

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

**MINUTES OF JULY MONTHLY MEETING
OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 15TH JULY 2019 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach, Cllrs. J. Carroll, C. Claffey, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, E. Dooley, N. Feighery, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McCormack, R. McDermott, F. Moran, S. O'Brien, D. Owens, L. Quinn and K. Smollen
APOLOGIES	Cllr. P. Hackett
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S.; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F.; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Mr. E. O'Ceilleachair, A/D.O.S.; Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meetings Administrator; Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O.; Mr. J. Cunningham, S.E.E.; Mr. J. Connolly, S.E.E.; Mr. D. Meehan, E.P. and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
BEST WISHES:	The Management and members joined with Cllr. P. Ormond in extending their best wishes to former Taoiseach Brian Cowan for a speedy recovery following a recent illness.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mr. P.J. Lambe, Rathfeston, Geashill on the death of his wife June Lambe;</p> <p>Mrs. Maureen Flanagan, Cloneyhurke, Portarlinton on the death of her sister in law Annie Flanagan;</p> <p>Mrs. Marian Dowling, 15 St. Josephs Terrace, Portarlinton on the death of her husband Paddy Dowling;</p> <p>Mrs. Helen Gorman, Clonaghadoo, Geashill on the death of her husband Liam Gorman;</p> <p>Mrs. Pamela Egan, Cree, Fortal, Birr on the death of her husband William Egan.</p> <p>The Chief Executive, on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff of Offaly County Council, joined with the members in these votes of sympathy.</p>

<p>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members agreed to suspend standing orders to discuss the recent announcement of job losses at the Bord na Mona plant in Lanesboro.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley brought the members attention to the report that An Taisce has raised concern over the potential environmental impact of wood biomass imported from Australia by Bord na Mona for use at co-firing trails alongside peat at ESB's two Midlands power stations. He advised the member of concerns for the workforce, the pension fund for Bord Na Mona workers and the timeline for the transition to biomass.</p> <p>Cllr. S. O'Brien informed the members that Bord na Mona will receive a shipment of 37,000 tonnes of biomass from Australia in August, which will require a large amount of transport by road to the Bord na Mona plants and he queried if this is carbon neutral and he noted that planning permission for storage of biomass is still pending. Cllr. J. Leahy voiced his concerns that Lough Boora is no longer being managed locally and maintenance and development may not be prioritised by Bord Na Mona personnel located in Newbridge.</p> <p>In responding to the member's queries, Ms. A. Delaney, C.E. informed the members that on the request of Minister Bruton the Regional Transition Team have broadened their membership with the objective of mitigating the impact of the Bord na Mona job losses. She outlined the various representatives from Local Authorities, state agencies and private business and noted that a union representative will also join the team. She advised of the objectives to create job opportunities in conjunction with training bodies such as Laois Offaly Educational Training Board, Athlone Institute of Technology and Springboard.</p> <p>The members acknowledged the work of the Transition team out and suggested that a presentation on the progress would be welcomed. Ms. A. Delaney agreed to update the members on the progress.</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery the members resolved to adopt the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 17th June 2019.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>The members noted –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 20th May 2019.
<p>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES 20 YEAR LEASE OF 0.474AC (0.192HA) AT ELDERBERRY DRIVE,</p>	<p>As a member of the Moneygall Development Association Cllr. P. Ormond excused himself from this agenda item.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll the members resolved to adopt the Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Offaly County Council proposes 20</p>

<p>MONEYGALL TO MONEYGALL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION</p>	<p>year lease of 0.474ac (0.192ha) at Elderberry Drive, Moneygall to Moneygall Development Association</p>
<p>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED, PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED, FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT CLONMINCH, TULLAMORE, COUNTY OFFALY</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.OS. advised the members that there are 2 modifications to this proposed Part 8. Mr. J. Cunningham advised that this scheme consisted of 19 single storey units, 5 one bed and 14 two bed units. Nine submissions were received and he advised the members that the boundary wall will be increased from 2.1m to 2.5m and the gable end house will be brick faced. The members requested that sufficient bollards should be provided, no through road should be allowed and the ESB should be consulted with regard to the placing of electricity poles. The members thanked the housing staff for their comprehensive consultation.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey the members resolved to adopt the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as Amended, Part 8 of The Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as Amended, for the proposed Development at Clonminch, Tullamore, County Offaly</p>
<p>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED, PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED, PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF GRAND CANAL GREENWAY - SHARED WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTE, BALLYCOMMON TO KILBEGGAN LINK, FROM CAMPBELL'S BRIDGE, BALLYCOMMON TO COUNTY BOUNDARY WITH WESTMEATH IN THE TOWNLAND OF BRACKLIN LITTLE</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. informed the members that Westmeath County Council have progressed their Part 8 section of the link and Mr. D. Meehan outlined the submissions received including the issue of re-watering the canal. The members noted that none of the proposed works envisaged under the greenway development, such as Wood Of O Bridge are irreversible in the context of any proposals to rewater the Kilbeggan Link of the Grand Canal.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Brien the members resolved to adopt the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as Amended, Part 8 of The Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as Amended, Proposed Development of Grand Canal Greenway - Shared Walking and Cycling Route, Ballycommon to Kilbeggan Link, From Campbell's Bridge, Ballycommon to County Boundary with Westmeath in the Townland of Bracklin Little</p>
<p>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED, PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED, BALLYCUMBER TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL</p>	<p>Mr. J. Connelly advised the members of the open evenings held and the agreement to preserve on street parking and to ensure the footpath is separate from the building line. The members acknowledged the efforts at public consultation and queried if the works are future proofed for services such as electric cars and Christmas lights. Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. confirmed that all possible ducting will be included and the provision for Christmas lights is included.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, the members resolved to the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as Amended, Part 8 of The Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as Amended, Ballycumber Town and Village Renewal.</p>

<p>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED, PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED, CLARA TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL (PHASE 2),</p>	<p>Mr. J. Connelly outlined the submissions received. He advised that the proposal for one-way system at Egan’s Lane has been removed, on street park is preserved on Church Street and the residential nature of the street is maintained. Cllr. K. Smollen queried the parking system in the Square from Phase 1 and the narrowness of the junction at Egan’s Lane. Mr. T. Shanahan responded that the parking had gained approval following public consultation and agreed that some modification to the junction at Egans Lane will take place along with a new pedestrian crossing.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery the members resolved to adopt the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as Amended, Part 8 of The Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as Amended, Clara Town and Village Renewal.</p>
<p>ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS) (COUNTY OF OFFALY) BYELAWS 2017 (WITH AMENDMENTS: HOUSING ESTATES IN OFFALY 2019)</p>	<p>Mr. E. O’Ceilleachair, A/D.O.S. advised the members that a 30km/h speed limit is proposed for a further eighteen housing estates in Offaly. These are estates that have been taken in charge since the last speed limit review in 2017. They are:</p> <p>Garrai Ard, Banagher. Abbeycourt, Cluain Abhainn, Health Grove, Kilbride Gardens, Westwood Grove and Westwood Park, Clara.</p> <p>Carrick Vale, Derrybeg and Newberry, Edenderry. Clonowan, Glendine, Kyleboher and The Priory, Kilcormac. Lismooney, Kinnitty. Teagan Court, Mucklagh. Arbutus Court and Spollanstown Wood, Tullamore.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Harvey requested that Park Avenue be considered for 30 km per hour zone, and the members discussed the importance of signage and if the introduction of speed ramps could be investigated. Mr. E. O’Ceilleachair agreed to revisit the ramps policy at SPC and to liaise with the Municipal District in regard to Park Avenue and signage and confirmed that Offaly County Council are responsible for the estates.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick the members resolved to adopt the Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (County of Offaly) Byelaws 2017 (with amendments: Housing Estates in Offaly 2019).</p>
<p>DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE SCHEME 2019-2024</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. drew the members’ attention to the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024. Nominations to each of the four Strategic Policy Committees will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Circular LG 07/2014 and that a public consultation period could now commence. He advised that the scheme will come back to the members for their approval in September, at which time nominations to the SPCs could be made.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members agreed that the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024 be placed for public consultation.</p>

<p>NOMINATION TO AUDIT COMMITTEE</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin advised the members that Ms. Connie Hanniffy and Mr. Michael Loughnane were nominated to the Audit Committee at the Annual Meeting in June. Following consultation with Corporate Policy Group, Mr. Peter Scully, Mr. Eugene Mulligan and Mr. Brian Gunning are now being nominated to the Audit Committee.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey the members agreed the nominations.</p>
<p>CORPORATE PLAN 2019-2024</p>	<p>Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O. informed the members that a team has been put in place to develop the Corporate Plan 2019-2024. She advised the members that a workshop will be held on the 9th September with a draft plan to be presented in November for adoption in December/January 2020.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond noted that this is an important document and encouraged members to make submissions.</p>
<p>HOUSING REPORT</p>	<p>Mr. J. Cunningham S.E.E. provided the members with a detailed presentation on the current housing report. He informed the members that there are currently over 3,500 housing units and over 10,000 people supported through the 5 housing provision platforms. He advised that Local Authorities are given annual targets over the 2017-2021 Re-building Ireland period and to date the targets have been achieved with an over-achievement last year by 130. He informed the members that a Vacant Homes Officer was appointed in 2018 and outlined the vacancy figures for the towns in the County. He highlighted the increase in the acquisitions over the past 3 years and outlined the various council housing projects and approved housing bodies projects.</p> <p>The members thanked him for his comprehensive presentation and acknowledged the dedication and hard work by the Housing staff.</p> <p>Cllr. S. O'Brien brought the members attention to his motion and noted that the over dependence on the private rented sector has resulted in rising rents, lack of security, and discrimination and called on the government to provide more funding to build social housing. He felt that there is a lot of problems with the HAP scheme and that the limits are not sufficient. On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey the members resolved <i>"That Offaly County Council accepts that there is a housing crisis in Offaly and immediately take steps to alleviate this problem. We need to work in conjunction with all stakeholders to ensure the provision of an adequate supply of private and social housing to meet the serious demand which exists"</i></p> <p>In response to the members' queries, Mr. T. Shanahan agreed that council acquisitions cannot be allowed to influence the market, the take-up on the repair to lease scheme is very slow, buying houses is not always affordable, that the vacant units are a challenge and that new sites are required.</p>

<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members’ attention to the monthly management report. She advised the members on the Climate Action Plan, the RSES and the County Development Plan. She highlighted the closing date for applications for the post of a Business Development Manager for Stream in Birr is 12th August. She noted the announcement of €2.35 million to progress the canal greenway to join up with the National greenway network. She advised the members on the submission of 11 Town and Village Renewal applications, the Environment and Water report and highlighted that additional funding may be available under the Leader Programme. She congratulated the Pride of Place Nominees - Birr Tidy Towns, St. Brigid’s Social Club Cloneyhurke and St. Colmcille’s Community Centre Durrow. She extended best wishes to Dr. Emma-Rose Conroy of Euro Stallions (Ireland) Ltd from Durrow, Tullamore, competing for Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur in the upcoming national final. She advised that the application for loan approval for the Tullamore Community Arts has been submitted.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach, joined with the members in thanking the Chief Executive for her comprehensive report.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day and discussed the council meeting agenda, Bord na Mona and the conferences.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>Cllr. S. O’Brien proposed the following motion:-</p> <p><i>“ Considering the high unemployment rate in Offaly and the expected job losses in Bord Na Mona in the near future that Offaly County Council immediately establish a Task Force to evaluate alternative job creation ideas in Offaly. This Task Force should include all the stakeholders including Bord Na Mona, Trade Unions, IBEC, CIF, Chambers of Commerce, OLDC, IDA, Enterprise Ireland”</i></p> <p>The motion was seconded by Cllr. K. Smollen.</p> <p>Cllr. S. O’Brien referred to the high unemployment rate in Offaly. He expressed the view that the Regional Transition Team should have a wider focus than the job losses in Bord na Mona, should be more county focused and he highlighted the lack of IDA support to the county and queried if the carbon tax fund could be utilised to support job creation in Offaly.</p> <p>In response to Cllr. O’Brien’s motion, Ms. A.M. Delaney, Chief Executive advised that the Transition Team was initially established by Offaly County Council to mitigate job losses in Offaly. Following a meeting with Minister Bruton, the team was extended to a regional basis to have greater strength when lobbying Europe in relation to the globalisation fund.</p> <p>The Chief Executive further advised that the National Economic and Social Council have been requested to develop</p>

