

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 17TH JUNE 2019 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. J. Carroll, C. Claffey, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, E. Dooley, N. Feighery, J. Foley, P. Hackett, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McCormack, R. McDermott, F. Moran, S. O'Brien, D. Owens, L. Quinn and K. Smollen
APOLOGIES	Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F.; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S.; Mr. E. O'Ceilleachair, A/D.O.S.; Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meetings Administrator; Mr. A. Murray, S.P., Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O. and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mrs. Bernie Leavy, Rhode on the death of her husband Tony Leavy;</p> <p>Mrs. Marie Rowland, 3 Sandymount View, Birr on the death of her husband Joe Rowland;</p> <p>Ms. Edel Egan, Collinstown, Clara on the death of her son Aaron Buckley.</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. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the members resolved to adopt the Minutes of In-Committee Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 20th May 2019;</p> <p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. clarified that the HFA are permitted to issue loans for community projects other than housing and that the Members recent resolution to borrow money for the Arts Centre does not affect finance for housing loans.</p> <p>The Department has recently advised that funding for Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans is available.</p>

	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran 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 20th May 2019;</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll the members resolved to adopt the Minutes of Annual Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Friday 7th June 2019.</p>
MINUTES FOR NOTING:	<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 15th April 2019.
NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO LAOIS OFFALY EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD	<p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach called for a proposer and seconder for panel one as required by Regulation. On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the members resolved to appoint Cllr. P. Hackett and Cllr. C. Claffey to Laois Offaly Education and Training Board. The Cathaoirleach then called on a grouping of 5 Members to nominate to fill the remaining four seats. As there was only one grouping of five, Cllr. E. Dooley proposed that Cllr. F. Moran, Cllr. R. McDermott, Cllr. J. Carroll and Cllr. N. Feighery be nominated to Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board. Cllr. L. Quinn seconded the proposal.</p>
ANNUAL REPORT 2018	<p>Mr. F Heslin, D.O.S. advised the members that the draft report was presented at the April monthly meeting and no amendments had been requested. He noted that the service indicators have since been added.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the members resolved to adopt the Annual Report 2018.</p>
OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS	<p>Mr. F. Heslin brought the members attention to the Standing Orders. On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to amend the standing orders to request external groups presenting to the Council to keep presentations to ten minutes, maximum eight slides. A detail presentation can be provided on minutepad but should be summarised for the presentation at the Council Meeting.</p>
SCHEDULE OF ORDINARY MEETINGS	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. advised the members of the schedule of meetings and that the dates for the Strategic Policy Committees would be decided in July.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin the members resolved to adopt the schedule of meetings.</p>
COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. advised the members that the County Development Plan is reviewed every 6 years and the process must commence at start of year 4, or in the current case 13</p>

	<p>weeks after the adoption of the RSES, on the 3rd May or the 28th June when it comes into effect. Clarification will be provided by the Department on the date.</p> <p>Mr. A. Murray, S.P. provided the members with an update on the process. He informed the members that this is a 2 year process guided by firstly the National Planning Framework (NPF), then the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy(RSES) and finally by the County Development Plan. He noted the workshop held for members in April 2018 and advised he would re-issue the briefing notes from that workshop. He outlined the key questions such as Offaly's position in the new NPF, quality of life, economic future and protecting our land as a resource for tourism, heritage and amenities.</p> <p>He informed the members of Stage 1 preparing the draft, the initial 'blank sheet' public and prescribed bodies consultation, aided by an issues paper. He noted that this does not include zoning at this stage and that the Chief Executive report would be prepared and the members then issue directions on the content of the draft plan. The draft plan will include a draft Environmental Report and Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) and this stage takes approximately 9 months.</p> <p>Mr. A. Murray outlined Stage 2, amending the draft and noted that the public consultation includes zoning at this stage, followed by the Chief Executive report on submissions (incl. prescribed bodies, OPR & EMRA). The Members then adopt the plan or agree to put Material Amendments on public display. He advised the members that Stage 3 is adopting the plan and the whole process takes approximately 99 weeks.</p> <p>He updated the members on the various stakeholders involved, the components and the strategies required. He outlined issues such as growth, zoning to population allocations and actual services, housing, climate & environment, biodiversity concerns, regional growth, sewerage and water supply, quality of life, natural amenities, cheaper land, potential for 'back office' functions from more expensive Dublin locations, Economic Development in 'post peat' Offaly, regeneration, tourism promotion and marketing.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach, noted that this is an important piece of work and joined the members in thanking Mr. Murray for his update.</p>
<p>BUDGET 2020</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. circulated information to the members on the proposed dates for consultation on the budget 2020. He advised the members that the public consultation for the Local Property Tax runs from 1st August to 30th August. He informed the members that an In-Committee meeting will be held on both the 15th July and 9th September and as the LPT is a reserved function this will be brought to the September monthly meeting for a decision.</p> <p>He advised that Municipal District allocations can be submitted to the Chief Executive in October and a draft budget will be</p>

	<p>brought to an In-Committee meeting on 11th November and the Statutory Budget meeting is scheduled for 18th November.</p> <p>In response to the members queries Ms. A. Delaney, C.E. advised the members that match funding will be required for many of the projects that we would like to progress. All efficiency measures have been put in place and with little rates buoyancy there is not much scope to raise funding. Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. outlined the match funding requirements, the outdoor recreation schemes and Town and Village renewal schemes require 20% match funding and Rural and Urban Regeneration schemes require 25%. The closing date for the Town and Village Renewal is 30th June and approximately 10 projects are being assessed. The date for the Rural and Urban Regeneration, category 2 is early August. He advised that raising revenue from vacant or derelict properties is difficult and requires a lot of resources, that it could be discussed at municipal district and a report brought to the council.</p>
<p>CORPORATE PLAN PROCESS</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. informed the members that the Corporate Plan is a five-year plan due to be renewed by end of 2019. He advised that it outlines the framework for the county's main activities going forward. He advised that consultation takes place with PPN, LCDC and we must have regard to national policies. Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O. will be co-ordinating same.</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 planning statistics, the progress on the greenways and the outdoor recreation projects. She informed the members that Housing would provide a presentation for the members at the July meeting. She informed the members of the on-going work on the Climate Change Strategy. She noted the roads programme is underway, the town and village renewal is on-going and the LCDC grants have been awarded for 2019. She acknowledged the success of the national community weekend, comic con, Cruinniu na nÓg and various sports events. She congratulated the Offaly company Dotser, winner of the Regional Enterprise Award and the Young Offaly Entrepreneur Emma-Rose Conroy of Euro Stallions. She noted the launch of the I-LOFAR Education Centre in Birr on 30th May 2019 by Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell and funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural & Economic Development Zone (REDZ) Scheme. She highlighted the views on social media for the recent local elections.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach, joined with the members in thanking the Chief Executive for her comprehensive report. He acknowledged that the social media updates have improved greatly in the council. Mr. T. Shanahan D.O.S advised that the grant application for Clara bog would not delay the work being carried out there.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney advised that the Tullamore Drainage Scheme is progressing. She suggested that it would be beneficial to visit</p>

	<p>Mountlucas and get a presentation from Bord na Mona. Cllr. P. Ormond proposed to hold a special meeting at Mountlucas in September, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, Ms. A. Delaney responded she would liaise with Mr. Tom Donnellan, Bord, na Mona.</p>
CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:	<p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day and discussed the Corporate Plan, opportunities for match funding and the possibility of organising a special meeting to discuss projects.</p>
NOTICES OF MOTION:	<p>Cllr. T. McCormack</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"That Offaly County Council look at the bye laws and ban the erection of corri board posters for elections in Offaly."</i></p> <p>Cllr. T. McCormack advised the members that the Fianna Fail posters had been recycled by the Mens shed and he advocated the use of paper and ply from managed forests to ensure sustainable carbon neutral posters for election purposes.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Hackett responded that it is important not to disadvantage candidates and advised that the Green Party investigated the use of paper and ply poster and found that they are not durable enough for Irish climate. She suggested that a designated area could be utilised to reduce the number of posters. Cllr. J. Leahy suggested the use of signage in general could be referred for discussion at the Environment SPC.</p>
COMHDHÁLACHA	<p>Creating Economic & Business Opportunities from Climate Change - Tullamore Court Hotel, 9th October 2019</p> <p>It was noted this conference is being organised by Midlands Regional Transition Team/CARO and Local Enterprise Office and Members are encouraged to attend.</p>
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	<p>Cllr. P. Ormond extended his best wishes to the Pride of Place entrants in the up-coming competition.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Leahy raised concerns on the recent housing of asylum seekers outside of the established re-settlement programme. He queried if vetting had taken place and if the required services are available in these areas. He voiced his concern that the local GPs do not have the resources but are required to prioritise the asylum seekers over their own patients. The members joined with Cllr. Leahy acknowledged that the re-settlement programme to date has been a success and requested clarification on the recent placements.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, C.E. advised the members that she had not been made aware of this emergency accommodation provision</p>

