



## COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

**Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.**

### **I LATHAIR**

Comhairleoir S. MacCraith, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri Mac Seafraida, Daltúin, Ní Fhúarthain, D. Ó Donnabháin, S. Ó Coileán, M. Ó Murchú, Ó hEarchaí, R. Mhic Cárthaigh, Ó Colmáin, C. Ó Murchú, Ní Cochláin, S. Ó Donnabháin, Críod, Ó Gráda, Ó Luasaigh, Ó Riain Ó Conbhuí, P. Ó Suilleabháin, C. MacCárthaigh, Ó Ceocháin, Sheppard, De Barra, Rasmussen, N. Ó Coileán, A. Ó Suilleabháin, Uí Thuama, Ó hEigearthaigh, S. NicCárthaigh, Léanacháin-Foghlú, N. MacCárthaigh, Ní Bhrian, Ó Floinn, Ó Dúghaill, Mhic Dháibhí, J. Uí Mhurchú, Ó Sé, G. Ó Murchú, B. Ó Muimhneacháin, Uí Mhaoláin, T. Ó Coileán, D. Ó Coileán, Ó Cearúill, N. Ó Donnabháin, C. Ó Suilleabháin, P.G. Ó Murchú, Uí hEigearthaigh, Ó hAodha, Ó hUrthuile.

### **PRESENT**

Councillor S. McGrath, County Mayor presided.

Councillors Jeffers, D'Alton, Forde, Ó Donnabháin, J. Collins, M. Murphy, Harris, R. McCarthy, Coleman, K. Murphy, Coughlan, J. O'Donovan, Creed, O'Grady, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, P. O'Sullivan, K. McCarthy, Keohane, Sheppard, Barry, Rasmussen, N. Collins, A. O'Sullivan, Twomey, Ml. Hegarty, S. McCarthy, Linehan-Foley, N. McCarthy, O'Brien, O'Flynn, Doyle, Dawson, J. Murphy, O'Shea, G. Murphy, B. Moynihan, Mullane, T. Collins, D. Collins, Carroll, N. O'Donovan, C. O'Sullivan, P.G. Murphy, Hegarty, Hayes, Hurley.

Chief Executive, Senior Executive Officer.

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

1/1-1

Proposed by Councillor F. O'Flynn

Seconded by Councillor M. D'Alton

### **RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of meeting of the Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2/1-1

Proposed by Councillor J. P. O'Shea

Seconded by Councillor T. Collins

### RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of meeting of the Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

## VOTES OF SYMPATHY

3/1-1

TO: The family of Elizabeth Dunphy, nee Lynch, Mitchelstown.

TO: The family of Tom Joe O'Riordan, Castlelyons.

TO: Helen O'Sullivan, Mallow Office, on the death of her father, Tim.

TO: John McKay, former employee, on the death of his wife, Maura.

Members complimented Corporate Affairs for the token left at the late Cllr. Claire Cullinane's seat.

### Suspension of Standing Orders – NAMA properties

Councillor D. O'Grady proposed, seconded by Councillor M. Mullane, the suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the recent announcement by NAMA on the number of properties made available to Cork County Council.

It was agreed that this matter would be taken at 1pm.

## STATUTORY BUSINESS

### Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001:

Members noted the following disposals.

### DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT REENROUR, BANTRY, CO. CORK

4(a)/1-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016.

**Situation:** Disposal of lands at Reenrou, Bantry, Co.Cork.

**Area:** 0.116 Ha.

**To Whom It Is Proposed**

**To Dispose:**

**Raymond O'Callaghan, The Cove, Reenrour, Bantry, Co.Cork.**

**Consideration:**

**€7,500 inclusive of costs.**

**DISPOSAL OF PUMPHOUSE AND SITE AT DERRYMIHAN EAST,  
CASTLETOWNBEARHAVEN, CO. CORK.**

**4(b)/1-1**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016.

**Situation:**

**Disposal of Pumphouse and Site at Derrymihan East, Castletown Bearhaven.**

**Area:**

**0.0863 hectares**

**From Whom Acquired:**

**Property registered to Cork County Council in 1985. Acquisition predates Property Section's records.**

**To Whom It Is Proposed**

**To Dispose:**

**Michael Donegan, Derrymihan East, Castletown Bearhaven.**

**Consideration:**

**€6,000**

**DISPOSAL OF LAND AT TONAFORA, DUNMANWAY, CO. CORK**

**4(c)/1-1**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2016.

**Situation:**

**Tonafora, Dunmanway.**

**Area:**

**0.707 hectares**

**From Whom Acquired:**

**Old Acquisition.**

**To Whom It Is Proposed**

**To Dispose:**

**Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport**

**Consideration:**

**Grant of €3.8m for Dunmanway Swimming Pool**

## **REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES**

**Bandon Kinsale Municipal District:**

### **REPORT UNDER SECTION 179 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 - N71 HALFWAY ROUNDABOUT LANDSCAPING SCHEME**

**5/1-1**

Proposed by Councillor K. Murphy

Seconded by Councillor R. McCarthy

#### **RESOLVED:**

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, notice of the proposed development was published, that one submission was received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following:-

**N71 Halfway Roundabout Landscaping Scheme.”**

**Roads and Transport SPC:**

### **POLICY ON VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS**

**6/1-1**

Members made the following points:-

- Motorists become over familiar if signs are left in one place too long;
- Location of signs should be at discretion of the Area Engineer;
- Policy provides effective method of dealing with speeding in built up areas;
- Could data collected be used in prosecutions;
- Small communities may need assistance with funding for these signs;
- Cameras should also be located with the signs;
- Consider traffic lights on approach to villages;
- Commend SPC for bringing forward this initiative.

On the proposal of Councillor D. Hurley, seconded by Councillor F. O’Flynn, the Policy on Activated Signs was approved. It was suggested that this Policy be reviewed at SPC in due course.

## **CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

### **BROADBAND COVERAGE IN RURAL IRELAND**

**7/1-1**

Members noted letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, from the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, in response to Council’s motion of 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, in relation to broadband coverage in rural Ireland.

During a discussion, Members made the following points:-

- The Broadband Plan is nowhere near completion and there are implications for businesses in the interim;
- Explore novel initiative to support businesses in the interim;
- Reports are aspirational nothing happening give us definite guidelines when this will be done;
- Providers have nothing to do with National Broadband Plan;
- The laying of cables is only a PR stunt not going far enough only 200/300 metres up the road;
- The lack of phone coverage in West Cork needs to be looked at;
- EIR are investing in broadband but not going far enough they need to be subsidised for the next 3 years;
- Request EIR to address Members on the process of broadband rollout and the issues they are facing;
- Ascertain if there is a policy on the laying of fibre optic cable.

It was agreed to write back to the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, seeking assistance for smaller Broadband Providers until the National Broadband Plan is adopted, to allow them to upgrade their infrastructure in the short and medium term and to ask the Minister to clarify the position regarding only running fibre-optic cabling part way along roads.

### **PRICING OF GOODS IN POUNDS AND EUROS**

**8/1-1**

Members noted letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2016, from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, in response to Council's motion of 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, in relation to prices of goods in pounds and Euros.

### **GLOBAL VALUATIONS**

**9/1-1**

Members noted letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2016, from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, in response to Council's letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2016, regarding global valuations.

Cllr. D. O'Grady said that this was a very disappointing response from the Department and the Council is facing huge difficulty with the loss of income and no compensation. He said that the Council should write to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government when the rates are being collected, requesting that the Local Government Fund be used for compensation. It was also agreed to write to Micheál Martin seeking the support of the Fianna Fáil Party in this proposal.

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **VELOCITY PATCHERS**

**10/1-1**

Councillor Cathal Rasmussen proposed, seconded by Councillor A. Barry, the following notice of motion:-

“That this Council give a full breakdown of the number of hours worked with each new high velocity patcher and the locations (each municipal district and by town if available) which each new machine was used over the last 12 months.”

Members noted report from the Director of Services (Roads), which outlined as follows:-

Cork County Council currently operates a fleet of 12 velocity patchers working actively (with a 2001 registered vehicle as a backup).

The choice of method for patching and pothole repairs lies with the Municipal District Engineers and currently on rural roads three methods are used:

1. Velocity Patchers
2. Conventional Hot patchers
3. Delay set macadam.

The Velocity Patcher is the preferred method from a quality viewpoint (once weather conditions allow) and the use of delay set macadam is only considered to be a temporary repair, although in very bad weather it may be the only feasible option. Irrespective of the method used the cost of the work including labour, materials and hire of machinery must be met from the Road Maintenance Budget of the Municipal District.

The first self propelled velocity patcher was introduced into the Northern Division, where there was already widespread use of Conventional Hot patchers, in 1995 and by 2008 that Division has moved over fully to use of velocity patchers.

A tow behind velocity patcher was introduced in the Southern Division in the mid nineties but its use was abandoned some years later as it was proving problematic.

Three self propelled velocity patchers were put into service between the Southern and Western Divisions in early 2012 and a further three have been added in the interim.

The approximate discharge hours for velocity patchers among the Municipal Districts in 2016 up to mid December are:

<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Bandon – Kinsale	1275
Blarney – Macroom	1498
Cobh	500
East Cork	1218
Fermoy	3205
Kanturk – Mallow	3940
West Cork	4985

A further three velocity patchers have been ordered recently and are due for delivery in mid 2017. It is envisaged that one of these will be allocated full time to the East Cork Municipal District, releasing the velocity patcher that has been shared by the Cobh and East Cork Municipal Districts in recent years for more use in Cobh, if required there, or elsewhere in the Southern Division. The backup patcher will be assigned between the Cobh and East Cork Municipal Districts, when feasible, until the new unit is delivered. The other two new machines will be assigned to the Western Division. In order to achieve maximum efficiency from the velocity patchers it is imperative to have local storage facilities for bitumen binder and an additional storage tank will be procured, to be located permanently in Killeagh, in the coming months.

During a discussion, Members made the following points:-

- The amount of hours for Cobh is very low in comparison to other Municipal Districts;
- Will the patcher be made solely available to the Cobh Electoral Area and kept there permanently;
- Welcomed that the roads in the Cobh area will be addressed;
- How is it determined where in the County the patchers go;
- Is there enough storage for the velocity patchers and is there the manpower to operate 3 extra patchers;
- Queried why the Ballicollig/Carrigaline Municipal District was not listed.

The Chief Executive said that Velocity Patchers can only be used in dry weather and the usage in the Council is 85% which is quite high. He said the distribution of patchers across the County is reasonably fair but acknowledges that Cobh needs more. He outlined that Cobh was 5.8% of Cork County's total road network and had 3% of the time of the Velocity Patcher. He said the Council is making provision for the storage of materials and the storage of patchers would not hinder their use.

#### **ST. STEPHENS HOSPITAL, SARFIELD COURT, GLANMIRE**

11/1-1

Proposed by Councillor G. Keohane

Seconded by Councillor N. Collins

#### **RESOLVED:**

“That this Council write to the HSE and to the Minister for Health to invest money into the St Stephens Hospital, Sarsfield Court, Glanmire. This Hospital site sits on a 117 acre site, the main hospital building is underutilised many separate buildings scattered throughout this site are derelict. This hospital is used to treat mental health patients, children with learning difficulties and a teenage fostering unit. With proper investment and planning this site could cater for an A&E Department, a 24/7 suicide prevention unit, a homeless shelter, minor surgery etc.”

Members supported the proposal and said that this would be an ideal location for an A&E Department with its proximity to the City and road networks, with huge potential for proper parking facilities.

It was agreed to write to the HSE and the Minister for Health.

## **SOCIAL HOUSING FOR SEPARATED PEOPLE**

12/1-1

Councillor Noel Collins proposed, seconded by Councillor M. Linehan-Foley, the following notice of motion:-

“That this Council request the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to investigate and remedy the plight of older separated men and women with marital and relationship problems, particularly in their quest for social housing and that consideration of such cases be considered under the Social Housing Leasing Scheme.”

It was agreed to remove the word “older” from the motion.

Members noted report from the Senior Executive Officer, which outlined as follows:-

*“ With regards the social housing requirements of older separated individuals, this category of applicant is given the same consideration as any other and they are assessed in accordance with the Allocations Scheme having regard to their need and current circumstances. If approved for social housing support they are placed on the Housing List and their need may be met through a variety of options, including Social Housing by either the Local Authority or an approved housing body, Social Leasing or through HAP or RAS.”*

Single applicants are normally approved for 1 bedroomed units, however, approval for larger accommodation can be given where separated parents have full custody or overnight access to their children.

To-date over 300 1 & 2 bed properties have been provided under Social Leasing and the housing need of over 1,000 single person households has been met under HAP & RAS tenancies in Co. Cork.

During a discussion, Members made the following points:-

- Separated people are victims of the housing crisis as they do not qualify for social housing if they are part owners of a home;
- Those paying maintenance are also affected;
- Some single people are on the housing list for 10years or more and their share from a property is mitigating against them;
- The lack of 1 and 2 bedroomed stock is a contributing factor;
- There is a resistance from developers to build single units, this needs to be addressed;
- Council made a change in 2015 by allocating 20% of 2 bedroom houses to single persons;

It was agreed refer the matter to the Minister for Housing and the Housing SPC.

## **CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

### **APPOINTMENT OF GARDA COMMISSIONER**

13/1-1

Members noted letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, from An Garda Síochána, in response to Council’s letter of 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2016, regarding the appointment of Michael Finn as Asst. Garda Commissioner.



## **M20 MOTORWAY**

14/1-1

Members noted letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2016, from the TII, in response to Council's motion of 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, regarding the M20 Cork to Limerick Motorway.

Members made the following points:-

- M20 is not in the Capital Investment Plan;
- Disappointing that the TII refuse to meet the Council, it was agreed to meet annually;
- Need a commitment from TII that Charleville will be looked at;
- No mention of €1m, what is proposed for this;
- M20 is critical for the future economic development of Cork;

The Mayor advised that he is awaiting response from the Minister for Transport regarding a meeting date and there is indication that a date will be confirmed in the near future and he said that it is the intention to bring proposals such as the M20, Dunkettle and Macroom. The Mayor agreed to revert to Members.

## **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

15/1-1

TO: Barry McPolin, on his appointment as Chief Superintendent in Cork City.

TO: Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan, on his transfer to West Cork.

TO: Cork County Council on their promotion of "Shop Local" in each of the Municipal Districts in 2016.

TO: O'Donovan Brothers on being awarded RTE Team of the Year.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

16/1-1

### **Road Accidents Statistics**

Cllr. D. Forde said Commissioner Finn should give road accident statistics for each Municipal District so that decisions can be made on information to hand.

It was agreed that quarterly statistics would be provided by the Joint Policing Committee.

### **Resignation of Cllr. Noel O'Donovan**

Cllr. Noel O'Donovan informed the Meeting that he would be resigning from his position as Councillor to take up a new position with An Garda Síochána. He thanked the Members and staff of Council and said that he enjoyed his 6 years on the Council .

Members wished Cllr. O'Donovan the best and commented as follows:-

- Noel always made his contributions in a professional and effective manner;

- Regret that he is leaving, wish him every success for the future;
- He will be a huge loss to West Cork;
- He was a positive and progressive Member of Council;
- Shame to see a young Councillor leaving more should be done nationally to attract young people into politics;
- He was enthusiastic and sincere and will leave a huge legacy.

The Chief Executive said he wished to be associated with the comments and said that Noel would be a big loss to the Council and always showed a high level of interaction and respect with the staff .

Noel thanked the Members and Chief Executive for their comments.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders – Properties released by NAMA**

Cllr. D. O’Grady, proposed the suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the recent announcement by NAMA regarding properties offered to Cork County Council. He said that 5000 families are homeless nationally and any properties offered by NAMA should be taken.

Cllr. O’Grady sought further information and in particular queried why Council officials refused properties and how the decision was reached and if applicants were consulted on the decision.

Cllr. M. Mullane said that she was surprised that this information was not made available to Members on the Housing SPC and queried the decision process for refusal of these properties.

The Chief Executive said that it was unfortunate to hear comments that Members were misled and that he would reject this. He said that Members were circulated with a report on NAMA properties in September 2016 and that he cannot control what is released to the media by NAMA. The Housing Agency website contains the definitive detail.

The Chief Executive advised that 806 properties were identified for Cork County Council. NAMA advised that of the 806 properties identified, that 371 were not now available to us. Of the remaining 435, 106 were in areas of no demand and 7 were not suitable. This left 322 available to the Council, of which we have completed transactions (leasing, AHB etc.) on 307, and the remainder are ongoing. Cork County Council has taken 93% of what was actually offered.

Cllr. D. O’Grady said there are discrepancies between these figures and what was announced by NAMA and that this should be clarified.

The Chief Executive said that the Director of Housing can go through the process with Members at the Housing SPC. He said that NAMA are a commercial organisation and it can be presumed that the 371 properties not available were sold on.

**This concluded the business of the Meeting**