



## COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

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### Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 25 June, 2018.

#### I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir P.G. Ó Murchú, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri MacCraith, Mac Seafraida, Daltúin, Dheasmhumhnaigh, S. Ó Coileán, M. Ó Murchú, Ó hEarchaí, R. Mhic Cárthaigh, Ó Colmáin, Lombard, C. Ó Murchú, Ní Cochláin, G. Ní Mhuimhneacháin, Críod, Ó Gráda, Ó Luasaigh, Ó Riain, Ó Conbhuí, P. Ó Suilleabháin, C. MacCárthaigh, Ó Ceocháin, Sheppard, De Barra, N.Ó Coileán, Ó hEachteirn, Uí Thuama, Ó hEigeartaigh, S. NicCárthaigh, Léanacháin-Foghlú, Ní Bhrian, N. MacCárthaigh, Ó Floinn, Ó Dúghaill, Mhic Dháibhí, Uí Mhurchú, G. Ó Murchú, G. Ó Murchú, B. Ó Muimhneacháin, T. Ó Coileán, D. Ó Coileán, Ó Cearúill, J. Ó Suilleabháin, Uí hEigeartaigh, Ó hAodha.

#### PRESENT

Councillor Patrick G. Murphy, County Mayor presided.

Councillors McGrath, Jeffers, D'Alton, Desmond, J. Collins, M. Murphy, Harris, R. McCarthy, Coleman, Lombard, K. Murphy, Coughlan, G. Moynihan, Creed, O'Grady, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, P. O'Sullivan, Keohane, Sheppard, Barry, N. Collins, Ahern, Twomey, Hegarty, S. McCarthy, Linehan Foley, O'Brien, N. McCarthy, O'Flynn, Doyle, Dawson, Gearóid Murphy, G. Murphy, B. Moynihan, D. Collins, T. Collins, Carroll, J. O'Sullivan, Hegarty, Hayes.

Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Senior Executive Officer, Senior Engineer.

#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/2-6

Proposed by Councillor Marcia D'Alton

Seconded by Councillor Timmy Collins

#### RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

## **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

TO: Catherine Doyle, on the death of her husband, Jim.

## **STATUTORY BUSINESS**

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

Members noted the following disposals.

#### **DISPOSAL OF SUBSTATION AT COURTHOUSE ROAD, FERMOY, CO. CORK**

**3(a)/2-6**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the 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> June, 2018.

Consideration: €1.00 (plus €750.00 towards Council's Legal Costs)

#### **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT EYERIES, BEARA, CO. CORK**

**3(b)/2-6**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

Term: 3 years

Consideration: €1 per annum

#### **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT SUNBERRY HEIGHTS, BLARNEY, CO. CORK**

**3(c)/2-6**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

Consideration: €500 plus discharge of Council's costs.

**GRANT OF RIGHT OF WAY AT ARDNATURRISH MORE, GLENGARRIFF CO. CORK**

**3(d)/2-6**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the 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> June, 2018.

Consideration: €1.00 plus the Cork County Council's legal costs and an administration fee of €500.00

**DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MOUNT RIVERS, CARRIGALINE, CO. CORK**

**3(e)/2-6**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 07 June, 2018.

Consideration: Nil - In exchange for lands measuring 0.7109 hectares (1.757 acres) at Mount Rivers, Carrigaline and the development of this site as a Car Park (at no cost to the Council)

Members requested that the following be recorded into the minutes of the meeting;

*“There are a number of serious concerns regarding flooding at this location and also the implications for traffic. I note this disposal is subject to planning approval and it is absolutely critical that there is a rigorous assessment of the flooding and traffic issues through the planning process. The test cannot be whether or not the development will worsen these issues, but rather that this proposal must be considered as an opportunity to alleviate the flooding problem which exists on the Crosshaven road and also improve the traffic issue. The proposed new development site is adjacent to Mount Rivers estate and it also critical that residents' concerns be considered fully. “*

**DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT BALLYELLIS, MALLOW, CO. CORK**

**3(g)/2-6**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of freehold interest in house and plot as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

**CONSIDERATION:** € 350.00 inclusive of administration charges

**COVENANTS, CONDITIONS  
AGREEMENTS:** Conditions pursuant to Housing Act, AND  
1966 and Landlord & Tenant Acts, 1947 – 1984.

## **DISPOSAL OF LAND AT HILLTOP PARK, COBH, CO. CORK**

3(h)/2-6

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

Consideration: €1.00 plus our legal fees & €500 administration charge.

## **ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2018: SECTION 134 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001**

4/2-6

Members noted the Council's Annual Service Delivery Plan Report for 2018.

## **MANAGER'S REPORT UNDER SECTION 179, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000**

Part 8 Report for proposed N28 Raffeen Junction Safety Scheme.

5/2-6

Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath  
Seconded by Councillor John A Collins

### **Resolved:**

*"Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, notice of the proposed development was published, 4 No. submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following:-*

### **N28 Raffeen Junction Safety Scheme**

## **REPORTS & RECOMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES**

### **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COBH**

6/2-6

Councillor Sinead Sheppard proposed, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mary Linehan Foley, the following amended notice of motion:-

"That Cork County Council would write to the Minister of Health to allow Safe Talks to be introduced to allow those under the age of 16 be given this talk within all schools in the county."

During the discussion that followed, members' comments included as follows;

- Breaking the Silence Cobh is a group offering Safe Talks to young adults.
- Children under 16 years of age are not allowed to avail of suicide awareness safe talks.

- These groups can help young children that are struggling and need support.
- We need to encourage children to speak more and to educate them at a young age.
- It beggars belief that this rule is even there.
- An integrated approach is required involving parents and school managers.

Members agreed to write to the Minister of Health on the matter.

**DRAFT POLICY ON TAKING IN CHARGE OF ROADS COMPLETED UNDER LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES, APPROVED BY THE ROADS & TRANSPORTATION SPC ON 11TH JUNE 2018.**

7/2-6

Members noted the Draft Policy on Taking in charge of Roads completed under Local Improvement Schemes. During the discussion that followed, members raised the following points;

- This draft policy has been debated for a long time by the Roads and Transportation SPC.
- It is a good compromise and includes a provision that it will be reviewed in 3 years.
- Members referred to Section 7.1 of the draft policy document and noted that the taking in charge of a road following completion of a Local Improvement Scheme will only be considered on foot of a written request signed by all the relevant applicants and landowners for the Local Improvement Scheme and /or a request from a State Agency to maintain access to a recreation facility.
- 15 % of costs will be borne by residents and the balance by Cork County Council.
- The real issue is that roads with less than 5 dwellings will not be considered.
- These roads are the last in line for repairs and we need to get to these roads once a year.
- When works are completed following the Local Improvement Scheme, the applicants and other users will be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the road.
- People are paying taxes, yet their roads are being neglected.
- Every road should be assigned a number.
- Some members expressed strong reservations about the draft policy that restricts the reserved functions of elected council.
- Members noted that the policy still gives elected council the scope to deal with exceptional circumstances, as a reserved function.
- We should be prudent in implementing this policy.
- We are in a very difficult position maintaining or tertiary roads.
- If a road is not taken in charge it will not qualify for CIS.
- It is important to note that LIS and CIS are two different schemes.
- New house builds result in substantial contribution charges being payable to Cork County Council, and people understand that the monies paid are used to improve roads.
- Some members noted that development contributions are for use across the county at large.

The Chief Executive commented that the onus is on those who apply for Local Improvement Scheme funding to carry out maintenance and repairs. The Chief Executive stated that unless a road is taken in charge, responsibility for improvements and repairs will be borne by those whom the road serves.

On the proposal of Councillor Kevin Murphy, seconded by Councillor Timmy Collins, members approved the Policy on Taking in charge of Roads completed under Local Improvement Schemes

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL**

8/2-6

Members noted the report of the Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Directorate for the period 23 April to 25 June, 2018.

During the discussion that followed, members raised the following points;

- Members welcomed the official opening of the Business Growth Hub, where 34 full time staff are employed, and the rebranding and new signage of the Council's Business Growth Zone and business parks.
- The Business Growth Hub will help drive economic growth throughout the County.
- The success of the recent junior business team talks in the Radisson Hotel, and 500 transition years students from across the county attended.
- There are 45,000 visitors to Spike Island each year
- What are we doing to improve visitor access to Spike Island?
- We need to increase visitor numbers as well as increased departure points for Spike Island

The Senior Engineer, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism stated that Spike Island, as a tourist attraction, is not yet self sustaining, and that 100,000 visitors per year would be required to reach this point. He then outlined that cruise line operators have started buying Spike Island tours for their passengers and that this will help increase visitor numbers, and confirmed that Cork County Council is currently in the processes of finalising a draft proposal for a larger capacity vessel to service the island, and that a tender inviting expression of interest is expected to advertise in August.

The Senior Engineer said that additional access points from the wider Cork Harbour area would be considered in the future; however, the current priority is to create a self sustaining tourist enterprise on Spike Island. The Senior Engineer stated that Cork County Council is currently working with the Port of Cork to develop a pontoon at Kennedy Pier in Cobh.

Members then raised the following points;

- The pontoon in Passage West should be used to provide additional access to Spike Island
- Cobh has always been the vocal point for Spike Island and it is important we retain this.
- Members noted the success of the Michael Collins Trail and the West Cork Trail.
- In light of the Cork City boundary extension and Cork Airport, members asked what plan is in place to continue promoting Cork as a tourist destination.
- Fantastic work is being carried out at Camden Fort Meagher and this harbour tourist attraction will complement Spike Island.

The Mayor thanked members for their comments, and confirmed a letter would be sent to management at Cork Airport inviting them to attend the next Development Committee meeting.

## **CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

### **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND SPORT**

9/2-6

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018, concerning changes to the beam and lens at Fastnet Lighthouse.

Some members expressed their dissatisfaction with Department's response and during the discussion that followed members' comments included as follows;

- The Fastnet lighthouse is unique and is one of the most ambitious feats in lighthouse history.
- It is both an iconic building and place.
- I was the last point that millions of Irish emigrants saw.
- It is remiss of the Department to dismiss our request.
- The Government is acting penny wise and pound foolish.
- This is about maintaining something unique and very iconic.
- The Taoiseach as Minister for Defence should be responding.
- We call on the Taoiseach to reconsider and to retain the existing beam.
- The Commission of Irish Lights has ultimate responsibility on this issue.
- Ships and boats now use radar and they are not dependant on lighthouses.
- Historic monuments can still be very useful in today's world.
- Fastnet is a light of hope for many mariners.
- People on the Mizen Peninsula have been left down and the public consultation meeting was a huge disappointment.
- The West Cork MD was given a very information presentation by Commission of Irish Lights.
- The EU have advised that mercury in lighthouses needs to be removed.
- The loading of diesel to the lighthouse is also an issue.
- Fastnet is 6km off the coast, and the LED light will be seen from 18km away.
- The new light will be a huge improvement and we should leave this matter to the experts.

## **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

### **DEBATES AT SPCS AND OTHER COMMITTEES**

10/2-6

Members agreed to defer the item to the next council meeting to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.

### **POLICY ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

11/2-6

Councillor John O'Sullivan proposed, seconded by Councillor Paul Hayes, the following notice of motion:-

*"That Cork County Council will revise its policy on public consultation to include local media and local radio as a means of ensuring maximum engagement with the general public on public issues."*

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

The Council promote all public consultations through our website and social media platforms which we see as being most effective for most aspects of our business. We also ensure all our media contacts are notified. However, guaranteed local media and local radio coverage has to be purchased.

During a discussion on the matter members' comments included as follows;

- The public have expressed their frustration that they are missing public notices advertised in the media.
- Our communities feel like they are being left in the dark on public issues.
- People generally engage in one form of media.
- We should be encouraging the use of local radio and local media as source of information and public notices.
- Local radio has a role to play for issues that affect the County at large
- Members stated that the response to the notice of motion has missed the issue.
- We have a legal and moral responsibility to represent people.
- We need to ensure that we reach out to the public, to ensure they are aware of what is going on.
- The current method of public consultation is not reaching all people.
- Geographical targeting of social media adverts should be considered.
- We need a national amendment to change the public consultation process.
- The PPN should be used to circulate information down to their members.
- Information put out to public consultation is not understood by some people
- Draft reports should be made available as part of all public consultation processes.
- The LECP is a fantastic example of how public consultation can work effectively and we should aim to replicate this in our Part 8 proposals.
- Having engineers meeting face to face with communities would be very beneficial.

The Chief Executive stated that the organisation has significantly increased its communications via social media platforms; including facebook and twitter. The Chief Executive said that the term "public issues" is a very broad statement, and that some issues are not within the Council's remit.

The Chief Executive confirmed that all Cork County Council road closures and part 8 proposals are advertised by public notices as required. He asked members to note that we are required to work within certain statutory processes and must be cognisant of judicial review.

The Chief Executive informed members that the majority of business that responded to the perception of Cork County Council survey in 2016 had indicated that social media is their most preferred method of communicating with Cork County Council. The Chief Executive confirmed that he would refer to the Corporate Policy Group members' request that the use local radio be considered in order that costs associated with same could be examined.



## **VOTING AGE FOR LOCAL AND EUROPEAN ELECTIONS**

12/2-6

Members agreed to defer the item to the next council meeting to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.

## **C.P.O ARBITRATION AWARDS**

13/2-6

Councillor Noel Collins requested an amendment to his notice of motion, as follows, and that the amended motion be directed to the Minister for Justice and Equality for adjudication.

*“That this Council call on the Minister for Justice and Equality to review the procedure in relation to C.P.O Arbitration Awards to as to ensure, that the owners of properties, in question, should get full replacement value for the loss of their properties, and to enquire what Government Department is responsible for the appointment of arbitrators in the CPO process”*

Councillor Noel Collins put the amended proposal to council, which was seconded by Deputy Mayor Mary Linehan Foley and was carried unanimously by Council.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Justice and Equality on the matter.

## **ROLL OUT OF NEW GOVERNMENT AND FINANCIAL SERVICES TO POST OFFICES**

14/2-6

Members agreed to defer the item to the next council meeting to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.

## **ADOPTION SCANDAL**

15/2-6

Deputy Mayor Mary Linehan Foley proposed, seconded by Councillor June Murphy, the following Notice of Motion:-

*“Asking that Cork County Council write to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, and Minister Katherine Zappone to put in place a special committee /person to address the people affected by the latest adoption scandal as soon as possible. “*

During a discussion on the matter, members raised the following points;

- People have recently found out they were illegally adopted.
- They must be experiencing pain and need to be helped.
- The wording of the motion should be amended to state that the full rigors of the law should be applied to those who knowingly falsified records.
- All costs must be borne by the institutions responsible.
- The Minister should commit to a full and early disclosure.
- This issue warrants that a unique specialised counselling service be set up, as the first interaction with those affected is critical.
- Specialist counselling, on a one to one basis, should be provided.

Deputy Mayor Mary Linehan Foley agreed to the member's amendments requesting that specialised one to one counselling be put in place to address the people affected by the latest adoption scandal as soon as possible, and that the full rigors of the law should be applied to those who knowingly falsified records.

Members agreed to write to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, and Minister Katherine Zappone on the matter.

## **CERVICAL CANCER SMEAR TEST SCANDAL**

**16/2-6**

Councillor Danielle Twomey proposed, seconded by June Murphy, the following Notice of Motion:-

*That this council write to the Minister for Health and to An Taoiseach, and request them both, due to the recent cervical cancer smear test scandal, to acknowledge and support the requests from the Standing 4 Women group and that they give their full commitment to*

- 1. Providing the relevant legislation that will allow mandatory disclosure to be implemented in conjunction with an agreed timeline*
- 2. Providing Active and independent support for those affected by the scandal, including and not limited to, an immediate point of contact for those affected, and a multidisciplinary support team.*
- 3. That all affected women be immediately entitled to FREE medicine, treatment/clinical trials.*

During a discussion on the matter, members raised the following points;

- The civil liability bill was passed by the Dáil last year.
- The text in the bill initially passed by the Seanad stipulated that health authorities would have to admit mistakes that endangered patient safety.
- However, the government entered a late amendment in the Dáil to make this requirement voluntary and not mandatory.
- The amendment was proposed by Minister Charlie Flanagan, on behalf of the Department of Health.
- The Government has promised that mandatory disclosure would be included in the new patient safety bill.
- There must be active and independent support set up for all women affected by the misdiagnosis with an immediate point of contact for them and a multidisciplinary team put in place for them.
- All women affected should be immediately entitled to free medicine, treatment or clinical trials, anything that could help prolong their lives or ease their suffering.
- The minister and An Taoiseach need to meet and engage with the group and the women effected and listen to them, listen to what they want and need.
- This is the least they deserve.
- Already 18 have passed away.
- These women are our mothers, sisters, daughters, friends and they deserve to be heard and to be looked after.
- There needs to be clear instruction from Government to the HSE and CervicalCheck that full cooperation is to be given.
- Moreover, the government needs to keep its promise to legislate for full mandatory disclosure
- Both the Chief Medical Officer and the Secretary General of the Department of Health have been closely involved in this issue and yet did not apparently raise these.

- It is a basic right that all of these women are communicated with and given answers.
- The impediments in the way of information need to be removed.
- No one will be held accountable even though people have died.
- There is a loss of confidence in the screening programme.
- People do not have faith in the HSE or health system.

Members then requested that the following questions be directed to the Minister for Health and An Taoiseach for response;

- Why were the HSE memos released to PAC and not brought to the attention of the Minister for Health and the Taoiseach when this crisis broke?
- When will further details be made available in relation to the false negative smear tests results given to 209 women identified by Cervical Check?
- Specifically, what proportion of these were mistaken false negatives and what proportion were so called ‘innocent’ false negatives which fall within the margin of error in such tests?
- In relation to the redress scheme, what are the terms of the State’s contracts with the US labs in terms of indemnity agreements?
- What was Cervical Check’s internal strategy with hospital consultants in relation to the undue delay in informing women of their audit results?
- What is the status of the other approximately 1,600 women with cancer who had not been included in the Cervical Check audit?
- How many of these women have now been contacted and for those who had false negatives?
- Are their smears going to be audited also?

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Health and An Taoiseach on the matter.

## **CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

17/2-6

Councillor Joe Harris proposed, seconded by June Murphy, the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Cork County Council would call on the Minister and the HSE to provide emergency funds to CAMHS to recruit Psychologists in order to reduce the waiting list for children with severe mental health problems.”*

During a discussion on the matter, members raised the following points;

- CAMHS in Mahon is experiencing a chronic shortage of psychologist consultants.
- CAMHS need at least another 5 psychologists.
- It is a fantastic organisation; however, their services are at crisis point.
- Psychologists are being moved, meaning that children will often have different psychologists treating them.
- Priority waiting list times are up to 18 months.
- Young children referred to CAMHS in primary school are not being seen until they reach secondary school.
- This problem has been exasperated by the embargo on public services.
- The lack of resources and funding that CAMHS is receiving is failing children that need to avail of their services.

The Mayor and members said they fully supported the motion and agreed to write to the Minister.

## **REMOVAL OF EMERGENCY LEVIES ON MOTOR FUEL**

18/2-6

Councillor Joe Carroll proposed, seconded by Daniel Twomey, the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That this council would write to the Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe, and ask him to immediately remove the emergency levies that were put on motor fuel during the height of the recession. This would help to alleviate the pressure now being endured by all motorists, who now face extortionate costs for petrol and diesel.”*

Members commented as follows;

- Considering the improvement in the economy and public finances the Government should be in a position to remove these levies as the crisis is no longer there.
- Some businesses are down €300 a week due to increases in the cost of diesel since January.
- Families are also feeling the effect of the fuel price increases.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform.

## **ISLAND FISHERIES (HERITAGE LICENCES) BILL, 2017**

19/2-6

Councillor Paul Hayes proposed, seconded by Joe Carroll, the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That this council supports the Island Fisheries (Heritage Licences) Bill, 2017, currently at Committee Stage in the Oireachtas and recognises the benefits of supporting island communities and tackling depopulation.”*

During the discussion that followed, members raised the following points;

- This Bill has the potential to stem the decline of our island communities, by invoking a provision in the Common Fisheries Policy, which would allow a fishing quota and heritage licence to be granted to island fishermen, which would help to make their business viable and sustainable, and thereby sustain our island communities
- This bill has passed first and second stage and is now at Committee Stage.
- There is provision in the CFP, Common Fisheries Policy, for ring-fenced, non-transferable quota for islands.
- We need to promote small scale fishing, in boats less than 12 metres, especially along the West Cork coast.
- Small scale coastal fishing is defined as fishing from vessels less than 12 metres in length and not using towed fishing gear
- If this Bill is enacted, it will allow a fishing quota to be allocated and heritage licences given to island fishermen, to facilitate the continuance of traditional fishing practices on Ireland's offshore islands.
- It provides for the issuing of licences to island fishers, which is defined as people who are habitually resident on one of Ireland's off shore islands and who are engaged in small scale coastal fishing to earn a livelihood.

Members agreed to write to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine, outlining Cork County Council's support for the Bill.

## **CONTROL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (OCCUPIED TERRITORIES) BILL, 2018**

20/2-6

Councillor Des O’Grady proposed, seconded by Eoghan Jeffers, the following Notice of Motion:-

*“This Council supports County Cork becoming free from goods and services produced in Israeli settlements illegally established on stolen Palestinian land and therefore urges the Seanad to support the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill, 2018.”*

During the discussion that followed, members raised the following points;

- Senator Frances Black is currently bringing a draft Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill through Seanad Éireann.
- Since June 1967 Israeli Government Policy has been to move 600,000 people onto illegally occupied Palestinian land.
- Palestinian people are being forcibly evicted from their homes.
- Income from goods and services produced in these Israeli settlements is used to pay for further developments on Palestinian land.
- Israeli policy constitutes a war crime under Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and Fourth Geneva Convention.

Members agreed to write to Senator Frances Black offering their support for the draft Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill.

### **Extension of Time**

At 1:15pm Councillor Kevin Murphy, seconded by Councillor Paul Hayes an extension of time until 2:00pm.

## **AN BORD PLEANÁLA**

21/2-6

Councillor Marcia D’Alton proposed, seconded by Seamus McGrath, the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That planning legislation would be amended to require all members of An Bord Pleanála appointed by the Minister to be qualified in a planning or planning-related field and to have demonstrated long-standing experience and interest in the planning system. This is to ensure that the Board can uphold its core function, i.e. to provide, in the interests of the common good, for proper planning and sustainable development.”*

During the discussion that followed, members raised the following points;

- Only 3 members of the 10 person board are qualified as planners or qualified in a planning-related field.
- There are now fewer planners on the board than other professions.
- None of the board members are qualified health experts
- The board needs to be comprised of a multidisciplinary team.

- The underlying issue is that inspector's reports are being overturned by the board.
- It is a travesty that the inspector's report concerning Indaver's incinerator application was overturned by the board, when none of the board members had a part in the oral hearing.
- One must question the justification of these decisions.
- There should be a rigorous report of justification when the board overturns an inspector's report.
- There must be clear and specific requirements governing the qualifications of board members.
- An Bord Pleanála was set up to be an independent body.
- We must question if it is really independent.
- The board needs to be more transparent.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

## **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

TO: Barry Piggot who beat the world record in the bench press in Calgary.

TO: Cork based athletes that took part in the recent National Special Olympic Games in Dublin

TO: Francis John O'Flynn, on winning a senior hurling medal with the Sligo Senior Hurlers in the Lourey Maher Cup Final in Croke Park on the 23 June, 2018.

TO: Stephen Walsh, on winning the Captain's Prize at Raffeen Creek Pitch and Putt.

Councillor Paul Hayes proposed that a Civic Reception be held for the Cork athletes that took part National Special Olympic Games.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Opening of Tenders**

The Mayor informed members that 3 tenders would be opened at the meeting for the Middleton Main Street Paving Scheme Phase 2 – Site Investigation Works Contract.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**