

**Minutes of Meeting of the Carlow Municipal District
held in the Town Hall Chamber, Carlow, on
Thursday 30th July 2026, at 4.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor K. Murnane (Mayor)
Councillor A. Dalton
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor F. Phelan (Remote)
Councillor A. Wallace
Councillor J. Cassin (Remote)
Councillor P. Doogue

In Attendance: Ms. P. O'Brien, Director of Service, Corporate Services, Human Resources, Planning, Regeneration, Health and Safety and Economic Development /LEO
Mr. P. O'Gorman, Director of Service, Transportation, Environment and Climate Action, Capital Projects, Building Control & Emergency Services
Mr. T. Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing
Mr. N. Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing
Mr. C. Madden, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. F. Byrne, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. M. Griffin, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services
Ms. A. Connolly, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services

Mayor K. Murnane opened the meeting by welcoming all to the July meeting of Carlow Municipal District.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

**1.1 Minutes of Meeting of Carlow Municipal District held on Thursday
25th June 2026 at 4.00 p.m.**

The Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 25th June 2026 were:

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

And agreed following a show of hands



1.2 Minutes of Annual Meeting of Carlow Municipal District held on Thursday 25th June 2026 at 5.00 p.m.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday 25th June 2026 were:

Proposed by Councillor P. Doogue
Seconded by Councillor F. Browne

And agreed following a show of hands

2.0 Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members for Transaction at such meeting

3.0 Consideration of Reports & Recommendation

3.1 Carlow URDF Scheme Update

Mr. P. O’Gorman, Director of Service, presented members with an update on URDF projects Railway Link Project, Town Centre Public Realm and the Carlow Pedestrian Linkage Project. Members expressed their full support for these projects and acknowledged the significant works being undertaken to enhance the town, they also recognised the challenges relating to escalating URDF project costs and the lengthy and burdensome processes involved. Mr. O’Gorman and Ms. O’Brien answered all queries raised.

3.2 Housing Progress Report

Mr. T. Madden, A/Senior Executive Officer, and Mr. N. Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer, presented members with a comprehensive Housing Progress Report. Mr. Madden and Mr. Barrett answered all questions raised which included:

- inclusion of original delivery timeframe and no. of beds in Housing Progress Report
- site assessment at Eire Óg for housing
- completion of a right size housing audit
- query on housing scheme at Court Place
- delay on allocation of one- and two-bedroom houses
- total spend on acquisitions
- timeframe and no. of units at Court Place
- attic conversions – are they being looked at for housing needs

3.3 Carlow MD Engineer's Report

Mr. C. Madden, District Engineer, provided members with a detailed report which included completed works, ongoing enhancement works and upcoming projects in the Carlow Municipal District. Mr. Madden and Ms. P. O'Brien answered all queries raised which included:

- Update on traffic calming measures at Pollerton
- Parking signs at Castleoaks
- Annual clean up at The Laurels needs addressing
- Laneways at John Sweeney Park estate
- Dr. Cullen roundabout query on works
- Line marking required at Millford Cross
- Wexford Road footpath in need of repairs
- Query on sponsorship of roundabouts
- Update on roof at Ducketts Grove
- Lights at Oaklawns not working
- Cemetery at SETU in need of maintenance
- Possibility of water fountain at Hanover Park

4.0 Notices of Motion

4.1 Standing in the name of Cllr. Fintan Phelan

That Carlow Municipal District installs a public drinking water fountain in Carlow Town Park, building on the success of the existing public water fountain in the Bus Park. The provision of a refill station in the Town Park would support Carlow County Council's objectives to reduce single-use plastic waste, encourage the use of reusable water bottles, and provide a convenient source of free drinking water for park users.

The installation would also complement the commitment of Carlow Town Parkrun community to reduce plastic waste by encouraging participants and visitors to refill reusable bottles rather than purchase single-use plastic bottles.

The following response was issued to members:

In response to the motion, the Municipal District acknowledges the benefits of providing public drinking water refill stations and their role in supporting waste reduction initiatives, encouraging the use of reusable water bottles and enhancing public amenities.

Carlow Municipal District has already installed a public drinking water fountain at Hanover Bus Park. This project was funded through the Environment Section and was procured and installed by CMD. The facility has proven to be

a valuable addition to the town's public infrastructure and supports the Council's sustainability objectives.

CMD is currently in discussions with the Environment Section regarding the potential to secure funding for a similar facility in Carlow Town Park. Should funding be secured, the project will be subject to the Council's procurement requirements, and a tender competition will be undertaken for the supply and installation of the drinking water fountain.

CMD remains supportive of measures that promote environmental sustainability and will continue to work with the relevant Council sections to progress opportunities to enhance public amenities throughout Carlow Town.

Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan
Seconded by Councillor P. Doogue

And agreed following a show of hands

4.2 Emergency Notice of Motion

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that, in accordance with the Standing Orders, an Emergency Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Adrienne Wallace had been accepted for consideration at the meeting.

Noting the increasing outcry regarding the closure of Carlow College, this MD calls for SETU to publish the report carried out by Mazars consultancy firm concerning the proposed merger between both institutions to Carlow Councillors and Carlow College staff representatives. Additionally, this MD calls for the closure of Carlow College to be paused until more information about the process leading up to this situation can be provided. Furthermore, it will write to Minister James Lawless to request that possible alternatives to save the college and the 87 jobs be explored.

Proposed by Councillor A. Wallace
Seconded by Councillor J. Cassin

Following discussion, the following amendment was

Proposed by Councillor A. Dalton

Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan

Noting the increasing outcry regarding the closure of Carlow College, this MD calls for SETU to publish the report carried out by Mazars Consultancy firm concerning the proposed merger between both institutions to Carlow Councillors and Carlow College staff representatives. Additionally, this MD calls for the closure of Carlow College to be paused until more information about the process leading up to this situation can be provided and a commitment for educational courses to continue in this establishment. Furthermore, it will write to Minister James Lawless to request that possible alternatives to save the college and the 87 jobs be explored.

The motion, as amended, was agreed unanimously.

5.0 Correspondence

No correspondence received.

6.0 Any Other Business

Members offered their best wishes and support to the Ladies Senior Football Team who will be playing in Croke Park in the All-Ireland Junior Final on Sunday 2nd August 2026.

A vote of congratulations was extended to Mayo's Senior Football Team on their tremendous All-Ireland Senior Football Championship victory and especially to player Sam Callinan whose father reigns from Carlow town.

Members raised concerns over the news that the Avoca House building is due to close and the groups that currently operate from this building would be left without a shared space. A query was raised if there was any council property available to provide for them. Ms. O'Brien advised she would follow up with the Age Friendly Co-Ordinator.

Members condemned the recent incident involving graffiti outside the office of a local TD and proposed a letter be issued to Carlow's TD's as a gesture of solidarity.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

There being no other business the Mayor concluded the meeting.

Signed: 

Mayor of Municipal District of Carlow

Dated: 29-09-20