

## **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 14th October 2013 at 2.00 p.m**

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Present: Councillor D Hurley, Cathaoirleach  
Councillor M. Abbey  
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)  
Councillor M. Doran  
Councillor W. Fennell,  
Councillor D. Foley,  
Councillor F. Hunter  
Councillor T. Kinsella  
Councillor W. Lacey  
Councillor A. McDonald,  
Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor,  
Councillor C. Murphy  
Councillor J. Murphy  
Councillor T. O'Neill  
Councillor W. Paton  
Councillor J. Pender,  
Councillor W. Quinn.  
Councillor C. Townsend,  
Councillor J. Townsend,

Apologies: Councillor F. Browne  
Councillor P.O'Toole

In attendance: Mr. T. Barry, County Manager  
Mr. J. Carley, Director of Service - Environment, Water Services & Health and Safety.  
Mr. D. McInerney, Director of Services Transportation & Safety & Emergency Services.  
Ms. B. O'Brien, Director of Service - Community and Enterprise, Economic Development & Corporate Services.  
Mr. K. Cullinane, Senior Engineer, Water Services.  
Ms M. Mullholland, Senior Executive Officer, Environment.

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 Members expressed votes of sympathy to:-

- Michael Boyce, former County Manager on the death of his wife Finola Boyce, 14 Braganza, Athy Road, Carlow
- Kelly Family, Kilcruit, Bagenalstown on the death of Ann Kelly
- Bolger Family, Rathgeran, Ballymurphy, Borris on the death of Patrick Bolger
- Eamonn Brophy, Senior Executive Officer on the death of his aunt Bernie Brophy, Palatine, Carlow
- Roberts Family, Fairgreen, Bagenalstown on the death of John Roberts
- Brennan Family, Oakgrove, Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown on the death of Martin Brennan.
- Dowling Family, 135 New Oak Estate on the death of Doreen Dowling.

### **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

The Members expressed votes of congratulations to:-

- Old Leighlin Football Club on winning the Carlow County Final
- Carlow Institute of Technology on being awarded The Sunday Times University Guide Institute of Technology of the year 2013/2014.
- Leighlinbridge on receiving an award at Barrow Awards 2013.
- Clonegal on winning gold in the villages category Entente Floral 2013 Competition
- Clashganny House Restaurant, Borris on being awarded the best newcomer of the year at the 2014 Georgina Campbell Awards.
- Tinryland Minor Football team and wished them well against Eire Óg in the Minor Final Replay.

- David O’Flaherty, Carlow and Patrick Roche, Leighlinbridge who were ordained as Deacons to the permanent diaconate for the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.
- All involved with Carlow Mental Health Association’s Mensana Fest.
- Mount Leinster Rangers Senior and Minor Hurling Teams competing in the County Finals.
- Members welcomed the holding of the National Macra Conference in Mount Wolseley on weekend Friday 25th October.
- Members welcomed recent job creation announcements for Bagenalstown with 100 new jobs at Walsh Whiskey Distillery.

Members were unanimous in their praise of the electorate who voted no in the recent referendum on the abolition of the Senate. Members said that this no vote must be heeded by the Minister for the Environment Phil Hogan as he prepares to enact legislation to abolish Town Councils. Members reiterated that the proposal to abolish Town Councils is an attack on democracy as this fundamental change to the system of local government merits far more debate and consideration.

The Chairman advised that a letter expressing Members views has been sent to the Taoiseach and the Minister.

The Chairman sought Members approval to discuss Eirgrid Powerlines ‘Save our Heartland’ delegation following the four o’clock recess. This was unanimously agreed.

## **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- (a) Proposed by Councillor T.O’Neill  
Seconded by Councillor W. Quinn  
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 9th September 2013, at 2.00p.m having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.*

## **2. CIRCULARS**

There were no circulars

## **3. ENVIRONMENT, WASTE SERVICES & HEALTH & SAFETY**

### **(a) Water and Environment Services Progress Report**

Members welcomed Water and Environment Services Activity Report to date.

The report covered the following areas of responsibilities.

- Current Status of Capital Infrastructure Schemes
- Small Schemes
- Irish Water Set Up Process
- River Basin Management Plan
- Water Metering Project
- EPA Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland Report 2011
- Individual Well Grants
- Water Conservation
- Licencing of Waste Water Treatment Plants
- Waste Management and Water Quality Regulatory Activity
- Health and Safety
- Promotion of Environmental Awareness
- Energy Management
- Veterinary Service

Mr Carley advised of Irish Water set up process and the appointment of a new economic regulator for the public water sector. The CER will be responsible for determining the cost of water services to the consumer.

The County Manager advised of Irish Water Customer Service contact for all queries while the Local Authority will continue to provide services on behalf of Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement in 2014.

Members raised the following issues;-

- Water issue lower Borris
- Dog bag dispensers along cycling routes
- Food Waste and new domestic food waste regulations
- Decreased water pressure at night time to reduce leakage
- Water meters and costs to consumers

- Water leakages
- Following completion of works at Nurney Waste Water Treatment Plant house at entrance to facility in need of redecorating.
- Smell at Bagenalstown
- Lime in water

All queries raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Carley.

**(b) Southern Regional Waste Management Plan Update**

Members had briefing note from Mr. Carley on update on Southern Waste Management Plan.

Following the reconfiguration of the regions as outlined in 'Putting People First' Carlow is part of the Southern Region. Tipperary and Limerick are joint lead authority for the Southern Waste Region. A Draft Waste Management Plan for the Southern Region will commence in the last quarter of 2013 and is expected to be published in the second quarter of 2014.

Following Members query Mr Carley advised that the closing date for receipt of applications for Powerstown Landfill Community Funding is 18th October 2013.

**4. COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES**

**(a) South East Economic Development Strategy (SEEDS) 2013-2013.**

Members welcomed report from Ms O'Brien on South East Economic Development Strategy (SEEDS) 2013-2023.

Ms. O'Brien outlined key priorities that the report identifies for the South East and also activities that Carlow County Council is involved in supporting economic recovery.

Members complimented Ms. O'Brien on her report and raised the following issues.

- Designation of Carlow and Waterford Institutes of Technology as South East Technological University.
- Showcasing Carlow from a business point of view during festivals e.g Eigse.

- Councillor Abbey advised of excellent presentation at LAMA Conference on the role of Local Authorities and diminishing role of Councillors in economic development.
- Promoting centre of Carlow Town
- Promoting Tourism, Arts and Culture
- Future of Braun Site
- Promotion of Carlow College
- Proposals for the re-establishment of the sugar industry
- Members welcomed job creations in Bagenalstown and Myshall manufacturing industries and said every effort is required to promote mixed/retail industry in Carlow.
- Members requested that the IDA be invited to attend a meeting of Carlow County Council to enable Members express their views on unemployment among young people in the South East and the effects on rural towns.

Members expressed positivity in relation to Carlow and the importance of showcasing Carlow at every opportunity.

Ms. O'Brien complimented Members for their commitment to supporting economic development in Carlow.

All issues raised by Members were addressed by County Manager and Ms. O'Brien.

### **(b) County Carlow's Pride of Place Awards 2013**

Ms. O'Brien advised Members that the Annual Awards Ceremony for the Carlow Local Authorities Pride of Place competition will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2013 in The Mount Wolseley Hotel, Tullow.

Ms. O'Brien also advised that the 'Carlow Person of The Year Award' will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

Members paid a glowing tribute to Ms O'Brien for her work and commitment to communities and organisations in County Carlow.

### **(c) Agriculture**

There were no matters arising.

### **(d) Health**

Members raised the following issues:-

- Medical card cuts for older people. Write to Minister expressing Members views.

- Cuts to Rent Allowance and closure of offices.
- Defibrillators not being accessible at all times. Need for designated points of access.

**(e) Tenders for opening, if any**

Members noted tenders opened since last meeting.

**EIRGRID PROPOSALS TO SITE PYLONS IN COUNTY CARLOW**

Councillor Kinsella thanked the Manager for meeting a delegation 'Save our heartland' and the Members for facilitating discussion during the November meeting on Eirgrid proposals to site pylons in South County Carlow.

Members spoke at length of the effects these proposals would have on south Carlow which is a major tourist area and said that the pylons would be 'the death knell for tourism in south Carlow'.

Members noted that the Kilkenny County Development Plan for southeast Kilkenny is designated High Amenity and requested variation of Carlow County Development Plan to reflect high amenity in south Carlow. The County Manager advised that this area was not designated high amenity at the time of making the Plan due to planning concerns on rural development.

He also advised that the closing date for receipt of submissions in relation to Eirgrid proposals is 26th November. Variation of Carlow County Development Plan would take 28 weeks to process.

Following lengthy discussion the County Manager advised that he will carry out impact assessment on the potential impact these proposals will have on the Barrow Valley in terms of tourism, amenity and economic development. Members also requested GPS mapping showing heritage sites, protected structures and high amenity areas in County Carlow. The County Manager's assessment report will be prepared for the November meeting of Council. Members requested that correspondence in relation to this issue be issued to Members a week in advance of the November meeting to enable Members reflect on the Manager's report.

Eirgrid will also address Members at the November meeting. It was proposed by Councillor C. Murphy and seconded by Councillor W. Paton and unanimously agreed that members of the 'Save our Heartland' group be also invited to make a presentation at the November meeting.

Each Member is entitled to one pass to issue to members of the public who may wish to attend the meeting.  
Following the November meeting a decision will be made as to the next course of action.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Members noted resolution from Clones Town Council**

*“That this Council calls n the Minister for Health James Reilly, the Government, and the HSE to ensure that the 35 million euro funding that had been ring fenced for mental health services for budget 2013, is again ring fenced for budget 2014.*

*This Council also calls for the full amount of that 35 million euro to be spent within the mental health service, and not to be spent to make up other departments overspent bills.*

*Suicide is on the rise at an alarming rate and there is a responsibility on this Government to ensure the safety and well being of all of its citizens.*

*It is also proposed that this notice of motion be circulated to all town Councils to the Minister for Health James Reilly.”*

### **Members noted resolution from Limerick City and County Council**

*“That, Section 42 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2013, and Article 45 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2000-2013, should be amended to allow further information to be sought on substantive planning issues and to allow conditions to be imposed on the extended permission to address planning inadequacies in the original permission.”*

### **Members noted resolution from Wexford County Council**

*“That this Council endorses the principle of the right to water and sanitation as a fundamental core value within Irish society and this should be reflected as a central pillar in national water policy. As citizens of the EU we believe in the right of all inhabitants to enjoy this right and that we oppose any attempt to include water in legislation aimed at market liberalisation. This Council supports the call for the full national political commitment to ensuring that water and sanitation are publicly owned, democratically run and that all in the sector are fully accountable.”*



**Members noted correspondence from Department of Environment, Community and Local Government** in connection with legislation to regulate fairs and outdoor activities.

**Members noted resolution from Leitrim County Council**

*“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Finance and The Central Bank to ensure the protection of the structures and local branches of the Credit Union Movement throughout the country and to give support to the members and officers who work tirelessly on behalf of the people for a better and fairer Ireland.”*

**Members noted resolution from Ennis Town Council**

*“That Ennis Town Council request the Minister for Health to revise the scheme for chronic illnesses and that people in Clare suffering from Crohns disease, Alzeimers, and Coronary Heart Disease be recognised as suffering from life long conditions and be included in the Long Term illness Scheme. And that the fee for these people attending Accident and Emergency be immediately eliminated.”*

**Members noted resolution from Offaly County Council**

*“That Offaly County Council support the Restaurant Association of Ireland’s campaign “Keep VAT at 9% and to ask all other Local Authorities to do likewise.”*

**Members noted important funding information** for schools, clubs and communities regarding the new online Sports Capital Register.

**6. Notices of Motion.**

Fógraí Rúin/Notices of Motion.

Standing in the name of Cllrs. Des Hurley, William Paton, William Quinn, Caroline Townsend and Jim Townsend

"This Council recognises that the trafficking, exploitation and abuse of women and girls is taking place throughout the country as a direct result of prostitution. The Council believes human rights abuses can be ended by targeting the demand for prostitution by introducing laws which make it an offence to pay for sex and is seeking such laws. We note the success of similar laws in other European countries. We call on the

Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to enact the necessary legislation."

**Proposed by Councillor Paton**  
**Seconded by Councillor Hurley**  
**AND**

Following a showing of hands this motion was unanimously agreed by the Members

Standing in the name of Cllr. William Paton

"That this Council condemn the exclusion of elected members from the membership of the recently announced "Working Group on Citizen Engagement."

**Proposed by Councillor Paton**  
**Seconded by Councillor Ahern**  
**AND**

Following a showing of hands this motion was unanimously agreed by the Members

**(7) Any other business with the consent of the Cathaoirleach.**

Members raised the following issues:-

- Maintenance on motorways with particular mention of roundabouts now under NRA Maintenance Contracts.
- Maintenance of private lanes where development levies have been paid. This item to be put on agenda for discussion.
- Bond - Ballyknockan Housing Estate.

The Chairman requested that an item relating to the format for publishing Members expenses on website be discussed in committee.

Following discussion Members unanimously agreed that this item be deferred for further discussion with party whips and be put on agenda for November meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.