



## COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

### Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

#### I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir J. P. Ó Sé, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri Mac Craith, Ó Laoghaire, Daltúin, Ní Fhúarthain, D. Ó Donnabháin, Ní Dheasmhumhnaigh, Ó Cainte, S. Ó Coileán, M. Ó Murchú, Ó hEarchaí, R. Mhic Cárthaigh, Ó Colmáin, Lombard, C. Ó Murchú, Ní Mhurchú-Uí Mhathúna, S. Ó Donnabháin, A. Ó Muimhneacháin, Críod, Ó Gráda, Ó Luasaigh, Ó Riain Ó Conbhuí, P. Ó Suilleabháin, C. MacCárthaigh, Ó Ceocháin, Sheppard, De Barra, Uí Chuileannáin, Rasmussen, N. Ó Coileán, A. Ó Suilleabháin, Ó Buachalla, 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, Ó hAodha, Ó hUrthuile.

#### PRESENT

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

Councillors McGrath, Ó Laoghaire, D'Alton, Forde, Ó Donnabháin, Desmond, Cauty, J. Collins, M. Murphy, Harris, R. McCarthy, Coleman, Lombard, K. Murphy, Murphy-O'Mahony, J. O'Donovan, A. Moynihan, Creed, O'Grady, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, P. O'Sullivan, K. McCarthy, Keohane, Sheppard, Barry, Cullinane, Rasmussen, N. Collins, A. O'Sullivan, Buckley, 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, Hayes, Hurley.

Chief Executive, Senior Executive Officer.

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/1-1

Proposed by Councillor Timmy Collins.

Seconded by Councillor Noel Collins.

#### RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of meeting of the Council held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

Councillor Marcia Dalton requested that an amendment be made to the Minutes, stating that climate change should be considered as part of everything the Council does and not just as part of the planning process. This was agreed.

## VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/1-1

TO: Councillor Padraig O'Sullivan, on the death of his father Pat.

TO: Councillor Michael Hegarty, on the death of his father-in-law James.

## STATUTORY BUSINESS

### The following disposals were noted by members:-

### DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST 306 CLOUGHFILIP, TOWER, BLARNEY, CO. CORK.

3(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 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

#### LAND HELD UNDER

#### LEASEHOLD INTEREST:

306 Cloghphilip, Tower, Blarney, Co.Cork

Folio No. 11909L

#### FREEHOLD INTEREST:

Folio No. CK7098

#### FROM WHOM ACQUIRED:

Unknown

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

Rose Martin

#### CONSIDERATION:

€ 350.00 inclusive of administration charges

#### COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND AGREEMENTS:

Conditions pursuant to Housing Act, 1966 and Landlord & Tenant Acts, 1947 – 1984.

### DISPOSAL OF LAND AT KILNAMUCKEY, TOWER, BLARNEY, CO.CORK.

3(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 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

#### Situation:

Kilnamucky, Tower, Blarney, Co. Cork

#### Area:

c.0.356 hectares.

#### From Whom Acquired:

Flood relief works.

#### To Whom It Is Proposed

#### To Dispose:

Mr. Cornelius O'Leary.

#### Consideration:

€1

**DISPOSAL OF LAND AT BUTLERSTOWN, BANDON, CO.CORK.**

**3(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 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

<b><u>Location:</u></b>	<b>Site at Butlerstown, Bandon, Co. Cork</b>
<b><u>Area:</u></b>	<b>c.0.03364 hectares.</b>
<b><u>From Whom Acquired:</u></b> terrace.	<b>Historical Council owned strip of land at end of</b>
<b><u>To Whom It Is Proposed</u></b> <b><u>To Dispose:</u></b> Property	<b>Mr. John Hodnett (in trust), Hodnett Forde</b> <b>Services.</b>
<b><u>Consideration:</u></b>	<b>€15,000.00</b>

**DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN No.6 CASEMENT STREET, CLONAKILTY, CO.CORK.**

**3(d)/12**

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 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

<b><u>LAND HELD UNDER</u></b> <b><u>LEASEHOLD INTEREST:</u></b>	<b>No. 6 Casement Street, Clonakilty, Co.Cork</b>
<b><u>FREEHOLD INTEREST:</u></b>	<b>Folio No. 4456</b>
<b><u>FROM WHOM ACQUIRED:</u></b>	<b>Unknown</b>
<b><u>PERSON TO WHOM FREEHOLD</u></b> <b><u>INTEREST IN LAND IS TO BE</u></b> <b><u>DISPOSED OF:</u></b>	<b>Jerry &amp; Anne O'Donovan</b>
<b><u>CONSIDERATION:</u></b>	<b>€ 350.00 inclusive of administration charges</b>
<b><u>COVENANTS, CONDITIONS</u></b> <b><u>AND AGREEMENTS:</u></b>	<b>Conditions pursuant to Housing Act, 1966 and</b> <b>Landlord &amp; Tenant Acts, 1947 – 1984.</b>

**GRANT OF WAYLEAVES AT DURRUS CO. CORK.**

**3(e)/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 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

<b><u>Situation:</u></b>	<b>Grant of Wayleave at Durrus, Co Cork.</b>
<b><u>Area:</u></b>	<b>(1) 6m wide wayleave with area 0.047 Ha</b> <b>(2) 6m wide wayleave with area 0.029 Ha</b>

**To Whom It Is Proposed**

**To Dispose:**

**Pike Construction Ltd.**

**Consideration:**

**€1.00 plus Council's costs.**

**DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT KNOCKDUFF UPPER, CULLEN, MALLOW, CO.CORK.**

**3(f)/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 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2015.

**Situation:**

**Derelict house on site at Knockduff Upper,  
Cullen, Mallow, Co Cork**

**Area:**

**0.28Ha (part of  
Folio CK159174F)**

**From Whom Acquired:**

**Unknown (in Council ownership since 1954)**

**To Whom It Is Proposed**

**To Dispose:**

**Leo O'Neill**

**Consideration:**

**€25,000**

**DISPOSAL OF BALLYVERGAN WEST, YOUGHAL, CO.CORK**

**3(g)/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> December, 2015.

**Situation:**

**Ballyvergan West, Youghal, Co. Cork.**

**Area:**

**0.70 Hactares.**

**From Whom Acquired:**

**Mary Cotter, James & Eileen Kirk & William  
Flavin.**

**To Whom It Is Proposed**

**To Dispose:**

**Martin Farrell, Clashadunna, Youghal, Co. Cork.**

**Consideration:**

**€35,000.00**

**AMENDMENT TO DISPOSAL OF LAND AT BALLYBEARNA, BALLINHASSIG,  
CO.CORK**

**3(h)/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 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2014.

Members noted amendment to the following:

**Situation:**

**Grant of Wayleave and Right of Way at  
Ballybearnna, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork.**

<b><u>Area:</u></b>	<b>Wayleave measuring 81m x 5m and Right of Way measuring 81m x 5m.</b>
<b><u>From Whom Acquired:</u></b>	<b>Unknown.</b>
<b><u>To Whom It Is Proposed To Grant:</u></b>	<b>Mr. John &amp; Esther Corcoran, Ballybearna, Ballinhassig.</b>
<b><u>Consideration:</u></b>	<b>€1.00</b>

**AMENDMENT TO DISPOSAL OF 51 LIAM MCGEARAILT PLACE, FERMOY, CO. CORK.**

**3(i)/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 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2015.

Members noted amendment to the following:

<b><u>Situation:</u></b>	<b>51 Liam McGearailt Place, Fermoy, Co. Cork.</b>
<b><u>Area:</u></b>	<b>Dwellinghouse.</b>
<b><u>To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose:</u></b>	<b>Richard &amp; Tina Satchwell.</b>
<b><u>Consideration:</u></b>	<b>€34,464.99 (subject to change depending on month and year of redemption)</b>
<b><u>Purpose:</u></b>	<b>Acquire the Council's interest under the Shared Ownership Scheme.</b>

**REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES**

**4/1-1**

*At this point it was agreed to take Items 4, 11, 12, and 13 together.*

The CE presented the report as follows on the response to the severe weather events of 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 to 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

**1: Background**

Met Eireann reported triple the normal rainfall in many parts of the country for the month of December 2015. They have advised that the wettest conditions were experienced in County Cork where nearly all stations reported over 300% of Long Term Average/LTA. Roche's Point reported its highest rainfall (342% of LTA) for December since 1955. The rainfall measured at Cork Airport for the period 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016 was 461mm which compares with a combined three month expected winter average of 370mm (i.e. 123mm/month). In addition three winter storms affected County Cork in December; Storm Desmond (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>), Storm Eva (23<sup>rd</sup>), Storm Frank (29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>). The highest national 10-minute wind speed was recorded at Sherkin Island, Co Cork (55 knots or 102 km/h) on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The significant rainfall from these events resulted in wet conditions across the county, high rivers and reduced capacity for drainage. These conditions were exacerbated further by persistent heavy precipitation experienced from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> December and heavy

rainfall associated with Storm Frank on the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2015 leading to local flooding across the county during the period 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The following report outlines the Council's response to this emergency situation and the role which it played as the lead agency in co-ordinating the response of the various public bodies to address issues arising from the adverse weather. The Council is currently assessing the extent of the damage to infrastructure on a county wide basis and this information will be circulated to Members as soon as it is available. A schedule of restoration works will be made available to the Members at a later date. Members will be aware that an earlier report to Council on December 10<sup>th</sup> dealt with the detail of the December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> event and response.

## **2: Co-ordinated Response**

Co-ordination of the response was effected through the Council's Severe Weather Assessment Team and Crisis Management Team who convened on seventeen occasions during the period December 27<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup> including eight occasions in the twenty four hours commencing 8pm on December 29<sup>th</sup>. The weather reports drew attention in particular to the west of the county and to elevated areas where the greatest levels of precipitation were expected. The Severe Weather assessment team and a sub group of the Crisis Management Team monitored weather conditions, local reports, rising river levels and impact of rising tides across the county on an ongoing basis throughout the 29<sup>th</sup> December. A number of areas including Bandon, Skibbereen, Bantry, Kinsale, Leemount and Dunmanway were identified as being at increased risk of flooding activities due to weather reports, recent events and known high river levels. In addition, the Blackwater flood warning system indicated the potential for severe flooding. Consequently the Council deployed flood defence barriers in Mallow and Fermoy. Local ground crews were active in all areas during the lead up to Storm Frank to ensure that preparations were in place for adverse weather and enhanced resources were assigned to areas at greatest risk in anticipation of possible flooding. The preparations included ensuring the availability of sandbags for supply to householders and business premises, checking drains, screens and pumping equipment.

The Council's Fire and Emergency Service, Civil Defence, Garda Síochána and ESB were also on alert for Storm Frank and these agencies responded with the Council in a co-ordinated swift and professional manner to deteriorating situations across the County. The Crisis Management Team sub group monitored the impact of Storm Frank and as information became available that the Owenacurra and Dungourney rivers were rising rapidly in conjunction with high tidal conditions a decision was taken to seek support from the Defence Forces for the Middleton area. The duty officer was contacted at 1.30 am on December 30<sup>th</sup> and he advised that he would dispatch two high sided vehicles, seventeen troops and sandbags to Middleton. The situation in Bandon was also closely monitored and following receipt of a red alert from the Bandon Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) at 00.37am on 30<sup>th</sup> December a similar request was made to the Defence Forces at 2.30am in respect of Bandon town. The FEWS alert is triggered approximately 6-8 hours before the main flood event occurs so flooding was expected around 7am on 30<sup>th</sup> December. The severity of the conditions and the existing pluvial flooding on roads concerned the Team and it was anticipated that fluvial flooding could present earlier than anticipated. Two further FEWS text alerts were issued highlighting this possibility.

The Crisis Management Team sub group continued to direct the response throughout the night, re-convened at 6am in County Hall and the response plan for a level 3 flood emergency was activated. The full Crisis Management Team (CMT) oversaw the response from the Crisis Centre, County Hall. The Crisis Management Team sub group continued to monitor and relay information throughout the 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. In addition CMT members visited the local areas worst affected by flooding to oversee the recovery process. This included enabling works to address housing repairs for council stock, provision of temporary accommodation to council tenants affected by flooding, ongoing actions to drain flooded properties, provision of skips, temporary works to minimise risk from further flooding due to burst riverbanks and unplanned retention ponds. As the crisis continued the intensity and duration of demands on operational staff was monitored to assign relief staff from other less affected zones where possible. The response has continued this week but in a post-event mode to ensure efforts are maintained to provide alternative accommodation and supports for affected tenants, clear flooding, re-open roads and arrange street and road cleaning. The

impact of Storm Frank was wide ranging but in particular resulted in flooding of residential, commercial and public property; closure of roads due to flooding and associated road damage; landslides; land flooding affecting the farming community; contamination of drinking water and temporary restrictions affecting electrical supply.

Throughout this period, members of the County Council's Severe Weather Assessment Team also joined the City Council Flood Assessment Team /Flood Response Group on a series of 18 Conference calls. They were joined on these calls by member of the ESB, Met Eireann and other relevant agencies. The purpose of these was to monitor daily discharges over the Inniscarra Dam and their impact on properties downstream of the Dam. Discharges reached a peak of 250m<sup>3</sup>/second with a threaten discharge of 350m<sup>3</sup>/sec on December the 30<sup>th</sup>. As a consequent a decision was taken to surround County Hall in 1m high sand bags.

### 3: Areas identified at Risk from Flooding

Prior to Storm Frank a number of areas were considered at risk from flooding. The level of risk was related to weather reports highlighting areas with predicted prolonged and intense precipitation, proximity to rivers with previous history of flooding, impact of tidal conditions and recent reported flooding/high water table levels.

The following areas were monitored in line with the level of expected risk:

Town & Environs	Level of Risk	Observations
Bandon	High	recent flooding (December 2015)
Skibbereen	High	recent flooding (December 2015)
Bantry	Medium	previous flooding
Dunmanway	High	recent flooding (December 2015)
Clonakilty	High	previous flooding
Kinsale	Medium	recent flooding (December 2015)
Carrigrohane & Inniscarra	High	recent flooding (December 2015)
Mallow	Medium	flood relief scheme in operation
Fermoy	Medium	flood relief scheme in operation
Crookstown	High	recent flooding (December 2015)
Carrigaline	Medium	previous flooding
Douglas	Medium	previous flooding
Midleton	Medium	previous flooding
Glanmire	Medium	previous flooding

### 4: Public Bodies, Agencies and Volunteer Groups

The Council is the primary response agency for flooding events in the county and is supported in this role by An Garda Siochana and the HSE. The Council's response to the recent flooding and adverse weather was guided by the provisions of its Flood Emergency Response Plan which provides for graduated levels of response depending upon the severity of the event encountered. The Council's response capability under this Emergency Plan remains in place twenty four hours a day on three hundred and sixty five days of the year. Since early December, and in particular over the Christmas and New Year period, the Council has delivered the necessary level of response.

The Council's staff resources were mobilised to respond to the emerging crisis situation and approximately five hundred and forty eight staff including local authority, fire service and civil defence personnel responded to the event. Over 31,000 sand bags were distributed to those in need between December 4<sup>th</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup>, 13,500 of these were distributed in the Midleton area.

Widespread damage occurred to public and private homes, particularly in the Midleton and Bandon areas but flooding of individual properties occurred throughout the county due to nature of the rainfall. A total of ten council owned residential properties were affected by flooding in Midleton. The Council has provided alternative accommodation to five families and have commenced assessment of the all properties with a view to repair. In addition, third parties including the Midleton

Park Hotel and Midleton College offered shelter to those in need. The Council through its lead agency role ensured that the other key support agencies of An Garda Siochana, the HSE and, on this occasion also, the Department of Social Protection who can provide humanitarian and community welfare assistance, were fully aware of the emerging issues thus ensuring a highly co-ordinated response level.

Cork County Council liaised with the following public bodies and agencies in responding to the recent crisis:

- National Emergency Co-ordination Group
- Civil Defence
- Gardai Siochana
- Defence Forces
- Department of Social Protection
- Red Cross
- Met Eireann
- ESB
- Office of Public Works

In addition the council had contact with the following public bodies about issues arising from flood events during the week to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016:

- HSE
- National Ambulance Service
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formerly NRA)
- Irish Water

The organisation of the response at the local level is effected through the Area engineering office structures, supported primarily by the Councils Fire and Emergency Service, Civil Defence, An Garda Siochana and, where required, the Defence Forces. The extent of resource deployed and the range of matters arising on a daily basis are recorded in the remainder of the report. This shows the significance of the resources deployed over the Christmas and New Year period by the Council and demonstrates that, despite the time of year that this occurred, that the full resources of the Council were available and deployed as necessary.

All areas impacted demonstrated a high level of community and voluntary effort in providing assistance to affected property owners. This is to be commended. Community response across the county ranges from a natural ad-hoc nature to a more organised and sophisticated level such as in Skibbereen where the Skibbereen Flood Relief Committee has structured support and response arrangements in place among its community. This leads to opportunity for improved communication with the lead response agencies and support at a local level through co-ordinated community activation. There is an opportunity for existing flood action groups in many towns to further develop similar type community support arrangements which actively engage in a pre-planned manner with the lead response agencies at the local level.

## **5: Managing Resources**

An analysis of the emergency calls received shows the widespread nature of the impacts throughout the county which in turn placed significant demands on the Council's resources.

**The following table reflects the activity of the Roads Directorate response to the severe weather during the month of December**

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### **CORK COUNTY COUNCIL ROADS DIRECTORATE RESPONSE TO FLOODING 04.12.15 TO 05.01.16**

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Municipal District	Sub Area	Hours		Sandbags	
		Sub Area	MD Eng A	Sub Area	MD Eng A
<b>Ballincollig - Carrigaline</b>	Carrigaline	3,959	4,191		1,000
	Ballincollig	232			
<b>Bandon - Kinsale</b>	Bandon	2,126	4,143	3,000	4,000
	Kinsale	2,017		1,000	
<b>Blarney-Macroon</b>	Macroon		1,800		3,500
	Blarney				
<b>Cobh</b>	Glanmire		513		1,800
	Cobh				
<b>East Cork</b>	Midleton		2,012		13,500
	Youghal				
<b>Fermoy</b>	Fermoy		4,200		1,500
	Mitchelstown				
	Charleville				
<b>Kanturk - Mallow</b>	Mallow		4,573		850
	Millstreet				
	Newmarket				
<b>West - Bantry</b>	Bantry		1,739		810
	Castletownbere				
	Schull				
<b>West - Skibbereen</b>	Skibbereen	2,453	4,886	3,000	3,930
	Clonakilty	950		330	
	Dunmanway	1,483		600	
<b>Fleet Mgt</b>	Newberry Cross	364	518		
	Victoria Cross	154			
	Skibbereen				
<b>National Roads Office</b>			10		
<b>Non National Design office</b>			25		
<b>Senior Team - others</b>			400		
<b>Totals</b>			<b>29,010</b>		<b>30,890</b>
	<b>Dec-15</b>	<b>approx</b>	<b>4,144</b>	<b>days worked</b>	

**Fire Service Summary Report**  
**Period 29<sup>th</sup> December 2015 – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Calls</b>	<b>Number of Incidents Attended</b>	<b>Number of Weather Related Incidents</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> Dec ember 2015	136	66	59
30 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	111	60	50
31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015	20	7	5
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2016	22	13	8
2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2016	15	8	5
3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2016	15	11	6
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	10	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>133</b>

The Councils Fire and Emergency Services played a significant role in the response and while maintaining operational capacity for their core functions also provided critical pumping capacity over prolonged periods.

A further 118 staff through the Councils Water Services Division were on duty during this period. Civil Defence support was also of significant assistance with units deployed across North, South and West Cork. As an example of the extent of assistance provided, the West Cork Civil Defence Unit provided 665 hours of flood activation assistance over a 3 day period in Skibbereen. The level of support across other areas of the county, would have been of a similar nature and in some areas being of a more prolonged nature.

**6: NECC – Updates, contacts & Main issues raised by CCC**

The Council updated the National Emergency Co-ordination Centre (NECC) on a daily basis during the week to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 about the impact of the weather and floods on the county. The NECC co-ordinated the national response and provided information and advice prior, during and in the aftermath of Storm Frank.

Copies of the updates provided to the NECC, which capture the emerging matters on a daily basis, are attached at appendix II. They provide a clear sense of the widespread nature of the impacts and the challenge in responding.

**7: Communications**

The Council recognises that communications play a vital role in the management of emergency response situations. Since Christmas day a total of 1,773 calls for assistance were made to the Council's emergency response telephone line which was available on a twenty four hour basis. A further 329 calls were received by the Fire Service between December 29<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Council utilised its website, Twitter, Facebook and regular press and media releases to provide updates to the public on the status of the event, its impacts and on our response. Over the space of ten days over 100 such communications were issued. Over the course of Storm Frank, a Facebook post featuring road updates reached 59,000 followers and over the past week updates on Facebook reached over 150,000 followers.

The Council's early warning system on the river Blackwater allowed the deployment of the flood defence systems and successfully prevented flooding in critical areas in Fermoy and Mallow. In addition the Councils Bandon Flood Early Warning System provided advance warning of flooding in Bandon town. The early warning system in Skibbereen and liaison with the local flood relief committee minimised flooding in the town.

Members were copied by email on all press releases which issued over the period. In addition, municipal district staff attempted to make contact by telephone with Members in East Cork, Bandon and Cobh Municipal Districts on the morning of December 30<sup>th</sup>.

## 8: Post Event Actions

The Council is currently dealing with a number of issues which arose as a result of the recent severe weather events and these include:

- A roads assessment and restoration programme has been commenced throughout the county. The cost of the restoration is not yet available but reports indicate that the impact and spread of damage was extensive and preliminary costings for this work are estimated at up to €20 million. An assessment of damage to all infrastructure under the remit of the Council has commenced but will take a number of weeks to be adequately completed.
- Ten council properties in Middleton were affected by flooding and five were evacuated. The tenants were provided with emergency accommodation and immediate repairs including electrical inspections were carried out for those who did not evacuate. Work has commenced on drying out and restoring all of the properties and interim housing will be provided for those who cannot return to their homes at an early date due to the extent of flood damage.
- The fire service is currently assisting the roads directorate in progressing a programme of planned street cleanups for urban flooded areas.
- Skips were made available in all urban areas affected by flooding in the immediate aftermath of the event.
- A process to identify the remediation costs and costs to respond to the crisis is in progress and these costs will be included in a recoupment claim to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in due course.
- The Council has employed the services of ARUP Consulting Engineers to advise on the possible causes of the flooding in Middleton and recommend any immediate corrective actions.
- Similarly the Council is in the process of employing a consultant to recommend any immediate corrective actions in the Bandon area pending the implementation of the OPW Flood Relief Scheme in May/June.
- The OPW advise that both the Bandon and Skibbereen Flood Relief Schemes are due to start on site in early summer (May/June 2016). Currently, there is a closed season for in stream works from the 1<sup>st</sup> October to the 30<sup>th</sup> April. The Local Authority Works Act, 1949 provides a mechanism to exempt such works where they are undertaken by a Local Authority in the context of an emergency. Inland Fisheries Ireland has indicated its perspective of facilitating flood relief / prevention works at waterways, **particularly** emergency works. After consulting with IFI they indicate that this however would not include planned flood defence schemes such as Bandon, Skibbereen, Clonakilty, etc as these would not be deemed to fall into the category of “emergency works”. Cork County council will seek further clarification on this and will keep Members informed through the Municipal District meetings.
- A review of prevention measures and actions will be undertaken to inform the management of future adverse events. This is a normal part of our operations and has commenced under the protocols of our Major Emergency and Severe Weather Plans. This will include consultation with the Office of Public Works who are vested with the role in delivering flood relief schemes.

As indicated earlier, the community and voluntary response across the county was considerable and is a natural and necessary part of assisting communities at difficult times. The Council has placed considerable emphasis over the past year in developing further its relationships with the community sector, particularly through the development of the Public Participation Network, providing enhanced community financial supports to communities and towns through the Councils Municipal Districts and, continuing to develop the role of the Municipal Districts at the centre of the communities they provide services to. The Council has always developed and supported communities who work proactively with the Council. Arising from this severe weather event it would be important and beneficial for communities to work further in developing their level of preparedness for their community response in flood/severe weather situations. The Council will work in a proactive manner with community/flood groupings who wish to ensure that the capacity of both the community and Council are recognised and then co-ordinated and maximised in partnership for the betterment of our communities.

The Council has again performed admirably in responding, co-ordinating and managing the response to this prolonged event. The month of December has been an extremely challenging period for staff across the entire organisation but particularly for those involved in front line delivery of services. Severe weather events always place considerable stress on an organisation but, the fact that this most recent event occurred over a prolonged period of nearly two weeks of Christmas and the New Year meant that this was the most challenging of all periods for all staff involved in the response. Staff displayed a work ethic that epitomised the very best of the values and traditions of Cork County Council in providing services to the citizens of Cork County. All staff are to be thanked for their considerable efforts.

### **9: Emergency Relief Schemes**

The Department of Social Protection can provide financial assistance to individuals and householders affected by recent flood events through the Humanitarian Assistance Scheme. Details of this scheme are outlined in appendix I and further details are available online at [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie).

The Red Cross administer a national scheme which provides emergency humanitarian support to small businesses that have been unable to secure flood insurance and have been flooded following storms in December 2015 – January 2016. This scheme was recently extended to allow businesses affected by Storm Frank to claim compensation in accordance with the qualifying conditions. The Council has a role in confirming flooding and commercial rates information for applicants and achieves this within the twenty four hour turnaround thus avoiding delays in payments to any business. In excess of 50 % of claims made nationally thus far are from Cork County. Details of this scheme are outlined in appendix I and further details are available online at [www.redcross.ie](http://www.redcross.ie)

An assistance scheme for farmers who have suffered fodder losses as a result of the severe flooding in recent weeks has recently been announced - details will be available [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

**APPENDIX 1 to the Report Set detailed the DSP Relief Scheme, the DSP Humanitarian Assistance Scheme, Emergency Humanitarian Flooding Assistance for small businesses scheme**

**APPENDIX 2 to the Report detailed the daily updates given to the National Emergency Coordination Committee. They capture the key issues on a daily basis.**

**West Cork Municipal District:**

### **EMERGENCY LEGISLATION / FUNDING**

**4/1-1**

Councillor C O' Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Pat Ger Murphy, the following motion:-

“In light of recent severe weather events, that this Council calls on the Government to introduce emergency legislation to facilitate the cleaning, dredging and maintenance of waterways which would override obstacles that are in place which currently hinders or prevents this type of work” and

“That this Council would provide additional funding and resources to be put in place to enable an annual maintenance and preventative programme of both roads and waterways which would leave the Council best placed to deal with future severe weather events”.

### **EMERGENCY FUNDING FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR DRAINS & WATERWAYS**

**11/1-1**

Councillor Ian Doyle proposed, seconded by Councillor Declan Hurley.

“That Cork County Council will apply to the Government and the Department of the environment for emergency funding. This funding is to supply staff, resources and equipment to open up the dykes drains and waterways throughout the county, particularly after the rainfall of the last few weeks. This is now an urgent matter. It also should be noted the tremendous work done by the staff of Cork County Council with the resources available to them over this period-.

### **EMERGENCY FUNDING FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT**

**12/1-1**

Councillor Margaret Murphy O’Mahony proposed, seconded by Councillor Mary Rose Desmond.

"This Council calls on the Government for emergency funding to repair roads damaged in the recent storms. Funding to include money for cleaning of ditches, drains, streams etc. to prevent future erosion of roads when repaired."

### **STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION OF FLOODING**

**13/1-1**

Councillor Frank O’Flynn proposed, seconded by Councillor Seamus McGrath, the following motion:-

“That Cork County Council prepare a list of necessary works to be undertaken and the cost of these works arising from the recent severe flooding throughout the county and call on the Ministers for the Environment to make the necessary funding available to enable these works be carried out and that Cork County Council put in place a strategy for the future management and prevention of flooding.

The CE stated that Met Eireann reported triple the normal rainfall in many parts of the county in December. The Council’s Crisis Management Team convened 17 times from December 27<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contact was made with families in the Middleton area and help was provided to any family who sought it. It is estimated that the cost of the damage is in the region of €15 - €20m.

The CE also stated that it was reported that the Council was delaying the payment of the €5,000 grant to some applicants by delaying the processing forms. This is incorrect and all forms were returned within 24 hours.

The CE thanked Members of the Council for their support and also thanked the media for their reporting which helped alert the public significantly.

During a detailed discussion, Members made the following points:-

- It would have been better to have the report on flooding more in advance of meeting,
- Commends all Council staff for their reaction, response and availability,
- Thanked the gardaí, Civil Defence, the Fire Brigade, the farming community and all those who helped in any way,
- Urges the Council to take action in dredging streams/rivers,
- Now is the time to start planning for next winter,

- The whole approach to our road networks needs to change, as these events are happening more regularly and the winter maintenance budget and drainage in particular need addressing.
- The winter maintenance has been cut by 50% in recent years,
- West Cork road networks is devastated,
- Concrete gullies need to be installed where applicable,
- The embargo on recruitment has affected the number of ground staff available to respond to events like flooding,
- Dredging of rivers needs to be allowed and our waterways, dykes and drains need to be cleaned and maintained,
- We need to draw up a plan of work to be done on this, cost it and apply for funding,
- The time frame given for the flood relief schemes are no longer acceptable,
- This government has blamed the EU Directives for not dredging the River Bandon. The River Bandon should now be dredged and face whatever legal challenges arise,
- A large amount of money collected from our Motor Tax is being giving to Irish Water, there are 12,000km roads in Cork County and we have the lowest allocations in return from road tax,
- This government is underspending on road maintenance and investment,
- Inland Fisheries have challenged the works in Bandon over the years, concerned that another challenge could come from them to the Bandon flood relief scheme.
- We need clarification of who owns the waterways.
- We need to be as constructive as we can and set about developing plans for the future.
- The lack of funding was a direct cause of flooding in the Ballinhassig, and Glenbrook areas, we have tried to get funding from the OPW but no funding was received.
- The government needs to introduce emergency legislation to facilitate the cleaning, dredging and maintenance of rivers and waterways.
- A long term solution is needed,
- What is the procedure for distribution of sandbags?
- Many people had difficulty getting through to the emergency line.
- We need a reserve crew in place to erect the flood barriers.
- Glanmire should be listed as a high risk area.
- The cleaning of the rivers have been stopped by rules and regulations, an emergency meeting was asked on 28<sup>th</sup> December but rules and regulations would not allow this.
- The OPW should advise well in advance of flooding.
- Was disturbed when Inland Fisheries Ireland indicated that its perspective on Local Authorities Works Act of 1949 differs from ours, we should get a legal view on the European Legislation and the 1949 legislation.
- Communication was of great concern and we need to look into this, there was a problem for public representatives as we didn't have the answers.
- A call centre in Dublin is not good enough and no feedback was given. We need a task force in place and also a direct line for elected members in crisis like this.
- Would like to know when the money the Minister is talking about will be distributed.
- We need clarity on who is legally obliged to clean the river adjacent to their homes.
- What debate have we had in relation to mitigating measures we are taking in relation to climate change?
- We have a serious issue with the Masterplans and the Local Area Plans, the Masterplan areas were under serious flooding for the last number of days.
- The efforts of the NRA to deal with the closure of the national route at Killeagh are not good enough,
- There need to be a comprehensive flood defence plan brought forward by the OPW, they are working on them but it is too slow and they need to look upstream as well as downstream.
- Before Middleton Town Council was disbanded we had put €1.2m aside for flood protection we need to use this to help traders and business people in the area.
- Can workers get paid overtime instead of leave in lieu.

- Ditches and rivers needing to be cleaned should be part of general maintenance, major concerns about the dredging of rivers, rivers are dynamic, water flows through them and it doesn't matter how wide or deep the river is made between these restrictions, the volume of water the river can process is limited by the most restricted points the water has to flow past.
- If the capacity of a river is increased by 50%, that river can't provide the same volume of storage as a floodplain.
- Dredging can speed up the flow of water in a river , it can increase the risk of flooding downstream, also dredging has to be repeated over and over or there will be no benefit to be gained for it at all.
- We need to address the decades of mismanagement of our river systems, we need to plant native tree species which soak 67% more water.
- We need to stop building on floodplains.

The Mayor complimented everyone on their efforts during the crisis, staff, councillors and emergency teams. There is a severe shortfall of funding. We need €15 -€20m from the Department of Transport to do road works. Council are doing everything possible to make sure the roads can be travelled on. The Mayor acknowledged the money that has come from the Department of the Environment to date.

The CE responds to the points made by the Members.

- Would have liked to have circulated the report earlier but it was not possible.
- Members motions will be sent on to national level, they will pick up on the key issues such as funding, resources, infrastructural works, etc.
- We will not have a detailed schedule of works for another week or two.
- There are still 42 roads closed in three of the eight Municipal Districts, the others are still undergoing assessment.
- Cork County Council is not responsible for maintaining the waterways of Cork County. Riparian ownership is a significant issue.
- There is a real challenge in terms of getting around to drainage works. The Council cannot recruit additional staff to undertake drainage works due to funding constraints. If existing staff are taken off other duties to undertake drainage works then the other works will suffer. This should be discussed at Municipal level.
- Dredging is effective when done in conjunction with an overall plan for a watercourse, for dredging in small areas; it is ineffective, as Cllr. Dalton said. The OPW may also take this view.
- Will consider further the Inland Fisheries response. If planned flood relief schemes don't go ahead, the Council may have to reconsider this matter.
- The list of works needing to be done in watercourses must be itemised and funded.
- Cork County Council has given no commitment that it is in a position to undertake interim works on the Bandon scheme. The commitment was given by the OPW.
- The procedure for getting sandbags varies, some people collected them but they are also distributed. The Council distributed 31,000 sandbags during the December floods. We will have our own internal review and will look at these procedures.
- The Council is limited by the Haddington Road Agreement in what overtime can be paid to staff.
- The emergency line helped but improvements can be made. 85% of calls were taken and responded to and the average waiting time was 30 seconds. The emergency line took 1,500 – 1,600 calls.
- The flood barriers in Fermoy are owned by the OPW. There is a contractor in place to maintain them. Three of our staff was taken away from our normal duties to help erect them. This will have to be reviewed.
- The Council erects the flood barriers in Mallow.
- The N25 was a real challenge. Impacted primarily by groundwater challenges and infiltration of the underground cave network.

- The estates in Glanmire were saved by Council staff. A second flooding was averted by Cork County Council's action.
- Cork County Council is responsible for leading the co-ordination of the agencies on the ground. The Area Engineers liaise with the Gardaí and other bodies. While we do not have the role of co-ordinating the community response, there is a very effective system in place in Skibbereen which we need to look at. The community is working very well with the local authority.
- Assistance for families in Mallow can be responded to only by the Dept. of Social Protection.
- Will personally ensure that staff is thanked.
- Agreed that the effects of spot dredging are very limited. It is good only as part of an entire scheme.
- We are undertaking our own review and the issues all Members have raised will be part of that review.

## **CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

**5/1-1**

Members noted letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, from the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, in response to Council's letter of 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 regarding Whitegate Refinery.

Cllr. Pat Buckley was disappointed with the Minister's response. This refinery underpins the local economy. It provides 600 jobs and its loss would be a devastation to East Cork.

Members noted letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in response to Council's letter of 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015 regarding Income thresholds for social housing.

Members noted letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2015, from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in response to Council's letter of 21<sup>st</sup> November, concerning global valuations of utilities undertaken by the Valuation Office.

## **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**14/1-1**

TO: Allihies Community Parish on obtaining Fibre broadband.

TO: St. Mary and St. John's Church Ballincollig on celebrating their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

TO: John Twomey who has qualified for the 2016 Paralympic games in Rio Di Janeiro.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**15/1-1**

Members wanted to know is there a date set for the Civic Reception for the participants of the Special Olympics.

The Mayor told Members the Special Olympics Committee have been contacted on several occasions and they could not arrange a date in January. The delay is not our fault. We are awaiting their response.

*It was agreed that the remaining items on the Agenda would be deferred to the Council Meeting to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2016*

**This concluded the business of the Meeting.**