

**Minutes of October Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in the
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow,
on Monday 9th October 2023 at 2.00 p.m.**

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

Apologies: Councillor J. Cahill

In attendance: Mr. C. O'Reilly, Chief Executive
Mr. M. Rainey, Director of Service
Mr. M. Brennan, Director of Service
Mr. K. Cullinane, Acting Director of Service
Ms. F. O'Neill, Acting Director of Services
Mr. B. O'Donovan, Senior Executive Officer
Mr P. J. Leonard, Financial Accountant
Mr. R. Wickham, A/Senior Engineer
Mr. J. McDarby, Staff Officer
Ms. O. Barrett, Senior Engineer (Remotely)
Mr. K. Comerford, Director of Service (Remotely)
Ms. A. Sweeney, Senior Planner (Remotely)
Ms. C. Deacon, Student
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. J. Woods, Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer

Votes of Sympathy

Duffy Family on the death of their son Conor Duffy, 50 Kylemore Hill, Rathoe.
Doran Family on the death of Brigid Doran, Moycullen, Ballymurphy, Borris.
Canavan Family on the death Teresa Canavan, Church Road, Ballon.
Ewan Barry & Family on the death of his father Maurice Barry, Ballyea, Fedamore, Limerick.

Votes of Congratulations

Leighlinbridge Improvement Group on winning Gold Medal and overall winner in Carlow of the Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition.

Tidy Towns Committees and Volunteers throughout Carlow on their results in the SuperValu Tidy Town Competition.

Carlow Rugby Club on their recent 150 year anniversary.

Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society on hosting the annual gathering of the Federation of Local Historical Societies, in Carlow recently.

Congratulations to Eileen O'Rourke and Carlow Tourism on organising a very successful Autumn Walking Festival.

Eire Óg Football Club on winning the Mens Senior Football County Championship

Clonmore Football Club on winning the Mens Intermediate Football County Championship

Naomh Moling on winning the Mens Junior A Football Championship

Askea Football Club on winning the Mens Junior B Football Championship

Bennekerry/Tinryland Ladies Football Club on winning the Ladies Senior Football County Championship

St. Brigid's Football Club on winning the Ladies Intermediate Football County Championship

Myshall Camogie Club on winning the Senior Camogie County Championship

Burrin Rangers Camogie Club on winning the Junior Camogie County Championship

All juvenile winners in the Football Championships

Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairiscí

1.1 Approval of Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday 11th September 2023

Proposed by Councillor W. Paton

Seconded by Councillor W. Quinn

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously resolved:-

‘That the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 11th September 2023 at 2.00 p.m. having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed”

2.0 Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of Council/Gnó forordaithe do réir reachtaíochta, orduithe seasta, nó rúin an Chomhairle

2.1 Agree date for the 2024 Budget Meetings

P. Delaney advised on Circular Fin 06/2023 regarding prescribed periods for holding of the 2024 Budget Meetings.

Proposed by Councillor J. Pender

Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy

And agreed following a show of hands.

“In accordance with Circular Fin 06/2023, the Budget Briefing/Workshop In Committee be held at 11.30 a.m. on Friday 24th November 2023 and the Statutory Budget Meeting be held at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 24th November 2023.”

2.2 Approval of Carlow County Road Safety Plan 2023 – 2030

R. Wickham gave a presentation on the Carlow County Road Safety Plan 2023 – 2030. Matters raised by the members included increase in number of deaths on road, need for speed cameras, lack of speed signs in housing estates, importance of discretionary funding to help with traffic calming, issue with car racing on rural roads, call for letters to issue to all landowners regarding hedge cutting in the Carlow Municipal District area and need for pedestrian crossing at Netwatch Cullen Park.

Proposed by Councillor B. O’Donovan,

Seconded by Councillor A. McDonald

And agreed following a show of hands.

“The Carlow County Council Road Safety Plan 2023 – 2030 is hereby approved”

2.3 Approval of the Southeast Regional Homeless Action Plan 2023 – 2026

B. O'Donovan gave a presentation on the Southeast Regional Homeless Action Plan 2023 – 2026. Matters raised by members included length of time a person may be in emergency accommodation before being re-housed, possibility of emergency accommodation in Bagenalstown, figures for vacant properties. B. O'Donovan answered questions raised.

Proposed by Councillor A. McDonald

Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin

And agreed following a show of hands.

“The South East Regional Homeless Action Plan 2023- 2026 is hereby approved.”

3.0 Consideration of Reports and Recommendations/Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha agus ar Mholtaí

3.1 Deputation from Teagasc on the Signpost Advisory Programme

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Colm Doran and Eoin Woulfe from Teagasc who gave a presentation to the members on the Signpost Advisory Programme.

The Signpost Advisory Programme sole mission is to help farmers to contribute to the emissions target reduction set. The Programme is available to all farmers by giving training, support and advice and it is expected to engage with 50,000 farmers between now and 2030.

Queries raised by members were answered by answered by Colm and Eoin.

3.3 Training & Conference Approvals

Proposed by Councillor F. Browne

Seconded by Councillor T. O'Neill

And following a show of hands it was unanimously approved:

“That we the members approve the following training/conferences.

Irish Planning Institute

Date: Friday 6th October 2023

Session: 8.30am – 16.00pm

Autumn Planning Conference – Reform, Climate Action & Biodiversity

Tara Suite, Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co. Dublin

Fee: €305.00 Full Rate

€195.00 Online livestream only”

4.0 Chief Executives Report/Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

The members raised questions regarding progress on Barrack Street housing, issue with Irish Water in progressing housing at Ardattin, lack of building of private houses in Carlow, courthouse railings, inadequate disabled parking in Carlow town, additional town bus service at school times, issue with capacity on the bus service from New Ross to Carlow, Southern Relief Road, Courthouse Railings, bonfire precautions for Halloween, lack of progress on two bridges and drainage issues in towns and villages.

Matters raised by the members were answered by Coilín O'Reilly and the Management Team.

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhreagras

Members noted correspondence from Clare County Council calling for change in the service currently in operation by the National Car Testing Company.

Members noted correspondence from Leitrim County Council regarding support for the "Ash Tree Conservation" project initiated in County Leitrim.

Members noted correspondence from Cork County Council regarding the upward turn in road deaths, in particular the exponential growth in pedestrian death and calls upon national authorities to review polices that can help reverse this trend.

Members noted response from Office of the Minister for Health regarding PrEP programme.

Members noted correspondence from Limerick City & County Council calling on Minister for Housing to reconsider the Government's position in relation to the tax placed on residentially zoned land.

Members noted correspondence from Limerick City & County Council calling on Minister for Health and Minister for Finance to raise the funding support for the Cuan Mhuire Association in Bruree and their Centres throughout the country from ten euro per bed to fifty euro per bed per night.

Members noted correspondence from Limerick City & County Council calling on Minister for Health and Minister of State at Department of Health to

provide necessary funding by the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) and to bring into effect a Fair Deal pricing mechanism that reflects the reality of residents' care needs.

Members noted response from Minister of State Chambers Office regarding the National Car Testing Service.

Any Other Business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach/Aon gnó eile le haontú an Chathaoirligh

Approval to attend Trip to Oslo Craft Hub – 25th to 27th October

Craft Hub is an EU co-operation project which ran over three years (2020 - 2023) focusing on glass, ceramics, jewellery, stonemasonry, metalwork, textiles, furniture and digital making. The project is led by Carlow County Council (Local Enterprise Office). Partners are Greece, Italy, Scotland, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Wales.

The final project conference will be held in Oslo from 25th October to 27th October and Carlow will deliver two papers – The Borris Lace Project and The Drummond Bog Project.

Staff from the Arts Office and the Head of Enterprise will attend together with local participants in the projects. It is also proposed that Cllr Michael Doran, Chair of the Culture, Libraries and Digital Development, Tourism, Enterprise, and Economic Development SPC will attend the conference subject to Council approval.

The conference cost is funded from the EU project budget.

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill

Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

And agreed following a show of hands.

“The attendance of Cllr. M. Doran to the Oslo Craft Hub from 25th to 27th October 2023 is hereby approved.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.