

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE ON
MONDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. D. Harvey, Cathaoirleach, Cllrs. J. Carroll (R); C. Claffey (R), J. Clendennen (R), E. Dooley (R), N. Feighery (R), E. Fitzpatrick (R), J. Foley (R), M. Hackett (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 and K. Smollen (R)
APOLOGIES:	Cllr. N. Cribbin
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. (R); Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S. (R); Mr. S. Duclot (R); Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F.; Mr. E. Fennell, S.E.O., Meetings Administrator and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O. (R)
CATHAOIRLEACH ADDRESS	<p>Cllr. D. Harvey, Cathaoirleach invited the members to join him in a photo shoot at Esker Hills Golf Club on Tuesday 21st September at 12.00, organised to show support for Shane Lowry in his participation in the upcoming Ryder Cup Event. He advised the members that Covid-19 regulations would be in place for the photo shoot.</p> <p>The members joined with Cllrs. F. Moran and K. Smollen in wishing Shane Lowry, his family, friends and colleagues the best of luck noting that it is a great achievement. Cllr. S. O'Brien joined the members in their praise for Shane Lowry. He thanked him for his support for a draw in aid of the Offaly Hospice taking place next week with details available at www.offalyhospice.ie</p>
VOTES OF SYMPATHY	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:</p> <p>The Feury Family, Lismany, Laurencetown, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway on the death of father Martin Feury;</p> <p>The Galvin Family, The Grove, Arden Lane, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on the death of their mother Mary Galvin;</p> <p>Ms. Fiona Craig, Carraig Cluain, Clara Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on the death of her father Joe Craig;</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>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Feighery, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members resolved to adopt the Minutes of the In-Committee Meeting of Offaly County Council on 12th July, 2021.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Feighery, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, 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 19th July, 2021.</p> <p>Cllr. F. Moran sought clarification on the requirements for homeowners in regard to the newly revised LPT and if Bord na Móna have been invited to a meeting with Offaly County Council.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive advised the members that Bord na Móna have been invited and no response has been received to date. She further noted that the ESB will attend the October meeting.</p> <p>Mr. M. Connolly confirmed that homeowners are not required to contact Revenue directly. An interactive tool and information are available on their website and Revenue will contact homeowners directly across the country in next few weeks. He also confirmed the Approved Housing Bodies are required to register and pay LPT on behalf of their tenants.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING</p>	<p>The members noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 18th June 2021; • Minutes of the Community, Cultural and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 19th February, 2021.
<p>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED, PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED, FOR PROPOSED NEW LINK ROAD, HIGH STREET TO TANYARD AND ONE-WAY TRAFFIC SYSTEM IN O'CONNOR SQUARE., TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. updated the members on the proposed new link road from High Street to Tanyard. This will involve a one-way system that will go past the Roselawn Estate, through O'Connor Square, reducing traffic congestion and providing 7 additional car parking spaces. He noted that 2 submissions were received from the public and 2 submissions from prescribed bodies.</p> <p>He advised the members that following consultation at Tullamore MD and with the Roselawn residents it was agreed to provide a controlled pedestrian crossing in the Roselawn Estate, extend the existing boundary, replant hedgerows, trees and estate works including public lighting. He noted the proposed road has been designed in accordance with Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, with the design acting as a traffic calming measure.</p> <p>He advised the members on the response to the prescribed bodies submissions. The Ecological report stated that the nearest SAC</p>

	<p>is Charleville Wood and it unlikely to have any significant effect on this site and the percent for art scheme was not included as it is not a national project.</p> <p>Cllr. T. McCormack commended council staff for their engagement with the public, noting compromise was reached on some issues. The project is welcomed by businesses in the town as it will increase connectivity, take pressure off traffic in the area and allow O'Connor Square to be used in different ways.</p> <p>The members agreed it is an excellent project that will alleviate traffic congestion and there was excellent engagement with residents of the Roselawn Estate.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack, 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, for Proposed New Link Road, High Street to Tanyard and One-Way Traffic System in O'Connor Square, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, with the amendments that the proposed courtesy crossing on the link road is replaced with a controlled crossing and a tree planting schedule is implemented in consultation with the Roselawn Residents Association.</p>
<p>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO SELL 0.98 ACRES AT TOWNSPARK, TOGHER DAINGEAN TO ANNETTE MCNAMEE, TOGHER, DAINGEAN IN THE SUM OF €18,000</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S informed the members that this land is adjacent to Ms. McNamee's garden centre and is required for expansion of her business and is subject to planning permission.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. R. McDermott, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick the members resolved to the adopt the Section 183 of The Local Government Act, 2001, for the sale 0.98 Acres At Townspark, Togher Daingean to Annette McNamee, Togher, Daingean in the Sum of €18,000.</p>
<p>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO SELL 0.20 ACRES AT CLONMINCH, TULLAMORE TO KIERAN AND MICHELL EGAN IN THE SUM OF €50,000</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. advised the members that this land was advertised for sale via advertising and tender process and 2 tenders were received with Kieran and Michelle Egan submitting the highest tender.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey the members resolved to the adopt the Section 183 of The Local Government Act, 2001, for the sale of 0.20 Acres at Clonminch, Tullamore to Kieran and Michelle Egan in the sum of €50,000.</p>
<p>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO SELL 0.078 ACRES AT TULLY</p>	<p>T. Shanahan informed the members that an expression of interest was received from Shane Hunter to purchase this small piece of ground to allow him to relocate the entrance to his property to a safer location.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. K. Smollen, the members resolved to adopt the Section 183 of The Local</p>

AND FAHEREEN, TOBER TO SHANE HUNTER IN THE SUM OF €1,000	Government Act, 2001, Offaly for the sale of 0.078 Acres at Tully and Fahereen, Tober to Shane Hunter in the sum of €1,000.
SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO SELL SITE NO. 18, FERBANE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY PARK TO WHITERIVER (WRG) LIMITED FOR THE SUM OF €62,500	<p>Mr. S. Duclot, D.O.S. advised the members of the proposed sale of site number 18 Ferbane Business & Technology Park to Whiteriver (WRG) Ltd. giving this business a good opportunity to expand their business, subject to planning permission.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of The Local Government Act, 2001, for the sale of Site No. 18, Ferbane Business & Technology Park to Whiteriver (WRG) Limited for the sum Of €62,500.</p>
SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO SELL NO. 25 AND 26 FERBANE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY PARK TO C&C PROPERTY INVESTMENTS LTD. IN THE SUM OF €50,000	<p>Mr. S. Duclot informed the members of the proposed sale of 25 and 26 Ferbane Business and Technology Park to Tom & Sarah Curley to allow them to expand their business.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of The Local Government Act, 2001, for the sale of No. 25 and 26 Ferbane Business & Technology Park to C&C Property Investments Ltd. in the sum of €50,000</p> <p>Cllr. F. Moran requested an update on the serviced sites at Cluain Fia, Clara for the next meeting.</p>
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2020	M. Connolly, H.O.F. brought the members attention to the Annual Financial Statement 2020, advising that the Local Government Auditor has completed her audit and there is no change to unaudited Annual Financial Statement 2020. The audited AFS is brought to the members for noting.
STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT 2020	Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F. advised the members that Statutory Audit Report 2020, as circulated was completed in early September. This is brought to the members for noting. He pointed out that the auditor had to work in different circumstances due to Covid-19 and had more areas to cover including the re-start business grants and rates waiver scheme.
NOMINATION FOR THE BOARD OF TULLAMORE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE	<p>Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S. sought a proposer and seconder for each of three nominees to become directors for the new company being established for the Tullamore Community Arts Centre due to open in 2022.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Owens expressed regret that only 3 directors are required and he thanked Cllr. T. McCormack for his work on the current Board.</p> <p>Cllr. T. McCormack thanked the Chief Executive and the current Arts Centre Board for their support while he served on the Board.</p>

	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack the members resolved to elect Cllrs. D. Harvey and D. Owens to the Board of Tullamore Community Arts Centre.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. K. Smollen, seconded by Cllr. C. Claffey the members resolved to elect Cllr. S. Obrien to the Board of the Tullamore Community Arts Centre.</p> <p>Cllr. S. O’Brien thanked his proposer and seconder and expressed his delight to be a member of the new board.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll wished the Board luck and he queried if fund raising had commenced and if the rise in building costs will impact on the budget for the project.</p> <p>Ms. S. Kennedy thanked the members for the nominations, noting it will take few months to establish new Board and the existing board will stay in place in the meantime. She acknowledged that €500k in fund raising had been committed to by the Board. Covid-19 had hampered their efforts, but fundraising will commence in next few weeks. She confirmed that a contract was in place for the project, but Covid-19 has had a huge impact on the timeline, the contractors and costs. She advised that the design team are trying to minimise costs and an update will be provided to the members.</p> <p>Cllr. J Leahy highlighted that the benefits of increasing the LPT can be seen in projects such as the Tullamore Community Arts Centre.</p> <p>Cllr. F. Moran noted that the rise in construction cost is also having an impact on the housing aid grants.</p>
<p>JUST TRANSITION</p>	<p>Mr. S. Duclot, D.O.S. provided the members with and update on the last MRTT meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Just Transition fund has 44 projects under contract, amounting to 75% of the approved projects and creating 44 direct jobs and 500 indirect jobs. Administration will be transferred to Offaly County Council by the end of the year. • EU territorial draft plan is due to be published in late autumn with further public consultation over the 5-6 year period. • Bord na Móna gave a breakdown of 885 jobs projected over 6 years, 250 of those direct jobs, 300 in construction and 335 jobs over other enterprises. • Further discussions with the ESB in regard to the community gain fund will take place in October. <p>He advised the members that Offaly County Council are entitled to have another member on the MRTT, which will re-enforce the Council’s presence on the team and he sought nominations for this role.</p>

Cllr. E. Dooley expressed his doubts with regard to the Bord na Móna job projections, noting that some are redeployment to other areas. He queried if there would be more funding announced, pointing out that there is a gap of €10m. He noted that due to the peat depth survey the cost of re-construction of the road network in the peatlands is well known and he called on the Chief Executive of Bord na Móna to attend a Council meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick the members resolved to elect Cllr. Robert McDermott to the Midland Regional Transition Team.

Cllr. J. Clendennen raised concerns about the level of jobs created from the Just Transition funding and of the plans for Lough Boora. He highlighted that there is currently no bike rental at Lough Boora, as the company that won the tender have not yet provided the service. He expressed concerns that other services, such as the café may suffer and called on Bord na Móna to outline their plans for the Discovery Park.

Cllr. T. McCormack suggested writing to the ESB with regard to re-opening Shannonbridge power station and the members raised concerns about possible electricity shortages, increases in carbon tax and the unaffordability of retrofit for a large number of the public. Cllr. K. Smollen voiced his concerns on the level of poverty in the county. Cllr. N. Cribbin called for support for the Rhode Green Energy Hub.

In response, Ms. A. Delaney advised the members that more detail on the Bord na Móna jobs announcement has been sought there is continued engagement with Bord na Móna and she agreed to write to them again to invite them to a meeting. She confirmed that the Council are liaising with the Department with regard to the watercourse roads effected by peat and are preparing a paper in relation to the EU Territorial Plan. She informed the members that she is waiting on clarification for the administration of the existing tranche of funding. She agreed that the lack of bike hire at Lough Boora is of concern as this is one of our important tourist sites. However, she noted that there is a strategic review being carried out for Lough Boora in conjunction with Bord na Móna and Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S. and Offaly County Council Arts Officer Ms. Sally O’Leary.

She welcomed Cllr. R. McDermott to the Midland Regional Transition Team. She informed the members that a meeting had taken place with ESB three weeks ago to progress the community gain fund and she noted that the ESB want one proposal for Offaly and Longford. She concurred with Cllr. K. Smollen’s poverty concerns. She advised the members that the Retrofit programme is progressing and a full update on housing will be presented at the October meeting.

	<p>In response to the members concerns on job creation, Mr. S. Duclot advised that the first projects from the Just Transition funding have just started and they are three year projects. He noted that re-opening Shannonbridge power station by the ESB would require planning permission and that the Tourism Officer is in discussion with Bord na Móna to assist with the marketing of Lough Boora. He noted that the EU Just Transition is a six-year plan that will require further consultation and there will be opportunity for members to make a stronger case for Offaly. He noted that a meeting with TDs had taken place in May and they agreed County Offaly should be a priority.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley queried if there would be another call for funding projects. In response, Ms. A. Delaney gave her understanding that the next funding will be from the EU Territorial Plan.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Leahy proposed a meeting with the Oireachtas members and the Corporate Policy Group with regard to the carbon tax in the next budget. Cllr. N. Feighery advised that the carbon tax has already been legislated for. Cllr. J. Clendennen called for clarity on Bord na Móna interest in Lough Boora and Cllr. D. Owens queried if it could be bought out by Offaly County Council.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney confirmed that Bord na Móna are working with Offaly County Council and they see Lough Boora as a prime site. Cllr. T. McCormack welcomed Tullamore DEW new visitor centre opening at their plant.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, brought the members attention to the monthly management report. She highlighted that Offaly County Council in conjunction with EMRA are hosting the Encore 2021 virtual conference on Climate Action next week, focussing on areas such as Climate Action, Ecosystem Services and the Circular Economy for a Green and Sustainable Transition. She pointed out that due to Covid-19 restrictions it is unfortunate that the conference could not be attended in person by participants.</p> <p>She advised the members that the planning statistics are set out for their information. She welcomed the public consultation on the Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link, the approval to progress to construction phase 1 for the Edenderry Inner Relief Road and the progress on the NTA Active Travel schemes.</p> <p>She noted that there is a significant level of complaints with regard to litter and waste and the Environment team continue to pursue the offenders legally.</p> <p>She advised the members that a housing report will be presented to the members at the October meeting and will include an update on the New Housing for All policy announced by the Government and a progress report on the Retrofit programme.</p>

She noted the Covid-19 Community Response Helpline is still in operation, the Local Community Development Committee continue to work on progressing their projects and she highlighted the work of Comhairle na Nóg.

She welcomed the various Arts and Library projects that are taking place and she acknowledged the work by staff in Tullamore, Birr and Edenderry Municipal Districts in their assistance for recent events in those towns. She noted that Sports events continue to run outdoors in line with Covid-19 restrictions. She highlighted the promotion works for Tourism through social media, TV and other campaigns. She informed the members that the Local Enterprise Office continue to offer various supports for businesses and the Financial report is available to the members for their information.

Cllr. R. McDermott brought the members attention to the housing situation, noting that currently there are 532 applications on the housing waiting list, with another 816 cases being supported by HAP payments, as well as 22 families currently in emergency accommodation. This is a very difficult situation for the families throughout Offaly who find themselves in this position and the Council should make every effort possible to try to improve their situation.

He welcomed the news that there is 100+ new builds coming on stream shortly, which is a positive and much needed step in the right direction if the Council is to make an impact on the current housing crisis.

The “Housing for All” plan, which was presented by Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, was passed in the Dail recently with cross party support. Contained within this plan is the provision of an unprecedented e4billion per annum until 2030 to deliver houses throughout the country. There are also provisions in this progressive initiative for First time buyers and low-income households. This plan presents a powerful opportunity to turn the tide on the housing crisis.

This enormous housing budget brings with it a great responsibility for local authorities, and he wants to ensure that Offaly County Council and its residents are in the best position possible, to get the maximum benefit possible from this Housing Plan.

It is critical that the Council positions itself to ensure that the maximum available amount for housing is drawn down.

On the proposal of Cllr. R. McDermott, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens the members resolved to invite Minister O’Brien to meet with the Councillors urgently, so that the Minister can outline and explain the “Housing For All - A New Housing Plan for Ireland” policy.

Cllr. D. Owens pointed out that new powers for funding of CPO would help with dereliction and asked that Offaly County Council consider setting up a cross party committee to monitor and report on housing issues on a 6 monthly basis.

Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick noted it was disappointing the Encore Conference is virtual due to Covid-19 restrictions but he hoped through visual presentation of the county that participants will get a good sense of Offaly.

Cllr. O'Brien asked for an update on the water supply in Offaly following the recent issues in Dublin and Gorey. He welcomed the Public Consultation on the Tullamore to Kilbeggan N52 link and invited the public to view the preferred route.

Cllr. F. Moran requested information on Cluain Fia, Clara, DPGs and a list of OPGs for October meeting. He congratulated all those involved in the recently organised town events and he queried if Clara could be considered to hold a Christmas Market. He thanked the Chief Executive for her monthly report noting that the content is fundamental to the running of county.

Cllr. J. Clendennen acknowledged the success of culture night and the September sessions, noting the rich aspect of culture and talent on show. He called on positive feedback to be sent to the department to seek funding to run the September Sessions as an annual event for the whole county. He highlighted the dog fouling/control issue during the pandemic and requested the number of spot fines be included in the report. He noted the commitment of the dog warden team and that additional initiatives might assist them in their work. He queried the timeframe for the opening of the Aras and if the community response helpline service will continue to be provided.

Cllr. K. Smollen voiced his concerns that members did not have any input on housing allocations.

Cllr. N. Feighery welcomed the on-going development of the N52 link noting that it will provide key infrastructure for the county. Cllr. T. McCormack agreed the link will also benefit the development of Durrow Abbey, the holywell and high cross. He welcomed the success of Culture night, events in the square and positive ageing week events.

Cllr. J. Carroll enquired if any information with regard to financial assistance from the Department had been received.

Ms. A. Delaney thanked the members for their comments on the report. She advised the members that management had met with Minister O'Brien last week in relation to the governments New Housing for All policy, noting it is a very significant document and a presentation will be outlined to the members at the October meeting. She stated that there are a lot of new schemes and new

initiatives which Offaly County Council will implement to the best of the Council's ability. In response to the request for a cross party committee for housing, she noted this will have to be considered separately, as currently reporting is provided to SPC, CPG and then to the council.

She advised the members that Ms. Mary Hussey has been appointed to facilitate the Encore conference and there will be opportunities for side exhibitions. She noted that a full report on Culture night and the September sessions will be provided at the next meeting. She also noted that a lot of development work is on-going in relation to Arts currently.

She informed the members that the opening of Aras is in line with the phased return to work and caution is being advised, but she hoped that the next meeting will be held a hybrid meeting in accordance with public health guidelines. She advised that the Community Response helpline will be available until 22nd October and this is being reviewed at national level. She cautioned that housing allocations are bound by GDPR and the scheme of letting priorities and have to be implemented in accordance with these protocols. She also welcomed the N52 link noting it will be beneficial for business and tourism. She confirmed that they are engaging with the Department in relation to the budget and funding shortfall.

Mr. T. Shanahan advised the members that as per the audits carried out on Offaly's water supply, he could confirm water supplies in Offaly are safe. He noted Offaly County Council has an excellent record for water treatment and excellent ground water quality due to the large number of small schemes. He also pointed out that there is a 24 hour automatic monitoring and alarm system at our treatment plants and that Irish water have invested in Tullamore and Birr Water Supplies and are continuing to invest in the county's water schemes. He noted the request for a Christmas market by Cllr. F. Moran and supported by Cllr. K. Smollen noting it will be reviewed and he will investigate if funding is available.

Mr. M. Connolly confirmed the Council is in contact with the Department in relation to the rates shortfall. He agreed that pressure needs to be applied on the Department and representation from the Oireachtas members would be beneficial. He advised that the provision for an increased deficit is in the event that Covid-19 funding support is not received. He noted that the budget 2021 was based on similar support being in place, additional costs and drops in income will also have an affect on service provision. Pressure for additional funding is being maintained at CCMA level.

Cllr. D. Harvey, Cathaoirleach, thanked the Chief Executive for her report, he acknowledged the success of the Fayre in Square noting it was a great outdoor event and thanked staff involved in

	<p>the event and in culture night. He noted the events were organised in a safe manner and provided a great opportunity for the public to socialise.</p>
CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT	<p>Cllr. D. Harvey, Cathaoirleach advised the members that at the Corporate Policy Group Meeting they discussed the photo shoot to support Shane Lowry and the Agenda for this meeting.</p>
NOTICE OF MOTIONS	<p>Cllr. S. O'Brien informed the members he recently attended a function in Pullough, where concerns were raised about the water level on the Grand Canal, which had prevented a large historical barge travelling to the event. He advised that the Inland Waterways have also expressed their concerns, as they not seeing boats/barges coming through Tullamore. He pointed out the success of the Fleadh in 2008 and that the canal is a vital tourism asset. He proposed contacting Waterways Ireland to see what their plans are for their continued commitment to the operation of the canal.</p> <p>Cllr. K. Smollen agreed that the Grand Canal is a very under-utilised facility and that local residents have done a great job in clearing obstacles from the canal, but boat owners cannot use it as boats could get damaged.</p> <p>Cllr. T. McCormack added his support for the motion adding that it is another tourist amenity. The council have had the foresight to develop the greenways to bring life back to that area and he pointed out with reduced rainfall some areas have dried out.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Clendennen noted that there is a need for an overall masterplan for the canal and the lack of life-buoys needs attention.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. K. Smollen the members resolved "to request an urgent meeting with Waterways Ireland to discuss the condition of the Grand Canal and the fact that Barges and Boats cannot use the Canal due to low water levels. This is having a serious impact on the opportunity for various communities to develop tourism products and for Barge and Boat owners to use the Canal for leisure purposes. The Canal is considered a very important asset to our County. Waterways Ireland are requested to attend the next meeting of the Council in October 2021."</p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick informed the members that the wording for his motion is incorrect on the agenda and he had submitted revised wording.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved "That Offaly County Council show its appreciation by way of a Civic Reception to our Offaly Olympians and Paralympians who represented this county with great honour and distinction at the Tokyo Games 2021"</p>

	Cllr. D. Harvey agreed to liaise with the CPG to organise the reception.
COMHDHÁLACHA	<p>AILG September 2021 Training Programme Module 1;“Government Decision on the Reform on Remuneration Payable to Local Authority Elected Members and Update on Planning and Development Bill 2021 and other Planning Related Matters - Sligo 2nd October 2021. <i>It was agreed Cllr. F. Moran would attend.</i></p> <p>(OPR) and the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) webinar on Friday, 24thof September from 10-11.30am via GoToWebinar and with the subject of ‘On and Offshore Renewables’ and climate policy in Development Plans. <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences - Health and Safety in the Workplace, O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, 24th to 26th September 2021. <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences - The Fair Deal Scheme, The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth, 1st to 3rd October 2021. <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences - Mental Health and Wellbeing, O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, 8th to 10th October 2021. <i>It was agreed Cllrs. N. Feighery and N. Cribbin would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences - A Practical Guide to Budget 2022, The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth, 15th to 17th October 2021. <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p>
COMHFHREAGRAS	<p>Cllr. K. Smollen voiced his support for the resolution from Wicklow County Council calling for Automated External Defibrillators as a planning condition for new housing estates.</p> <p>The members noted the correspondence issued with the agenda.</p>
ANY OTHER BUSINESS	None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____

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18th October 2021