the programme for County Carlow. The Literacy Action Plan 2018 will focus on children and families and provide literacy activities, in cooperation with other key agencies.

Members welcomed the Right to Read Programme and thanked Mr. Shorthall and Ms Nolan for their presentation.

(c) Arts Act Grants Scheme 2018 Applications.

Members approval was sought to the Arts Act Grants – Individual Artists Scheme 2018. A total of 14 Artists with total funding of €14,495 was recommended for approval.

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan
Seconded by Councillor F. Browne
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, approve the Arts Act Grant – Individual Artists Scheme 2018 as set out in report of 5th March 2018.

Members approval was sought to the Arts Act Grants – Group/Community Scheme 2018. A total of 24 Group/Community Artists with total funding of €25,000 was recommended for approval.

Proposed by Councillor W. Quinn
Seconded by Councillor J. Deane
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, approve the Arts Act Grant – Group/Community Scheme 2018 as set out in report of 5th March, 2018.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Members had Chief Executive Monthly Management Report for the period 1st to 28th February, 2018.

Issues raised by the Members included;-

- Councillor C. Murphy raised issue of N81 Tullow Footbridges Scheme and associated road configuration works. The Chief Executive advised of statutory legal process and that a meeting will be convened with

Members in order that the National Roads Design Office can complete its report for recommendation at the April meeting of Council.

- Councillor Quinn raised issue of purchase of grave spaces in county costlier than for St. Mary Cemetery, Carlow Town and the need for harmonisation of fees throughout the county. Councillor Cassin raised issue of burial plots capacity and land costs. B. O'Donovan to examine this issue and revert to Members.
- Councillor Cassin raised issue of works on Barrow Track by Waterways Ireland. E. Brophy advised that correspondence has been received from Waterways Ireland in response to Members' Notices of Motion and that Waterways Ireland is the Authority responsible for the river and riverbank.
- Councillor Phelan called for speed limit at Bestfield to be reduced from 60km per hour to 50km and the requirement for speed ramps and rumble strips at this location.
Councillor Browne suggested that the Gardai be asked to have mobile speed cameras operate at this location to enforce the speed limit.
- Councillor Dalton raised issue of road safety inspections, dangerous junction at Kane's Cross, Tinryland, Carlow and illegal dumping on the Wexford Road.
- Councillor Browne raised issue of Respite House for Carlow and requested that the Council write to the Minister to have the facility operational as a matter of urgency.

Extension of time.

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.'

- Councillor McDonald raised issue of ten Tintéan houses in Barrett Street, Muinebheag being allocated without the Members being notified.
- Councillor Murnane requested update on CCTV for Carlow Town Park. E. Brophy advised of current position.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted Notice of Motion from Limerick City and County Council calling on all Councillors to lobby for the reinstatement of

provision of Versatis pain relief patches on the Drug Payment and Medical Card Schemes for chronic pain.

Members noted correspondence from Department of Health in response to Members' letter concerning Fibromyalgia and Long -Term Illnesses.

10. Notices of Motion.

Standing in the name of Cllr. Fergal Browne

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor B. O'Donoghue
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, approve that this Council calls on the Irish government to ratify, as soon as possible, The Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs which was adopted by the Council of Europe on 9 July 2014 in order to criminalise illegal organ transplantations. The Irish Government has already signed this convention, but is yet to ratify it.'

Standing in the name of Cllr. Fergal Browne

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor B. O'Donoghue
AND

Following a show of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, approve that this Council calls on the Irish Government, as a matter of urgency to emphatically demand the Chinese Government to cease the persecution of Falun Gong and release immediately all Falun Gong practitioners and other prisoners of conscience from detention. '

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CATHAOIRLEACH

- Councillor McDonald raised issue of Health Forum South meeting being rescheduled due to non-attendance of Members at meeting.
- Councillor Cassin requested update on plans for Tullow Road area.

- Councillor Cassin requested a comprehensive report on CCTV for Carlow Town Park for the April meeting of Council.
- Councillor Murnane requested confirmation that 55% of Development Charges is ringfenced for Community, Recreation and Amenity.

Councillor Murnane requested a response from the Audit Committee on Community, Recreation and Amenity Development Charges for the Tullow Road Area as agreed at the February meeting of Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting.