



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 8th February, 2016.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir J. P. Ó Sé, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri Mac Craith, Ó Laoghaire, Daltúin, Ní Fhúarthain, D. Ó Donnabháin, Ó Cainte, S. Ó Coileán, M. Ó Murchú, Ó hEarchaí, R. Mhic Cárthaigh, Ó Colmáin, Lombard, C. Ó Murchú, S. Ó Donnabháin, A. Ó Muimhneacháin, Críod, Ó Gráda, Ó Luasaigh, Ó Riain Ó Conbhuí, P. Ó Suilleabháin, Ó Ceocháin, Sheppard, De Barra, Uí Chuileannáin, Rasmussen, N. Ó Coileán, A. Ó Suilleabháin, Ó hEigeartaigh, S. Mhic Cárthaigh, Léanacháin-Foghlú, N. MacCárthaigh, C. Ó Caoimh, Ó Floinn, Ó Dúghaill, Mhic Dháibhí, J. Uí Mhurchú, G. Ó Murchú, B. Ó Muimhneacháin, Uí Mhaoláin, T. Ó Coileán, M. Ó Coileán, Ó Cearúill, Ó Donnabháin, C. Ó Suilleabháin, P.G. Ó Murchú, Uí hEigeartaigh, Ó hAodha, Ó hUrthuile.

PRESENT

Cllr J. P. O'Shea, County Mayor presided.

Cllrs McGrath, Ó Laoghaire, D'Alton, Forde, Ó Donnabháin, Canty, J. Collins, M. Murphy, Harris, R. McCarthy, Coleman, Lombard, K. Murphy, J. O'Donovan, A. Moynihan, Creed, O'Grady, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, P. O'Sullivan, Keohane, Sheppard, Barry, Cullinane, Rasmussen, N. Collins, A. O'Sullivan, Ml. Hegarty, S. McCarthy, Linehan-Foley, N. McCarthy, O'Keeffe, O'Flynn, Doyle, Dawson, J. Murphy, G. Murphy, B. Moynihan, Mullane, T. Collins, M. Collins, Carroll, N. O'Donovan, C. O'Sullivan, P.G. Murphy, Hegarty, Hayes, Hurley.

Chief Executive, Senior Executive Officer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/2/1

Proposed by Cllr D. Hurley.

Seconded by Cllr D. Canty.

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of meeting of the Council held on 25th January, 2016, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/2-1

TO: Mr. Bill Browne and family on the death of his mother Ann.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

The following disposals notices were noted by members:-

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT ELMWOOD GROVE, COBH, CO. CORK.

3(a)/2-1

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 27th January, 2016

LOCATION: Land at Elmwood Grove, Cobh, Co. Cork.

AREA: c.0.0212 hectares/0.05 acres.

FROM WHOM ACQUIRED: Developer.

TO WHOM IT IS PROPOSED TO DISPOSE: Sinead Gilroy, 43 Elmwood Grove, Cobh, Co. Cork.

CONSIDERATION: €5.000.00

DISPOSAL OF 79 BELMONT PLACE, COBH, CO. CORK.

3(b)/2-1

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 27th January, 2016

LAND HELD UNDER

LEASEHOLD INTEREST: 79 Belmont Place, Cobh, Co. Cork

Folio No. 7582L

FREEHOLD INTEREST: Folio No. CK95074F

FROM WHOM ACQUIRED: Unknown.

PERSON TO WHOM FREEHOLD INTEREST IN LAND IS TO BE DISPOSED OF: Stephen O' Meara as Executor in the Estate of Patrick Woods deceased.

CONSIDERATION: €350.00 inclusive of administration charges.

COVENANTS, CONDITIONS Conditions pursuant to Housing Act, 1966

AND AGREEMENTS: and Landlord & Tenant Acts, 1947 – 1984.

DISPOSAL OF 27 ST. MARY'S CRESCENT, FERMOY, CO.CORK.

3(c)/2-1

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 20th January, 2016.

**LAND HELD UNDER
LEASEHOLD INTEREST:**

27 St. Mary's Crescent, Fermoy, Co. Cork
Folio No. 11638L

FREEHOLD INTEREST:

Folio No. Ck25498

FROM WHOM ACQUIRED:

Unknown.

**PERSON TO WHOM FREEHOLD
INTEREST IN LAND IS TO BE
DISPOSED OF:**

Thomas & Susan Curran.

CONSIDERATION:

€350,000 inclusive of administration charges.

**COVENANTS, CONDITIONS
AND AGREEMENTS:**

Conditions pursuant to Housing Act 1966 and Landlord & Tenant Acts, 1974 -1984.

Section 36 (1) An Garda Síochána Act, 2005:

FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

4/2-1

Proposed by Cllr Declan Hurley

Seconded by Cllr Marcia D'Alton

RESOLVED:

"A casual vacancy has arisen on the Joint Policing Committee. In accordance with the provision of Section 36 (1) of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005 the appointment of Mr. Kevin Conway is approved.

Cllr Noel Collins stated that he regretted having to resign but he considered that he had no other option. He stated that he had issued a statement to the media as to the reasons. Cllr Collins paid tribute to the Garda Síochána for the tremendous work they do.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

Corporate Policy Group:

CONFERENCE LIST FEBRUARY, 2016

5(a)/2-1

Proposed by Cllr Michael Hegarty.

Seconded by Cllr K. Murphy

RESOLVED:

“That the attendance by Council Members at Conferences on the Conference List for February, 2016 approved by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting on 2nd February, 2016.”

CIVIC RECEPTION

It was noted by members that on the proposal of Cllr Michael Hegarty, seconded by Cllr Alan Coleman, CPG are recommending that a Civic Reception be held for Mr. Bill Gainer, Chicago in recognition of the involvement and commitment he has given to the Cook County, Illinois partnership with Cork County Council since 1999.

This was agreed by members and the Meetings Administrator is to liaise with Mr. Gainer to arrange.

ARTS GRANT SCHEME 2016

5(b)/2-1

Proposed by Cllr D. Hurley.

Seconded by Cllr F.O’Flynn

RESOLVED:

“That the recommendation of the Arts Officer under the Arts Grant Scheme 2016 be hereby approved.”

The Arts Grant Scheme provides specific grant streams for (1) General Arts Grants (2) School Arts Projects and (3) Creative project proposals made by artists. The increasing level of demand for Council funding for the Arts demonstrated in the number of applications to the Arts Grants Scheme points to an active and vibrant arts sector that is driving cultural activity in communities throughout the county.

The Arts Officer Mr. Ian McDonagh outlined his proposals for the 2016 Arts Grant Scheme and told Members that 180 applications had been received and 132 are recommended for approval. A further six applications were received after the official closing date. Applications were received all across the social spectrum, except in the area of dance; the largest overall grouping of applications was from the voluntary arts sector. Voluntary effort plays a huge role in the county’s arts scene providing opportunities for young people to gain confidence through performance in music and drama and for older members of society to engage in beneficial social activity through the arts.

The largest number of was from creative artists so this category got the largest number of awards and the largest number of refusals. A selection panel was established to adjudicate on awards. Festivals are the second largest groupings with 36 applications and were awarded 36% of the budget.

The Arts Officer informed members that the festival sector is very strong and in addition to its cultural and social benefits is also important to the local economy and to tourism by helping to form the positive image of Cork as a culturally vibrant visitor destination. The returns provided by approximately thirty arts festivals funded in 2015 showed that well over 50,000 people attended those events with a resulting positive economic spend in those areas. The Economic Development Fund also supports festivals.

Members welcomed the Arts Grants Scheme and made the following points:-

- Members thanked the Arts Office for the presentation and complimented him and the Arts Office staff for the tremendous work they have done in assessing all the applications.
- Can the East Cork Music Project be considered for funding? Is a wonderful project it promotes youth arts. It also does art classes and sculpture.

- There is an economic value in the arts and they have a value in their own right. Local Authorities are going to take more responsibility in the arts this is envisioned in the Arts Council strategy.
- Glad there is an increase in the budget for the Arts. Municipal Districts projects have a real opportunity to promote and support landmark significant projects.
- Concerned that North Cork doesn't put in enough applications, perhaps the onus is on us to let people know the scheme exists. You can't put a value on what you get from the arts, especially stage performance for youngsters.
- Fota House seems to get very little support, despite the detail they provide in their application.
- The Sirius Arts Centre got no funding and there are thousands of visitors go through there. The Cobh Confraternity Band contributes hugely to the community and tourism and thinks they should be considered for funding although they were a late entry.
- Welcomes the €1,000 funding to An Rath Fleadh Ceol, it will be the County Fleadh all under one roof, we are asking for an increase as it is such a significant undertaking.
- Skibbereen Band was a late application and would like them considered for funding.

The Arts Officer responded as follows:-

- Agrees the Midleton Midway Festival is fantastic and it is hoped to fund activities in the libraries at this time and also some of the performing arts that happen in the festival.
- The Fota House concerts are really important however their figures say that they are breaking even so the level of funding reflects that, the staff there is doing a fantastic job and we would like to help them expand the range of concerts they put on.
- We looked at the capital requirement of the Sirius and we had to make a call, we wanted to support a project which was bringing in a new event rather than support an existing event. The Sirius Arts Centre has developed an important international profile and we would like to support that because it will open the door to EU funding.
- The funding for the Fleadh Ceol is the same level of funding as the Fleadh would have received in Ballincollig last year therefore it is unlikely we can provide any additional funding.
- East Cork Music Project was supported on a number of occasions in the past. The Municipal District fund would perhaps be the best route to go for funding for this year.
- We will look into the late applications.

The Chief Executive Officer complimented the Arts Officer and his team for the work done in distributing the funding and said the Arts Grants scheme is just one of an array of financial supports that the Council now has in place to help drive community development in the Arts. In 2016 the Council will allocate over €1million through the Economic Development Fund, a considerable portion of which will support festivals with a regional and national status, the Council's 2016 budget has also introduced a new funding strand for the development of the arts in each of the eight Municipal Districts and this programme will be rolled out during this year and will focus specifically on developmental arts projects in each Municipal area.

COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

6/2-1

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF TOILET BLOCK

Proposed by Cllr C. Cullinane.

Seconded by Cllr S. Sheppard

RESOLVED:

Cllr Marcia Dalton asked could the background to this project be given, was it a County Council driven project, as she understood that the Council would not be providing any more toilet facilities.

Cllr Canty said the Regional Park in Ballincollig serves five soccer pitches, a skate park, coffee docks but there is no toilet facilities.

Cllr Sinead Sheppard informed Members that the toilet facilities are funded from community game funding for an outdoor gym. We had stipulations that the outdoor gym must have a toilet. There was a small shortfall which Cobh is making up with the pay parking contributions.

BLARNEY /MACROOM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

EXTENSION TO MACROOM CEMETERY

7/2-1

Proposed by Cllr Ted Lucey

Seconded by Cllr Kevin Conway

RESOLVED:

“That the proposed development of the extension to St. Colman’s Burial Ground in Macroom be hereby approved.”

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF OFFICERS

8/2-1

REGIONAL & LOCAL ROAD GRANT ALLOCATION 2016

The members were circulated with a Report setting out details of the 2016 Regional & Local Roads Allocations, as issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport on 26th January amounting to €29,651,945 A further €5,616,315 is assigned from the Self Fund of the Local Property Tax bringing the total to €35,268,260. The allocation represents a 6.8% reduction on the initial 2015 allocation of €37,839,591.

Members noted report from the Director of Services Mr. Tom Stritch, which outlined as follows:-

The principal elements of the allocation are:

- The Discretionary Maintenance Grant allocation is €9,108,184, (€3,492,869 + Self fund €5,616,315) which is marginally up on the 2015 allocation of €9,103,889. This is the main source of funding for ongoing maintenance tasks such as pothole repairs and drainage. Again Local Authorities are being given the discretion to use up to 15% of this grant on Local Improvement Schemes, however given the huge needs of the public road network, it would be extremely difficult to justify spending any of this Grant, on what are essentially private roads. Decisions on these schemes are best made at Municipal District Committee level, as in 2015.
- The Restoration Improvement Grant of €18,987,236 is the same allocation as in 2015. This is the largest Grant and provides for the strengthening and overlay work on our roads. As in 2015 up to 25% may be transferred from this allocation to the Discretionary Grant allocation. This facility to divert some of the Grant to Discretionary Maintenance is extremely important in allowing the maintenance programme to continue and in meeting the Council’s labour costs. Details of the Restoration Improvement schemes for each Municipal Area are currently being brought to Municipal District Committee meetings as part of the 2016-2018 Restoration Improvement Programme.

- Community Involvement Schemes The Community Involvement Scheme remains in place for 2016 on the same basis as in 2015, where up to 7.5% of the Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Grant may be set aside for schemes with the local financial contribution remaining at 15%. Any Group wishing to participate in a scheme should make contact with the local Municipal District Engineer.
- The Restoration Maintenance Grant (Surface Dressing) of €5,344,500 is the same as in 2015.
- Specific Improvement Grants have been reduced from €579,236 in 2015 to €119,100 in 2016 and as in 2014 and 2015 there will be no new schemes starting in 2016. The individual allocations to schemes as detailed cover contractual commitments for works recently completed or land acquisition commitments.
- Bridge Rehabilitation Grant . The Bridge Rehabilitation Grant of €983,240 is a marginal increase on the 2015 Grant of €978,658. However the Council had to overspend by €835,520 on bridge rehabilitation in 2015 and €576,033 remains un-recouped. The Council would normally be allowed make this its first call on the 2016 grant. The listing of bridges includes a number of those damaged in the September 2015 flooding in the West Cork Municipal District, but if the full list of bridges on the list are to be rehabilitated/replaced funding approved in the Capital Budget is required, unless a supplementary allocation arises later in the year.
- Strategic Road Allocations. There is no allocation under this Grant category this year as there have been no new starts under this category since 2013 and outstanding commitments by the Department to schemes in this category have been met.
- Low Cost Safety Allocation of €469,500 is a marginal decrease on the 2015 allocation and will allow progress on 15 schemes.
- Severe Weather. A further circular was received from the DTTaS on 28th January inviting submissions for repair works resulting from recent storm and flood damage, for funding from the €106 million allocation announced by the Minister for that purpose. Initial submissions are to be made by this Friday 5th February.
In relation to roads damaged in the September flooding, in addition to the bridge and structures damage referenced above, an estimate of €1.874 million of Restoration Improvement type works was submitted to DTTaS on 21st September last. The Department allowed the Council to over expend on this Grant in order to repair the damage and allow the Council some means of recouping the cost over 2015/2016. Works to a value of €0.872 million were completed, claimed and the expenditure recouped in 2015, but there is no reference the remaining €1.002 million, on which works are ongoing in the 2016 allocation. This requirement will again be highlighted in the Council's submission on 5th February.

During a discussion, Members made the following points:-

- This report is bitterly disappointing with almost a €3m reduction of funding, the allocation represents a 6.8% reduction in funding for our local roads in Cork for 2016.
- The Strategic Road Grant have been suspended since 2013 there are a number of strategic roads in the County awaiting funding these roads are in a critical condition.
- Our roads are in a dreadful condition we need to contact the Dept. and ask them to review the strategic road allocation.
- Very disappointing we are getting nothing from any new schemes and grants are constantly being cut.
- How many kilometres of roads will we be able to repairs with this funding.
- All areas are losing out with these cuts in funding, it effectively means thirty roads throughout the County will now not be re-strengthened this year due to this funding cut.

- There was €2.4m worth of damage done to roads and bridges in West Cork in September 2015 we are still awaiting some of the money which was promised to Cork County Council to repair our roads.
- Main bridge in Kinsale is badly damaged and in need of urgent repair.
- Low cost safety schemes do not get considered for funding until it is far too late.
- It is infuriating that our road tax is very high and this money goes towards funding Irish Water.
- Cork County Council requested from the Dept of Transport an additional allocation of €12.9m for roads and bridges damaged by the severe weather in December 2015, although a national fund of €106m was announced as part of a relief for the recent storms in recent weeks, Cork County Council has not got any of that funding. How hopeful are we that we might still get some.
- Would like the Minister of Transport to visit West Cork and see firsthand what the conditions of our roads are like.
- We need more outdoor staff employed to help repair our roads. The embargo on staff recruitment must be lifted.
- Why can't Cork County Council take in charge more roads, people living in housing estates paid good money for the roads to be taken in charge.

The Director of Services responded as follows:-

- The Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) is a scheme that allow Local Authorities use a percentage of the roads allocation to assist facilitate a person or group of persons with the consent of the road authority to carry out maintenance and improvement works on local roads.
- The Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) provide funding for roads and laneways that have not been taken in charge by the council.
- Low Cost Safety scheme provides funding for improving traffic lights, traffic calming, and speed limits.
- The bridge needing repairs in Kinsale is not a priority at present compared to other work that needs to be carried out.
- Clarke's Hill as much money is needed has been drawn down from the Strategic Improvement Fund, there may be development contributions available to finish the job.
- Lehenaghmore/ Lehenaghbeg have never gone on a Strategic Improvement Fund.

It was agreed to write to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport to outline the disappointment and frustration at the reduction in the level of grants notified and also to express members frustration that there remains no provision under the Strategic Road Grant Section.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

9(a)/2-1

Members noted letter dated 4th January, 2016, from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in response to Council's letter of 10th December, 2015 regarding decisions by An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr. Marcia D'Alton expressed her dissatisfaction with the response and requested that the Council write back to the Department seeking a copy of the note of the meeting whereby "The Minister is satisfied that the existing arrangements in relation to the disclosure of information and documentation in relation to decisions made by the Board on planning appeals are fair and comprehensive and he has, therefore, no plans to amend them".

Members supported Cllr. D'Alton's suggestion and it was agreed we write to the Dept. for clarification.

LEGISLATION GOVERNING RENTAL MARKET

9(b)/2-1

Members noted letter dated 19th January, 2016, from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in response to Council's letter of 16th September, 2015 regarding legislation governing the rental market. Members requested that the Department be written to to clarify what is meant by "The Act also includes a provision to prevent a Notice of Termination from being found to be invalid on the basis of a technicality.

PROMOTION OF GAMBLING

9(c)/2-1

Members noted letter dated 5th January, 2016, from the Department of Justice & Equality in response to Council's letter of 16th December 2015 regarding promotion of gambling.

NOTICES OF MOTION

HOUSE PURCHASE IN CITY AND COUNTY

10/2-1

Proposed by Cllr Kevin Murphy

Seconded by Cllr Des O'Grady

RESOLVED:

"That Cork County Council seeks an immediate meeting with the Minister Kelly, Minister for the Environment and Local Government and Minister Coffey, Minister for State, to address the serious anomaly that has arisen in regard to the limits on County Council's House Purchase and City House Purchase Scheme."

Members said there is a gross anomaly between city and county markets. City Council has the advantage over the County and this has led to the City buying houses in the County.

The CE informed Members that there is ongoing discussion with the Department and that there is approval on a case by case approval to buy houses above the limit for metropolitan Cork.

Members agreed that both Ministers should be written to.

INHERITANCE TAX LAWS

11/2-1

Proposed by Cllr N. Collins

Seconded by Cllr C. Cullinane

"That this Council call on the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform to consider an early change in the Inheritance Tax Laws.

It was agreed to write to the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform.

CONTRIBUTORY PENSION LEVELS

12/2-1

Proposed by Cllr Aindrias Moynihan

Seconded by Cllr Seamus McGrath

“Lorgionn Comhairle Contea ar an Aire Coimirce Sóisioltí deireadh a chuir leis an slí go bhfuilid ag idirghéalú de reir aos daoine, nuair ata an leibheal pinsean ranníocach á dheanamh amach acu.

“That Cork County Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection to end the age discriminatory way the contributory pension levels are being calculated.”

Following a discussion Members made the following points:

- The change introduced in 2012 has created this anomaly and the issue needs to be addressed.
- People with the same contributions get different pensions based on their age. If they qualify before 2013, they get a smaller pension.
- Many people caught in this trap would have been outside the official workforce.
- 61% of women fall into this category.
- Elderly advocacy groups and trade unionists have identified this as an issue.
- There is a moral hazard in the system as people who made no contributions or no provision for the pension can now get a larger non – contributory pension than someone who has contributed all their lives.

COMMUNICATION FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

13/2-1

Proposal of Cllr Susan McCarthy and seconded by Cllr Michael Hegarty the following notice of motion.

RESOLVED:

"Following the devastation experienced by communities across our County wreaked by storm Frank on properties, businesses and residences, as well as extreme damage to our roads network, I would like to commend Cork County Council on its response, considering the unprecedented levels of damage caused. Notwithstanding these efforts, in anticipation of further events of such an extreme nature, that

a.) Council facilitate the setting up of a designated taskforce for each Municipal District, with a dedicated two-way channel of communication for Elected Members, and

b.) A direct phone line be made available to elected members in the event of such crises, with a facility for reply on reported events in order for members to more effectively feedback information to the public."

During a discussion Members made the following points:

- Members need direct phone lines to help the public during emergencies like the recent flooding we had.
- The floods were unprecedented and the extent of the damage was unprecedented and there were delays in contacting the right person to help.
- If a dedicated line was not possible Members should have contact details for key staff working in their area.
- Concerns were raised about the communication protocols, during the flooding the lines were completely jammed and the sense of helplessness was palpable on the ground.
- We need to know what to do in an emergency for example if we call the fire brigade are we billed.
- Would like to thank local contractors for their help during the time of the floods.
- There have been repeated calls for a central agency to control responses, the elderly needed help with sandbags.
- The recruitment embargo will have to be lifted we don't have enough staff especially during a crisis.
- As public representatives we are the people's first port of call, we were lucky to have numbers for the Municipal District Officers but a central line number would be really helpful. We should have local numbers so that we could relay information on to the residents.

The CE informed members that there is already a great deal of cooperation going on, especially with towns with flood committees. The Council has reviewed all activity which has gone on since early December and feed back will be provided through the Municipal Districts to see what kind of framework should be drawn up.

REPORT ON RECENT FLOODING OF AREAS ZONED FOR HOUSING

14/2-1

Proposed by Cllr Des O'Grady

Seconded by Cllr D. Canty

RESOLVED:

“To request a written report on recent flooding of areas zoned for housing in the Metropolitan Area. The report to focus on the residential Masterplan sites and other areas zoned for housing (outside of once off housing) in the relevant Local Area Plans. The report to contain information on the extent of any recent flooding that took place in these zoned areas outside of those sections previously designated as ‘susceptible to flooding’ on the 2011 Local Area Maps.”

Members noted the response from the Mr. Andrew Hind Senior Planner which outlined as follows:-

At present, an overall picture of the impact of recent flood events on areas zoned for housing development in Metropolitan Cork is not available. Information on the extent of recent flood events is variable and reliable maps or photographs, in many cases, are not available. However, a written report is being compiled to record the available information from County Council sources concerning these flood events. It is intended that the report will be used, together with other maps and information, to support the approach to flood risk management in the review of Local Area Plans that is currently underway.

So far as the ‘Masterplan Sites’ that have been the subject of recent amendments to Local Area Plans are concerned, it is understood that no unexpected flood events occurred in Shannon Park,

Carrigaline. At Carrigtwohill North some flooding did occur but there are no maps/photographs of this event. The issue will be examined in more detail in the report referred to above.

Two instances of unexpected flood events occurred in relation to Waterrock, Midleton as follows:

1. In the south eastern part of the site, close to the Midleton Northern Relief Road, a flood event occurred where the extent of the flood exceeded the area indicated as likely to be susceptible to a risk of flooding on the appropriate flood risk maps. This flood event affected land owned by the County Council and is well recorded and mapped.
2. In the south western part of the site an area including Waterrock House was flooded. At this stage the County Council does not have mapped or photographic records of this flood event. None of the predictive flood risk mapping available to the County Council during the planning of the Waterrock development suggested that this area was at risk. The causes of this flood event are not yet clear but it has been suggested that issues concerning high groundwater levels, not accounted for in the flood modelling of this area, may have been a contributory factor.

In both cases, consideration will be given to the likely cause of these unexpected flood events. The available information suggests that the extent of these events was relatively small in relation to the overall scale of the proposed development at Waterrock and did not affect land which is considered critical to the provision of new housing or infrastructure. If appropriate, revised zoning proposals for the area will be included in the Draft Cobh and East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plans to be published for consultation in the autumn.

Following a discussion Members made the following points:

- Members disappointed with the report because no mention was made of areas zoned for housing outside of the Masterplan areas.
- Concerns with some of the Masterplan site in Ballincollig flooded, it is not designated as being at risk of flooding, however during the bad weather this area was comprehensively flooded.
- There are six other areas zoned in Ballincollig for housing, two of those also flooded and they were not marked as susceptible to flooding
- We have eight Masterplan sites across the county, forty seven yellow areas and according to the Local Area Plans only six of those forty seven areas are susceptible to flooding. There is so much depending on these zoned areas.
- A full audit of these zoned areas is needed.
- People have got the impression Cork County Council is building houses on floodplains.
- Concerned about the response from the senior planner, particularly with regard to Waterrock and Carrigtwohill. There is a history of flooding in this particular area over many years.
- We need to be very careful going forward, the Masterplan site is marked on the Local Area Plan also the areas susceptible to flooding are also marked and the area that flooded at Christmas is not marked as an area susceptible to flooding.

The CE informed Members that the LAP process will give members the opportunity to examine this matter in more detail at a local level

REVIEW OF AMBULANCE SERVICE

15/2-1

Proposed by Cllr Michael Collins Seconded by Cllr Kevin Conway the following notice of motion:

“I call on the Minister for Health to immediately publish the Capacity Review Report on our Ambulance service. Morale is at an all time low with Ambulance staff and it is high time that they are treated with some respect similar to other Emergency services in Cork County.

I call on my fellow Cllrs to call on this Government for an immediate review of Ambulance staff pay and conditions to reflect the pressure these people work under.”

During a discussion Members made the following points:

- Ambulance staff are working under pressure and don't have time to eat, uniforms are of poor quality and Southdoc has added to the pressure due to its early closing.
- The HSE has outsourced its communications department so it is very difficult to get answers.
- In West Cork, ambulance drivers are driving for long hours at a time, the vehicles are old with huge mileage. The ambulance service is classed as essential and not technically classed as an emergency service.
- Paramedics do not have the same employment entitlements as the Gardai or the Fire Service.
- This was brought up at the last HSE meeting. Can we amend the motion to get some answers on Southdoc in East Cork and the fact that there is no ambulance at all in the Middleton and Cobh areas.

Cllr. Collins is happy to amend the motion to include Southdoc. It was agreed we will write to the Department of Health and also the HSE.

UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES

16/2-1

It was agreed to defer Cllr Forde notice of motion to the next full Council meeting on 22nd February 2016.

RECRUIT PERSONNEL IN TEAGASC

17/2-1

Proposed by Cllr Kevin O'Keeffe

Seconded by Cllr Anthony Barry

“That Cork County Council immediately call on the Minister for Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland to make the necessary funding available to ensure that the much needed Mallow Relief Road can commence as was promised by the Minister in November 2015.”

Cllr. O’Keeffe informed Members that many employees have taken redundancy from Teagasc and there have been no replacements put in place. Teagasc provide a hugely beneficial service to the agricultural community both in terms of their support and their scientific research.

As the time was now 1.15 pm an extension of time was agreed on the proposal of Mayor John Paul O’Shea, seconded by Cllr Des O’Grady.

REPORT ON TENANTS SEEKING REPAIRS TO THEIR HOUSES

18/2-1

Proposed by Cllr Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire:
Seconded by Cllr Seamus McGrath

RESOLVED:

Go néilíonn an Chomhairle seo tuairisc ar cé mhéid de tionóintí de chuid an Chomhairle Chontae, atá ag iarraidh athchoiriú ar na tithe ina bhfuileadar ina chónaí, nó atá ag lorg aistriú tí, de bharr go bhfuil fadhbanna le taise, nó fuacht.

“That this Council requests a report on how many tenants of Cork County Council are currently seeking repairs to the Houses they are living in, or a transfer, due to problems with dampness or coldness.”

Members noted the report from the Director of Housing which outlined as follows:

The Number of open repair request on 31/12/15 was 462.

The figure for open repairs varies greatly from week to week, depending on circumstances and the number closed out in any given week.

Members should note that all electrical and plumbing repairs are dealt with within 2-3 days. These account for the majority of repair requests received by Cork County Council’s Housing Section.

Other, non urgent repairs are dealt with on a case by case basis, while bigger more difficult repairs may need to go to specialist contractors such as in the case of chimney relining or if working at heights is necessary.

Weather plays an important role also, as was the case with the current bad weather, when both wind and rain increased the number of requests received.

No transfer requests are currently in place due to dampness or cold as the Council will always address the issues through repairs and maintenance. This is also addressed through the energy efficiency works funded by DOE and the funding previously supplied for central heating systems. These initiatives have resulted in better stock being rented by the council in terms of heating dampness and energy efficiency.

Members noted the report and made the following points:

- The number of open repairs is substantial.
- Many people are living in Council properties that are affected by damp and cold and this has a huge impact on people’s quality of life.
- We have above average rates of asthma and above average respiratory issues and dampness is a contributory factor.
- More investment is needed in insulation, dry lining and more substantial energy efficiency works.

- Many of the Council’s properties were built prior to cavity wall builds. The insulation schemes were welcome but we need to step this up as best we can.
- When a property becomes vacant the Council spend a lot of money to improve the house yet tenants who pay their weekly rent their houses are not being repaired.
- A person applied for a transfer and was told dampness was not a genuine need for a transfer. Could we have the figures of how many transfer requests were made because of damp houses?
- The Council do not listen to people’s requests for repairs, a family who had a child with cystic fibrosis was living in an old social house, the Council would not repair it when the family left the house and it became a void it was then the Council did the repairs. Our HAP system would refuse houses because of damp; we can’t expect different standards for our tenants.
- One out of every three transfers is due to dampness. When a house becomes void the insulation is done, the walls are pumped and the doors and windows are done but the excellent tenants are not getting the service they deserve from Cork County Council. We should put stoves in voids.
- There are old type houses which need upgrading. We should do a review of the seriousness of dampness and coldness at SPC level.
- There is a particular problem around the Fermoy area, many houses have been left there over the years, would like progress on the stove issue.

The CE informed Members that the 462 houses listed do not just refer to dampness repairs requests, most of these repairs relate to electrical and plumbing repairs. Transfers are based on housing needs and we don’t classify request based on cold or damp. We spend €4 – €5 million doing up quite a few houses.

It was agreed to refer this motion to the Housing SPC.

AMOUNT SPENT FOR SOCIAL HOUSING

19/2-1

Proposed by Cllr Ian Doyle

Seconded by Cllr Anthony Barry

RESOVLED:

“That Cork County Council confirms the amount spent by Cork County Council for Social Housing (inclusive of repairs, purchases or new builds) for each of the following years: 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, and the monies allocated by the government for same.”

Members noted the report from the Housing Director which outlined as follows:

	2013	2014	2015	2016 (to 2/2/16)
Expenditure	13,440,622	11,606,261	19,355,617	2,429,561
Grant income	6,691,753	4,533,515	12,798,338	NIL

During a discussion Members made the following points:

- Homelessness has become a scourge over the last two years. Is the Council spending its full allocation?
- It is being reported that LAs are not drawing down the funds. What was the grant the housing department was offered in the years outlined.
- Welcomes the report and the substantial expenditure. How many homeless people do we have on our books at present? Welcomes the recent announcement by the Minister to speed up the process of allocating funding for the purchase and new builds.

The CE informed Members that the target was to deliver 392 units in 2015 and 469 were delivered. Hap is part of the national social housing strategy. The Councils programme is to spend €80M.

AIR QUALITY MONITORING STATION

20/2-1

Proposed by Cllr Marcia D'Alton

Seconded by Cllr Anthony Barry

“That the Environmental Protection Agency would set up a permanent air quality monitoring station at a representative location in Cork Harbour. That this air quality monitoring station would be capable of measuring concentrations of all the parameters for which limit values in ambient air have been set by Directive 2008/50/EC, including particulate matter. Cork Harbour is one of the most important industrial areas in Ireland, significant at a worldwide level within the pharmaceutical industry and a major port. Although Cork Harbour and its immediate environs is home to 44,000 people and an employment hub for over 10,000 people, there is currently no ambient air monitoring in Cork Harbour.”

Cllr Marcia D'Alton informed Members that there are 4.7 million people living in Ireland and we have 31 monitoring sites, 15 of which are active. In Northern Ireland, by comparison, there are 1.7 million people but 20 monitoring sites are active. Only 3 of those stations are capable of reporting real time concentrations of standard parameters for particulate matter. There is one of these stations in Ennis, one in Claremorris and one in Rathmines, Dublin.

If you look up the EPA website to see what the air quality is like in your area of Cork you generally see that it is good. But there are only two monitoring stations in Cork – one near the Kinsale Road roundabout and the other at Heatherton Park, on the other side of the Kinsale Road landfill site. Several miles away from the Kinsale Road roundabout, we have one of the most industrial areas in Ireland in Ringaskiddy and there is no permanent monitoring station capable of monitoring all the five parameters of concern to human health.

Members congratulated Cllr. D'Alton on the detailed motion and said there are always concerns about Cork Harbour and air quality. Members would welcome the EPA putting an air monitor in the harbour.

It was agreed we write to the EPA.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

21/2-1

TO: Cllr. Seamus McGrath and his wife Gail on the birth of their daughter.

TO: Cllr. Aaron O'Sullivan on his engagement.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22/1-1

The following tenders were opened at the Meeting:-

- River Ilen Drainage Scheme – 5 no.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.