



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 11th September, 2017.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir D. Ó hUrthuile, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri S. MacCraith, Mac Seafraida, Daltúin, Ní Fhúarthain, Ní Dheasmhumhnaigh, Ó Cainte, S. Ó Coileán, M. Ó Murchú, Ó hEarchaí, R. Mhic Cárthaigh, C. Ó Murchú, Ní Cochláin, Ó Donnabháin, G. Ní Mhuimhneacháin, Críod, Ó Gráda, Ó Luasaigh, Ó Riain, Ó Conbhuí, P. Ó Suilleabháin, De Barra, Sheppard, O'Cádhlá, Rasmussen, N. Ó Coileán, Uí Thuama, Ó hEigearthaigh, S. NicCárthaigh, Ní Bhrian, N. MacCárthaigh, Ó Floinn, Ó Dúghaill, Nic Dháibhí, Ó Sé, G. Ó Murchú, G. Ó Murchú, Ó Muimhneacháin, T. Ó Coileán, D. Ó Coileán, Ó Cearúill, S. Ó Suilleabháin, C. Ó Suilleabháin, P.G. Ó Murchú, Uí hEigearthaigh, Ó hAodha,

PRESENT

Councillor D. Hurley County Mayor presided.

Councillors McGrath, Jeffers, D'Alton, Forde, Desmond, Canty, J. Collins, Ml. Murphy, Harris, R. McCarthy, K. Murphy, Coughlan, O'Donovan, G. Moynihan, Creed, O'Grady, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, P. O'Sullivan, Sheppard, Barry, O'Cádhlá, Rasmussen, N. Collins, Twomey, Ml. Hegarty, S. McCarthy, O'Brien, N. McCarthy, O'Flynn, Doyle, Dawson, O'Shea, G. Murphy, G. Murphy, B. Moynihan, T. Collins, D. Collins, Carroll, J. O'Sullivan, C. O'Sullivan, P. G. Murphy, M. Hegarty, Hayes.

Chief Executive, Director of Services Planning, Senior Executive Officer, Senior Planner, Senior Executive Planners

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1(a)/9-1

Proposed by Councillor Kevin Conway

Seconded by Councillor Derry Canty

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 24th July, 2017, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

1(b)/9-1

Proposed by Councillor Derry Canty

Seconded by Councillor Kay Dawson

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Special In Committee meeting of the Council held on 4th August, 2017, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

1(c)/9-1

Proposed by Councillor Kevin Conway

Seconded by Councillor Derry Canty

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Special In Committee meeting of the Council held on 4th September, 2017, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

Members noted that at the CPG meeting on the 4th September, 2017, Members agreed that future votes of sympathy and votes of congratulations would be recorded on the forms provided to Members and forwarded to Corporate Services.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/9-1

TO: Mr Paul Murphy, Senior Planner on the death of his mother, Julia.

TO: Mr Noel Sheridan, Senior Planner on the death of his mother, Ann.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001:

Members noted the following disposals.

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 24 BAN NA GREINE, CARRIGTWOHILL, CO. CORK

3(a)/9-1

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 28th August, 2017.

SITUATION:

24 Ban Na Greine,

Carrigtwohill,
Co. Cork,

AREA: Dwellinghouse

**TO WHOM IT IS
PROPOSED TO DISPOSE:** Isabelle Kelly

CONSIDERATION: €41,577.44 (subject to change depending on
month and year of redemption)

PURPOSE: Acquire the Council's interest under
the Shared Ownership Scheme.

**DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 66 ARBOUR HEIGHTS, WATERPARK, CARRIGALINE,
CO. CORK**

3(b)/9-1

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 28th August, 2017.

SITUATION: 66 Arbour Heights,
Waterpark,
Carrigaline,
Co. Cork.

AREA: Dwellinghouse

**TO WHOM IT IS
PROPOSED TO DISPOSE:** T. O'Brien & T. Hardiman

CONSIDERATION: €85,320.87 (subject to change depending on
month and year of redemption)

PURPOSE: Acquire the Council's interest under
the Shared Ownership Scheme.

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT 19 SRUTHAIN NA SAILI, SEAFIELD, YOUGHAL, CO. CORK

3(c)/9-1

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 28th August, 2017.

SITUATION: 19 Sruthain Na Saili,
Seafield,
Youghal,
Co. Cork.

AREA: Dwellinghouse

**TO WHOM IT IS
PROPOSED TO DISPOSE:** Deirdre Cott

CONSIDERATION: €49,595.85 (subject to change depending on
month and year of redemption)

PURPOSE: Acquire the Council's interest under
the Shared Ownership Scheme.

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 20 QUARRYVALE, DRIMOLEAGUE, CO. CORK

3(d)/9-1

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 28th August, 2017.

SITUATION: 20 Quarryvale,
Drimoleague,
Co. Cork.

AREA: Dwellinghouse

**TO WHOM IT IS
PROPOSED TO DISPOSE:** Michel O'Leary

CONSIDERATION: €35,074.83 (subject to change depending on
month and year of redemption)

PURPOSE: Acquire the Council's interest under
the Shared Ownership Scheme.

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 3 CONGRESS PLACE, MONKSTOWN, CO. CORK

3(e)/9-1

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 25th July, 2017.

**LAND HELD UNDER
LEASEHOLD INTEREST:**

3 Congress Place, Monkstown, Co. Cork

FREEHOLD INTEREST:

Folio No. 981L
Folio No. CK42439

FROM WHOM ACQUIRED:

Unknown

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

Leona Beale

CONSIDERATION:

€350.00 inclusive of administration charges

**COVENANTS, CONDITIONS
AND AGREEMENTS:**

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

**SECTION 29.1(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1991 - MAKING OF A
PROPOSAL FOR THE ALTERATION OF CORK COUNTY COUNCIL'S BOUNDARY
WITH CORK CITY COUNCIL.**

4/9-1

The Mayor said that Members were briefed "In committee" on the key points and issues contained within the Section 29 proposal document (Appendix A attached). The Mayor said each of the Party Leaders would now address the chamber.

During the discussion that followed. Members made the following points:

- Members welcomed the Section 29 boundary proposal document,
- The Section 29 is a very measured approach and is step forward in the right direction.
- Cork County Council's formal boundary proposal has the potential to facilitate progress.
- Cork County Council is in favour of a reasonable extension to the City boundary
- The Section 29 is an attempt by Cork County Council to get Cork City Council to engage and to move the process forward.
- Members were hopeful the proposal would welcome engagement from the City Council.
- It is unthinkable that the Minister will push ahead without considering Cork County Council's proposal and to impose a boundary change that 1 of the interest authorities is vehemently opposed to.
- Members were concerned about that lack of public consultation during Mackinnon review process.

- People living in rural communities are not aware of the potential ramifications of the boundary issue.
- It is fundamentally wrong and an infringement on democracy if the public do not have a say.
- The Section 29 process will hopefully achieve a level of engagement that is necessary with communities.
- In the past the City and County have supported each other through challenging times.
- It is important for dialogue between both Councils in an effort to get an agreement on the extent and detail of a boundary extension.
- Any solution that is less than what both City and County councils are happy with is less than optimum.
- The Council's position is needed regarding an equalisation fund, a strategic authority, and democracy arrangements.
- Members raised concerns that the potential of a 26% rates increase is a huge issue for businesses.

Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath

Seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy

RESOLVED:

“Cork County Council proposes that the boundary of Cork County Council with Cork City Council be altered in accordance with the provisions of Part V Section 29 of the Local Government Act 1991 and that the alteration be as specified on the map attached at Appendix 1 hereto, which map indicates the proposed boundary and the area the subject of the proposal.”

Members agreed unanimously to the resolution.

The Mayor called on all the people in Cork City and County, communities groups and businesses to engage in the boundary alteration process. The Mayor also called on Cork City Council to enter into meaningful discussion with Cork County Council

At 12:15pm, the Mayor informed Members that 4 tenders would be opened at the meeting for the engagement of consultancy services (technical) for the design/procurement of infrastructure works under the WaterRock Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund Initiative (LIHAF Initiative)

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

CONFERENCE LIST FOR SEPTEMBER, 2017

5/9-1

Members noted the Conference List for September, 2017 that was approved by the Corporate Policy Group on the 4th September, 2017.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

6/9-1

Members noted the letter dated 20th July, 2017 from the Department of Social Protection, in response to the Council's Motion of the 10th July, 2017, regarding the Community Employment (CE) Scheme,

Members agreed to write to the local Social Protection Office seeking confirmation had the changes referred to in the Department's letter come into effect from the 3rd July, 2017.

N71- NATIONAL PRIMARY ROUTE STATUS

7/9-1

The Mayor advised Members that item 23 on the meeting agenda the letter from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to the N71 would be taken in conjunction with item 7, the letter from the Department of Transport.

Members noted letter dated 21st July, 2017, in response to the Council's letter dated 29th November, 2016, requesting a reclassification of the N71 to National Primary Route status.

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points;

- Members welcome the Ministers visit to West Cork during the summer and noted that Minister saw firsthand the poor conditions of the N71.
- The entire N71 route needs to be upgraded to national primary route status.
- The route is vital artery to West Cork in terms of connectivity for businesses and industry, and appropriate funding needs to be allocated
- A paltry amount has been spent in the routes upkeep in the last ten years.
- The N71 needs an overall strategy.
- Members were hopeful that a funding announcement for the route will be announced by the department post the midyear review.
- Members were disappointed that the Minister did not respond until August 2017 to their letter sent on the 29th November, 2016.

The Mayor proposed that following the completion of the midyear review that a delegation from Cork County Council would meet again with the Minister to seek a further update on upgrading the N71 to national primary route status.

HOME CARE SYSTEM

8(a)/9-1

Members noted letter dated 14th August, 2017, in response to the Council's letter dated 3rd July, 2017, requesting implementation of the Home Care system.

MEDICINAL CANNABIS ACCESS PROGRAMME

8(b)/9-1

Members noted Letter dated 31st August, 2017, in response to the Council's letter dated 13th July, 2017, regarding broadening of the compassionate access programme to medicinal cannabis.

Members agreed to write back to the Minister expressing the urgency to expedite changes to the legislative framework.

NOTICES OF MOTION

STAFFING LEVELS AT CIVIC AMENITY SITES

9/9-1

Councillor Eoghan Jeffers proposed, seconded by Councillor Des O'Grady the following notice of motion:-

“To seek a report on staffing levels at Civic Amenity Sites across the county and the procedure followed when workers at these sites are out ill or on annual leave.”

Members noted the report from the Senior Engineer, Environment Department, which outlined as follows:-

11 Civic Amenity Sites operated by the Council across the County: -

- Castletownbere
- Derryconnell
- Clonakilty
- Bandon
- Macroom
- Raffeen
- Rossmore
- Youghal
- Mallow
- Kanturk
- Millstreet

6 Managers appointed, each in charge of 2 Civic Amenity Sites with Millstreet being the exception. 2 operatives at each site, with 1 additional operative at Raffeen and Rossmore on Saturdays. When an operative is out ill or on leave, if a replacement is not available from within Waste Management, one is sought from the local Roads office

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points;

- Bottle banks are reported being full at times, and was the issue linked to there not being enough staff to service bottle banks.
- Due to cuts back there is not enough staff to provide cover.
- Staffing resources needs to be addressed.
- Civic amenity sites in West Cork only open 2.5 days per week.
- During the summer tourists are looking where they can dispose of refuse when the sites are closed.

- The report shows the efficiency of a small number of staff running the 11 sites across the County
- The closure of the sites on Saturdays and lunch times is proving problematic.

The Chief Executive stated that the process of finalising outdoor staffing levels is ongoing. The Chief Executive said that an agreement was reached with the LRC in 2013 covering staffing in civic amenity sites and that current staffing levels at the sites are within agreement of 12 users per man hour. The Chief Executive outlined that prior to the agreement; staffing levels at Derryconnell was based on 6 users per man hour, and that in some cases usage at the other amenity sites is currently 50% of the agreed LRC levels

The Chief Executive said Cork County Council goes to tender on a yearly basis for companies to service the Council's bottle banks, and he is not aware of any issues in relation to the emptying of the bottle banks.

ANTI DUMPING INITIATIVE

10/9-1

Councillor Michael Murphy proposed, seconded by Councillor Michael Murphy the following notice of motion:-

“To request details of the Anti-Dumping Initiative under which €1.3m government funding is being made available to Local Authorities. Details of any applications for funding made by this Council and the result of same to be included.”

Members noted the report from the Senior Engineer, Environment Department, which outlined as follows:-

The Environment Directorate of Cork County Council has made two separate applications in respect of the two calls to Local Authorities to seek funding under this initiative. The initial call for projects was made on February 8th 2017 with a closing date of March 20th 2017 under Phase 1 of the initiative.

Cork County Council sought funding for each of the following projects under Phase 1:

1. Mallow Tidy Towns Local Park Improvement - €3000;
2. Bantry Bay Shoreline Clean Up - €3500;
3. Rathpeacon Area Clean Up - €2500;
4. Carrigduff, Mallow Clean Up - €1237.15;
5. Glengarriff Community Clean Up - €946;
6. River Blackwater Clean Up - €430;
7. Rathcooney Clean Up - €2500;
8. Ballincollie Road Clean Up - €2500;
9. Blackstone Bridge Clean Up - €1250; and
10. Courtstown Little Island Clean Up - €1250.

On May 5th last, Cork County Council was notified that these applications successfully met the criteria of the initiative. Staff are now working towards the successful completion of these projects by September 1st.

On May 29th 2017, Minister Naughten announced further additional funds under this initiative by way of a Phase 2 call for projects with a closing date of June 26th for submissions.

Cork County Council sought funding for each of the following projects under Phase 2, by way of a submission made on June 26th:

1. Anti Dumping Initiative at Bring Sites Project - €150.00;
2. Oilean Chleire (Cape Clear Island) Marine Litter Project - €2857.00;
3. Sherkin / Heir Islands Marine Litter Project - €3606.00;
4. Nash`s Boreen, Fairhill Clean Up - €2500.00;
5. Covert Monitoring of lay-by black spots - €920.00

We await a decision on the outcome of these projects. We are not aware at this time if this will be the last phase of the initiative or if there may be further calls for funding.

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points;

- Members welcomed the report from the Senior Engineer.
- Members said that they were disappointed they never knew at Municipal District level that an anti litter initiative was in existence.
- Details of the initiative did not come before the Environment SPC.
- Municipal District staff were also not aware of the initiative.
- It is disappointing that funding available under the initiative may have been passed down.
- Funding should go towards prevention and surveillance rather than litter clean ups.

The Chief Executive said the timeframe for applications under the anti litter initiative did not allow for it to go through Municipal District level. The Chief Executive said that 85 schemes were approved nationally in 2017 of which Cork County Council was approved 10 equating to 10%-12% nationally. The Chief Executive said the initiative may continue in 2018 and that any lack of communication regarding the initiative will be addressed in future by the Council's Environment Directorate.

VERNON MOUNT

11/9-1

Councillor Marcia D'Alton proposed, seconded by Councillor Eoghan Jeffers the following notice of motion:-

“That Cork County Council would use the powers granted to it under Section 71 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 to take Vernon Mount (No. 00480 in the Record of Protected Structures) into public ownership.

That in thus acting in accordance within its statutory powers to respond to its commitment in HE 4-1 of the County Development Plan, Cork County Council would be mindful that:

1. Since 1997, the owners of Vernon Mount have failed on an ongoing basis to uphold their responsibility under Section 58 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000.
2. The cost of the works to the roof of Vernon Mount carried out by Cork County Council in 2010 and in 2012 was to be reimbursed by the owners to Cork County Council in the event of damage befalling the house.”

Members noted the report from the Conservation Officer, Planning Department, which outlined as follows:-

Cork County Council has appointed the services of David Kelly Partnership, Consulting Engineers to prepare a structural survey of Vernon Mount House and QS costings for the stabilisation of the structure. This report will be issued imminently. No decisions regarding Vernon Mount House can be made until such a time as Cork County Council has full details with respect to the structural integrity of the property and the logistics involved in its stabilisation. Cork County Council will take under consideration the conclusions /recommendations of the engineers report, as well as seeking advice from our planning/heritage and legal sections prior to making a decision on any future actions that may be taken under the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010, in relation to Vernon Mount House.

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points;

- Vernon Mount is a very important building to the people of Cork and Frankfield.
- The building should be an integral part of the Tramore Valley Park.
- It is disgraceful what is happening to our national heritage.
- Owners must protect important heritage buildings.
- There is an onus on Council to decide what to do in relation to Vernon Mount house.
- Can the Council CPO building in an effort to preserve national heritage.
- It should be national policy similar to the United Kingdom where a national trust is established to safeguard the future of our national heritage buildings.
- There has been no update in the past year on the legal advice available to Council

The Chief Executive said that the advice from the Council's Planning Conservation Officer was that no decisions regarding Vernon Mount House can be made until such a time as Cork County Council has full details with respect to the structural integrity of the property and the logistics involved in its stabilisation, and that the support to date from the property owners has been less than desired. The Chief Executive said the question still remains whether Vernon Mount is capable of being protected at this built and that the costs associated with protecting and stabilising the building would be very significant.

Members made the following points;

- The owners of Vernon Mount have yet to provide access to the Council's Conservation Officer.
- We need to uphold our part under legislation and prosecute the owners of the building, and seek a refund from the owners the cost of the works to the roof of Vernon Mount carried out by Cork County Council.
- As a Council, we are failing in our responsibilities.
- Legal advice needs to be obtained by the end of September, 2017.

The Chief Executive advised Members that Council should seriously consider does is want to invest significant monies in a structure that may not be able to be protected. The Chief Executive confirmed an update on legal advice and a report on the matter will be brought to the Council's National Monuments Committee.

Councillor Diarmaid O’Cádhlá proposed, seconded by Councillor Noel Collins the following notice of motion:-

“To seek a report on the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017, covering both private and public tenancies. The report to include

- The total number of inspectors employed by Council to check compliance with the standards; and total number of private and public properties to be inspected.
- The status of inspectors and whether they have additional responsibilities.
- Level of funding Council receives annually from the Residential Tenancies Board in relation to the inspection of properties.
- Frequency of inspections, actual and targeted.
- The result of inspections carried out in 2016 and this year to date broken down by public/privately owned properties.
- Number of ‘Improvement Notices’ issued and/or prosecutions initiated.

What redress does a tenant in public housing have if the Council itself, as landlord, is in breach of minimum standards?”

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

The Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017 came into operation on **1 July 2017**, replacing the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008 and the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2009. It has updated these previous regulations and also provides new measures covering heating appliances, carbon monoxide and window safety. The regulations require landlords of rented properties, to ensure that such properties meet certain minimum standards. The standards relate, inter alia, to structural condition, provision of sanitary facilities, food preparation, storage and laundry, availability of adequate heating, lighting and ventilation, safety of oil, electricity and gas installations, fire safety and refuse facilities.

3 no. inspectors are employed at fire officer grade to carry out private rented inspections in Cork County of which 30% of 2 of the inspectors responsibilities are linked to Fire & Building Control.

Currently there are 18,835 registered private rented properties in the county. A sum of €61,700 was received from the Dept of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in 2016 in respect of inspections made in 2015.

A total of 828 private rented inspections were carried out by the Council in 2016, with 756 dwellings inspected. 733 dwellings in 2016 were deemed to require some remedial measures to meet the standards at initial inspection stage. The most common reason for non-compliance in 2016 (in 626 cases) was that the property owner at the time of inspection did not provide certification that all Electricity and Gas appliances were maintained in good repair and safe working order (Registered Electrical Contractors of Ireland Certificate – RECI CERT & Registered Gas Installers of Ireland Certificate – RGII CERT).

Statistics in this area are compiled on a quarterly basis and while Qtr 2 2017 statistics are only currently being compiled, in Qtr 1 2017, a total of 240 private rented inspections were carried out with 239 dwellings inspected. In Q1 223 dwellings were deemed to require some remedial measures to meet the standards at initial inspection stage.

‘Rebuilding Ireland’s Strategy for the Rental Sector’ which was published in December 2016 outlined that in order to increase the numbers of properties inspected, specific ring-fenced funding for

inspection and compliance activity will be identified from 2018 onwards and annual targets for both inspection and compliance will be agreed with local authorities. The strategy outlines an aim of achieving a 25% annual inspection coverage rate by 2021. Cork County Council is committed to working closely with the Department in achieving these aims but it will be dependent on the appropriate funding being made available.

In 2016, 7 Improvement Notices were issued and in 2017 to date 8 Improvement Notices have been issued. No legal action has been taken to-date.

There are no dedicated inspectors of Council owned stock. However, we have 8 dedicated Clerks of Works throughout the County who deal with routine maintenance and any issues identified by them or by Contractors on site are investigated and repaired as they arise.

A stock survey of Cork County Council owned stock is currently underway. The initial phase was carried out in 2016 in Cobh, Midleton and Youghal. Any issues identified were repaired. Further phases will be carried out in 2017 and 2018 to inspect all Council owned stock and any issues identified will be addressed.

Any breaches of standards that are identified are addressed as soon as practicable. There are no issues of redress for tenants in this area.

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points;

- There are widespread dire conditions in rented accommodation.
- Very little inspections are taking place with only 4% being inspected each year.
- The vast majority of rented accommodation has not been inspected in over a decade.
- Landlords are not delivering the required legal minimum standards.
- There is an absence of prosecutions of landlords for violation of minimum standards.
- The figures in the report are astonishing.
- There is not enough funding or enough staffing to carry out inspections.
- Under HAP, each rented property should be inspected within 8 months, this is not happening.
- The amount paid over by the Department for carrying out inspections is falling.
- Only 25% of properties will be inspected by 3 staff.

MATERNITY PROTECTION BILL

13/9-1

Councillor Danielle Twomey proposed, seconded by Councillor Rachael McCarthy the following notice of motion:-

“That this Council writes to Minister Eoghan Murphy, and ask the following:

- To conduct a legal review of the local government act 2001, article no 37. Where it states a public representative absent from their post for more than 6 months will be deemed resigned. This does not cover cases of maternity leave and therefore is discriminatory and the legislation is conflicting.
- That the Minister look to reintroduce the Maternity Protection Bill 2013 before government“

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points;

- Gender balance is now provided for under legislation.
- Members when they are sick are covered under illness benefits.
- Legislation does not cover women in maternity.
- It is disappointing that in 2017 Members need to discuss this issue.
- Members need to encourage young women into politics.

- It is up to the Minister to deliver and implement further maternity and paternity benefits.

Members agreed to write to Minister Eoghan Murphy asking that the Minister reintroduce the Maternity Protection Bill to the Dail for debate.

It was agreed that the remaining items on the Agenda would be deferred to the next Council Meeting on 25th September, 2017.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

25/9-1

- TO: Chloe Sigerson on playing with the Cork ladies in the All Ireland Senior Camogie Final and her contribution to the team to date.
- TO: Tina Murphy on receiving the Jeremy Dee Trophy in recognition of her service to women's football.
- TO: Francis McAveney and Passage West GAA Club on hosting the largest U8 and U10 ladies football blitz in the country held on Saturday, 9th September, 2017.
- TO: St. Catherine's GAA on winning the East Cork Junior A Hurling Championship.
- TO: Libby Coppinger of St. Colum's G.A.A Club following the Cork Senior Camogie Team's All Ireland Final win
- TO: The transition year students of Charleville C.B.S for representing Young Social Innovators Ireland at the World Cup Sage finals in Odessa and winning the third place award at the finals.

This concluded the business of the Meeting