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**Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, Floor 2, & MS Teams County Hall, Cork on 14th December 2020.**

**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 Heachthigheirn, Ní Heachthigheir, 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 Donnabháin, Ó Coileáin D, Ó Murchú PG, Uí Mhurchú Cáit, Ó Conaill, MacCraith, Uí Daltún, Lombard, Uí Bhuachalla, Daltún Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Ó Conchubair S, Ó Conchubair A, MacCarthaigh N, Ó Flionn, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, De Róiste.

**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’Donovan, Collins D, Murphy P.G, Murphy Katie, O’Connell, McGrath, Dalton, Lombard, Buckley, 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.

**DURATION OF MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

“That Standing Orders would be suspended to allow this meeting to conclude within 1 hour 55 minutes, in line with public health recommendations”.

***Proposed by Cllr. Declan Hurley***

***Seconded by Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen***

**[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**1/12-1**

***Proposed by Cllr. Declan Hurley***

***Seconded by Cllr. John Paul O’Shea***

**RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 9th November 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

**2/12-1**

***Proposed by Cllr. John Paul O’Shea***

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

**RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd November 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

**[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**3/12-1**

**TO:** Pat Crowley on the death of his mother, Sheila Crowley.

**[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**4/12-1**

**Disposal of Property:**

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

# *Members noted the following disposals:*

**Municipal District of Bandon/Kinsale:**

# *Disposal of Grant of Wayleave at Ballinacubby, Kinsale, Co. Cork.* 4(a)/12-1

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 4th December, 2020.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of Grant of Wayleave at Ballinacubby, Kinsale, Co. Cork

# AREA: 0.231 hectares / 0.571 acres

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00 (subject to payment of €2,000 to Cork County Council by Dooneen Property Developments Ltd.)

**4(b)/12-1**

# *Disposal of lands at Bridge Lane, Bandon, 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 4th December, 2020.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of lands at Bridge Lane, Bandon, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 0.008 hectares

**CONSIDERATION:** €45,000

# 4(c)/12-1

# *Discharge of Burden No.1 on Part 3 of Folio CK46882F (No.1 Kire Field, Featherbed Land, Kinsale, 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 4th December, 2020.

**SITUATION:** Discharge of Burden No.1 on Part 3 of Folio CK46882F (No.1 Kire Field, Featherbed Land, Kinsale, Co. Cork*)*

**AREA:** N/A

**CONSIDERATION:** Nil

**Municipal District of Kanturk/Mallow:**

# 4(d)/12-1

# *Disposal Notice for Grant of Wayleave at Annabella, Mallow, 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 4th December, 2020.

**SITUATION:** Grant of Wayleave at Annabella, Mallow, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 48m x 2m wide

**CONSIDERATION:** €1.00

# 4(e)/12-1

# *Disposal of land at Bellevue, Ballydahin, Mallow, 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 4th December, 2020.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of land at Bellevue, Ballydahin, Mallow, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 0.0011 hectares / 0.0027 acres

**CONSIDERATION:** €1.00

**Municipal District of East Cork:**

# 4(f)/12-1

# *Disposal of land at Green Quay, Youghal Lands, Youghal, 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 4th December, 2020.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of land at Green Quay, Youghal Lands, Youghal, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 0.2157 hectares / 0.532 acres

**CONSIDERATION:** €6,000 per annum

**Municipal District of Macroom:**

# 4(g)/12-1

# *Disposal of freehold title at Curraghwaddra, Coachford, 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 4th December, 2020.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of freehold title at Curraghwaddra, Coachford, Co. Cork

**CONSIDERATION:** €1.00 plus discharge of Council’s costs.

# 4(h)/12-1

# *Disposal of freehold title at Millstreet Road, Macroom, 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 4th December, 2020.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of freehold title at Millstreet Road, Macroom, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 0.398 hectares / 0.984 acres

**CONSIDERATION:** €1.00 plus discharge of Council’s costs.

**5/12-1**

**Part 8 Manager’s Reports Sections 179(3) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

Resolutions under section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 Section 3 (4a & 4b) as amended:

**5(a)/12-1**

**Municipal District of Macroom:**

Part 8Manager's Report – Social Housing Development at Knocknagoun, Rylane, Co. Cork**.**

Proposed alteration to the existing cottage and construction of an extension to provide a four bedroom dwelling. Supporting works include site clearance, removal of existing vegetation, onsite wastewater treatment & all associated site works.

***Proposed by Councillor Gobnait Moynihan***

***Seconded by Councillor Ted Lucey***

**5(b)/12-1**

**Municipal District of Bandon/Kinsale:**

Part 8 Manager's Report – Social Housing Development at Richmond Court, Bandon, Co. Cork.

Proposed construction of 6 no. residential units, comprising of 2 no. 3 bed two-storey houses and 4 no. duplex units comprising of: 2 downstairs 2 bed units and 2 upstairs 1 bed units with renewable energy measures for each housing units and supporting development works including site clearance, removal of existing vegetation; below ground services; underground surface water services; site access and construction of a new entrance off the Richmond Court Estate road; connection to public utilities and ancillary works; temporary construction signage; estate signage; varied site boundary treatments including partial removal of existing boundaries and construction of boundary walls, fencing and landscaping and all associated site works.

***Proposed by Councillor Alan Coleman***

***Seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy***

**6/12-1**

**Section 134 of The Local Government Act, 2001:**

**Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020**

Approval of the Cork County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan, pursuant to Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 50 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

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

***Seconded by Councillor Pat Hayes***

**7/12-1**

**Electoral Acts 1992-2001 & Electoral (Polling Scheme) Regulations 2005:**

To consider the Draft Polling Scheme that has been prepared by Cork County Council.

The Draft Polling Scheme provides polling places for each polling district in the County of Cork for the purpose of elections and referendums.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Expressed concerns over if an election was to be called during a lockdown people wouldn’t be able to travel outside there 5k radius to polling stations.
* Common sense approach has not been used regarding the location of certain polling stations
* Members asked that the Sheriff be contacted regarding the draft polling scheme
* Sherriff’s Office need to be made aware of concerns regarding location of polling stations.

Ms. Patricia Liddy, Director of Service, Corporate Services confirmed the Polling Station locations are the responsibility of the Sherriff’s Office.

Members agreed to defer consideration of the Draft Polling Scheme.

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

**8/12-1**

**Housing Strategic Policy Committee:**

The Housing SPC has recommended, at its meeting held 25th September, that Council would request the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to consider the introduction of a scheme to facilitate the provision of water softening units in new social housing that is constructed in hard water areas’.

***Proposed by Councillor Danielle Twomey***

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

**9/12-1**

**Municipal District of Kanturk/Mallow:**

"That this Council write to Minister Darragh O'Brien requesting urgent updating & strengthening of the Derelict Sites Act legislation in order to allow Council more powers to deal with derelict sites."

***Proposed by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley***

***Seconded by Councillor Bernard Moynihan***

**[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage: 10(a)/12-1**

# Members noted correspondence dated 6th November 2020 in response to Council’s letter to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage dated 12th October 2020 in relation to the Private Water Supply Financial Assistance.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed their dissatisfaction with filtration & UV filtration grant being decreased from €2,031 to €1,000
* Water contamination issues are of serious concern and the grant should assist people
* The 7 year clause should be removed
* Good quality water is a necessity
* Members expressed their dissatisfaction that people who have water problems with their own bore well cannot get on mains water are not entitled to grant for upgrading of water
* A householder is required to construct a new house to the conditions of planning and it is only when wells are bored that non-conformances with water quality parameters are identified and this adds extra costs.

Members agreed to write again to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage requesting a review of the scheme.

**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage: 10(b)/12-1**

# Members noted correspondence dated 23rd November 2020 in response to Council’s letter to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage dated 13th October 2020 in relation to the seeking an update and review of the Repair and Lease Scheme.

Members welcomed the response from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**[h] NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**11/12-1**

**Kilmainham Jail:**

# *Cllr. Sean O’Donovan proposed, seconded by Cllr. Frank O’Flynn:*

*“That Cork County Council calls on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation works to recover the remains of Joseph Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Timothy Kelly at what is commonly called the Invinciples yard in Kilmainham Jail. The bodies of these five members of the Irish National Invinciples, lie beneath the yard where they were executed in 1883 for their part in the Phoenix Part Assassinations. The families of the five men are represented by The National Graves Association. It is the wish of the families that their relatives' remains be exhumed from the yard in Kilmainham Jail and reinterred in consecrated ground in Glasnevin.”*

***Members agreed to write to the Office of Public Works to request it to carry out the necessary excavation works to recover the remains.***

**12/12-1**

**Land Development Agency (IDL)**

# *Cllr. Mary Linehan proposed, seconded by Cllr. Michael Hegarty:*

# *“That Cork County Council request our Government to empower the Land Development Agency (IDL), Local Authorities and approved Housing Bodies, to urgently address the unfair Property Tax (SVT) and calls for a site valuation tax, to replace existing system.”*

***Members agreed to write to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to urgently address the unfair Property Tax (SVT) and calls for a site valuation tax, to replace existing system.***

**13/12-1**

**Changing Facilities for people with Disabilities**

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

*I am calling on Cork County Council to fit appropriate changing facilities for people with disabilities in Cork County Council public toilets throughout Cork County.*

Members noted response from Mr. Niall Healy, Municipal District and Operations.

**RESPONSE:**

Cork County Council operates a total of 84 no. public toilet facilities across the county. The responsibility for maintenance, upgrade and improvement is managed at an individual MD level. Each MD has it’s own budget for Public Conveniences.

In previous years, individual Municipal Districts chose to set monies aside from their GMA or TDF funds to refurbish public conveniences at specific locations. This option remains, and is a matter for each MD based on identified priorities.

For new build public toilets, these must comply with Part M of the Building Regulations 2010 in relation to access. These Regulations are the standard that Cork County Council has been achieving in relation to new build facilities (including major refurbishment of existing public toilets). The Regulations set out the required minimum standard for facilities. It is noted that there is no specific standard that applies for providing changing facilities etc.

The council’s network of public conveniences comprises a mix of designs, specification and standard, largely dependent on when the facility was constructed and the permanency or otherwise of the facility. In terms of swimming pools, it is noted that specialised changing facilities were installed in the new Dunmanway Pool at the time of design/construction.

In the context of our network of public toilets, it is likely that the space requirement for the introduction of appropriately designed changing facilities is not available at many. Ideally an accepted national standard should be put in place prior to the broader implementation and rollout of any such initiative and, how to fund such a programme would need to be determined.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members raised concerns that people with disabilities cannot avail of suitable changing facilities in public toilets
* Members expressed the need to hire extra equipment for public toilets
* The facility is a basic human right

**14/12-1**

**Post Office Networks:**

# *Cllr. Pat Hayes proposed, seconded by Cllr. Joe Carroll:*

*"That Cork County Council call upon the Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D, the Minister of Finance, Paschal Donoghoe T.D and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath T.D to urgently enact the private members' motion previously passed in  November 2016 by the previous Government regarding the future of the Post Office Network. This is a matter of urgency to ensure the sustainability of our existing community Post Office Network.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members paid tribute to An Post staff
* Post Office network proven to be essential during the pandemic
* Expressed the importance of the role of An Post in the local community for social value

***Members agreed to write the Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D, the Minister of Finance, Paschal Donoghoe T.D and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath T.D to urgently enact the private members' motion.***

**15/12-1**

**Route of the M20:**

# *Cllr. Bernard Moynihan proposed:*

*“That Cork County Council fully support the Idea that a greenway be constructed along the route of the M20. This would be a great boost to Economic Development in the region and unlock the tourism potential of the region.”*

***Cllr. Bernard Moynihan requested to defer his notice of motion to Full Council Meeting on Monday 11th January.***

**16/12-1**

**Drug Trafficking:**

# *Cllr. Ben Dalton O’Sullivan proposed, seconded by Danielle Twomey:*

*“Requesting that Cork County Council write to the Ministers for Justice, Finance and Public Expenditure to make provisions where drug and drug trafficking monies confiscated under the Proceeds of Crime Legislation be redirected from central coffers back into local addiction services, youth organisations, and community initiatives to combat the effect of addiction on our communities, and that the necessary legislation is changed as a matter of urgency to allow this vital funding support to happen.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed their concerns over support services that are struggling to cope
* No agency can plan its services as funding is uncertain
* Ireland has the highest rate of heroin use in the EU

***Members agreed to write to Ministers for Justice, Finance and Public Expenditure to change legislation as a matter of urgency.***

**17/12-1**

**Standing Orders:**

***Cllr. Marcia Dalton proposed, seconded by Cllr. Liam Quaide:***

*“That Cork County Council would amend Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Council to include the following as standard items on the agenda of each meeting of full Council:*

1. *Question Time: A defined agenda item during which Members will receive responses to questions relating to the business of Cork County Council.  Responses will be written only and no discussion will take place.  Questions will have been submitted to the Chief Executive for written reply one week prior to the meeting of full Council.*
2. *Report from the Chairperson of any Strategic Policy Committee meeting which may have been held since the previous meeting of full Council.*
3. *Conference and Training Reports: A report from any Member of Council on any conference or training event which he/she has attended subsequent to the approval of full Council.*
4. *Notices of motion from other local authorities seeking the support of the Members of Cork County Council.*

*The above is standard practice in many other local authorities in Ireland.”*

Members noted response from Ms. Patricia Liddy, Director of Services, Corporate Services:

**RESPONSE:**

The Standing Orders of Cork County Council sets out the following Order of Business under Standing Order number 10:

1. The Order of Business at all meetings, other than Annual Meetings, Budget Meetings and Special Meetings shall, subject to the provisions of any enactments, be as follows (subject to the subparagraph following):-
   1. Consideration of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Council with a view to their adoption and confirmation but the discussion thereon shall be strictly confined by the Mayor to the accuracy of the Minutes under discussion and no other matter shall be relevant or entertained by the Mayor.
   2. With the prior permission of the Mayor, members of the Council may move (without notice) votes of sympathy to the relatives of (i) member or employees of the Council, (ii) dignitaries of Church or State or (iii) members of the old I.R.A. and Cumann na mBán.
   3. Business prescribed by statute to be transacted at the meeting.
   4. Any financial business required to be done at the meeting.
   5. Reports and recommendations of Committees of the Council.
   6. Reports and recommendations of officers of the Council.
   7. Correspondence from Government Departments.
   8. Notices of motion in the order in which they have been received.
   9. The consideration of any matter of urgency or importance which may be brought forward by the Mayor or any other member on written notice and with the prior permission of the Mayor.
   10. Correspondence from other local authorities and Public Bodies in so far as it relates to the powers, functions and duties of the Council.
   11. With the prior permission of the Mayor, members of the Council may move (without notice) votes of congratulations.
   12. Any other business.

The business of Council is structured across the Municipal Districts, Divisional Committees and Full Council so as to ensure that when Council meets in its fortnightly plenary session that it does so for the purpose of ensuring that the business conducted is primarily of a strategic nature.

This is necessary, it works effectively and it recognises the importance of ensuring that we continue to strengthen the role of Municipal Districts in particular as being the primary forum for engagement between the elected members and executive. It also recognises that our Divisional Committees are an important part of the governance structure for engagement with individual Directorates on a monthly basis. Both of these fora are the appropriate fora for the submission of motions (which are often in the form of questions on progression of the business of Council) and our structures ensure that there already is an effective model in place for such business.

It is critical that this would be the continuing basis upon which the governance model operates considering the scale of the council and the necessity to ensure that engagement of the executive resources of the Council continue to be at the appropriate level of that governance structure also.

Having reviewed the Order of Business, three of the four items can be included on the agenda for meetings of Cork County Council without amending the existing Standing Orders.

No 1-Question Time. This is not specifically included in the existing Standing Orders. However, the submission of motions from individual Members already in many cases take the form of questions on matters of the business of Council. In this regard it is important to note that where a motion would be more appropriately dealt with at a Divisional or MD level, the motion is not included on the full Council agenda. The introduction of a “question time” item as suggested would not add to the already appropriate governance model.

No 2-Report from SPC Chairpersons. This can be included on the agenda under (*e) Reports and Recommendations of Committees of the Council* without a change to the existing Standing Orders.

No 3-Conference and Training reports. This is covered under (*c) Statutory Business* as this is a requirement of S142 (5) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended and there is no requirement to change Standing Orders.

No 4 -Notice of Motion from other Local Authorities. This item can be included under *(l) AOB* without a need to change Standing Orders.

It is suggested that the Corporate Policy Group review the proposal at the January 2021 meeting. Schedule 10 paragraph 16(1)-(2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, requires that at least one-half of the total number of Elected Members of the Council vote in favour of an amendment to the Standing Orders.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members spoke on how these proposals would improve accountability and transparency
* Concern over lack of information distributed to Members from SPC
* Issues raised of how Full Council Meeting is already under pressure with agenda due to time constraints
* Concerns raised over minutes not being updated to Council website

The Chief Executive said the majority of queries from Members are appropriately dealt with at Municipal District Meetings or relevant Committee Meetings. Standing Orders as constructed provide for much of the items listed.

***Members agreed to refer this matter to Corporate Policy Group Meeting for further discussion.***

**18/12-1**

**Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland:**

***Cllr. Danielle Twomey proposed, seconded by Cllr. Ben Dalton O’Sullivan:***

*“That this Council write to the Minister requesting that the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland retention fee be waived this year for all Nurses.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members asked that the Minister act in a spirit of goodwill in light of the covid19 pandemic
* Need to look at waiver of the fee for 2021
* Expressed that refunds should be issued

***Members agreed to write to the Minister to request retention fee be waived this year for all Nurses.***

**19/12-1**

**Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS):**

***Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan proposed, seconded by Cllr. Seamus McGrath:***

# *Íarr an tAire um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide, Gréasán Cumarsáide agus Iompair, staidéar féidearthachta a thógáil le fiosrú usaideacht Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS) ar na muileann gaoithe in ionad an solas dearg.”*

*“To ask the Minister of Environment Climate and Communication to carry out feasibility study into the viability of using Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS) on wind turbines as an alternative to red light.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed the need for a feasibility study to be carried out
* Suggested there must be a more environmentally friendly way to mark turbines
* Red lights are important to caution aircrafts
* Light pollution from structures will need to be taken into consideration in the County Development Plan

***Members agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment, Climate & Communication to request the carrying out of a feasibility study.***

**20/12-1**

**Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) Programme:**

# *Cllr. Alan O’Connor proposed, seconded by Danielle Twomey:*

*“That a report be issued detailing options for how Cork County Council could assist communities participating in the Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) Programme.*

*As an example, all seven local authorities in the Dublin and Mid-East regions already act, or are preparing to act, as lead applicants, on behalf of communities, for the energy masterplan part of the SEC process.”*

Members noted response from Mr. Louis Duffy, Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Services.

**RESPONSE:**

Cork County Council is committed to working with Sustainable Energy Communities. This was affirmed by the Council when it signed the Local Authority Climate Action Charter in October 2019. The Climate Action Charter acknowledges that Cork County Council will, with the support of Central Government explore opportunities to partner or collaborate on climate action initiatives across the public, private and education sectors.

***Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)***

A SEC is a community that works together to develop a sustainable energy system (not location specific). SECs can include a range of different energy users in the community such as homes, sports clubs, community centres, churches and businesses. They aim to be energy efficient; use renewable energy and consider smart energy solutions. It is a partnership approach between public, private and community actors. Partnerships make it possible to share local resources, knowledge and experience.

As of November 2020 there are 27 Cork County based SECs listed on the SEAI website.

Climate Action Plan 2019 To Tackle Climate Breakdown was published on the 17th of June 2019. The current iteration of this overall Plan places local authorities at the centre of local and community action efforts where they can play a pivotal role in demonstrating leadership on climate action as well as be key mobiliser of local and community action.

Action 167 of the 2019 Plan aims to expand the SEC programme to 500 by 2025 & to 1,500 by 2030.

Action 168 seeks to provide improved training and support initiatives for community and voluntary stakeholders to support community, local and national low-carbon development, incorporating community outreach elements with local authorities as a key stakeholder.

Resourcing of all aspects of Cork County Council’s involvement with the SEC program will need to be reviewed. Currently there appears to be 2 operating models developed or in the process of being developed by Local Authorities/ SEAI to deliver support to SECs as set out hereunder:

1- LA Support Model:

Local Authorities in the Dublin Mid East are currently funding communities who wish to undertake an Energy Master Plan (EMP) through the LA Support Model.

After preparatory work by the SEC and Energy Mentor,

* The LA takes the lead in making the grant application to SEAI to fund the production of the Energy Master Plan.
* The LA then undertakes the tendering for consultants to carry out the work.
* Once the Energy Master Plan is completed and presented to the local community, and the LA is satisfied that it is in line with criteria for grant payment, the LA pays the consultants. The master plans range from €10,000 to €25,000 (typical is €15,000)
* The LA then claims the money back form SEAI as lead partner in the grant application. (SEAI will fund the development of the master plan at a rate of 100% up to a maximum grant of €25,000).

2 - Proposed agreement for LAs & SEAI- currently being developed

* Umbrella agreement for LAs to fund EMP for their communities which is being trialled by Atlantic Seaboard North CARO with a few LAs in their region
* Expected to be a type of Memorandum of Understanding
* LA to assist Local Communities with – procurement, financing, technical advice etc
* Improve consistent approach at local level to all LAs
* Working up template agreement currently that will be available
* If successful could be rolled out in other regions and can bring a number of LAs together to share resources to provide the support model to SECs

**Conclusion**

Members will be aware that Cork County Council is the lead authority for the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) for the Atlantic Seaboard South Region. In that context it would be prudent for the Council to wait until Model No 2 has been trialed by the Atlantic Seaboard North CARO prior to deciding on which support model it should use to assist the SEC networks in its functional area. Resourcing of all aspects of Cork County Council’s involvement with the SEC program will need to be reviewed at that stage noting that the SEC network is continuing to grow.

Cork County Council will continue to play a role locally in terms of community engagement in the interim.

Once the outcome of Model No 2 is nearing determination, the manner of how we will continue to progress our support for the further development of the SEC programme will be discussed and finalised through the Environment and Climate Action SPC.

**[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**21/12-1**

**TO:** John Murphy on being selected for 48th Walker Cup squad to be played in May 2021.

**TO:** Cork County Council on the work on the Real Cork Christmas initiative

**TO:** Adam King on cheering up the nation on the Late Late Toy Show

**[l] ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**22(a)/12-1**

**Fire Brigade Charges:**

# During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members requested further information on fire brigade charges

**22(b)/12-1**

**Cross Border Directive for medical procedures:**

# *Cllr Danny Collins proposed, seconded by Ben Dalton O’Sullivan:*

# During this discussion the members made the following points:

# Members expressed the importance of maintaining the Cross Border Directive for medical procedures after Brexit comes into force

* Concerns raised due to time limit
* The need to convey to local Cork TDs the importance of the Bilateral Agreement
* South of the Country has the highest rate of cataract surgery

***Members agreed to write to the Minister for Health to request that Cross Border Directive agreement would be maintained for cataract, hip and knee surgery.***

**22(c)/12-1**

**N/M20**

# During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members stressed the importance of route selection
* Public input is vital for this project
* Members expressed the need to extend public consultation beyond January 2021

**22(d)/12-1**

**Wastewater Group Schemes:**

# *Cllr. Seamus McGrath proposed, seconded by Mary Linehan Foley:*

# During this discussion the members made the following points:

* Members said the current scheme is not fit for purpose as the level of funding is not sufficient to allow Wastewater Group Schemes to progress
* Scheme is not delivering nationally
* Very limited funding with €10,000 per household so the funding gap is big
* Expressed the need to review the scheme

***Members agreed to write to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting that capital funding for group wastewater schemes provided under the Rural Water Programme be reviewed in order to allow connections to public sewers.***

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