

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE ON  
MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021 AT 2.00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach (R), Cllrs. C. Claffey (R), J. Clendennen (R), N. Cribbin (R), E. Dooley (R), N. Feighery (R), E. Fitzpatrick (R), J. Foley (R), M. Hackett (R), D. Harvey (R), J. Leahy (R), T. McCormack (R), R. McDermott (R), F. Moran (R), S. O'Brien (R), P. Ormond (R), D. Owens (R), L. Quinn (R) and K. Smollen (R)
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive (R); Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. (R); Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S. (R); Mr. S. Duclot (R); Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F. (R); Ms. A. Dillon S.E.O. (R); Mr. E. Fennell, S.E.O.; Mr. G. Bruton, A/ Meetings Administrator (R); Mr. C. Kelly, S.O.(R) and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O. (R)
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:</p> <p>Mr. Michael Nolan, 102 Killane View, Edenderry on the death of his wife Kathleen Nolan;</p> <p>Mr. Larry Swaine, 31 Greenwood Park, Edenderry on the death of his wife Ann Swaine;</p> <p>Mr. Tommy Martin, Derrybeg, Killeigh on the death of his wife Esther Martin;</p> <p>Ms. Maeve Buckley, Moyclare, Ferbane on the death of her mother Josie 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>
<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b>	<p>Cllr. J. Clendennen requested that his comments from the March meeting be included on the record. In relation to Offaly Tourism, he highlighted the importance of the need to increase membership subscriptions from the current relatively low levels as being a vital component in the success and effectiveness of Offaly Tourism and its long term sustainability. He also emphasised that it is important that Offaly Tourism remains a priority.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.</p>

<p><b>CONCLUSION OF MEETING FROM 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021</b></p>	<p>Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach brought the members attention to the regulations stipulating that due to Covid-19, where members are present in person at Council meetings, the time limit for the meeting is 1 hour and 55 minutes. Due to this the meeting from 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 was not concluded in that time frame and outstanding items will be discussed at this meeting. He further noted that all participants of this meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 are joining remotely and therefore the time limit does not apply.</p> <p>Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F. addressed the members on the motion brought by Cllr. C. Claffey in relation to the records of the survivors of the Mother and Baby Homes. He advised the members that there is process in place allowing people to request such information from Offaly County Council. All such records are stored safely in secure locations. He noted that there are challenges in relation to locating individual records and that Offaly County Council is committed to working with Offaly Archive records to improve how these records are categorised. This will assist the survivors in gaining access to their records. This work is to be completed by the end of Summer 2021.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Claffey thanked him and noted that she is glad to see the issue being addressed. She queried if all materials covered in the commission’s report will be available and stressed the need to establish a working group and also to hold a special meeting with survivors to ask how the Council can be of further assistance.</p> <p>Cllr. S. O’ Brien queried if the records for Offaly survivors that had been sent to Roscrea and Castlepollard would be available.</p> <p>Mr. M. Connolly advised that Offaly County Council are committed to working with Central Government on this issue and he noted that no recommendation had yet been received from Central Government. He also stressed that the only records that can be made available are those held by Offaly County Council and the Council does not have access to information / documentation held by other bodies.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll advised that a decision on holding a special meeting will be referred to the next Corporate Policy Group Meeting.</p> <p>Cllr. N. Cribbin noted that his proposal that was seconded in the March meeting was not recorded in the minutes. Cllr. J. Carroll, advised that this will be checked.</p>
<p><b>MINUTES FOR NOTING</b></p>	<p>The members noted the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021;</li> </ul>
<p><b>IDA PRESENTATION</b></p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, CE welcomed the IDA representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Ken Whitelaw, Regional Manager, Midlands Region,</li> <li>- Mr. Dennis Curran, - Head of Regions Property and Enterprise Development</li> <li>- Ms. Anne Marie Tierney-Le Roux, Department Manager - Regions and Enterprise Development.</li> </ul>

She advised that she looked forward to working with them on developing their national strategy.

Mr. D. Curran thanked the members for the invitation. He highlighted the challenges of the previous 12 months and that he looked forward to collaborating with Offaly County Council going forward. He provided the members with a presentation comprised of five elements of their new national strategy as outlined under the headings below:

1. Growth
2. Transformation
3. Regions
4. Sustainability
5. Impact

Mr. K. Whitelaw outlined current initiatives in the midlands region in terms of:

- new investments,
- numbers of currently supported clients resulting in direct employment, indirect employment and resulting payroll figures.
- Foreign Direct Investments. He highlighted the success of some FDI in Co. Offaly such as Steris, Tullamore and EJ in Birr.

He advised the members that organisations such as Enterprise Ireland, Midlands Lean Network and the Midlands Skills Centre add depth to the support offered to companies in the Midlands Region. He highlighted a number of other opportunities for the Midlands such as the growth of remote working hubs, the Just Transition Forum and the EI Global Sourcing Trade Mission.

He outlined the criteria that investors based their location decisions on as follows:

- Proximity to population
- Ability to attract and maintain skills
- Suitable property offerings
- Education infrastructure
- Regional infrastructure and place making
- Existence of clusters of capability
- Financial supports
- Stability, predictability, ease of doing business

He also outlined the current areas of focus for the IDA as follows:

- Continuous engagement with stakeholders
- Support existing client base
- Positioning the region for further investment
- Build on success of Regional Enterprise Plan
- Leverage positive messages and marketing
- Placemaking
- Talent
- Work for property solutions

The members joined with Cllr. J. Carroll in welcoming future investments plans and acknowledged the challenges faced by the IDA. Cllr. T. McCormack expressed his disappointment that there are not enough site visits to Offaly and, in particular, no overnight site visits have been facilitated by the IDA. The members raised concerns that Offaly is not prioritised within the Midlands Region and sought clarification on the targets in the IDA's new strategy for the county. Cllr. N. Feighery queried if any mitigation measures are in place to counteract any potential changes in Ireland's corporation tax. Cllr. D. Harvey pointed out that acquiring property and increasing apprenticeships should be prioritised. Cllr. E. Dooley queried if the IDA have any input in regard to the EU Territorial fund.

Cllr. N. Cribbin highlighted that the Green Energy Hub in Rhode is ideally placed for companies to invest in. Cllr. J. Leahy expressed concerns that Athlone meets the criteria set out by the IDA to attract investment and Offaly cannot compete with that based on the IDA's current criteria. Cllr. J. Clendennen highlighted Offaly's strong commercial community and culture of entrepreneurship and questioned the €5bn renewable plan with the ESB. The members stressed the success of the remote hubs and the need to continue to develop them.

In responding to the member's queries, Mr. D. Curran advised that the IDA are motivated to prioritise Regions and their clients have pre-set criteria and they are not interested in county boundaries. He stated that the IDA have been marketing Co. Offaly, confirming that pre-Covid-19 they organised 5 site visits per year and 25% of client companies in the midlands region are in Co. Offaly. He agreed that development of apprenticeships is very important and he welcomed the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, and Minister of State for Skills and Further Education, Minister Niall Collins, launch of the Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021-2025. He informed the members that the IDA are undertaking a mapping exercise for remote working hubs, including public consultation. He noted that the Corporate Tax rate is currently in the media spotlight. He stated that the IDA are not directly involved in the Just Transition funds but that Mr. K. Whitelaw is on a number of working groups. Mr. K. Whitelaw confirmed that the Territorial Stakeholder meetings are being co-ordinated at the moment.

Mr. D. Curran advised the members that the investment location criteria used by the IDA are determined in consultation with their clients. They try to ensure that as many regions as possible are presented to potential investors so there is an element of choice for these investors. He agreed that Co. Offaly would be high on the agenda for companies of certain scale/size that required green energy.

Mr. K. Whitelaw confirmed that the IDA has been briefed on BNM lands and advised he will be looking for further details from the company. The IDA have conducted their own review to assess suitable sites for potential data centres. They are aware of

	<p>the Rhode Green Energy Park and have briefed their clients on same.</p> <p>Ms. A. Tierney-Le Roux acknowledged the feedback and concerns of the members and she assured them of the IDA commitment to promoting FDI for Co. Offaly. She cautioned that more challenging times are ahead and she welcomed developments in the area of remote working. She also welcomed the launch and roll-out of €20 million in capital funding to respond to the growing demand for apprenticeships and the pledge to train 10,000 new apprentices each year in the near future.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney thanked the IDA representatives and the members for an engaging debate. She advised the members that LEO will give a presentation at the May meeting. She noted that green energy and quality of life offerings are critical areas for Co. Offaly to develop in order to increase its attractiveness for investment. She advised that Offaly County Council will continue to develop our tourism and support businesses and she noted that the county is in close proximity to third level educational institutions. She also acknowledged the impact of job losses in Offaly and the Midlands and she also welcomed the recently announced apprenticeship scheme.</p>
<p><b>AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT</b></p>	<p>Mr. P. Scully, Chairperson informed the members that the Audit Committee is required to present the Annual Report each year noting they had met on three occasions in 2020. He updated the members on the areas they had reviewed with the Director of Services, the Head of Finance, the Data Protection Officer and the Internal and Local Government auditors. He acknowledged the hard work of the committee members and thanked the Chief Executive, the staff and the members for their co-operation and assistance.</p> <p>The members joined with Cllr. J. Leahy acknowledging the important work carried out by the Audit Committee.</p> <p>Mr. P. Scully highlighted the on-going reduction of the deficit acknowledging that it is a great credit to the Members and Executive. He also acknowledged that we are living in precarious financial times, with the challenges of Covid-19 and de-carbonisation to the fore.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the members resolved to adopt the Audit Committee Charter 2021.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to adopt the Audit Committee Work Plan 2021.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney thanked Mr. Scully and the Audit Committee for their thorough and practical work. She welcomed Edel Finn, Internal Auditor, to Offaly County Council and thanked her and the audit staff for assisting the committee.</p>

<p><b>DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020 / OVER EXPENDITURE</b></p>	<p>Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F. brought the members attention to the Draft Annual Financial Statement 2020. He advised the members that in 2020 the gross excess expenditure over budget was €27,650,800. As in previous years, recouplements, contra income, additional unbudgeted income and cost savings, counterbalanced this excess expenditure to give a net surplus of €212,234. He welcomed the additional funding provided by the Department Housing, Local Government and Heritage that allowed the Council to balance its accounts in 2020. He also noted that similar support was promised for 2021 and that the 2021 budget was drafted on that basis. Mr. Connolly also stated that a long-term solution to lost rates income from business closures is required. He sought approval for the Annual Financial Statement/ Over Expenditure.</p> <p>On the proposed of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the members resolved to adopt the Annual Financial Statement 2020/ Over Expenditure.</p>
<p><b>ROADS PROGRAMME 2021</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. brought the members attention to the Roads Programme 2021, noting that the members had reviewed it through the Municipal Districts Meetings. He welcomed the introduction of the active travel funding scheme to improve cycling, walking, amenities, linking public transport and linking rail stations with the cycling network. He advised members the scheme will be urban focussed and projects will be proposed to avail of the funding in the amount of €3.5m this year, with a commitment of €20m over 5 years.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick raised concerns about the difficulty in maintaining peat based roads and he sought an update on the motion to re-classify R402 as a national road. Cllr. J. Clendennen welcomed the Active Travel funding noting that there should be timetabled bus stops in every town and village. Cllr. D. Harvey called for car parking for the greenways and Cllr. N. Cribbin highlighted an issue with motor cyclists on the Greenways.</p> <p>Mr. T. Shanahan agreed that peat based roads are a major issue and a peat survey has been undertaken noting that this will provide information for further funding submissions. He advised that no response has been received in relation to the R402 and he agreed to contact the Department again on this matter. He informed he members that Offaly County Council have engaged with the NTA on a national project for survey of bus routes. He agreed that the car parking issue will be discussed at the Municipal District and the motor cyclist issue will be investigated.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens the members resolved to adopt the Roads Programme 2021.</p>
<p><b>LOCAL PROPERTY TAX PRESENTATION</b></p>	<p>Mr. M. Connolly updated the members on the LPT and welcomed the member's decision to maintain the LPT, thereby ensuring €742k was made available to leverage funds for capital projects of scale across the county. He provided the members with an outline of the projects:</p>

- Kinnitty Oris – Route to the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trails, Kinnitty Woods Novice-Grade MTB Loop and Rediscovering Castle Bernard’s Historic Bridges. Funding secured in the amount of €500,000 and €235,330 match funding required. The project is proposed to be completed in August 2022.
- Edenderry Generation Phase 2 – Old Tesco Site Demolition and Blundell development. Total grant sought in the amount of €2,038,284, match funding required in the amount of €226,476. Works to prepare site for a Community Library, and target vacant sites to provide a Master plan linking with economic recovery strategies.
- Tullamore Urban Regeneration Development – Total cost in the amount of €2,993,876, match funding of €748,469 required.
- Ferbane Rural Regeneration /Just Transition Plan - €200,000 required as leverage for potential access for up to €2m under current RRDF rates.

He advised the members that from allocating resources to these projects there is a shortfall of €99,428 from the 2021 LPT fund. Ring-fenced LPT funding from 2020 would be allocated to make up this shortfall.

The members stressed the importance of spreading future LPT funding across the entire county.

Cllr. E. Dooley welcomed the proposal investment in Ferbane citing that it will promote jobs and he thanked all who had made it possible as well as the Chief Executive and Offaly County Council Staff. He noted that it will enhance the well-being of locals with provision of a community crèche, special needs facility and training preparation for employment.

Cllr. N. Cribbin noted his disappointment that the match funding he had sought for the Edenderry Carbon project was not agreed and he sought clarification on using the Just Transition funding for the Ferbane project.

The members agreed that it is great to see funding across different areas of the county and raised queries on the criteria that was used to propose the projects for the LPT funds.

Ms. A. Delaney noted that Cllr. N. Cribbins request had been discussed in detail at the CPG meeting and it was agreed that the match funding he sought did not meet the criteria agreed for the disbursement of ring-fenced LPT funding. She informed the members that all JT Fund applications were required to have match funding sourced from either community or commercial sources depending on their applications. She advised that the Council does not have sufficient funds within the current budget to fund such projects and if this project was funded other groups would have to be invited to apply for similar funding.

Ms Delaney advised the members that the project proposals that have been presented to members today for LPT funding in 2021

	<p>have been well thought out over a period of time and will leverage very significant funding from Central Government.</p> <p>Mr. M. Connolly also advised the members that they had agreed that €100k of the LPT funds in both 2020 and 2021 was ring fenced for projects of scale to match central government funding in areas most effected by the national decarbonisation agenda.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens the members resolved to adopt the allocation of 2021 LPT fund to the various projects as proposed by the Executive.</p>
<b>JUST TRANSITION</b>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney advised the members the third report by Mr. Kieran Mulvey, Just Transition Commissioner, has not yet been published. She informed the members that Strand 1 applications under €100k are progressing and that the Department are reluctant to provide more information on the projects due to GDPR concerns. However, applicants will be invited to webinars to share their projects and to avoid duplication. She noted that the Department are working through the Strand 2 applications and there are 4 working groups collaborating and co-operating with them. She informed the members that the CCMA have met with the consultants EnvEcon for an update on the EU Territorial Plan for the Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>The members thanked her for the update and queried why there is a delay in publishing the JT Commissioner third report and if the EU Territorial plan can be reviewed by Offaly County Council before it is sent to the EU. They also sought an update on new employment creation.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney confirmed that the decision to publish the report is with the Department and she will request input to the EU Territorial Plan. She agreed to discuss employment figures at the next Midland Regional Transition Team meeting.</p>
<b>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the members resolved to suspend standing orders to allow the meeting to continue past 6pm.</p>
<b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT</b>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, C.E., brought the members attention to the monthly management report. She noted that planning applications have increased by 58% compared to the same time last year and with the on-going work on the County Development Plan this has created a significant level of work for Planning. She welcomed the funding for Kinnitty highlighting that the novice route will add to the family experience on the biking routes. She advised that work is on-going on projects for the Rural Development Strategy and there should be range of funding streams that can be availed of. She welcomed the funding for the Court house in Birr. She thanked the members for adopting the Roads Programme 2021 at this meeting. She noted that Climate Change is continuing to be embedded in the day to day work of each section of Offaly County Council and the training programme is on-going throughout the organisation. She acknowledged the significant work carried out on Litter and Waste enforcement by the Environment Staff. She brought the</p>



	<p>members attention to the Pre-Draft National Waste Plan for Circular Economy with a submission deadline of 06/05/21.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney informed the members that Housing Capital construction has re-commenced, rent review letters have been issued, and housing staff continue to liaise with the Department on Housing grants. She acknowledged the work of the Community Response forum working as an excellent multi-agency service. She noted that the Local Enterprise Office will make a presentation to the members at the May meeting with an update on their supports. She highlighted that the shop front scheme has gained some traction and has been extended to all towns excluding Tullamore. She brought the members attention to the detailed report on Broadband/Digital noting the launch of a flagship national level project undertaken by Offaly County Council and Cellnex, which is the first of its kind in Ireland. She advised the finance report is available for their information and she acknowledged the work of staff in processing Covid-19 grants.</p> <p>Cllr. L. Quinn requested that a printed version of the CE report for the Draft County Development Plan be issued to all members.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney advised this would be facilitated.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT</b></p>	<p>Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach advised the members that at the Corporate Policy Group Meeting they discussed the Agenda for this meeting including the LPT report and the revised Standing Orders for casual vacancies. He informed the members that they agreed that one Chain of Office for Offaly County Council is sufficient.</p>
<p><b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b></p>	<p><b>1. Cllr. D. Harvey</b>  <b>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey seconded by Cllr. K. Smollen the members agreed to the motion:</b>          “I Cllr. Declan Harvey would like to call on the housing section of Offaly County Council to write to the Minister of Housing Darragh O’ Brien calling for an increase to the threshold of the allowance for qualification for council housing to be increased from €26,000 to €30,000 and possibly €35,000. Some people do not qualify to go on the housing list because they are over the threshold by a small margin. The middle class are worst affected by this; therefore, an increase would allow these people to have a chance to get on the housing list. In saying this I would like to see the council building more affordable housing with funding from central government.</p> <p>Ms. S. Kennedy advised the members that this is a Department issue and that the social housing assessment regulations have been updated and are in force from 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021. She informed the members that there are 3 bands and Offaly County Council are in band 3. She further advised that the Affordable Housing Bill 2021 when published might provide an avenue for middle income families to buy their own homes and that Offaly County Council is very committed to continue to deliver housing in conjunction with the Approved Housing Bodies. She agreed to circulate the details of the new regulations to the members.</p>

	<p><b>2. Cllr. C. Claffey</b>  <b>On the proposal of Cllr. C. Claffey, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to adopt the motion below:</b>          "That Offaly County Council roll out the provision of free feminine hygiene products in the library and all Council owned public buildings on a trial basis to assess uptake and to prepare and budget for this in 2022"</p> <p>Ms. S. Kennedy agreed to explore recommendations 4.1 and 4.2 of the Discussion paper from the Period Poverty Sub - Committee, National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017 - 2020 published in February. She cautioned that it has not been provided in the Budget for 2021, however alternative funding schemes could be investigated.</p> <p><b>3. Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick</b>  <b>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the members resolved to adopt the motion below:</b>          "Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick is calling Offaly County Council to contact Bord na Mona regarding the proposed wetting of certain areas of Bog lands across the County seeking full clarification on the proposals and the impact this will have on adjoining Farm lands and public roads"</p> <p>Mr. S. Duclot advised the members that Ms. M. Hussey, Senior Engineer, is preparing a co-ordinated response including issues on flooding to BNM and he noted that Dr. Alex Copeland had briefed members on the issues in February. He agreed to contact BNM for clarification and to provide an update at the May meeting.</p> <p><b>4. Cllr. K. Smollen</b>  <b>On the proposal of Cllr. K. Smollen, seconded by Cllr. C. Claffey, the members resolved to adopt the motion below:</b>          "That Offaly County Council calls on the Government to introduce legislation for a period of paid leave to be granted to people in employment who experience miscarriage or still birth, similar to maternity and paternity leave."</p> <p>Mr. M. Connolly agreed to write to the Department and copy same to the members.</p>
<b>COMHFHREAGRAS</b>	The members noted the correspondence issued with the agenda.
<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	<p>Cllr. C. Claffey raised the question – “Can the council provide an update as agreed on the feasibility of establishing a Vacant properties task force”. She noted that she was satisfied with the response provided by the Planning Department as outlined below:</p> <p>As part of the Planning Team plan for 2021 Vacant and Derelict Sites have been given priority status. An Internal Working Steering group has been established between Housing and Planning on this matter, and have met on a number of occasions to discuss the way forward. Three successful CPO’s have been completed to date by Housing on vacant properties and future works will proceed subject to availability of resources.</p>

	<p>She sought further clarification on the steering Group, the register and targets. Cllr. K. Smollen requested that vacant commercial sites in Clara need to be included.</p> <p>Mr. S. Duclot responded that work on this has been impacted by Covid-19, however it will be prioritised in late 2021. He advised that he will respond to Cllr. C. Claffey on the working programme and he confirmed Clara will be included in their investigation.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Harvey brought the members attention to Irish Rails investment in new trains, highlighting the importance of ensuring that Tullamore Train Station is included in any new schedules and development.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll requested the member's permission to use their images from the Zoom meeting on social media and they agreed.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll brought the members attention to the Offaly Volunteer Centre due to open on 1<sup>st</sup> May at Bury Quay headed by Ms. Deirdre Fox and he stressed the importance for all voluntary organisations to register with the IBOS website.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll commended Midland Tribune Reporter Karen O'Grady noting that this is her last time to report on Offaly County Council meetings, noting that she has always reported fairly and honestly and he wished her well on her new venture.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney advised the members that the last date for submissions on the Draft County Development Plan is 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.</p>
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This concluded the business of the meeting.

**MINUTES CONFIRMED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH** **RUNAÍ**

**17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**