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**Minutes of Proceedings at Special Meeting of Cork County Council held by Microsoft Teams on 26th April 2021 at 11am.**

**I LATHAIR**

**Comhairleoir Máire Léanacháin - Uí Foghlú, Méara Chontae**

Comhairleoiri: Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé, Sean Pól, Ó Múrchú, Gearóid, Críod, Ní Mhuineacháin G, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Cochláin M, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó hAodha, Padraig, Ó Múrchú, Gearóid, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Madaoin, Ó Sé T, Léineacháin Ui Foghlú, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní hEachthigheirn, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh S, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaoich, Ó hAodha, Pól, Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú, Caoimhín Ó Suilleabháin, Sean, Uí Shuilleabháin, Máire, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Coileáin D, Ó Murchú PG, Uí Mhurchú Cáit, Ó Conaill, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, , Uí Bhuachalla, Ó Conchubair L, Daltún Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Ó Conchubair S, Ó Conchubair A, MacCarthaig N, Ó Flionn, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, De Róiste.

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**PRESENT**

 **Councillor Mary Linehan-Foley, County Mayor, presided.**

**Councillor:** Moynihan B, Doyle, O’Shea JP, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kennedy, Madden, O’Shea T, Linehan – Foley, Hegarty, Ahern, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul, Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy K, O’Sullivan J, O’Sullivan M, O’Donovan, Collins D, Murphy P.G, Murphy Katie, O’Connell, McGrath, D’Alton, Buckley, O’Connor L, Dalton – O’Sullivan, O’Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O’Connor S, O’Connor A, McCarthy, O’Flynn, O’Brien, O’Leary, Roche.

Chief Executive, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Michael Lynch, Director of Service, Planning and Development.

 **[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**1/4-2**

***Proposed by Cllr. Karen Coakley***

***Seconded by Cllr. Alan Coleman***

**RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 12th April, 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

**2/4-2**

***Proposed by Cllr. Kevin Murphy***

***Seconded by Cllr. Michael Hegarty***

**RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 1st April, 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

 **[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**3/4-2**

**TO:** Pat Dawson Jnr on the death of their mother, Angela Dawson

**TO:** Donal O’Connell on the death of his grandson, Rowan O’Connell

**TO:** Mr. Tom Meaney on the death of his wife, Joan Meaney

**TO:** Mr. Paul O’Donoghue on the death of his father, Timmy O’Donoghue

**TO:** Mona Clancy on the death of her husband, Patrick Clancy

**TO:** Kieran & Margaret Casey on the death of their father, Olly Casey

 **[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**4/4-2**

**Disposal of Property:**

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

# *Members noted the following disposals:*

**Municipal District of East Cork:**

***Disposal of Land at Owenacurra Business Park, Midleton, Co. Cork***

# 4(a)/4-2

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 14th April, 2021.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of Land at Owenacurra Business Park, Midleton, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 0.036 hectares (0.0889 acres) as per Folio CK91554F

# CONSIDERATION: €25,000 - by way of a 999-year Lease

# 4(b)/4-2

***Grant of Right of Way at Lagile, Killeagh, Co. Cork***

**SITUATION:** Grant of Right of Way at Lagile, Killeagh, Co. Cork

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00

**Municipal District of West Cork:**

# *Grant of Right of Way at Tralispean, Skibbereen, Co. Cork* 4(c)/4-2

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 14th April, 2021.

**SITUATION:**Grant of Right of Way at Tralispean, Skibbereen, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 60m x 2m wide

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00

**4(d)/4-2**

***Grant of Right-of-Way (7m x 5m) wide at Burgatia, Rosscarbery, Co Cork***

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 14th April, 2021.

**SITUATION:**Grant of Right of Way (7m x 5m) wide at Burgatia, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 7m x 5m wide

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00

**5/4-2**

**Part 8 Manager’s Reports**

**Section 179(3) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended):**

**Municipal District of Kanturk/Mallow:**

Consideration of Part 8 – Chief Executive’s Report for Proposed Improvements to Spa House Grounds and Tip O’Neill Park, Mallow, Co. Cork.

***Proposed by Councillor Tony O’Shea***

***Seconded by Councillor Pat Hayes***

**6/4-2**

**Municipal District of Bandon/Kinsale:**

Consideration of Part 8 – Chief Executive’s Report for Proposed Development of Bandon Town TPREP Phase 1 under Part 8 of the Planning & Development Acts.

***Proposed by Councillor Alan Coleman***

***Seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy***

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members welcomed the proposed development for Bandon
* Very positive reaction from businesses and people of Bandon
* Said it was extremely significant for the town of Bandon

**7/4-2**

**Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, as amended:**

Proposed Material Contravention of the West Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan 2017. Planning Reference 20/00401 Schull Community Care Association Ltd.

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive and during the discussion said;

* Proposed development provides support services for the people of the Mizen peninsula
* Was a very important development for the local community
* Said that housing for the elderly was needed in the Schull and surrounding area.

Councillor Danny Collins proposed, seconded by Councillor Patrick Gerard Murphy the following resolution**:**

*“That this Council resolves to approve the proposal of the Chief Executive, as set out in his report prepared in accordance with section 34(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that permission be granted for planning application 20/00401 Schull Community Care Association Ltd for the construction of 12 No. dwelling houses, external refuse bin corral and all associated landscaping, roadways, lighting and associated site works, which materially contravenes the West cork Municipal District Local Area Plan 2017”.*

The Mayor called for a vote to be taken which resulted as follows:-

**FOR:** Councillors: Coleman, Murphy Kevin, O’Sullivan John, O’Sullivan Marie, O’Donovan, Collins D, Murphy P.G, Murphy Katie, O’Connell, McGrath, D’Alton, Buckley, Dalton O’Sullivan, O’Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O’Connor S, O’Connor A, McCarthy N, O’Flynn, O’Brien, O’Leary, Roche, Doyle, O’Shea J.P, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kennedy, Madden, O’Shea T, Linehan-Foley, Hegarty, Ahern, McCarthy S, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul

**[46]**

**AGAINST:** None

 **[0]**

**ABSTAIN:** Councillors: Quaide

**[1]**

The Senior Executive Officer declared the results as follows: 46 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention.

The Mayor declared the resolution passed.

**8/4-2**

**Water-Rock Development Contribution Scheme 2021-2041:**

“That this Council resolves to make the Water-Rock Development Contribution Scheme 2021-2041 in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), without modification or variation and effective from this date, 26th April 2021.”

***Proposed by Councillor Michael Hegarty***

***Seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley***

 **[e] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES**

**9/4-2**

**Chief Executive’s Management Report to Council:**

# Members noted Quarterly Report of the Economic Development Directorate for the 3-month period up to 31st March, 2021.

***Proposed by Councillor Frank O’ Flynn***

***Seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley***

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members asked for the confirmation on maintenance contract for Council owned industrial estates
* Members asked for update on remote working centres
* Asked if Brookpark Enterprise Centre could be added to the remote working centre list

The Chief Executive said that Members would be briefed at the next Development Committee on remote working hubs.

 **[f] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF OFFICERS**

 **10/4-2**

**National Planning Framework Housing Delivery Challenges:**

“Understanding Cork County Council NPF Housing Delivery Challenges: From Strategy Formulation to Activation” – Mr Michael Lynch, Director of Services, Planning & Development gave a presentation on a detailed review undertaken of the residential supply land bank in Cork County , as well as analysis and initiatives to directly and indirectly support housing delivery including the following:

* review of delivery capacity and delivery challenges of all residentially zoned lands;
* review of infrastructure needs of all residentially zoned lands and of all settlements;
* establishment of Vacant Sites Register to stimulate the activation of residentially zoned serviced land;
* securing of funding from a range of sources to provide for the progression of a broad suite of projects across the County, supporting National Planning Framework growth targets;
* commencement of Activating County Towns (Project ACT) initiative to guide and support business, retail and communities across 23 County Towns in dealing with the impact of COVID-19 and assist in creating the conditions for economic and residential growth – delivering many *Key Attractors* that also support urban infill residential development;
* detailed Urban Capacities Studies of County Towns;
* design of Town Framework Plans to inform planned growth within County Towns;
* establishment of HISCO (Housing Infrastructure Services Company), a joint venture with ISIF, providing funding for key on-site infrastructure, addressing a key challenge in housing activation;
* progression of Urban Expansion Areas through the Council’s Housing Infrastructure Implementation Team (HIIT), working under Governments LIHAF & URDF funding schemes with all key stakeholders;
* establishment of an Active Land Management Team; and
* review of the 2014 Cork County Development Plan, with the Draft Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 submitted for public consultation on April 22nd 2021.

He outlined the increase in housing delivery required in Cork County to deliver the objectives of the National Planning Framework.

He said that Deliverability (incorporating both *financial viability* and *stakeholder alignment*) was addressed in the review, not just financial viability.

New Housing affordability by New Households was part of the review and the mortgage capacity / purchasing power by decile for each of the County’s Strategic Planning Areas was outlined highlighting the affordability challenge.

Mr Lynch said that a comparison of new house prices and mortgage capacities / purchasing power identified the following:

* + 1. Generally, within the first two income deciles for new households, independent access to housing (rent or mortgage) is not achievable due to income levels.
		2. A cohort of new households (c.3rd to c. 5th/6th income deciles - depending on location) have limited housing choice due to their household income limiting their borrowing capacity. Based on income levels and the associated borrowing capacity, affordability for median priced new housing by new households only activates at c.7th income decile within County Metropolitan Cork and Greater Cork Ring SPAs, and at the 6th decile within North and West Cork SPAs.
		3. Only the top income deciles have housing choice – within both existing and new housing markets – due to income levels sufficient to generate adequate borrowing capacity.

He said, a range of Demonstrator Sites were identified across the County. The exercise examined the viability of delivering a range of residential projects, at varying locations and of varying scales-12no. Sites in total were analysed). The Viability Findings included:

1. The ‘viability pathway’ for residential development is narrow – more so than for the previous period of accelerated house building
2. The ‘viability pathway’ is determined by: cost of delivery; household purchasing power; and market sentiment (by location and typology)
3. A narrow ‘viability pathway’ increases investor risk and reduces investment incentive
4. Overall, viability is challenged for all housing schemes and particularly for urban infill schemes
5. Not directly part of the site viability analysis, off-site public infrastructure investment requirements vary by settlement (cost and complexity) – higher public infrastructure costs arise where national/regional scaled infrastructure is required in addition to local needs.

The Key Recommendations of the Report highlight the need for:

1. the adoption of a multi-annual residential (public and private) supply programme (to deliver the objectives of the Council’s County Development Plan and Core Strategy); and,
2. a dedicated multi-actor housing activation process that delivers this programme - a Housing Activation Pathway - underpinned by adequate funding.

Coupled with targeted funding, Cork County Council is in a position to utilise its Active Land Management processes to engage with and facilitate housing inputs by all stakeholders.

Mr. Lynch said that the main Report Findings for the County Development Plan Implementation were as follows:

1. For residential and related planning policies to be successful, Financial Viability and Deliverability (alignment of actors) is required
2. Residential densities (that inform typology) and residential locations inform market sentiment and impact upon financial viability
3. Local analysis and density approaches have the potential to positively influence the ‘viability pathways’ for new residential developments, taking account of deliverability variances between settlements as well as specific sites within settlements
4. Necessary residential development land activation interventions will vary depending on site /settlement specific challenges
5. In the absence of an advance, multi-agency aligned funding programme for public infrastructure provision, local authorities are limited in their ability to provide the necessary off-site conditions for housing activation – including restricting the scope of VSL use.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members thanked Mr. Lynch for the presentation
* Acknowledged that meeting housing needs was the greatest challenge for the Council
* Suggested that this needs more debate and suggested a special meeting of council
* It was flagged that affordability is an issue
* Irish Water not charging for water means no funding for infrastructure
* Hoped that government takes note of what Cork County Council is trying to do for its county
* Advised that Office of the Planning Regulator was making work of Members more difficult
* Cost/rental model not addressed
* Asked if the County Development Plan process could be postponed to allow more infrastructure development
* Said the issues raised impacted not just Metropolitan area of the county
* The Buy and Renew scheme could assist in getting properties into use.

The Chief Executive advised Members that there were significant challenges for the delivery of housing units. There are substantial housing growth targets for Cork County and advised that the County Development Plan process should not be postponed as it would be detrimental to the development of the county if delayed. He said the Active Land Management sub-committee terms of reference will be considered by Corporate Policy Group. The report that Mr Lynch had outlined to Members will be sent to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for attention.

**[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

**11/4-2**

**Office of the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform:**

Members noted correspondence dated 7th April 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 27th July 2020 in relation to funding model for Irish Water.

**12/4-2**

**Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports & Media:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 20th April 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 22nd February 2021 in relation to Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Said booking systems should be put in place for marquees for county wide use
* Members acknowledged that the €250,000 funding received from Government would have been be better if they could have used it to for more than one project

**13/4-2**

**Department of Health:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 20th April 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 22nd March 2021 in relation to services for survivors of abuse.

**14/4-2**

**Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food & The Marine:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 21st April 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 12th April 2021 in relation to an Independent Meat Regulator.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the response
* Asked what was the Minister’s view on Grant Thornton report
* Advised that Rural Ireland depends on suckler calves & sheep farming
* Acknowledged that without Independent Regulator farmers will not survive in business

## *Members agreed to write to back to Minister for Agriculture, Food & The Marine, Minister Charlie McConalogue to express their dissatisfaction with the response and advised that farmers will not survive in business without the appointment of a meat regulator.*

**[h] NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**15/4-2**

**Voting Register:**

# *Councillor Liam Madden proposed, seconded by Sheila O’Callaghan:*

*“The need to reform the voting register and how these are compiled and how this can be achieved this follows on from previous motion re registering to vote and the need to change that system.”*

Members noted response from Ms. Patricia Liddy, Director of Service Corporate Support Services as follows:

**RESPONSE:**

**Electoral Registration Modernisation Project**

The Minister published the General Scheme of the Electoral Reform Bill in January 2021 which provides for the reform of the electoral register and a range of other significant electoral reforms including:-

* The establishment of a statutory, independent Electoral Commission for Ireland,
* The regulation of online political advertising in the run-up to electoral events
* Amendments to electoral law which will assist in the holding of electoral events if Covid-19 restrictions are in place.

The policy proposals will enable the introduction of rolling registration and the use of PPSNs to ensure people can be accurately identified on the register. In addition, the modernisation project will introduce optional online registration, improved data sharing provisions and a single standardised database providing significant opportunities for greater automation of checks in the system to ensure that details are updated, as well as simplifying the processes involved for individuals to engage with the registration process to update their details or those of deceased family members.

The Bill is now subject to the usual legislative process and must go through several distinct stages in each house of the Oireachtas before it can be enacted in law.

**Preparation and management of the Register of Electors**

The Franchise Section of Cork County Council undertakes work to update the Register of Electors, in line with national procedures and all obligations are met with regard to the maintenance of same. The following are some of the additional steps undertaken by Cork County Council to review the Register:

* Forms are supplied by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. Supplies are circulated to post offices, Garda stations, public libraries and Council Offices.
* Schools are contacted to register students who turn 18.
* Nursing Homes and Hospitals are contacted to register residents.
* Death Event notices are reviewed on a weekly basis to remove voters who have passed away.
* National and local media campaigns are undertaken.

The onus is on individual voters to ensure that their name appears on the register and that their registration details are correct.

**Updates in cases of people who have died**

In the event of a death, the family can provide details to Cork County Council to update the Register of Electors. Staff cross-check details with the Death Events Service. The Death Events Publication Service provided by the General Register Office is available to all public sector bodies. While additions or updates to the register can be included on the supplement to the register, the removal of names can only be affected when the new register is prepared in November each year. This will be addressed as part of the ongoing national modernisation.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members advised that the Electoral Reform Bill has not gone through the Dáil yet
* Acknowledged that some of these issues will be resolved once Bill is passed
* Deceased people still on electoral register is an issue
* Advised that postman & community groups could assist as they have local knowledge of all areas
* Members said they met a lot of people while out canvassing that were not on the register
* Said people should be automatically added to register once they turn 18 & be able to opt out if they wish
* PPSN numbers should be included in the register data
* Advised that people should check the register to make sure that they are included

***Members agreed to write to Minister Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to request the reform of voting register as a matter of urgency.***

**16/4-2**

**Public Toilets:**

# *Councillor Liam Quaide proposed, seconded by Kevin Murphy:*

*“Bearing in mind that we are anticipating an extremely busy holiday season in tourist towns and particularly in coastal areas in the context of the easing of domestic COVID-19 restrictions and ongoing restrictions on foreign travel that Cork Co. Council would undertake the following:*

1. *Each Municipal District would devise a plan for public realm maintenance, and particularly waste management, that is based on its particular Council staffing levels and local community group activity, and this plan would include engagement with local businesses, particularly those that may contribute to increased waste generation.*
2. *That a plan be published by each Municipal District on the provision of public toilets in busy tourist spots, including beaches, recognising that public convenience is a key requirement of Blue Flag status as well as for protecting public health so that our beaches can operate safely.”*

Members noted response from Mr. Niall Healy, Director of Service Municipal District and Operational as follows:

**RESPONSE:**

It is expected that Summer 2021 will see a large influx of stay-cationers to town and villages across the county, particularly in tourist hotspots, town centres, and seaside locations. The public is being encouraged to recreate and socialise outdoors in accordance with public health guidelines that prevail at the time.

The Council’s Project ACT (Activation of County Towns) Programme of Works for 2021 has been developed to support the above, as well as to support businesses and communities across our county towns and villages. The key overarching principle of the proposed works contained in Project ACT is to facilitate outdoor recreational activities, outdoor dining etc., and includes:

* Provision of outdoor dining and seating facilities by CCC (e.g. installation of canopies/ awnings, picnic tables and seating/benches)
* Supporting the hospitality sector in the provision of outdoor dining and seating through the administration of the Outdoor Dining & Accessories scheme
* Facilitating the prompt and efficient processing of Section 254 licence applications for outdoor street furniture
* A wide range of planting and landscaping initiatives, including the development and improvement of parklets which will enhance placemaking and make our towns more attractive
* The provision of Painting Schemes which are highly visual and impactful

A high standard of maintenance and upkeep of open spaces and public realm will continue to be supported. This requires the involvement of business as well as the local authority. For its part, Cork County Council will ensure that street cleaning regimes are maintained. The council already commits massive resources to emptying street bins. Notwithstanding this, there has been a significant increase in the amount of waste being generated as a result of the increased level of outdoor activity and takeaway consumption, e.g. takeaway food, coffee/drinks, refreshments etc.

It is important to note that the primary issue regarding littering is public behaviour. The council’s view is that a high degree of personal responsibility needs to be borne by individual consumers. The consumer needs to understand that littering is an offence, and that there is no situation whereby disposing of litter in an indiscriminate manner in a public place is acceptable. In particular, where bins are full - or where there is no waste receptacle available - the consumer needs to understand their own personal responsibility, and that they should take their litter home with them. The council proposes to embark on a public awareness campaign to highlight this important messaging.

There is also an onus on business owners, particularly those involved in the provision of takeaway services. Businesses have a role to play – providing bins outside their premises, cleaning up in the vicinity of their premises, and ensuring that their customers dispose of the litter appropriately. As noted, Cork County Council is working closely with local business to facilitate outdoor dining, and part of this process involves business and the local authority working together to promote a message of clean towns and the importance of managing waste effectively. A condition of the Section 254 licences referenced above requires licences to take responsibility for the collection and disposal of waste generated by outdoor dining. Separately, the council – through its Municipal District Officers – is engaging with town chambers and businesses representatives at a local level to promote the message that we all have a collective role to play in terms of maintaining clean towns. It should be remembered that the local authority is not producing these waste, and additional bins are not the solution (additional bins only serve to attract more waste).

As regards public conveniences, Cork County Council operates a total of 61 no. public toilets countywide, including some automated public conveniences. The majority are currently open and have remained so throughout the pandemic in order to facilitate the increase in outdoor physical recreation and activity. The Council will continue to publicise this fact as well as the locations of the facilities.

The Council will also establish if it is feasible to make available some of the public office’s toilet facilities, such as public libraries, available for wider public use where practical and feasible and where the high standards of public health guidance can be sustained.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members acknowledged that lack of toilet facilities was very inconvenient for the public
* Said portaloos should be provided at busy smaller beaches and other locations
* Members expressed concerns over public parks & amenities which are very badly littered over the last number of weeks
* Advised that litter wardens needed enhanced powers
* Bye laws needed to be enacted
* Acknowledged the significant amount of Council funding used for litter management every year
* Members praised the work of Tidy Towns and other voluntary groups
* Said businesses need to take responsibility to provide facilities outside their doors and by cleaning up within their area
* Said that it would be ideal if businesses trading on takeaway or outdoor dining basis could make toilets available for patrons
* Need to encourage customers to take their rubbish home
* The need to look at providing toilet facilities at tourism hotspots

The Chief Executive informed Members that there are already 958 litter bins throughout the County. Cork County Council have spent €3.2 million on street cleaning and litter management every year and said it was not good use of taxpayer’s money. He said provision of litter bins to ease littering problems was not the answer as people left their litter at full bins and increased the litter problem. He said increased personal responsibility was needed.

Members were informed that Cork County Council was launching a public campaign to appeal to the ‘hearts & minds’ of Cork people with regards to littering and will be appealing to people to take their litter home. Cork County Council will also engage with Business Associations in order to encourage litter management.

He said there were 61 public toilets in the county and a cleaning regime in place for same. He said provision of additional toilets at busy tourist places will be looked at.

**Extension of Time:**

*Proposed by Councillor Gearóid Murphy*

*Seconded by Councillor Ben Dalton O’Sullivan*

**17/4-2**

**Mental Well-Being:**

# *Councillor Frank Roche proposed, seconded by Councillor Ben Dalton O’Sullivan:*

***“****That this Council requests the Minister of Department of Social Protection and Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries, to undertake a detailed study of the lives of farmers in Cork county and their mental well-being in light of recent tragedies.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members acknowledged the need for a national study to be carried out on the lives of farmers to see what measures could be put in place to help to improve well being
* Members expressed the importance of mental health
* Concerns raised as people not asking for help when under stress or strain
* Acknowledged that rural isolation and Covid 19 compounded the problem
* Members suggested that funding should be provided for counselling
* Day to day anguish for farmers
* Co-op & marts closed and no social outlets for farmers
* Acknowledge that Members should share the Community Helpline number on social media/websites

***Members agreed to write to Minister for the Environment of Social Protection and Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries, to undertake a detailed study of the lives of farmers in Cork County and their mental well-being in light of recent tragedies.***

**18/4-2**

**Visibility Clothing:**

# *Councillor Frank O’Flynn proposed, seconded by Councillor Gearóid Murphy:*

*“That Cork County Council call on the Minister for the Environment and the Road Safety Authority to make it mandatory for pedestrians, walkers, runners, cyclists and all people in charge of animals in areas outside 50 km. speed limit signs, where no footpaths are in place, to wear high visibility clothing in the interest of safety of all road users as more people are using the public roads at present.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed the need to making roads safer for all road users
* Said it was a summer for outdoors activities & visibility is very important
* Urged the importance of hi vis jackets to be worn by road users
* The need to raise awareness on reducing speed
* Said the aim was the reduce fatalities on all roads
* Advised the speed limits need to be reviewed
* Members agreed an amendment to the wording of the notice of motion to remove the word ‘mandatory’

***Members agreed to write to Minister Eamon Ryan, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the Road Safety Authority to institute a public information campaign for pedestrians, walkers, runners, cyclists and all people in charge of animals in areas outside 50 km speed limit signs, where no footpaths are in place, to wear high visibility clothing in the interest of safety of all road users as more people are using the public roads at present.***

**[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**19/4-2**

**TO:** Aoife Cooke who qualifying for Tokyo Olympics

**TO:** David O’Brien on participating in the RTE Home of The Year

**TO**: Diana O’Mahony Jewellers on winning the overall Cork Business of the year

**TO:** Cork County Fire Crew on assisting at a large forest fire by Shiplake, Dunmanway

 **[l] ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**20(a)/4-2**

**Debenham’s Stock:**

# *Councillor Ben Dalton O’Sullivan proposed, seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley*:

# During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members raised concerns over stocks being removed from Debenham Stores
* Asked if this was appropriate under level 5 restrictions

***Members agreed to write to the Leo Varadkar, Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment to ask whether the packing and removal of stock from former Debenhams stores is in line with Level 5 restrictions.***

**20(b)/4-2**

**Warmer Home Scheme:**

***Councillor Ben Dalton O’Sullivan proposed, seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley:***

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members acknowledge the 2-year waiting list for the scheme
* Said it was too long to ask the elderly to wait
* Acknowledged that carbon footprint would reduce

***Members agreed to write to Minister Eamon Ryan, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment to ask for more resources to tackle the long waiting lists for the ‘Warmer Home Scheme’.***

**20(c)/4-2**

**Casual Trading Byelaws:**

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members said there was no progress on the introduction of bye laws
* Advised that county wide bye laws should be abandoned & brought in after
* Said local bye laws should be introduced in advance of the introduction of county wide bye laws

**20(d)/4-2**

**Outdoor Dining:**

# *Councillor Danny Collins proposed, seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley:*

During this discussion the Member made the following points:

* Members said publicans were outraged as wet pubs were being excluded from outdoor dining enhancement scheme
* Acknowledged there was no support for pubs that do not serve food
* Said the system should be fairer for all publicans

***Members agreed to write to Minister Catherine Martin, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Minister Michael McGrath, Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform asking that pubs that do not serve food be looked at for inclusion in further schemes for outdoor activities.***

**~ This concluded the business of the Meeting ~**