

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 20TH MAY 2019 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, A. Davy, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, D. Harvey, B. Killeavy J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McCormack, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, P. Ormond and L. Quinn
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; and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan the members resolved to suspend standing orders to allow an In-Committee meeting to discuss the Tullamore Community Arts Centre. The press and visitors were asked to leave the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting resumed at 2.35</p>
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS	<p>Cllr. D. Owens expressed a vote of sympathy to the family of former Offaly County Council and Birr Town Council member Mr. Tony McLoughlin.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. S. Maher, the members resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow for a short adjournment in his memory.</p> <p>The meeting resumed at 2.45pm.</p>
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran the members resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow the Board of the Tullamore Community Arts Centre to give a presentation.</p>
TULLAMORE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, C.E. welcomed Mr. Des Doyle, Chairman, Mr. Niall Sweeney, Ms. Sally O’Leary and Mr. Colin Hughes, Board members of the Board of Tullamore Community Arts Centre to the meeting.</p> <p>Mr. D. Doyle provided the members with a brief history on the Tullamore Community Arts Centre Project. He advised that the €2m grant is ring fenced until December 2020 and that the Board consists of four County Councillors, four members of</p>

the community and four appointees of the Offaly County Council Chief Executive. He advised that the premises at Kilroys was purchased in 2015, the design of the Centre has been finalised, the grant of €2m is in place with a further 200k from the Urban Regeneration fund and that the Board will employ a professional fund raiser to assist in raising funds in the amount of €500,000 over a 3-year period. He advised the members that the Board are seeking assistance from the Council to provide the shortfall in funding.

Mr. N. Sweeney gave a detailed presentation to the members on the design of the Arts Centre. He pointed out that the existing building will be retained and renovated, the basement and inner part of the building will be developed and a new roof added and a new building will be extended to the rear of the property. This will provide an arts exhibition area, 220 seat auditorium, bar, café, stairs, lifts and new office spaces.

Ms. S. O'Leary advised the members on the physical, social and cultural value the Centre could provide. She highlighted the investment, tourism and night time benefits.

Mr. C. Hughes brought the members attention of the value to the community that the Centre would bring. He advised the members that his personal experience has shown him that arts and culture are good for health, vibrancy, communities young and old. He stated that arts and culture are not elitist and the Arts Centre would extend into the county with workshops in smaller towns and villages. He highlighted that it could be used to stage plays, local productions, recitals, exhibitions, schools and other groups.

Mr. D. Doyle pointed out that in the recession €180,000 had been raised in the local community, Midlands 103 have allocated commercial air time to promote the fund raising and Tullamore is the only capital town that does not have an Arts Centre.

Cllr. D. Owens joined with the members in complimenting the Board on their work.

The members acknowledged that the Arts Centre would be a great asset to Offaly and is in a great location. They noted that Birr Theatre should continue to be supported and that Edenderry will be looking to develop something similar in the future. Cllr. E. Dooley suggested that the Community Gain Fund from the Windfarm companies should be investigated to see if a contribution towards the Arts could be made.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack the members resolved to raise a loan with the H.F.A. in the amount of €2.5m over 20 years and to transfer €150,000 from the deficit provision in the 2019 Budget to facilitate the loan repayment. A further €100,000 for the initial operating costs to be considered as part of the 2020 Budget deliberations.

	<p>Ms. A. Delaney thanked the members for their support and reiterated that the full loan may not be required, other funding streams may become available and advised that Ministerial approval is required to raise the loan. She agreed to investigate the Community Gain Fund.</p>
VOTES OF SYMPATHY	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mrs. Mary McLoughlin, Main Street, Birr on the death of her husband Tony McLoughlin;</p> <p>Mrs. Goretti Egan, Lockclose, Killeigh on the death of her husband Tom Egan;</p> <p>The Brophy Family, 79 Marian Place, Tullamore on the death of their mother Kathleen Brophy;</p> <p>Mr. Iggy Daly, Ballyduff, Geashill on the death of his wife Geraldine Daly;</p> <p>Mrs. Breda Doyle, Cloneygowan, Tullamore on the death of her husband Basil Doyle.</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. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the April meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 15th April 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 25th March 2019; - Minutes of Housing, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Wednesday 6th March 2019.
SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO LEASE LANDS (MUGA) TO DERRY ROVERS AFC	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members resolved to adopt the Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Offaly County Council proposes to lease lands (MUGA) to Derry Rovers AFC.</p>
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED, PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, 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 to Tullamore Street Enhancement - Harbour and Store Street.</p>

<p>AMENDED, PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT TO TULLAMORE STREET ENHANCEMENT - HARBOUR AND STORE STREET</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 FROM CONVENT VIEW, TULLAMORE TO SRAH BRIDGE, BALLYDROHID, TULLAMORE (URBAN GREENWAY)</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan informed the members that following from the public submission process 8 submissions have been received.</p> <p>The members voiced their support and queried if car parking could be provided at Pearse Park and if the bridge at the 28th Lock is necessary as it is causing concerns for the National Boat Heritage Group.</p> <p>Mr. T. Shanahan responded that on completion of the urban section of the greenway, the greenway could be accessed from the Town Centre parking. However, the provision of parking and general amenity could be considered for Pearse Park. The provision of the bridge at the 28th Lock would facilitate a looped walk, and can be constructed without interfering with operation of the lock or navigation, as confirmed with Waterways Ireland. The greenway can operate without the bridge, and Mr. Shanahan undertook to bring the bridge proposal back to Council for further consideration before going to Tender.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue 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 from Convent View, Tullamore to Srah Bridge, Ballydrohid, Tullamore (Urban Greenway)</p>
<p>TAKING IN CHARGE OF PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen the members resolved to the Taking in Charge of Private Housing Estates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cois na hAbhainn, Ferbane • An Caladh, Shannon Harbour • Southgate, Crinkle
<p>SCHEME OF PRIORITY FOR AFFORDABLE DWELLING PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. advised the members that although currently there are no Affordable Housing Schemes in Offaly there is a requirement from the Department that every Local Authority has a Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwellings in place by the 18th June 2019.</p> <p>The members raised concerns about the Rebuilding Ireland Homeloan Scheme. Mr. T. Shanahan advised that applications are not being accepted currently as funding approval is pending from the Department.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to adopt the Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements.</p>

HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE	Cllr. D. Owens advised the members that this agenda item has been deferred.
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members' attention to the monthly management report. She advised the members that the opening of the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trails has been deferred. She noted that the Regional Social & Economic Strategy for the Eastern & Midlands Region was adopted on the 3rd of May and comes into effect on the 28th of June 2019 and the County Development Plan review process (initial public consultation) must proceed within 13 weeks from the adoption of the RSES. She informed the members that the Tourist Office has opened in O'Connor Square and volunteers have been trained to operate the office. She highlighted the success of the inaugural Offaly Tourism Seminar, the Robotics competition held in the Áras with 16 schools competing and the success of the Comic Con held in the Library.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for her comprehensive report.</p>
CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:	Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day to consider the various items on the Council agenda.
NOTICES OF MOTION:	<p>Cllr. J. Clendennen brought the members attention to the lack of access to GP services in Birr, noting that there are currently only three GPs operating in the town and brought the motion:</p> <p><i>'In anticipation of the National HSE call for Expressions of Interest to develop Primary Care Centres in towns across the region, including Birr, that Offaly County Council identify a suitable property and/or site location, that it can offer, as an option, to ensure Birr is successful in securing a Primary Care Centre.'</i></p> <p>On discussion of the motion the members agreed that it is the responsibility of the HSE to call for expressions of interest and for developers to source suitable zoned sites.</p> <p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. advised the members that they would work with the HSE on this issue.</p>
COMHFHREAGRAS:	The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	Cllr. D. Owens acknowledged the councillors that are not going for re-election, Cllr. T. McKeigue, Cllr. N. Bourke, Cllr. D. Dolan, Cllr. B. Killeavy and Cllr. M. O'Reilly. He praised their commitment, hard work and dedication to the Council. Cllr. T. McKeigue paid tribute to his fellow councillors that are retiring, noting the various projects that they had been involved in. He thanked the Chief Executive, management and staff for they co-operation and help over the years. Cllr. D. Dolan stated that it had been great honour to represent Clara and he thanked the people who had voted for him, the press and noted that his

	<p>highlight had been to Chair the council as an independent councillor. Cllr. B. Killeavy acknowledged his fellow councillors experience and noted they would be a loss to the council.</p> <p>The members thanked them for their service, passion and work over their years as councillors.</p> <p>The Chief Executive acknowledged the members on their deep commitment, the hard decisions that had been made over the last five years and noted that while they represented their areas, they also worked well at county level.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Owens reflected on this councils' term and his time as Cathaoirleach. He noted the challenges last summer with the hot weather and the Fire Services hard work dealing with the forest fires in the Slieve Blooms. He congratulated the success of the Ploughing Championships in the last 3 years, the purchase of Croghan Hill, the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trail and the Grand Canal Greenway. He highlighted new services such as the County archive service in the Axis Business Park with Offaly Historical Society, the New Tourism Office in O'Connor Square and the opening of Ferbane Fire Station.</p> <p>He noted the various civic receptions held, the most recent to recognise the achievements of Dr. Peter Gallagher in leading the I-LOFAR project in Birr and the achievements of Special Olympians in April 2019. He brought the members attention to the Hungarian Ambassador Visit. He advised of the many projects undertaken such as the New Rural Regeneration & Development Fund and the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund 2018. The funding application included Street Enhancement project, Urban Greenway, Playground Enhancement & Arts Centre shortfall. He thanked Ms. A.M. Delaney, for her assistance to him as Cathaoirleach and wished all going forward for election best of luck.</p>
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This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNAÍ**

17th June 2019