

**CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council,  
held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2.00 p.m.**

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Present: Councillor C. Murphy, Cathaoirleach  
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long),  
Councillor F. Browne  
Councillor J. Cassin  
Councillor J. Deane,  
Councillor M. Doran,  
Councillor D. Foley  
Councillor A. Gladney  
Councillor T. Kinsella,  
Councillor W. Lacey,  
Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor  
Councillor J. Murphy,  
Councillor B. O'Donoghue,  
Councillor W. Paton,  
Councillor J. Pender,  
Councillor F. Phelan  
Councillor W. Quinn.

Apologies: Councillor A. McDonald

In attendance: Mr. D. McInerney, Acting Chief Executive  
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service – Corporate, Planning,  
Economic Development, Health and Safety  
Transportation, Environment & Water Services  
Mr S. O'Connor, Director of Services – Housing, Community,  
Recreation & Amenity, Building Control & Emergency Services  
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance  
Mr. R. Fitzgerald, Financial Accountant  
Mr. G. Guerin, Chief Fire Officer  
Mr. T. Butler, Senior Executive Officer, Housing  
Mr. M. Brennan, Senior Executive Officer, Community  
Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.  
Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

The opening prayer was recited in Irish by the Members.

## **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The wife, family, colleagues and An Garda Síochána on the tragic death of Garda Tony Golden in Co. Louth
- The Families and the Travelling Community on the tragic death of ten people in a fire at a halting site in Carrickmines, Dublin.
- The Family of the late Kathleen Dermody, 8 Kernanstown, Carlow
- Josie McAssey and Family, Seskin Road, Leighlinbridge on the death of her husband Michael former employee of Carlow County Council.
- Richie Coady and Family Rathgeran, Ballymurphy, Borris on the death of his wife Rose Coady
- Nellie Coady and Family, Moyvalley, Rathanna, Borris on the death of her husband Pierce
- The Walsh Family, Crannagh, Rathanna, Borris on the death of Mary Walsh
- Mick Burke and Family, Killedmond, Borris on the death of his wife Mary
- The Byrne Family, Ballytiglea, Borris on the death of their mother Elsie
- Dick Dowling, 'Glencara', Newrath, Co. Kilkenny former TD and Councillor on the death of his brother John Dowling, New Ross.
- Mary Clarke, Rathellen, Leighlinbridge on the death of her husband Andy
- Councillor Lacey on the death of his brother-in-law Michael Kelly, Kildare Town.
- Adrian Howard and The Howard Family, St. Joseph's Terrace, Tinryland on the death of their parents Jack and Mary Howard.
- The Kavanagh Family, Glenco, Myshall on the death of their mother Patricia
- Patricia Finn and Family, Carraigduff, Bunclody on the death of her husband James

- The O'Neill Family, Drumphea, Garryhill, Bagenalstown on the death of Sarah O'Neill.

### **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

- Eamonn Tracey, Garryhill on winning the World Ploughing Championship for the second year running.
- Michael Ring TD Minister of State with responsibility for Tourism and Sport and Pat Deering TD for his role in securing €788K for sports clubs and organisations in County Carlow under the Sports Capital Programme 2015
- To Mount Leinster Rangers and St Mullins in the Senior County Hurling Championship
- To Mount Leinster Rangers and Ballinkillen in the Minor County Hurling Championship
- The Irish Rugby Team on their success in the World Championship and to Sean O'Brien, Tullow on his success with the Irish Rugby Team.
- Palatine on winning the Senior County Football Championship
- Eire Óg and Palatine on the Minor County Football Championship and wished them well in the replay.
- Bennekerry Ladies Football team on their success at County level and wished them well in the Leinster Championship
- Grange Junior A on winning the Junior A County Football Championship
- Kilbride and O'Hanrahans competing in the Intermediate Football Final
- Tinryland and Palatine in competing in the u/21 Football Final
- All organisations involved with the success in National Tidy Towns Awards 2015 with Clonegal taking the Tidiest Village Award and Carlow Town and Leighlinbridge maintaining their gold medal status.

Councillor O'Donoghue and Councillor Murnane-O'Connor reconciled their differences by shaking hands following recent disagreement.

## 1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**Proposed by Councillor J. Pender**

**Seconded by Councillor W. Paton**

**AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015, at 2.00p.m having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

**Proposed by Councillor J. Pender**

**Seconded by Councillor W. Paton**

**AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 5.00p.m having been circulated to each Member be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

## 2. CIRCULARS

### (a) **Planning Circulars PL6/2015 and PL8/2015 – Urban Regeneration Housing Act 2015 – Planning & Development (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2015**

Members had report from B. O’Brien on Planning Circulars PL6/2015 and PL8/2015 – Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. A Commencement Order bringing all sections of the Act into operation came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 with the exception of section 34.

Ms. O’Brien advised that the purpose of the Act is to assist in addressing the current housing supply shortage situation and to stimulate increased activity in the construction sector.

The main provisions of the Act relate to:

- The introduction of a vacant site levy. Levy liability will not arise until January 2019.
- Revised arrangements in relation to Development Contributions. Where a new Development Contribution Scheme is adopted by a planning authority the newly adopted scheme shall have retrospective

effect for existing planning permissions that have yet to be activated as well as to developments where houses have been commenced/constructed but not yet sold.

- Amendment of Part V requirements on social and affordable housing. Part V will now only apply to developments of 10 units or more. The halving to 10% (from 20%) the percentage of land that must be provided for social and affordable housing in new housing developments.

Members expressed concern that the vacant site levy liability will not arise until January 2019 as there are a number of unsightly vacant sites around the county that need urgent action.

Queries raised by Members were addressed by B. O'Brien.

### **3. BUSINESS PRESCRIBED BY STATUE, STANDING ORDERS OR RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

#### **(a) Fixed date for the Annual Budget Meeting**

**Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella**

**Seconded by Councillor W. Quinn**

**AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

*'That the Annual Budget meeting of Carlow County Council be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm. The Pre-Budget meeting will be held in committee on 20<sup>th</sup> November prior to Budget meeting.'*

#### **(b) Borris Viaduct – Access Detail - Planning & Development Acts 2000/2010 & Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (Part 8) as amended.**

Members welcomed report from S. O'Connor on proposal to use the former Borris Railway Viaduct to link Borris town to its amenities.

Members' approval was sought that the access details as presented be included with the drawings considered at the July 2015 meeting, to be put on public display to facilitate a consultation period under the terms of the Planning & Development Acts and Part V111 of the Planning & Development Regulations, as amended.

**Proposed by Councillor W. Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor T. Kinsella  
AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

*‘That the Members of Carlow County Council approve the access details as presented be included with the drawings considered at the July 2015 meeting, to be put on public display to facilitate a consultation period under the terms of the Planning & Development Acts 2000/2010 and Part V111 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended.’*

**(c) Adoption of the Draft County Carlow 2012-2021 Local Arts Development Plan**

P. Delaney briefed the Members on County Carlow 2015-2021 Local Arts Development Plan.

The Draft Plan was agreed at Cultural, Health & Agricultural Strategic Policy Committee meeting and is now before full Council for approval.

Ms. Sinead Dowling, Arts Officer gave a presentation to Members on the proposed Local Arts Development Plan.

Members thanked Ms Dowling for her presentation and paid tribute to her for her excellent leadership role in nurturing and sustaining the arts in County Carlow.

Councillor Quinn said he was pleased to see Borris benefiting from the arts in particular Borris House and Borris Vocational School. He said a Heritage Centre would be very welcome for Borris.

Members praised the work of The Carlow Music Generation Project.

Councillor Paton queried if there were any proposals to upgrade parochial and local halls to connect ordinary communities with the Arts.

Councillor Phelan expressed dissatisfaction with Carlow Arts Festival Eipse focus being taken from Carlow Town to Borris and the need to have this issue addressed.

Councillor Browne queried the status of the former Dooley Motors site and the pathway from the carpark to Visual.

P. Delaney advised that the Arts Plan repositions, restates and brings clarity the role of the Carlow County Council Arts Service. It dovetails with, is respectful and supportive of other arts groups and organisations in the County.

All queries raised by the Members were addressed by P. Delaney and S. Dowling.

**Proposed by Councillor A. Ahern**

**Seconded by Councillor M. Doran**

**AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:

*'That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve County Carlow 2015-2021 Local Arts Development Plan in accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 6 of the Arts Act 2003.'*

#### **4. CORPORATE, PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY**

##### **(a) Agriculture**

The Members welcomed recent confirmation that the Eirgrid proposal for overhead powerlines from Cork to Kildare will not now go ahead. Existing infrastructure will be developed to boost transmission.

Councillors Browne and Paton questioned Eirgrid's original proposals as under the new proposals Ireland's energy transmission needs can be met with reduced new infrastructure. They paid tribute to the anti – pylon groups who exercised huge opposition to the project which effectively led to the decision of Eirgrid to cancel the GridLink project.

Members unanimously agreed that representatives from Eirgrid be invited to attend a meeting of Carlow County Council to update Members on revised proposals.

Other issues raised by Members included-, return of beet industry to Carlow, noxious weeds such as ragwort and Himalayan balsam control and hedgecutting.

##### **(b) Health**

Councillor Cassin requested that this Council again write to the Mental Health Services requesting their attendance at a Council meeting to address Members concerns in relation to Mental Health Services in Carlow/Kilkenny.

Councillor Browne emphasised the importance of defibrillators in public places referring to recent incident at football match and the successful use of defibrillator. Members were advised that a meeting was held on

the issue of defibrillators in public places in County Carlow and attended by National Ambulance Services and other agencies. A road map template is being prepared and will be brought to public meetings for discussions. It is expected that it will be rolled out to communities towards the middle of next year. Councillor Browne also spoke of the need for pedestrian crossing at O'Brien Road for safety reasons on match days. The Chief Executive advised that part of the N80 national secondary route is the responsibility of Transport Infrastructure Ireland. He said a pedestrian crossing is warranted and of the need to enter discussions with the Gardai and other relevant authorities.

Members requested that the following issues be brought to meeting of South East Health Executive Forum by the Forum Members:-

- update on St Dymphna's Hospital, Carlow
- update on Kilcreen Hospital, Kilkenny
- Tullow Primary Care Centre
- Availability of doctor in Tullow for parents who wish to avail of the u/6 free medical service.
- long waiting lists for medical procedures
- long waiting times in A & E in Kilkenny Hospital.

Councillor Doran welcomed the new A & E wing at St Lukes Hospital, Kilkenny and requested that the Council write to the HSE welcoming the new unit.

### **(c) Tenders for opening**

Members noted Tenders opened since last Council meeting.

### **(d) Conference Attendance Approvals**

Members unanimously agreed following a showing of hands to the following conferences.

Support & Advocacy Services for Older People  
 Croke Park Conference Centre  
 Dublin  
 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
 A Practical Guide to Budget 2016  
 The Clonakilty Hotel  
 Clonakilty, Co Cork

**Fee: €25**



23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Octoberr 2015 **Fee: €100**

Nuclear Free Local Authorities  
Town Hall  
Dundalk  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2015

**Fee: €Free**

Consumer Rights Bill  
The Clonakilty Hotel,  
Clonakilty Co Cork  
6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015-10-02

**Fee: €100**

Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015  
The Connacht Hotel  
Galway City  
20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015

**Fee: €80**

Regulation of Lobbying Act  
Four Seasons Hotel  
Carlingford Co Louth  
20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2015

**Fee: €100**

Regulation of Lobbying Act  
The Connacht Hotel  
Galway City  
27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Fee: €80**

The Town Renewal Plan  
The Connacht Hotel  
Galway City  
11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Fee: €80**

## **5. COMMUNITY, HOUSING, RECREATION AND AMENITY, BUILDING CONTROL AND EMERGENCY SERVICE**

### **(a) Housing Progress Report**

Members welcomed Housing Progress Report to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

S. O'Connor advised of provisional approvals for Carlow for the provision of 62 units in the period 2015 – 2017.

Members noted projects commenced, completed or under consideration in Carlow.

The following issues were raised by Members:

- Confusion over the provisions of the Housing Assistance Payments and the need to advertise the scheme for the benefit of landlords
- Housing needs deemed met under HAP and RAS Schemes.
- Criteria to prioritise housing list should be medical and homelessness.
- The gap in rent supplement caps and market rent is resulting in a critical shortage of affordable housing and is pushing people into homelessness. Members requested that this Council write to the Department for review of rent supplement payments.
- Vacant houses – the need for tax incentive scheme to allow people comply with regulations and bring houses up to approved standards for letting.
- Length of time for re-lets
- New Tenant Purchase Scheme
- Letting of apartments in Bagenalstown and consultation with the local Members on prospective tenants.
- Fruithill Housing Estate, Graiguecullen and on- going discussions with NAMA and Laois County Council.
- Acquiring St Brigids Hospital, Carlow as emergency accommodation.

All queries raised by Members were addressed by S. O'Connor.

### **Recreation & Amenity Progress Report**

Members had Recreation and Amenity Progress Report to 30<sup>th</sup> September from S. O'Connor, Director of Services.

The following issues were raised by the Members:

- Councillor Browne welcomed new baby seat in Town Park and also discussed the requirement for a climbing frame. He also referred to overflowing litter bins in the Town Park. A Playground for Ducketts Grove was also discussed. S. O'Connor advised that Plans are in place for a playground but funding is an issue as playgrounds are excluded from grants scheme.
- Councillor Paton paid tribute to Tullow and Muinebheag communities for managing their Town Parks.
- Councillor O'Donoghue said Carlow East- Hacketstown and Rathvilly have no playground facilities.

- Councillor Ahern raised issue of Skateboard facilities for Carlow. S. O'Connor advised that Part V111 planning is in place and funding is awaited.
- In response to Councillor Phelan S. O'Connor advised that 15 no groups have been invited to participate in Paranormal events in Ducketts Grove this Halloween.
- Councillor Phelan raised issue in relation to difficulties on the River Barrow Navigation Channel managed by Waterways Ireland and The National Parks and Wildlife Services. Following discussion it was agreed following a showing of hands that the National Parks and Wildlife Services be invited to attend a meeting of Council to address the Members on ongoing difficulties with navigation.
- Councillor Murnane raised issue in relation to funding to complete works at Carlow Sub-Aqua Club.

All queries raised by the Members were addressed by S. O'Connor.

## **(b) Fire & Emergency Services Progress Report**

Members had report from G. Guerin, Chief Fire Officer for the period to 30<sup>th</sup> September.

The following issues were raised by the Members:

- Councillor Ahern complimented the Fire Service on their involvement with Outreach Services, community text alert and other community services.
- Councillor Pender queried if all apartment blocks and public buildings have been inspected and are up to fire safety standards.
- G. Guerin advised that current proposals for Fire Station, Bagenalstown may be altered and a new site may be acquired.
- Safety of Bon Fires at Halloween
- Councillor Murnane raised issue of wheel chair accessibility to public buildings in Carlow
- Councillor Kinsella raised issue of Fire Charges and ability to pay
- Councillor Quinn raised issue of inspection of halting sites in the County for fire safety standards. G. Guerin advised that halting sites will be examined. He referred to the legal difficulties regarding private domestic dwellings as they do not come under the Fire Services Act.

Members thanked the Chief Fire Officer for his report and wished the Carlow Technical Rescue Extrication Team well in the World Rescue Organisation Event in Lisbon.

### **(c) Community Progress Report**

Members welcomed report from M. Brennan, Senior Executive Officer, Community. M. Brennan set out progress for period January to September 2015 in respect of the following areas of responsibilities;

- Carlow Local Community Development Committee
- Community Initiatives
- Carlow Public Participation Network
- County Carlow Sports Partnership
- Other Initiatives/Areas of Responsibility

The following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Paton requested that sustainable waste and resource management be included in workshops for Tidy Town Committees 2016. He also raised issue of eradication of Himalayan Balsam weed.
- Councillor Murnane queried the Sub – Aqua Club Graiguecullen project and completion date.
- Councillor Doran queried if it is worthwhile re-advertising the Streetscape Paint Scheme 2015 as there was only five applications this year.
- Councillor Ahern queried proposals for Skateboard Park. M. Brennan advised that proposals will be brought to Carlow Municipal District. The Chief Executive advised of Part V111 planning but confirmation is required that the former Town Council plans are in order and to Members satisfaction and if not new proposals will be subject to further planning.
- Councillor Browne queried when Leader Funding will be drawn down.

All queries raised by Members were addressed by M. Brennan.

Members unanimously agreed following a showing of hands that representatives of the PPN Secretariat be invited to address the Council.

E. Brophy raised issue of number of requests to make presentations at Council meetings currently before Council. He advised of protocol for presentations.

Following discussion it was agreed following a showing of hands that the PPN Secretariat be invited to address Members at the November meeting of Council.

It was further agreed following a showing of hands that Carlow Comhairle Na nÓg be invited to address the December meeting of Council.

## **5. Chief Executives Monthly Management Report**

Members noted Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for the period to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The report outlined the main activities of Carlow County Council across the various service areas.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Members had correspondence by email from Councillor Phelan** formally requesting that a deputation from Carlow Comhairle na nÓg make a presentation at the December meeting of Council.

It was agreed that Carlow Comhairle na nÓg make a presentation at the December meeting of Council.

**Members had correspondence from Carlow Pipe Band** formally requesting the attendance of 2 members at the October monthly meeting.

This item was deferred at the September meeting of Council and was further deferred due to the number of deputations currently before Council.

**Members had correspondence from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions**

formally requesting the Council to facilitate an address by the Congress Representatives to a meeting of Carlow County Council.

This item was deferred due to the number of deputations currently before Council.

**Members had correspondence by email from the Older Persons Forum** requesting an opportunity to address the Members.

This item was deferred at the September meeting of Council and was further deferred due to the number of deputations currently before Council.

**Members noted correspondence by email from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government** extending the deadline for

the submission of reports to him in connection with the review of local authority boundaries in Athlone, Drogheda, Carlow and Waterford to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

**Members noted Notice of Motion from Sligo County Council.**

*‘Sligo County Council calls on the Minister for Finance to return to the Dáil with an open mind and listen to the very real concerns of T.D.s before he signs new Regulations into law on the remaining Sections of the 2012 Credit Union Act.’*

**Members noted Notice of Motion from Tipperary County Council**

*‘I am calling on Tipperary County Council to support the campaign to lobby the Department of Education to introduce the topic of Suicide awareness, depression and mental health into the Irish Secondary school education curriculum as presently it is not.’*

**Members noted Notices of Motion from Leitrim County Council**

*‘That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection to have epilepsy included as a condition for a Free Travel Pass.’*

*That Leitrim County Council call on the support of all Members, to ask the Minister for Finance to reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax now payable on transfer of lands or property at the moment. How can we encourage young people to take over the running of farms or business, having first to pay a tax greater in some cases than a holding is worth.’*

**Members noted Notice of Motion from Galway County Council**

*‘That Galway County Council request an amendment of the Government to the current legislation governing the administration/collection of commercial rates. That the Government generate a ‘Commercial Rates Credit Scheme’ to support business owners and occupiers that are financially impacted by infrastructure works/road works carried out in their area that persist 2 weeks.’  
Galway County Council circulate to all Councils seeking support.’*

**7. Notices of Motion.**

Fógraí Rúin/Notices of Motion.

Standing in the names of Cllr. Jennifer Murnane O’Connor and Fintan Phelan

“That Carlow County Council put in place a programme now and going forward every year for security in Carlow Town Park i.e. Park

Rangers, CCTV and in consultation with the local gardai because of the problem with litter and anti social behaviour in the park.”

Members were advised that the Gardai have made a further application to extend the CCTV scheme in Carlow Town to include additional cameras in Carlow Town Park.

**Proposed by Councillor F. Phelan**  
**Seconded by Councillor J. Pender**  
**AND**

Following a showing of hands it was resolved:

*“That Carlow County Council put in place a programme now and going forward every year for security in Carlow Town Park i.e. Park Rangers, CCTV and in consultation with the local gardai because of the problem with litter and anti social behaviour in the park.”*

Standing in the name of Councillors Brian O’Donoghue, Fintan Phelan, Denis Foley

"That this Council would adopt this resolution in support of Cork City Council in its actions against the proposed merger of Cork City and County Councils, and further supports its challenge to the Local Government Reform programme, which undermines the European principal of subsidiarity."

"We also direct the meeting administrator to inform the Minister for The Environment and Local Government and the Secretary General of the same Department of the passing of this motion by this Council".

**Proposed by Councillor B. O’Donoghue**  
**Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan**  
**AND**

Following a showing of hands it was resolved:

*“That Carlow County Council supports the resolution of Cork City Council in its actions against the proposed merger of Cork City and County Councils, and further supports its challenge to the Local Government Reform programme, which undermines the European principal of subsidiarity.”*

Standing in the Name of Cllrs. Jennifer Murnane O’Connor and Anne Ahern (nee Long)

“That Carlow County Council calls on the Minister for Health to honour their commitment to funding €360,000 towards the proposed Tir na nÓg Respite Centre in Carlow. This will be the only children’s respite centre for Carlow and the surrounding areas providing a service to over 40 children with disabilities ranging in ages of 2 to 18 in Carlow.”

A discussion took place on this Notice of Motion. Councillor O’Donoghue informed Members of correspondence from the Minister which indicated that he has not reversed his decision on this funding and that the matter is under review.

Members of the Health Executive Forum are to raise this matter at their next meeting.

**Proposed by Councillor Murnane –O’Connor**

**Seconded by Councillor F. Phelan**

**AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:

*“That Carlow County Council calls on the Minister for Health to honour their commitment to funding €360,000 towards the proposed Tir na nÓg Respite Centre in Carlow. This will be the only children’s respite centre for Carlow and the surrounding areas providing a service to over 40 children with disabilities ranging in ages of 2 to 18 in Carlow.”*

Standing in the name of Cllr. Jennifer Murnane O’Connor,

“That Carlow County Council re-examine parking issues in the Town Centre. With the amount of shop closures in the town we need to give incentives to people to come to Carlow Town Centre to shop i.e. free parking.”

A debate ensued on this issue with some members expressing reservations on how 15 minutes free parking may be enforced.

Councillors Paton and J. Murphy said free parking does not work citing parking problems in Tullow Town Centre as car parks are not utilised. The loss of revenue from parking meters was also raised. Following debate it was agreed that the issue be brought to Carlow Municipal District for further debate.

It was

**Proposed by Councillor Murnane – O’Connor**

**Seconded by Councillor Ann Ahern**

**AND**



Following a showing of hands it was resolved:

*“That Carlow County Council re-examine parking issues in the Town Centre. With the amount of shop closures in the town we need to give incentives to people to come to Carlow Town Centre to shop i.e. free parking.”*

Standing in the Name of Cllr. John Cassin

“Carlow County Council call on Waterways Ireland to carry out a structural engineering review of the River Barrow Track to ascertain safe and appropriate weight limits for vehicles and equipment carrying out works on the track. This would clarify the appropriate type of vehicles allowed on the track. The heavy equipment Waterways Ireland is presently using is causing damage to the integrity of the track by breaking the grass surface, damaging the track and the puddle walls, causing the track to cave and crack and to come away from the banks. An example of this problem near the Carlow boundary with Kildare was illustrated in our presentation to Carlow County Council 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015

In the last six weeks the use of heavy machinery without due care and adherence to best practice at the site has broken the track again at the site of repair, making the repair pointless and causing long term damage. The moving of this heavy machinery along the track has now cracked the banks and top-sod closer to Bestfield Lock. Further, the heavy tractor Waterways Ireland used to cut the hedges on this section has exacerbated a crack causing the inside puddle wall to cave in. We predict that the damage will become irreversible, and an important part of our history will be lost. Carlow Barrow Users Group walk the track every day and we want to repair, maintain, and promote this historical and unique habitat for use by everyone. Should Waterways Ireland be unwilling to engage with these concerns and provide an engineering review, perhaps Carlow County Council can pick up their slack in the interest of protecting our history and heritage for use by future generations?”

**Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin**

**Seconded by Councillor F. Browne**

**AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:

*“Carlow County Council call on Waterways Ireland to carry out a structural engineering review of the River Barrow Track to ascertain safe and*

*appropriate weight limits for vehicles and equipment carrying out works on the track. This would clarify the appropriate type of vehicles allowed on the track. The heavy equipment Waterways Ireland is presently using is causing damage to the integrity of the track by breaking the grass surface, damaging the track and the puddle walls, causing the track to cave and crack and to come away from the banks. An example of this problem near the Carlow boundary with Kildare was illustrated in our presentation to Carlow County Council 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015*

*In the last six weeks the use of heavy machinery without due care and adherence to best practice at the site has broken the track again at the site of repair, making the repair pointless and causing long term damage. The moving of this heavy machinery along the track has now cracked the banks and top-sod closer to Bestfield Lock. Further, the heavy tractor Waterways Ireland used to cut the hedges on this section has exacerbated a crack causing the inside puddle wall to cave in. We predict that the damage will become irreversible, and an important part of our history will be lost. Carlow Barrow Users Group walk the track every day and we want to repair, maintain, and promote this historical and unique habitat for use by everyone. Should Waterways Ireland be unwilling to engage with these concerns and provide an engineering review, perhaps Carlow County Council can pick up their slack in the interest of protecting our history and heritage for use by future generations?"*

Standing in the name of Cllr. John Cassin

“That Carlow County Council call on Waterways Ireland to use proven methodologies, to maintain, repair, and protect the River Barrow track, the puddle walls, culverts, etc. This would include the carrying out of track maintenance and repair from barges on the river, using puddle clay and loam for track repair, maintaining the grass surface in good repair by rolling, cutting grass and reseeding on a regular basis. These methodologies have worked successfully for over two centuries. It is due to the excellence of design and engineering of the Barrow Navigation System, and to the care afforded to it by our ancestors, that we have this wonderful natural resource which is free for all to enjoy, and which is also candidate Special Area of Conversation.

Carlow Barrow Users Group want to preserve the River Barrow Track as accessible and safe for everyone’s use, and to preserve our

heritage for future generations. At present Waterways Ireland are compromising the integrity of the track in their use of inappropriate and damaging methods, materials, and equipment for maintenance and repair. As we mentioned in our presentation of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015, if these practices remain unchecked we predict that the track will continue to fall apart, the damage will become irreversible, there will be no continuous track way running the length of Carlow County for future generations, and an important part of our history will be lost.”

**Proposed by Councillor J. Cassin**  
**Seconded by Councillor J. Murnane-O’Connor**  
**AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:

*“That Carlow County Council call on Waterways Ireland to use proven methodologies, to maintain, repair, and protect the River Barrow track, the puddle walls, culverts, etc. This would include the carrying out of track maintenance and repair from barges on the river, using puddle clay and loam for track repair, maintaining the grass surface in good repair by rolling, cutting grass and reseeding on a regular basis. These methodologies have worked successfully for over two centuries. It is due to the excellence of design and engineering of the Barrow Navigation System, and to the care afforded to it by our ancestors, that we have this wonderful natural resource which is free for all to enjoy, and which is also a candidate Special Area of Conversation.*

*Carlow Barrow Users Group want to preserve the River Barrow Track as accessible and safe for everyone’s use, and to preserve our heritage for future generations. At present Waterways Ireland are compromising the integrity of the track in their use of inappropriate and damaging methods, materials, and equipment for maintenance and repair. As we mentioned in our presentation of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015, if these practices remain unchecked we predict that the track will continue to fall apart, the damage will become irreversible, there will be no continuous track way running the length of Carlow County for future generations, and an important part of our history will be lost.”*

**8 Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach.**

Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach was deferred to the November meeting of Council.