

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 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, M. Hackett, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McCormack, R. McDermott, F. Moran, S. O'Brien, D. Owens, L. Quinn and K. Smollen
APOLOGIES	Cllr. J. Foley
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S.; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Mr. E. O'Ceilleachair, A/D.O.S.; Mr. T. Mawe, A/H.O.F.; Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O.; Ms. A. Pedlow, H.O.; Ms. S. Stephens, Refugee Resettlement Co-ordinator; Mr. M. Daly, S.E.O.; Mr. D. Egan, S.O.; and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mr. Donie Hunt, Ballymacrossan, Geashill, on the death of his wife Anne Hunt;</p> <p>Mrs. Betty Bennett, Violet Bank, Clonbullogue, on the death of her husband, Edward Bennett;</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>
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In-Committee Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 11th November 2019;- The Statutory Budget Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 18th November 2019;- The Ordinary Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 18th November 2019

MINUTES FOR NOTING:	The members noted the Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 21 st October 2019
SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO SELL LAND AT CLAREEN AND TUBRID, SHINRONE, CO. OFFALY TO BRENDAN AND ELIZABETH KEESHAN, TUBRID, SHINRONE, CO. OFFALY	On the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, the members resolved to the Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Offaly County Council proposes to sell land at Clareen and Tubrid, Shinrone, Co. Offaly to Brendan and Elizabeth Keeshan, Tubrid, Shinrone, Co. Offaly
PRIDE OF PLACE	<p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach welcomed the three Offaly 2019 Pride of Place participants and presented the groups with their awards. He offered his sincere thanks to Birr Tidy Towns, St. Colmcille Community Centre Durrow, and St. Brigid's Social Club for representing the County and their Communities with such distinction. He went on to mention that Birr Tidy Towns were the recipient of a Special Award at the Pride of Place Awards night in the Lyrath Estate, Kilkenny and commended them for their ceaseless dedication to Birr Town and its environs not just this year but every year and this was finally being recognised on a local and national stage.</p> <p>The members acknowledged the work of the St. Colmcille Community Centre Committee Durrow representing Tullamore Municipal District in the population category 300-1,000. They noted that the centre-piece of their submission was an extremely ambitious and all-encompassing hall renovation project which the group undertook this year.</p> <p>The members congratulated the Edenderry Municipal District representative, the St. Brigid's Social Club Cloneyhurke in the Community Well-Being Initiative. They acknowledged their dedication and success which provides a great service to the local area all year round.</p>
DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2019-2024	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. informed the members that the Draft Corporate Pplan 2019-2024 is presented to the members for adoption. Ms. A. Dillon provided the members with a presentation outlining the statutory provisions, the consultation process and the strategic themes incorporated in the plan. She thanked the Corporate Plan team, the members and the management for their assistance in formulating the plan.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery the members resolved to adopt the Corporate Plan 2019-2024.</p>
UPDATE ON THE OFFALY CREATIVE IRELAND PROGRAMME	Ms. A. Pedlow provided the members with a detailed presentation on the Offaly Creative Ireland Programme. She advised the members that this is a collaboration between the Arts, Architecture, Libraries, Heritage, Corporate and the

	<p>Community. She updated the members on projects such as the Vintage Luminaries in Birr, the Geashill Legend and the Lough Boora deep mapping project. She outlined the offline animation bursary, the vernacular architecture and the Follies project. She highlighted the County Archives Project noting its value to all members of the community and the diaspora. She outlined the various library projects, the connecting communities River Brosna project and called on applications from communities for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020 & Historic Structures Fund with closing date for receipt of applications on Friday, 31st January 2020.</p> <p>The members thanked her for her informative presentation and welcomed the many projects in particular the County Archives and the River Brosna Connecting Communities. Some concerns with regard to the development of Lough Boora were raised and Cllr. P. Ormond suggested a visit to the County Archives be arranged in the New year.</p>
<p>DRAFT MIGRANT INTEGRATION STRATEGY</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. introduced Ms. Sara Stephens Refugee Resettlement Coordinator for Offaly Local Development Company to outline the Draft Migrant Integration Strategy.</p> <p>Ms. Stephens provided the members with a detailed presentation outlining the work that has been done to date, the profile of the migrant population in Offaly and the statistics from the 2016 census. She advised the members on the definition of integration as the ability to participate to the extent that a person needs and wishes in all of the major components in society without having to relinquish his or her own cultural identity. She informed the members of the need to identify and prioritise the most urgent integration needs facing migrant communities in Offaly through the PPN, Communities, Sports and Public Bodies and their services. She outlined the aims and actions required for information, communication, inclusiveness, education, training and employment.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. Stephens for her informative presentation, welcoming inter-culture and transparency and raised concerns about social housing needs.</p> <p>In relation to query raised regarding allocation of housing, Ms. A. Delaney responded that same was based on our Scheme of Letting Priorities. The Department of Justice has assigned 26 families to Offaly under the Resettlement Programme. The Chief Executive agreed that all options be investigated in relation to housing families under this programme.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D Harvey, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the members resolved to adopt the Migrant Integration Strategy.</p>
<p>REGIONAL TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney updated the members on the Regional Transition Team. She advised the members that the newly appointed Just Transition Commissioner Dr. Kieran Mulvey will be based at Offaly County Council and that there will be a visit from the EU technical assistance at the beginning of the</p>

	<p>new year. She advised that a holistic plan would be prepared to provide services best suited for the transition.</p> <p>The members thanked her for the update and raised queries with regard to the job opportunities for Bord na Mona workers such as river dredging and tourism. They acknowledged the work of Cllr. E. Dooley and agreed that solutions need to be forthcoming from the Council working together in the Chamber.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney responded that involving the communities, devising job plans, accessing funding and working within the timeframe will be important and noted that further guidelines will be issued from the Department.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney drew the member's attention to the November monthly management report noting the launch of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund. She outlined the planning statistics, the continued development of the Greenways and the ongoing work on the derelict sites register with notice of intention issued to some property owners. She advised the members of the upcoming housing allocations at Blundell Wood, the road grants claim have been submitted for 2019 and the official opening of E-hive in Edenderry. She brought the members attention to filming of the Operation Transformation in Offaly in 2020, including 7 ad break locations in various towns over the two months. She noted the success of the Stem Event in Banagher, the ongoing work of Comhairle na Nóg, Tidy Towns, the Lough Boora Committee and Creative Ireland.</p> <p>The members thanked her for her comprehensive report and raised queries with regard to the plans for the new fire station in Clara, a section of greenway that requires re-surfacing, Kinnitty Bike Trails and recognition of Offaly Sports Achievements.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney responded that an update on the Clara Fire Station would be provided and the Greenway re-surfacing will be checked. She advised that the Bike Trails are now at Stage 2 and will be further developed through Coillte and Failte Ireland. She agreed that the sports achievements would be recognised.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach thanked the Chief Executive for her 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 agenda and approved conferences and training.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>The following motion was proposed by Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey and agreed.</p> <p><i>"I call on Offaly County Council to invite Minister Charlie Flanagan or an official from his Department to come before</i></p>

this Council to tell us as public representatives if any sites in Offaly are being considered for direct provision.”

In proposing the motion Cllr. F. Moran stressed the importance of the need for the Department of Justice to engage with local communities regarding proposed locations of direct provision accommodation. Cllr. J. Leahy noted that no reply had been received to previous correspondence issued to the Department on this subject.

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey and agreed.

“I call on the junior Minister for Housing to act on his last vision to OCC and tell us if he is going to give a commitment on allowing tenants living in Part V houses be considered for the Tenant Purchase Scheme.”

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn and agreed.

“I propose that Offaly County Council collaborate with all public transport agency's serving the county to identify locations and introduce Bus Stops and physical timetables in every Town & Village served, with the objective of encouraging greater public transport usage, improved safety and service for passengers and reduced carbon emissions”

COMHDHÁLACHA

Conferences

The Finance Act 2019, 10th to 12th January 2020, Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth.
It was agreed no member would attend

Tackling Carbon Emissions & Fuel Poverty, 24th to 26th January 2020, O'Donovan's Hotel, Main Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
It was agreed no member would attend.

Retrospective approval was sought for:

Cllr. N. Feighery to attend Module 5 of the 2019 AILG “Elected Members Training Programme” which took place on 21st November in Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone and the Irish Planning Institute Windfarm Noise Assessment on 31st October in Clayton Hotel, Sligo;

Cllr. S. O’Brien to attend AILG Induction Training on 11th July in Park Hotel, Mullingar, AILG Autumn Training Seminar on 11th – 12th September in Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan and Celtic Conference, Ireland and Plastic Waste, 25th-27th October in O’Donovans Hotel, Clonakilty;

	<p>Cllr. J. Clendennen to attend AILG Climate Action on 22nd to 23rd November in Radisson Hotel, Cork;</p> <p>Cllr. D. Owens to attend Irish Planning Institute Tackling Environment on 13th December in UCC, Cork</p> <p>Cllrs. D. Harvey and F. Moran to attend First-Time Home Buyers Incentive, 13th to 15th December 2019, Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth;</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members' noted and approved the conferences and training seminars.</p>
COMHFHREAGRAS	<p>Cllr. C. Claffey welcomed the correspondence received with regard to Women Beyond the Dáil: More Women in Local Government. She advised the members that barriers to female participation in government need to be removed and cited an example of a meetings re-scheduled at very short notice. The members noted the correspondence received.</p>
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	None discussed

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNAÍ**

20th January 2020