

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the June Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday, 11th June 2012 at 2.00 p.m

- Present: Councillor T. Kinsella, Cathaoirleach
Councillor M. Abbey,
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor W. Fennell,
Councillor D. Foley,
Councillor F. Hunter
Councillor D. Hurley
Councillor W. Lacey
Councillor A. McDonald,
Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor,
Councillor C. Murphy,
Councillor J. Murphy,
Councillor T. O'Neill
Councillor P. O'Toole
Councillor W. Paton
Councillor J. Pender,
Councillor W. Quinn.
Councillor C. Townsend,
Councillor J. Townsend,
- In attendance: Mr. T. Barry, County Manager
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Service - Environment, Water
Services & Health and Safety.
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service - Community and
Enterprise, Economic Development & Corporate Services.
Mr. D. McInerney, Director of Services
Transportation & Safety & Emergency Services.
Mr. D. Walsh, Senior Planner
Ms. F. O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Planning
Mr. B. Duff, Administrative Officer, Planning

Ms. A. Byrne, Administrative Officer, Community and Enterprise

Mr. E. Brophy, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

Ms. B. Whelan, Assistant Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was recited by the Members.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to:-

- The Cody Family on the death of Patrick Cody, The Parade, Bagenalstown.
- Angela Carpenter and Family on the death of her husband Tom Carpenter, Wells, Bagenalstown.
- Sally Foley and Family, Kilbride, Carlow on the death of her husband Paddy.
- Har Smithers and Family on the death of Mary (Colley) Smithers, Roslea, Myshall, Co. Carlow
- Josephine Lennon and family, Spahill, Borris, Co. Carlow on the death of Padraig Lennon, former Rate Collector, Carlow County Council
- Lawlor Family, 4 Station Road, Borris, Co. Carlow, on the death of their father John, former General Operative with Carlow County Council.
- The Family of the late Ann Coogan-Broderick 'St. Joseph's', Rathnapish, Carlow
- Councillor Quinn on the death of his mother-in-law Mrs Connolly, High Street, Graiguenamanagh.
- McKenna Family, 16 Frederick Ave., Carlow on the death of their mother Anne, wife of the late Edward McKenna, former County Accountant.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

The Members expressed votes of congratulations to:-

- Carlow Senior Football Team on their achievement securing a draw against Meath in the Leinster Senior Football Quarter Final and wished them well in the replay.

- Michael Nolan Jnr., Coolasnaughta, Myshall, Co. Carlow on winning the All Ireland Schools and Community Games hand writing competitions.
- Hugo Jellett, CEO and Artistic Director of Eigse on the wonderful success of the opening ceremony of Eigse 2012.
- All involved with the official opening of St. Fiacc's House Activity Centre.
- Borris U/15 Soccer Team on winning the All Ireland Community Games Indoor Soccer Final.

Councillor Abbey expressed disappointment that Members of Carlow County Council living in Carlow Town did not receive invitations to the official opening of St. Fiacc's House Activity Centre. Councillor Hurley will raise the issue with the Chairperson of the Centre.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) Proposed by Councillor M. Abbey
Seconded by Councillor F. Browne
AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

"That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday, 11th June, at 2.00p.m having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

2. CIRCULARS

The County Manager advised of Carlow County Council project, for the provision of an on road cycling route from Carlow to Paulstown to Kilkenny providing 44 km of cycle lanes along the R448, has been approved for funding under the National Cycle Network Funding Scheme.

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

- (a) Taking- in- Charge of roads and services at Ballinacarrig Commercial Properties, Ballinacarrig, Carlow,**

Members had report from D. McInerney on the taking in charge of road and services at Ballinacarrig Commercial Properties, Ballinacarrig, Carlow.

Following the public consultation period no submissions were received. Members approval was sought to take-in-charge the roads and services at Ballinacarrig Commercial Properties, Ballinacarrig, Carlow.

Proposed by Councillor M. Abbey
Seconded by Councillor W. Lacey
AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby approve the taking-in-charge of road and services at Ballinacarrig Commercial Properties, Ballinacarrig, Carlow in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, and Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010.

Councillor Browne raised the issue of a bridge linking the Industrial Park with the Wexford and Tullow Road.

4. COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES

(a) Agriculture

There were no matters arising.

(b) Health

Councillor Fennell advised that a motion is being tabled by the Members of the Health Service Executive, for an upcoming HSE South meeting, in relation to ambulance service in Carlow and referrals to Kilkenny A & E where Waterford A & E is the appropriate treatment centre in certain cases.

Councillor Abbey advised of stroke victim having to wait one hour for ambulance service. Councillor Murnane-O'Connor advised of cancer patient unable to avail of bus service to Waterford for treatment due to capacity on the bus.

Members also spoke of the excellent service delivered by ambulance personnel and the issues raised are as a result of procedures and staff moratorium. Members praised the work of paramedics.

(c) Tenders for opening, if any

Members discussed tenders opened since last meeting.

A discussion took place in relation to tender pricing and information made available to Members.

Members raised the issue under Section 136 of the Local Government Act 2001 of furnishing information to elected Members. The County Manager advised of his obligation to protect the interest and commercial sensitivity for competing companies. He advised that the information can be made available to Members privately but expressed reservations of it being in the public domain.

Queries raised by Members were addressed by the County Manager Mr. Carley and Mr. McInerney.

5. PLANNING

(a) Planning Progress Report

Members welcomed Planning and Development Activity Report for the period 1st January 2012 to 30th April 2012.

The report covered the following:-

Development Management

	1/1/2012 – 30/4/2012	1/1/2011– 30/4/2011
Planning Applications Received (Town & County)	125	135
Invalid Planning Applications	41	37
Decisions Granted	97	74
Refusals	4	10
Pre-Planning Meetings Held	35	42

Enforcement Activities

	1/1/2012– 30/4/2012
Complaints Received	27
Warning Letters Issued	42
Enforcement Notices Issued	12
Investigations	96
Court Proceedings	6
Court Prosecutions	2

The report outlined procedure for dealing with Enforcement Complaints.

Taking of Estates in Charge

The report listed the Housing Estates taken in charge in 2011 and to date in 2012 and also the estates where requests have been received to take-in-charge. The County Manager advised that taking-in-charge of housing estates causes a significant strain on the finances of the Council.

The report outlined the procedure for the Taking-in-Charge of a housing estate.

Unfinished Estates

The report covered the legislative mechanisms available to Local Authorities to deal with unfinished housing estates.

A second survey, due to commence in June 2012, of unfinished housing estates is being undertaken by the Department of the Environment.

Unfinished estates have been examined and categorised from numbers 1 through 4 and €5 million has been made available to Local Authorities to deal with immediate safety issues in category 4 estates where there is no construction activity on the site, the developer is not contactable and no receiver has been appointed.

A detailed discussion took place in relation to taking-in-charge of housing estates, unfinished estates and derelict sites.

Members raised issue in relation to correspondence being issued from Carlow Council to contact Local Councillors in relation to taking-in-charge of estates.

Members raised the issue of Limegrove Housing Estate. The County Manager advised of issue with insurance which is currently being resolved.

Members also raised the following issues:-

- Derelict house, Pollerton and Bagenalstown House
- Derelict sites - Hacketstown/Pollerton Road Junction and Tullow (off Carlow Road).
- Taking in charge of Friarslough, Leighlinbridge and Academy Court.
- Warning letter to Inis Gardens

➤ Issue of Bonds and Development levies and unfinished housing estates

➤ Mountain View, Myshall – provision of ramps

Members requested a list of estates currently being surveyed for taking-in-charge.

Councillor Browne proposed and Councillor Murnane O'Connor seconded that Meadowbank Housing Estate be placed on the July agenda to begin the taking-in-charge process.

Dan McInerney advised that he had arranged an early meeting with the developer and would progress the issue from there.

Queries raised by Members were addressed by the County Manager and Ms. O'Neill.

Presentation by Dr. Patricia Mulcahy, President, Carlow Institute of Technology

The Chairman welcomed Dr. Mulcahy to the Chamber to address Members on Carlow Institute of Technology and the National Higher Education Reform Programme.

Dr Mulcahy advised that the Higher Education Authority reform of Irish Higher Education will create a more coherent system of higher education institutions better able to deliver academic programmes needed by individuals, society and the labour market.

Carlow and Waterford IT are to partner with each other to create a multi-campus Technological University for the South-East.

Dr. Mulcahy said the Technological University of the South East will serve and enhance the region, its industry and community.

Members thanked Ms. Mulcahy for her excellent presentation and queries raised by Members were addressed by Ms. Mulcahy.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted correspondence from E. Brophy in relation to Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd Annual Report 2011- Audited Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for year ended 31/12/2011. A copy of report is available from Corporate Services.

Members noted correspondence from Department of Health in relation to Members correspondence regarding the Department's proposal to weigh children on commencement of primary school.

Members noted resolution from South Tipperary County Council
"That this Council would call on the Government to implement the Construction Contracts Bill 2010 policies."

Members noted correspondence from the Whelan family, Clowater, Goresbridge, Co. Carlow thanking Members for passing vote of sympathy on the death of Peter Whelan.

Members noted resolution from Donegal County Council
"Donegal County Council requests the Minister for Health and Children, Dr. James Reilly to instruct the H.S.E. to carry out, as a matter of urgency, a review of the Long Term Illness Scheme with a view to including Long Term Debilitating Illness which are not presently recognised by the present Scheme.

Members noted correspondence from the New Online Student Grants System and the SUSI communication plan for the coming launch period.

Members expressed reservations with the centralisation of the Scheme.

7. Fógraí Rúin/Notices of Motion.

Standing in the names of Cllrs. Des Hurley, Wayne Fennell and William Paton (A.C.C.C. Delegates)

"That Carlow County Council facilitate the establishment of a county wide Steering Committee for "The Gathering Ireland 2013" to build on existing events and festivals and encourage the establishment of new events and festivals to bring home the Carlow Diaspora in 2013."

Members supported the motion.

Councillor Ahern raised the issue of funding for marketing the project.

Councillor McDonald raised the issue of funding for 2016 Commemoration celebrations.

(8) Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Saorview – new digital television service and lack of awareness of changeover in October.
- Members congratulated the Cathaoirleach on his last full meeting of Council.
- Support for the National Tourism Conference to be held in the Dolmen Hotel from 21st to 23rd June.
- Support for ‘Relay for Life’ to be held in Duckett’s Grove 16th and 17th June.
- Issue of Environmental Health Officer for housing following the retirement of Jimmy Reidy, HSE Environmental Health Officer.
- Town Council correspondence being issued to tenants in relation to maintenance and upkeep of property.
- Telephone system Tullow and microphones Council Chamber.

This concluded the business of the meeting.