

**Minutes of November Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the
Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow
on Monday 10th November 2025 at 2.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor K. Murnane, Cathaoirleach
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor J. Cassin *Remotely*
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor J. Deane
Councillor P. Doogue
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor A. Gladney
Councillor T. Kinsella
Councillor C. Murphy
Councillor B. O'Donoghue
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor D. Pender
Councillor J. Pender
Councillor F. Phelan
Councillor W. Quinn
Councillor A. Wallace *Remotely*
Councillor B. Ward

In attendance: Mr. C. O'Reilly, Chief Executive
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Service
Ms. P. O'Brien, Director of Service
Mr. P. J. Leonard, Director of Finance
Ms. F. O'Neill, A/Director of Service
Ms. F. Byrne, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. A. Sweeney, Senior Planner
Mr. W. Keogh, Senior Executive Planner
Ms. Áine Byrne, Community Climate Action Officer
Mr. L. Carroll, Senior Executive Officer,
Ms. J. O'Brien, Climate Action Coordinator
Ms. M. Griffin, Administrative Officer
Ms. C. Healy, Staff Officer
Ms. N. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Mr. T. Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Mr. B. Knowles, Senior Executive Officer *Remotely*
Ms. D. Sewell, Environmental Awareness Officer *Remotely*
Mr. N. Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. C. Madden, A/Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*
Ms. S. O'Neill, Administrative Officer *Remotely*
Ms. L. Slye, Senior Executive Engineer *Remotely*
Mr. K. Comerford, Head of Economic Development & Enterprise *Remotely*

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Votes of Sympathy

Purcell Family on the death of Pat Purcell, Kennedy Street, Carlow.

Doyle Family on the death of Brendan Doyle, St. Killian's Crescent, Carlow.

Kehoe Family on the death of Micheál Kehoe, Askea Lawns, Tullow Road, Carlow.

Kavanagh Family on the death of Francis Kavanagh JKL Avenue Carlow.

Stronge Family and Maddie on the death of Elton Stronge, Mount Leinster Park, Tullow Road, Carlow.

Hayes Family and Sylvia, on the death of Jamie Hayes, Dereen Heights, Tullow Road, Carlow.

McCann Family on the death of Peggy McCann, Sycamore Road, Rathnaphish, Carlow.

Nolan Family on the death of Pat Nolan, Newtown, Bagenalstown.

Nolan Family on the death of Jimmy Nolan, Tinnecarrig, Borris, Co. Carlow.

McRory Family on the death of Eamonn McRory, Carlow and Sydney

Walshe Family on the death of Michael Walshe, Knocknsquire, Borris.

Votes of Congratulations

Rathanna Village on winning first place in the All-Ireland IPB Pride of Place Awards in the Village with a Population 0-500 Population Category.

Cairdeas Centre Tullow on receiving a Commendation in the All-Ireland IPB Pride of Place Awards in the Inclusive Community Category.

Carlow Regional Youth Services Community Roots Programme on receiving a Special Award in the All-Ireland IPB Pride of Place Awards in the Community Youth Initiative.

Carlow Tidy Towns on receiving the Runner Up Award in the All-Ireland IPB Pride of Place Community Awards in the Inclusive 5000+ Population Category.

Catherine Connolly on being elected President of Ireland.

Michael D. Higgins on his retirement as President of Ireland.

Lara Gillespie on becoming a World Champion after her recent victory at the Track Cycling World Championships in Santiago Chile

Leighlinbridge on winning County First and Gold Medal in the National Tidy Towns competition.

Carmel Reddy, Reddy's Pub, acknowledgment of the upcoming closure and thanks for serving the people of Carlow for over 50 years.

Kieran Cullinane on his recent retirement from Carlow County Council.

Brian O'Donovan on his recent retirement from Carlow County Council.

Richie Kavanagh on the recent launch of his new book *Craic, Stories and Songs*.

Mr. Christy McQuinn on the recent launch of his new book *Tullow Through the Ages*

Mr. John McKenna on the recent launch of his book *The Last Irish Wolf*.
Eimear Ni Bhraonain on the recent launch of her book *The Dodger*.
Zohran Mamdani on being elected Mayor of New York City

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes/Dearbhú Miontuairisci

(i) Approval of Minutes of monthly meeting of Carlow County Council held on Monday, 13th October 2025

**Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton,
Seconded by Cllr. M. Doran**

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That the Minutes of the monthly meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 13th October 2025 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 Planning & Development Act 2000 - Section 211, Local Government Act 2011 - Section 183(1) - Disposal freehold on land - Castle Hill Centre, Castle Hill Carlow.

**Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne
Seconded by Cllr. P. Doogue**

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby approve in accordance with Planning & Development Act 2000, Section 211, Local Government Act 2001, Section 183 (1) the disposal of freehold on land – Castle Hill Centre, Castle Hill, Carlow R93K2W8, to Independent Trustee Company Limited as Trustees of IT003575, in consideration of the sum of €205,000 in accordance with the statutory notice as circulated. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not necessary in this disposal.”

2.2 To consider the Proposed Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 2 (Muine Bheag/Royal Oak District Town Plan) of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) and the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received pursuant to Section 13(5) Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Fiona Byrne brought to the attention of the Elected Members the requirement under Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001, in relation to the Disclosure of Interests. She advised that any Member or any connected person who has a pecuniary or other beneficial interest on any item in the subject matter before the meeting must disclose the nature of that interest.

Cllr. J. Deane advised of a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

Anita Sweeney Senior Planner summarised the content of the Chief Executives Report as follows:

Muine Bheag/ Royal Oak District Town Plan – Council Meeting 10th November 2025

- Proposed Variation No. 2 of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 to incorporate the draft and final Muine Bheag/Royal Oak District Town Plan 2025, went on public display during the period 24 June 2025 to 28 July 2025.
- A Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received (20 no.) was prepared and circulated to the Elected Members for their consideration on 19 August 2025.
- Following their formal consideration of the Chief Executive's Report at full Council Meeting on 8 September 2025, the Elected Members resolved to materially alter Proposed Variation No. 2.
- Public consultation on the proposed material alterations subsequently commenced for a period of 4 weeks from 23 September 2025 to 22 October 2025.
- 10no submissions received on the Material Alterations (34no). All Prescribed Bodies.
- The Chief Executive's Report on the submission received issued to the Elected Members on the 28th October 2025.

In summary:

Submission Ref. No.	Name	Summary Key Issues
CLW-C166-1	Environmental Protection Agency	Relates to SEA and requirement for an SEA Statement
CLW-C166-2	Health and Safety Authority	Relates to consultation distance around the Royal Oak Distillery
CLW-C166-3	Iarnrod Eireann	References obligations on third parties working near the railway station / rail line
CLW-C166-4	Uisce Eireann	Provides information regarding the servicing of sites proposed for zoning

CLW-C166-5	Office of the Planning Regulator	Requests that MA 2 be amended to include the site area of the site at Kilcarrig Bridge (MA 29) and units deliverable. Information also to be included in tables in Infrastructure Assessment.
CLW-C166-6	DAU – Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	Notes that MA no. 24 (Industry and Warehousing zoning in business park) has potential to impact archaeological heritage. Notes that MA no. 25 (new residential zoning opposite swimming pool) has potential to impact archaeological heritage. Requests that MA 23 (new residential zoning at Royal Oak Road) include additional text to protect adjoining protected structure Eastwood House.
CLW-C166-7	Office of Public Works	References changes to the SFRA.
CLW-C166-8	Department of Education and Youth	Notes the changes to zoning and estimated residential capacity – this is not of a size that would impact on school space provision in any significant manner. Welcomes change to zoning of school sites to community / education.
CLW-C166-9	Southern Regional Assembly	Welcomes changes proposed in MAs made by the SRA.
CLW-C166-10	Iarnrod Eireann	Reference is made to MA 29 and the need to protect the rail line and associated infrastructure to facilitate future delivery of the All Ireland Strategic Rail Network.

Recommendation to Accept the following:

Material Alterations as advertised: MA No. 1, MA's 5-22 and MA's 26-33

Recommended Minor Modifications to Material Alterations

Material Alteration No. 2 Minor Modification - Recommended Additional Text in

Green

Table 2.3

Site	Zoning	Site Area	Indicative Housing Yield
MB1 (Ashfield)	New Residential	5.ha	125
MB2 (Moneybeg)	New Residential	3.8ha	95
MB3 (Dunleckny)	New Residential	7.6ha	150
MB4 (Dunleckny)	New Residential	6.7ha	134
MB11 (Ashfield)	New residential	2.2ha	55
MB12 (Royal Oak)	New Residential	2ha	52
MB6 (Long Range-Consolidation Site)	Existing Residential / Infill	0.47ha	10

MB 13(Kilcarrig - MA29)	New Residential	2.4ha	60
Total Residential Yield		681	
MB7 (Canal Area – Regeneration Site)	Town Centre – mixed use	1.8ha	50
MB8 (Quays Area – Regeneration Site)	Town Centre - mixed use	0.93ha	
MB9 (Jordans Field)	Town Centre – mixed use	2.08ha	
MB10 (Kilcarrig- Regeneration Site)	Town Centre – mixed use	0.60ha	N/A
MB5 (Royal Oak- Regeneration Site)	Enterprise and Employment	2.91ha	N/A

Material Alteration No. 3: Minor Modification - Update Text to Reflect MA No. 2 text in green

A.4.2 Estimated Residential Land Capacity

The quantum of ‘New Residential’ zoned land in Muine Bheag/Royal Oak is c. **29.4** hectares for residential schemes and is shown on Map 4.1. This land can deliver an estimated c. **681** units, utilising a indicative density ranging between 20 and 25 units per hectare. Table 3.3 of the Core Strategy in the County Development Plan also identifies 2.42 ha of Town Centre zoned land that can accommodate an element of residential development (potential for 52 units to be delivered). It is therefore considered that there is sufficient land in the town to meet the housing unit target figure of 517 units as identified in Section A.2.0.

Material Alteration No. 4, No’s. 23, and 25 Minor Modification - Recommended additional text arising from submission in Green

A4. O2: (a) : (a) Require that any proposed development on land zoned “New Residential” located off the Royal Oak Road (R724) and adjoining Chestnut Court to the west shall be subject to a detailed design statement in accordance with the provisions of Section 12.10 Design Statements of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028, shall provide for an appropriate mix of units (including sizes and types),and shall be of a high-quality design and layout thereby achieving good quality urban design and placemaking. Any proposed development shall also have regard to the presence of the adjoining protected structure, Eastwood House, RPS ID: CW389 and shall incorporate responsive design solutions, along with other mitigation measures as deemed necessary to address any potential adverse impacts to the protected structure, its curtilage/setting. (Refer to land marked NR1 on Map A11.1 Land Use Zoning).

(b) Consider the development of a single dwelling house on land zoned ‘New Residential’ located off the Leighlinbridge Road (R705) at Dunleckny subject to proper planning and environmental considerations.

Any proposed development shall also seek to minimise through appropriate siting and layout, potential impacts on the archaeological heritage of the area. Development proposals shall be subject to archaeological assessment where deemed appropriate in compliance with archaeological heritage policies AH P1, AH P3, AH P4, AH P5 and AH P10 of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied). (Refer to land marked NR2 on Map A11.1 Land Use Zoning).

(c) Consider the development of a single dwelling house only on land zoned ‘New Residential’ located off the Fennagh Road (R724) at Kilcarrig subject to proper planning and environmental considerations (Refer to land marked NR3 on Map A11.1 Land Use Zoning).

(d) Require that any development proposal on the land zoned new residential adjoining Kilcarrig Bridge and Dublin – Waterford the rail line shall be cognisant of the significant capacity improvements targeted for the rail line as recommended in the All-Island Strategic Rail Review (AISRR) including the provision for a dual-track railway adjacent to the north-west of the land. The layout and design of any development proposal shall be subject to consultation with key stakeholders including Iarnród Éireann’s Third Party works coordinators and CIÉ Group Property (as landowners - Property@cie.ie) to ensure an adequate setback from the rail corridor is provided and protected to facilitate the future development of strategic rail infrastructure. (Refer to land marked NR4 on Map A11.1 Land Use Zoning).

Material Alteration No. 24 Minor Modification - Recommended Inclusion of Specific Objective pertaining to archaeology in Table 5.2 and also New objective A5.O3.

Table 5.2 Strategic Employment Lands Site No. 6 lands at Bagenalstown Industrial Park and Muine Bheag Business Park

A5.O3:

Require that any proposed development in proximity to Recorded Monuments RMP: CW016-104 (Road/trackway) and RMP: CW016-040001- (Enclosure) shall seek to minimise through appropriate siting and layout as part of the overall development of the industry and warehousing lands the potential impact on the archaeological heritage of the area. Development proposals shall be subject to archaeological assessment and comply with archaeological heritage policies AH P1, AH P3, AH P4, AH P5 and AH P10 of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied). (Refer to land marked IW 1 on Map 11.1 Land Use Zoning).

Material Alteration No. 34 subject to Minor Modification - additional text in Green (Table 1 and Table 2) and include site at Kilcarrig on Objectives Map (Infrastructure Assessment Site)

(i) **Update Table 1: Infrastructure Assessment Report – New Column MB12**

TABLE 1: MUINEBHEAG/ROYAL OAK DISTRICT TOWN PLAN
(SEE ALSO OBJECTIVES MAP)

		INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT	LAND USE EVALUATION			
Tier	Map Ref.	Infrastructure/Services (Roads, foul sewer, water supply, surface water)	Compact (within settlement, infill/consolidation, proximity to town/village centre, promotes sustainable mobility)	Growth existing	Physical Suitability (built & natural heritage, flood risk)	
T2	MB13					<i>Contiguous to existing development lands, extension to wastewater services required to facilitate development together with active travel measures over Kilcarrig Bridge to provide pedestrian connectivity to the town centre</i>

(i) **Update Table 2: Site areas and potential housing yield: Infrastructure Assessment Report**

Site	Zoning	Site Area	Indicative Housing Yield
MB1 (Ashfield)	New Residential	5.ha	125
MB2 (Moneybeg)	New Residential	3.8ha	95
MB3 (Dunleckny)	New Residential	7.6ha	150
MB4 (Dunleckny)	New Residential	6.7ha	134
MB11 (Ashfield)	New residential	2.2ha	55
MB12 (Royal Oak)	New Residential	2ha	52
MB6 (Long Range- Consolidation Site)	Existing Residential / Infill	0.47ha	10
MB 13(Kilcarrig - MA29)	New Residential	2.4ha	60
Total Residential Yield		681	
MB7 (Canal Area – Regeneration Site)	Town Centre – mixed use	1.8ha	50
MB8 (Quays Area – Regeneration Site)	Town Centre - mixed use	0.93ha	
MB9 (Jordans Field)	Town Centre – mixed use (Council owned site)	2.08ha	
MB10 (Kilcarrig- Regeneration Site)	Town Centre – mixed use (existing established haulage company)	0.60ha	N/A
MB5 (Royal Oak- Regeneration Site)	Enterprise and Employment	2.91ha	N/A

Resolution

We the Members of Carlow County Council, having considered Proposed Variation No. 2 to include the Draft Muine Bheag/Royal Oak District Town Plan and minor text changes to the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied), the Proposed Material Amendments, the Chief Executive Reports on Consultations; and

- *The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Proposed Variation*
- *The Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report for the Proposed Variation*
- *The AA Screening and SEA Screening of Proposed Material Alterations*
- *The SEA Environmental Report for Proposed Material Alterations*
- *The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Proposed Variation*

- *Written submissions and responses relating to SEA, AA and SFRA made during the Variation preparation process*
- *The Chief Executive's Reports on Consultations*
- *Ongoing advice on SEA, AA and SFRA from the Council's agents*
- *The final, Consolidated Natura Impact Report and*
- *The final AA Determination*

*in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the members agree, by resolution, to make the variation, as recommended by the Chief Executive at the Council Meeting on 10th November 2025 on the proposal of **Councillor A. Gladney, Seconded by Councillor M. Doran**, with seventeen members voting in favour and one member absent, and to proceed in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to publish notice of the making of Variation No.2 of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied).*

A roll call vote was taken as follows:-

<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				√
Paul Doogue	√			
Michael Doran	√			
Andy Gladney	√			
Thomas Kinsella	√			
Ken Murnane	√			
Charlie Murphy	√			
Brian O'Donoghue	√			
William Paton	√			
Daniel Pender	√			
John Pender	√			
Fintan Phelan	√			
William Quinn	√			
Adrienne Wallace	√			
Ben Ward	√			

Result 17 For, 1 Absent

Decision/Resolution: Motion Passed

Cllr. J. Deane returned to the meeting.

2.3 Filling of Vacancy on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Proposed by Cllr. A. Dalton

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan

And agreed following a show of hands

“That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby approve in accordance with Section 128C (3) (b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the appointment of Mr. Paddy Carroll to fill the statutory seat vacancy on the Local Community Development Committee.

2.4 Approval of Travel to the Columbanus Festival in Bangor

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan

Seconded by Cllr. J. Pender

And agreed following a show of hands

“That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the attendance of Cllr. K. Murnane to the Columbanus Festival in Bangor.”

2.5 Approval of Amended Speed Limit on N80/N81, County Carlow Road Traffic National Secondary Roads, the N80 and N81, Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws of 2025

O. Barrett briefed the members and answered questions raised.

Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan,

Seconded by Cllr. A. Gladney

And agreed, following a show of hands.

“That we the members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the Amended Speed Limit on N80/N81, County Carlow Road Traffic National Secondary Roads, the N80 and N81, Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws of 2025 to be implemented from 18th December 2025.”

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

3.1 Community Climate Action Programme Launch – Presentation from Aine Byrne

Áine Byrne gave a comprehensive presentation on the Community Climate Action Programme and answered queries raised by the elected members.

3.2 Visual – Carlow Arts Centre Presentation

Emma Lucy O'Brien and Niall Scully gave a presentation on the Carlow Arts Centre and answered questions raised by the members.

Discussion took place on reducing the number of presentations per year from two to one which is to be checked out to see if this is possible.

Members noted that this was Emma Lucy O'Brien's last council meeting and thanked her for all her work over the years wished her well in the future.

3.3 Training and Conference Approvals

**Proposed by Cllr. F. Phelan,
Seconded by Cllr. A Dalton**

And agreed following a show of hands.

4.0 Chief Executives Report

The elected members raised questions relating to illegal dumping, hedge cutting, homelessness, emergency accommodation, issues with public lighting, ESB connections, fire service callout charges and insurance issues, housing, support for businesses in danger of closing down, playground for Tullow and Rathoe, dangerous structures, CCTV, funfairs, air to water issues, wastewater, use of generators near residential areas, parking at SETU, fireworks, planning for mobile homes, pedestrian crossing on N80 and at Dr. Cullen park.

Questions raised were answered by the Chief Executive and the Management Team.

Extension of time

Proposed by Cllr. J. Pender

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan

Following a show of hands, it was agreed:-

“We the members of Carlow County Council, in accordance with Standing Orders, approve the continuation of the meeting until 6.00 p.m.”

5.0 Correspondence/Comhfhereagras

Members noted motion passed by Kildare County Council affirming its commitment to protecting Kildare's natural heritage by prioritising enforcement proceedings, allocating additional resources, if necessary, against illegal peat extractions.

Members noted resolution passed by Galway County Council calling on the Minister for Transport and the National Transport Authority to (i) include Commercial Bus Operators in the Child Leap Card Scheme and (ii) to ensure a fair and consistent transport a policy that treats all children equally, regardless of geography or bus service used.

Members noted motion passed by Wexford County Council calling for the reformation of the Dog Breeding Establishment Act (2010) to incorporate “Stout's Law” into the act.

Members noted motion passed from Wexford County Council endorsing the End Discrimination of Inheritance Tax (EDIT) campaign and call on Ministers for Equality Norma Foley, Public Expenditure Jack Chambers TD and Minister for Finance Paschal Donoghue TD, to commit to harmonising the inheritance laws and bands so that people with no direct descendants are treated as equal to families with children in inheritance law and succession planning.

Members noted resolution passed by Donegal County Council where they are seeking funding from the Department to purchase necessary equipment in relation to an “Emergency Household Response Package” for vulnerable households during the winter months, where storms and flooding may occur, leaving people without power, heating and no ability to access hot food.

6.0 Notices of Motion

6.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. J. Cassin

Proposing a One-Week Tax Holiday in December

That the Minister for Finance be requested to introduce a one-week tax holiday for all taxpayers, lasting one calendar week in December 2026, during which no income tax shall be collected; and that this tax holiday be established as an annual permanent measure for every December henceforth. This motion is proposed on the grounds that:

A December tax holiday will provide immediate financial relief to families and individuals during the holiday season. It will encourage increased consumer spending, thereby stimulating economic growth and supporting businesses across Carlow and the country. This initiative will contribute towards improving economic fairness at a critical time of year. Establishing this policy annually would create enduring social and economic benefits.

This initiative will contribute towards improving economic fairness at a critical time of year. Establishing this policy annually would create enduring social and economic benefits.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Cassin
Seconded by Cllr. C. Murphy

A roll call vote was taken as follows:-

Member of Carlow County Council	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Fergal Browne		√		
John Cassin	√			
Andrea Dalton		√		
Jim Deane	√			
Paul Doogue		√		
Michael Doran		√		
Andy Gladney				√
Thomas Kinsella		√		
Ken Murnane		√		
Charlie Murphy	√			
Brian O'Donoghue		√		
William Paton	√			
Daniel Pender		√		
John Pender		√		
Fintan Phelan		√		
William Quinn	√			
Adrienne Wallace	√			
Ben Ward		√		

Result 6 For, 11 Against and 1 Absent

Decision/Resolution: Motion Defeated

6.2 Standing in the name of Cllr. W. Paton

"That Carlow County Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to urgently review the planning and legislative framework used for the development of International Protection Accommodation (IPA) Centres, particularly those established using emergency planning exemptions in accordance with Statutory Instrument No. 376/2023 - Planning and Development (Exempted Development) (No.4) Regulations 2023 in exercise of powers conferred by Sections 4(2) and 262 of the Planning and Development Action 2000, to ensure that, going forward, the siting of IPA centres involves transparent engagement with local authorities, democratic input from elected councillors and meaningful public consultation."

Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton,

Seconded by Cllr. W. Quinn,

And agreed following a show of hands.

6.3 Standing in the name of Cllr. W. Paton

"That Carlow County Council applies to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for THRIVE (Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme) funding for the development of Tullow Court House into a sustainable, vibrant cultural and community hub."

Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton,

Seconded by Cllr. F. Phelan,

And agreed following a show of hands.

Cllr. W. Paton wished to hold Emergency Motion as follows which was agreed in accordance with Standing Orders:

"That we the members of Carlow County Council send a message of support to Miriam Moriarty Owens, Mary Donovan, Mary Dunleavy Greene and Maurice O'Connell, who are on the 51st day of their hunger strike outside Dail Eireann. The four hunger strikers are survivors of industrial schools and are seeking a Health Amendment Act (HAA) card and a contributory pension for all 4,000 survivors of industrial schools."

**Proposed by Cllr. W. Paton,
Seconded by Cllr. J. Cassin,
And agreed following a show of hands.**

6.4 Standing in the name of Cllr. Thomas Kinsella & Cllr. Charlie Murphy

"We the members of Carlow County Council are asking all our MEP's and TDs to vote against the Mercosur Trade deal. This deal has the potential to decimate the Irish beef industry through cheap and inferior imports from South American countries.

The commitment to not support this deal was given in last year's Dail Election and the European Elections. We are asking for these election promises to be upheld."

**Proposed by Cllr. C. Murphy,
Seconded by Cllr. T. Kinsella,
And agreed following a show of hands.**

6.5 Standing in the name of Cllr. Fergal Browne

"That Carlow County Council identify and establish camper van parking areas within Carlow town and county that provide parking, wastewater and electrical facilities such as provided by other local authorities in Clonmel, Kilkenny city and Graiguenamanagh. This will provide a much needed boost to tourism and the restaurant businesses in the area."

The Council's response was handed out to the elected members as follows:-

Response:

Carlow Co Council acknowledges the growing importance of the camper van and motorhome tourism sector as part of Ireland's broader domestic and international tourism economy. In recent years, camper van tourism in Ireland has experienced strong growth, driven by post-pandemic travel patterns favouring independent, outdoor, and flexible forms of accommodation. According to Fáilte Ireland's 2023 data, over 200,000 camper van visitors travelled within Ireland annually, contributing an estimated €30–40 million to local economies through fuel, food, activities, and accommodation-related spending.

Given Carlow's strategic position within Ireland's Ancient East, its proximity to Kilkenny, Wexford, and Wicklow, and its rural tourism offering (such as the River Barrow Way, Altamont Gardens, Duckett's Grove, and Delta Sensory Gardens), the county is well-positioned to attract a share of this growing tourism segment.

The implementation of such services would require:

1. Community, social enterprise, or private sector partners willing to operate or co-manage such facilities; and
2. Additional staffing and financial resources if Carlow County Council were to directly manage or maintain the facilities.

The camper van facilities in Clonmel, Kilkenny City, and Graiguenamanagh represent a variety of management models. In many cases, the facilities are not operated directly by the

local authorities but instead by private or community entities, often supported by local tourism development plans and grant schemes.

The following initial pros and cons of development of these facilities are outlined:

Pros:

1. **Boost to Local Economies:** Camper van visitors often spend on local dining, fuel, groceries, and activities, directly benefiting rural towns and villages.
2. **Extended Tourism Season:** Camper van tourists tend to travel outside traditional high seasons, providing year-round benefits to local businesses.
3. **Decentralised Tourism:** Well-managed facilities help distribute visitors beyond major cities, supporting smaller communities.
4. **Sustainable Tourism Alignment:** Encourages slow travel and local engagement, consistent with Fáilte Ireland's sustainable tourism principles.
5. **Low Infrastructure Footprint:** Compared to hotels, camper van facilities require minimal permanent infrastructure and can be developed incrementally.

Cons:

1. **Initial Capital Costs:** Infrastructure such as wastewater disposal points, electrical hook-ups, and security would require significant investment.
2. **Operational Responsibility:** Local authorities must ensure ongoing management, insurance, and waste compliance or secure a private/community operator.
3. **Impact on Existing Accommodation Providers:** Some B&B or caravan park operators may perceive serviced public areas as competition if pricing is not aligned.
4. **Environmental Management:** Unregulated or informal overnight parking can cause littering or strain on public amenities if not properly managed.
5. **Demand Variability:** Weather and travel trends can affect utilisation rates, particularly in smaller inland counties.

Strategic Considerations and Alignment

Subject to available resources, Carlow County Council can undertake a feasibility study into the provision of camper van parking areas within Carlow town and county, incorporating facilities for parking, wastewater disposal, and electrical hook-up but this should be aligned to the current Visitor Experience Development Plan (VEDP) for County Carlow.

This should be referred to the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

**Proposed by Cllr. F. Browne,
Seconded by Cllr. A. Dalton,
And agreed following a show of hands.**

7.0 Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach/Aon gnó eile le haontú an Chathaoirligh.

The Cathaoirleach asked for the members approval for Comhairle na nÓg to make a presentation at the December Council and this was agreed by the members.