

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council, held in The Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Monday 10th September 2012 at 2.00 p.m

Present: Councillor M. Abbey, Cathaoirleach
Councillor A. Ahern (Nee Long)
Councillor F. Browne
Councillor M. Doran
Councillor W. Fennell,
Councillor D. Foley,
Councillor F. Hunter
Councillor D. Hurley
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 P. O'Toole

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. S. O'Connor, Director of Services - Housing, Recreation & Amenity & Special Project
Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance
Mr. R. Fitzgerald, Financial Accountant

Ms F. O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Planning
Mr. G. Guerin, Chief Fire Officer
Mr. M. Gahan, Assistant Chief Fire Officer
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 CONGRATULATIONS

The Members expressed votes of congratulations to:-

- Carlow Camogie Team on winning the All Ireland Junior B Final
- County Carlow on receiving three gold medals at the National Tidy Towns award – Carlow Town, Leighlinbridge and Clonegal. Borris Tidy Town on winning the Endeavour Award.
- John Boyd, Secretary of Carlow Tidy Towns on winning a local Hero Award
- To all involved with the success of the Paralympics and to Carlow paralympian Gabriel Shelly.
- To the GAA for their goodwill gesture on reducing the cost of tickets for the All-Ireland Hurling Final replay.
- St Laurence O'Toole on the recent success of their Senior Men on winning the National Division 1 All Ireland Title
- Mount Leinster Rangers on winning U/14 hurling championship
- Erin's Own on qualifying for quarter final of Senior Hurling Championship.
- Gerard Murnane on his success in the Fitness 'Fitex' Extravaganza held in the Dolmen Hotel 8th and 9th September.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The Members expressed votes of sympathy to:

- David Moore, General Operative on the death of his father David Moore, Tomduff, Borris.
- James and Niall Byrne, Environment/Water Services on the death of their father Ned Byrne, Rathoe.

- Maureen Dunne & Family on the death of her husband Tom Dunne, Fr. Murphy Terrace, Tullow former employee of Carlow County Council.
- Ray Spain, Project Co-Ordinator, SERBDMS on the death of his daughter Orlagh.
- Councillor J. Townsend on the death of his mother and Councillor C. Townsend on the death of her grandmother Peg Townsend
- Catherine Nolan and Mary Mahon former employees of Carlow County Council on the death of their sister Caroline Walsh
- The family of the late Michael P. (Mickey) Byrne, Dranagh, St. Mullins
- The family of the late Michael Foley, 'The Old Glebe', Ballinacarrig, Carlow
- Ann Doyle and Family on the death of her husband John Doyle, 3 Church Street, Graiguecullen, former employee of Carlow County Council
- Jer Brennan & Family on the death of his wife Kathleen Brennan, 5 Kernanstown, Bennekerry, Carlow
- The family of the late Breda Ryan, 2 Oakley Cresc., Graiguecullen, Carlow
- Elizabeth Shaw & Family on the death of her husband Joe Shaw, 19 McGamhna Road, Carlow
- Mary Brennan & Family on the death of her husband Michael Brennan, Main Street, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow
- The Family of the late Eileen McDonald, New York and Ballytarsna and late of Slyguff, Bagenalstown
- Trish Kavanagh & Family on the death of her husband Philip Kavanagh, Glencoe, Myshall, Co. Carlow.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor W. Lacey
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 Wednesday, 27th June, at 11.00a.m having been circulated to each

Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

- (b) Proposed by Councillor F. Browne
Seconded by Councillor T. O'Neill
AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-
“That the Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Wednesday, 27th June, at 4.45 p.m having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

- (c) Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella
Seconded by Councillor A. Ahern
AND**

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-
“That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Carlow County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Athy Road, Carlow, on Wednesday, 27th June, at 2.30 p.m having been circulated to each Member, be taken as read, confirmed as to accuracy and accordingly signed.

2. CIRCULARS

(a) Circular Fin 09/2012 General Purpose Grants

Members noted the revised LGF General Purpose Allocations 2012 for Carlow County Council. Original allocation of €8,532,829 has been reduced by €984,942 reflecting an adjustment based on the level of household charge compliance achieved to date of 58%.

The County Manager advised that the Council has been directed to reduce expenditure for the remainder of the year in order to compensate for the €985,000 loss of income and to achieve a balanced budget. Payroll savings from vacant positions and redeployment to Capital Schemes come to €257,400 and Water provided to other Local Authorities €100,000. The County Manager set out savings in service costs of €378,800 for Carlow County Council as follows:-

EXPENDITURE SAVINGS SEPTEMBER 2012				
SVC	SERVICE DESCRIPTION	SAVINGS IN SERVICE COSTS	SERVICE BUDGET 2012	%
A01	MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT OF LA HOUSING UNITS	10,000	765,500	1%
A09	HOUSING GRANTS	15,000	382,200	4%
B04	LOCAL ROAD - MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT (local contribution)	82,000	786,000	10%
C02	WASTE WATER TREATMENT	23,000	2,970,480	1%
D04	INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL FACILITIES	10,000	171,000	6%
D06	COMMUNITY AND ENTERPRISE FUNCTION	5,500	361,650	2%
E02	RECOVERY & RECYCLING FACILITIES OPERATIONS	30,000	332,700	9%
E06	STREET CLEANING	32,800	184,500	18%
E09	MAINTENANCE OF BURIAL GROUNDS	20,200	84,000	24%
E11	OPERATION OF FIRE SERVICE	58,500	2,250,900	3%
F01	LEISURE FACILITIES OPERATIONS	6,000	37,400	16%
F02	OPERATION OF LIBRARY AND ARCHIVAL SERVICE	18,700	971,050	2%
F03	OUTDOOR LEISURE AREAS OPERATIONS	25,000	362,950	7%
F05	OPERATION OF ARTS PROGRAMME	2,000	527,300	0%
H09	LOCAL REPRESENTATION & CIVIC LEADERSHIP	7,800	742,720	1%
H10	MOTOR TAXATION	4,300	399,100	1%
J02	GENERAL CORPORATE SERVICES	2,800	836,000	0%
J03	INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	7,000	921,900	1%
J04	PRINT & POST ROOM SERVICES	13,200	85,000	16%
J05	HUMAN RESOURCES FUNCTION	5,000	390,630	1%
		378,800	13,562,980	3%

A detailed discussion took place in relation to the Household Charge and the role of the Local Authority in collection of registration charge. County Manager advised of Database which will be made available to Local Authorities shortly from the Central Bureau. Letters will issue encouraging householders to register. Members also raised issue of cash payments not being accepted in the Civic Offices in Tullow and Bagenalstown. The County Manager is to review this issue in the interim. Members proposed a PR campaign encouraging householders to register with a view to getting the message out that the level of services provided in the future will have a direct correlation to compliance. Members expressed dissatisfaction with the current penalty system for late payment. Members expressed the view that the Household Charge was dealt with in an unsatisfactory manner by

Government allowing for minimal local input but pledged their support to encourage householders to register.

Councillor Hurley raised issue in relation to cuts in contribution to swimming pools and Carlow London/Birmingham Associations. The County Manager advised of capital investment in geothermal energy for swimming pools leading to substantial savings. He advised that no expenditure has been incurred in relation to Carlow London/Birmingham Associations for the past two years.

It was proposed by Councillor Doran and seconded by Councillor Kinsella that the proposed savings in service costs as outlined by the County Manager are cut by 50% and the savings reviewed after four weeks.

It was proposed by Councillor Pender to suspend all proposed savings in service costs and request the Minister to reverse these savings. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Murnane-O'Connor.

A vote was taken as follows.

To implement 50% cuts to the proposed savings in services costs as outlined in County Manager's report pending further clarification from the Minister.

A vote was taken as follows:-

<i>Members of Carlow County Council</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Cllr. Michael Abbey</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Anne Ahern(Nee Long)</i>		✓		
<i>Cllr. Fergal Browne</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Michael Doran</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Wayne Fennell</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Denis Foley</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Fred Hunter</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Des Hurley</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Thomas Kinsella</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Walter Lacey</i>		✓		
<i>Cllr. Arthur McDonald</i>		✓		
<i>Cllr. Jennifer Murnane-O'Connor</i>		✓		
<i>Cllr. Charlie Murphy</i>		✓		
<i>Cllr. John Murphy</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Tom O'Neill</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Pat O'Toole</i>				✓
<i>Cllr. William Paton</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. John Pender</i>		✓		

<i>Cllr. William Quinn</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Caroline Townsend</i>	✓			
<i>Cllr. Jim Townsend</i>	✓			

The vote resulted as follows: 14 for, 6 against, 1 absent

The County Manger informed the Members that he was required to achieve savings of €984,982 per Circular 09/2012 due to the low level of compliance with the Household Charge but he would defer the implementation of 50% of those savings for 4 weeks.

(b) Circular 06/2012 Public Procurement (Framework Agreements)

Members noted the contents of this circular. The purpose of the circular is to inform public bodies of the mandatory requirement to utilise central contracts when procuring a range of commonly acquired goods and services.

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

(a) Proposed revision of Polling Scheme for Carlow

Mr E. Brophy advised Members of Carlow County Council’s intention to review Polling Scheme for the County and Town Councils.

The revised draft when prepared will be discussed at area meetings prior to public consultation. A period of 5 weeks is allowed for submissions to the draft.

Members raised issue of field workers being employed to update Register of Electors. Mr. Brophy advised that field workers have not been employed for a number of years but may be prior to the next local election. Members also raised issue of Carlow voters from the Tinnahinch and Newtown area having to cast their vote in County Kilkenny.

Issues raised by Members were addressed by Mr. Brophy.

(b) Agree date for Development Plan Workshop

Members’ approval was sought to the holding of a workshop on the Draft Joint Spatial Plan for the greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012-2018 (incorporating the Draft Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018).

The adoption of the Plan will be considered at the October monthly meeting.

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed to hold the workshop on Monday 1st October at 2.00pm.

(c) Disposal of 32.5m to Ballinkillen Lorum Community Centre Club

Proposed by Councillor T. Kinsella

Seconded by Councillor J. Murphy

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve in accordance with Local Government Act 2000-2010, Section 183, Planning & Development Act, 2000 Section 211, the disposal of 32.5m to Ballinkillen Lorum Community Centre Club, in the sum of €250 in accordance with the terms of the statutory notice already circulated.

(d) Rathvilly Waste Water Treatment Works (Part 8)

Members had reports from the County Manager, J. Carley and A. O'Connor in relation to Rathvilly Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade. At the March meeting of Council Members resolved that the Part 8 process be initiated.

Following the public consultation period two submissions were received. The report set out the issues and responses to these submissions.

Members' approval was sought to proceed with the scheme as per the plans and details as set out.

Proposed by Councillor F. Hunter

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve the proposal to proceed with the Rathvilly Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade in accordance with Part X1 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

(e) Hacketstown Waste Water Treatment Works (Part 8)

Members had report from S. Laffey, Senior Engineer on proposed construction of new Waste Water Treatment Works at Hacketstown adjacent to the existing plant on the same site.

The Environmental Protection Agency has set a date of the 31st December 2013 by which Carlow County Council must have a new plant in place that will meet strict Emission Limit Values attached to license issued in December 2011.

Members' approval was sought to initiate the Part 8 process of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2011 in order to facilitate the project.

Proposed by Councillor F. Hunter

Seconded by Councillor W. Paton

AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve the proposal to initiate the process required by Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2011 in order to facilitate the project to construct a Waste Water Treatment Works at Hacketstown, Co. Carlow “

Councillor Pender raised issue of water supply in parts of Tullow brown in colour.

Mr. Carley advised that water in County Carlow has a high level of compliance and was unaware of any problem with the supply in Tullow.

In response to Councillor Browne's issue, regarding low water pressure in houses, Mr Carley advised that certain households have appliances connected to rising water main instead of water tanks.

(f) Taking-in-charge of part of the Rathsillan Housing Development, Carlow Road, Tullow, Co. Carlow

Councillor Paton proposed that this item be deferred to the October Monthly meeting. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Hunter and unanimously agreed.

(g) Taking-in-charge of roads and services at Quinnagh Green, Carlow

Mr. D. McInerney advised Members of the proposed taking-in-charge of roads and services at Quinnagh Green, Carlow. Following the public consultation period no submissions were received. Members approval was sought to the taking-in-charge the roads and services Quinnagh Green, Carlow

Proposed by Councillor T. O'Neill
Seconded by Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor
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 the roads and services at Quinnagh Green, Carlow in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993:Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended: and Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act, 2010."

(h) Proposed amendments to speed limits

Members had report from Mr. D. McInerney on proposed amendments to speed limits which were agreed at the March meeting of Council. The proposed amendments have been issued for consultation to An Garda Síochána, Carlow Town Council, National Roads Authority and to neighbouring Local Authorities.

The Bye Law incorporating the proposed amendments will go on public display and final ratification of the proposed amendments will be brought to the November meeting of Council.

Members requested speed limits signs are removed and speed checks carried out in the Pollerton area. Members also requested that the Council write to the Garda Chief Superintendent regarding speed limits at Dolmen Hotel and Gurteengrone. Members also requested that the Council write to the NRA regarding having the word 'max' included on speed limit signs on country roads. Issues raised by Members were addressed by Mr. McInerney.

4. FINANCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(a) Financial Report at 30/06/2012

Members had report from Mr. P. Delaney, Head of Finance to 30th June 2012.

The Revenue account

REVENUE ACCOUNT 01/01/2012 TO 30/06/2012 (percentage of year complete 50%)						
	EXPENDITURE BUDGET 2012	COMMITTED EXPENDITURE 30/06/2012	%	INCOME BUDGET 2012	INCOME ACCRUED 30/06/2012	%
HOUSING	9,022,934	3,868,076	43%	9,532,889	4,061,548	43%
ROADS	7,697,455	3,591,571	47%	4,600,378	1,893,888	41%
WATER SERVS	7,692,361	3,852,387	50%	1,931,733	1,127,941	58%
DEVELOPMENT	2,462,425	1,308,603	53%	616,139	274,199	45%
ENVIRONMENT	5,841,272	2,683,305	46%	1,483,879	709,864	48%
RECREATION	2,473,583	1,317,554	53%	162,275	90,178	56%
AGRI, EDUC	7,851,446	1,514,645	19%	7,565,766	1,430,370	19%
MISCELLANEOUS	3,898,694	1,879,842	48%	2,914,281	1,042,310	36%
LOCAL GOV FUND				8,532,830	4,266,414	50%
PENSION LEVY				820,000	386,272	47%
COMM RATES				5,775,000	2,887,500	50%
TOWN CHARGES				3,005,000	1,502,500	50%
TOTAL	46,940,170	20,015,983	43%	46,940,170	19,672,984	42%

Major Collection Accounts Income Accrual V Collected	433,131
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CAPITAL ACCOUNT 01/01/2012 TO 30/06/2012			
	COMMITTED EXPENDITURE 30/06/2012	INCOME ACCRUED 30/06/2012	EXPENDITURE V INCOME ACCRUED
HOUSING	2,807,444.36	1,929,354	878,090
ROADS	567,630.28	22,858	544,772
WATER SERVS	8,049,994.41	6,771,057	1,278,937
DEVELOPMENT	221,355.98	423,248	- 201,892
ENVIRONMENT	402,675.48	189,042	213,634
RECREATION	136,575.38	93,750	42,825
MISCELLANEOUS	613,711.38	641,550	- 27,839
TOTAL	12,799,387	10,070,858	2,728,529

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DEBTORS 30/06/2012			
	01/01/2012	30/06/2012	MOVEMENT YTD
GOVERNMENT DEBTORS	3,320,303	2,578,627	-741,676
COMMERCIAL DEBTORS	2,375,977	5,627,328	3,251,351
NON COMMERCIAL DEBTORS	501,799	514,848	13,049
OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES	482,881	1,557,391	1,074,510
DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS	1,615,331	1,532,646	-82,685
OTHER SERVICES	659,452	608,029	-51,423
AGENCY WORKS RECOUPABLE	109,731	- 605,744	-715,475
AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN 1 YR	1,209,800	1,209,800	-
OTHER	43,178	792,905	749,727
TOTAL	10,318,452	13,815,830	3,497,378

MAJOR COLLECTION ACCOUNTS		
	30/06/2012	31/06/2011
	% Collected	% Collected
COMMERCIAL RATES	27%	27%
HOUSING RENTS	84%	84%
WATER CHARGES	42%	32%
HOUSING LOANS	63%	71%

Members raised the following issues:

- Arrears of RAS rents, housing loan repayments and deduction of payments at source. Mr. Delaney advised that tenants can currently pay their rent through the household budget with An Post and will shortly be able to pay their rent at thirty outlets around Carlow town.
- €25,000 expenditure on Borris Fair. Breakdown of costs to be brought to next meeting of Council.

Issues raised by Members were addressed by County Manager and Mr. Delaney.

5. ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES & HEALTH & SAFETY

(a) Borris Civic Amenity Site

Members welcomed the proposal for relocation of site for all services to one Civic Amenity Site at Borris Service Station, Factory Cross, Borris.

The proposed facility will be surrounded by security fencing and will be locked outside of operational periods.

Members' approval was sought to initiate the Part 8 process of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2011 in order to facilitate the project.

Proposed by Councillor W. Quinn
Seconded by Councillor J. Murnane-O'Connor
AND

Following a showing of hands it was unanimously resolved:-

“That we, the Members of Carlow County Council, hereby approve the proposal to initiate the process required by Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2011 in order to facilitate the project to relocate all services to one Civic Amenity Site at Borris Service Station, Factory Cross, Borris.

6. TRANSPORTATION & EMERGENCY SERVICES

(a) Emergency Services Progress Report

Members welcomed progress report from January to June 2012 in respect of the Emergency Services.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Role of Fire Authority in relation to Derelict Sites, Fire Safety Schools Programme and Fire alarms Local Authority housing.
- Current vacancies within the Fire Service and impact on staff vacancies on response times and call outs.
- Inspections of nightclubs and entertainment centres at Christmas and New Year.
- Plans for old dispensary, Tullow
- Call out procedures and call out charges. Issue of farmers with 'Burn Notice' and responsibility for call out charges.

Members wished Carlow Fire Service well in representing Ireland in The World Rescue Organisation Challenge Competition on 18th, 19th and 20th October.

Issues raised by Members were addressed by Mr. McInerney and Mr. Guerin.

(a) Transportation Progress Report

Members had for consideration Transportation progress report January to August 2012.

Members welcomed funding under the Smarter Travel Policy from the National Sustainable Transport Office to encourage walking and cycling as alternative to vehicular traffic.

Under the National Cycle Network Funding Scheme €463,000 is being provided in partnership with Kilkenny County Council to provide cycle lanes which links Carlow to Kilkenny. Funding of €939,850 has also been allocated in partnership with Laois County Council to implement cycling and walking strategy for Carlow Town and Graiguecullen to be carried out over the period 2012 to 2014.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Dead ends on cycle lanes
- Murphy's Corner – link road, Browneshill
- Maintenance of roundabouts at exists to motorway
- Safety at mini roundabout Munnelly's garage, Kilkenny Road
- Transport service, Borris
- Wallsforge Roundabout - delay in completion of works and completion of footpaths
- By-pass Muinebheag
- Funding for repairs to Clashganny Road

Queries raised by Members were addressed by Mr. McInerney.

7. COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CORPORATE SERVICES

(a) (i) Economic Development – Carlow Local Authorities Business Support Unit Progress Reports

Members welcomed progress report from Ms. B. O'Brien for the period January 2012 to June 2012.

The report outlined activities supporting economic recovery under various categories. Members also had schedule of initiatives carried out for year ended 31st December 2011.

Members thanked Ms. O'Brien for her report and raised the following issues:-

- Site at Hacketstown adjoining main road

- Old Business Park, Tullow in need of remedial work for the betterment of businesses and customers
- Signage at entrance to Loughmartin Business Park, Tullow promoting local businesses.
- Special meeting to discuss job creation in Carlow
- Parking Main Street, Bagenalstown adverse affect on business in town centre

Issues raised by Members were addressed by Ms. O'Brien.

(ii) Community and Enterprise- Progress Report

Members welcomed report from Ms. O'Brien on Community & Enterprise & Economic Development for period January 2012 to June 2012.

The report covered the following areas|:-

1. Carlow County Development Board
2. Community Initiatives
3. Arts
4. County Carlow Sports Partnership
5. Other Initiatives / Areas of Responsibility

Councillor Paton congratulated all involved with exhibition by artist Brian Duggan and commissioned by 'VISUAL' over the summer season.

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

(a) Agriculture

Members raised issue of ragweed growing in roadside ditches and the need for Local Authorities to address the problem.

Extension of time

Suspension of Standing Orders

**Proposed by Councillor Paton
Seconded by Councillor Pender
And unanimously agreed**

“that we, the Members of Carlow County Council hereby agree to the suspension of that part of Standing Orders of Carlow County Council to facilitate the Meeting to 5.45p.m.

(c) Health

Members discussed recent announcement of €130m in health cuts and said the most vulnerable people in our society must be protected. Home care packages must be protected from further cost cutting measures.

Councillor Paton also raised issue of hospital doctors' prescriptions valid for one week only resulting in further costs with patients having to return to their GP for renewal prescriptions.

Members also raised the issue of catering costs in hospitals.

Members of Health Executive Forum South advised of meeting to be held on 20th September and issues raised by Members may be addressed at this meeting.

(d) Tenders for opening, if any

Members noted tenders opened since last meeting.

8. PLANNING

(a) Report on Glendale Housing Estate, Tullow

Members had report from County Manager on Glendale Estate, Tullowphelim, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

Members noted that two Planning Permissions were granted in relation to the lands where Glendale Estate is located. The report set out description of developments, permissions granted to and financial conditions.

Members also had an update report on unfinished housing estates in County Carlow.

Members raised the following issues:-

- Limegrove Estate – wall in danger of collapsing. No action taken by Council due to issue with insurance. Report requested for Carlow East Area Meeting. County Manager advised that the insurance issue has now been resolved and remedial work can be addressed.
- Members also raised issues relating to the following estates;-

Milford Park, Barrowlough, Ballyknockan Manor, Inisgardens, Manor House, Bagenalstown and Ashfield, Bagenalstown.
County Manager advised that the issue of unfinished estates is complex as the Council is dealing with banks, NAMA and developers.

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

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted resolution from Donegal County Council
“that the Government assesses fairly “Small Enterprises” in the County to establish whether or not they are in a position to meet the current demand for commercial and water rates and that Donegal County Council offer to be involved in a pilot project for the review of rates nationally .’

Members had email from Special Olympics Leinster
Requesting opportunity to meet with the Members.

Members noted letter from Ms. Marie Rock
Thanking Members for kind expression of sympathy on the death of her late mother Angela Reddy.

Members noted resolution from Donegal County Council
“In keeping with the will of the Irish people as emphatically expressed in the referendum of 1983, Donegal County Council opposes any form of legalisation of abortion in any circumstances.”

Members noted resolutions from Monaghan County Council
(a) “that this Council write to Joan Burton, Department of Social Protection regarding her decision to stop unemployment payments to part-time firemen who are on 24 hour call, who are deemed to be unavailable for work.”

(b) “that Monaghan Town Council supports the introduction of bye-laws or other measures which would ensure that circuses which use wild animals are prohibited from performing in any part of this local

authority area, in light of the well documented evidence of suffering endured by the animals involved and the serious animal welfare issues raised.”

Members noted correspondence from Éigse Festival Team thanking Members for their support during Carlow Arts Festival – Eigse 2012.

Members noted resolution from Longford County Council
“In relation to the introduction of the new property tax on houses by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Longford County Council proposes that property owners are credited with a reduction in their fee on receipted evidence of disposing their waste.”

Members noted correspondence from the Department of Health in response to Members views on the issue of Childhood Obesity.

Members noted email from Vanessa Hetherington, Senior Policy Executive, Irish Medical Organisation regarding motion carried at AGM supporting ASH Ireland in calling for local authorities to ban smoking in children’s playgrounds.

Members noted resolution from Limerick County Council
“That Limerick County Council calls on the Minister for Justice and Equality not to close any more rural garda stations.”

Members noted resolution from Dublin City Council
“That Dublin City Council calls for the release of Marian Price on health and humanitarian grounds and requests an explanation for the incarceration of Marian Price from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Justice in Northern Ireland and First and Deputy First Ministers in Northern Ireland.”

Members noted resolutions from South Tipperary County Council
“That South Tipperary County Council calls on the government to finally publish the long awaited national positive ageing strategy as a matter of urgency in order to assist people in the right to age well at home”.

“That this Council urges all the co-ops within the County to buy into the proposed Glanbia milk processing plant at the Bellview site because they will need more capacity for the extra milk produced after the abolishment of quotas in 2015. The joint venture between Glanbia PLC and Glanbia co-op is set to apply for planning permission for a Greenmilk milk processing plant on a 40 acre I.D.A. owned site at Belview on the Waterford/Kilkenny border. The proposed new 150 million plant will be two third the size of Ballyragget. It will contain two flexible 7.5 tonnes per hour dryer capable of processing the additional 800 million litres of milk glanbia are predicting between 2015 and 2020.”

Members noted resolution from Clare County Council

“That Clare County Council request the Minister for the Environment to make a special allowance for the non-commercial sporting and voluntary sector in relation to water rates as these groups cannot raise revenue to sustain their activity.”

Members noted resolutions from Leitrim County Council

“That Leitrim County Council calls on the Government to introduce legislation criminalising the purchase of sex in Ireland, in order to curb prostitution and Trafficking of Sexual exploitation. The Trafficking of Women and Girls for Sexual Exploitation is a modern form of slavery and a form of human rights abuse.”

“That Leitrim County Council writes to the Minister for Children, Minister of State with responsibility for people with a disability, and the Minister for Social Protection requesting them to look into ways children under 16 years with disabilities can be given a travel pass to assist them to travel to hospital appointments in Dublin.”

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

Members raised the following issues:-

- Councillor Paton expressed his dissatisfaction with Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) in relation to unsatisfactory response to Higher Education grant applications

- Change in policy regarding Free School Bus Travel. Students must now attend schools nearest their homes. This may result in siblings attending different schools.
- Councillor Hurley proposed that representatives from Special Olympics Leinster – Regional Games be given the opportunity to address Members of Council at a suitable date to be decided. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Fennel and unanimously agreed by the Members.
- Councillor C. Murphy raised the issue of major costs for schools in rental charges for prefabs and portacabins.
- Members' expenses and requests by media for expenses details. Councillor Paton proposed a system be put in place where all expenses paid to Members be put on Council's website and updated regularly. This proposal was unanimously agreed by the Members. The County Manager to develop a template and bring to Members for approval.

Members attendance at the following conferences were approved:-

Bullying & Stress in the Workplace,
Manor West Hotel,
Killarney Road,
Tralee, Co. Kerry.
20th to 21st July 2012

Cllr. F. Browne

Trevor Bowen Summer School,
Mitchelstown,
Co. Cork
22nd to 24th July 2012

Cllrs. A. McDonald,
J. Townsend &
C. Townsend

Parnell Summer School 2012
Avondale House,
Rathdrum,
Co. Wicklow.
12th to 17th August 2012

Cllrs. A. Ahern, T. O'Neill
& T. Kinsella

Education Bill 2012,
Westport Plaza Hotel,
Castlebar Street, Westport,
Co. Mayo.
24th to 25th August 2012

Cllrs. D. Foley & F. Hunter

Ireland Newfoundland Festival,
Dept of The Environment Building,
Carricklawn, Wexford.
31st August 2012

Cllr. M. Doran

Power & Potential of Social Media,
Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Dundalk, Co. Louth.
5th September 2012

Cllrs. A. McDonald,
J. Townsend
C. Townsend & W. Quinn

Development Initiatives for
your Community,
Westport Plaza Hotel,
Westport, Co. Mayo.
7th to 8th September 2012

Cllrs. M. Doran, F. Foley
F. Hunter, T. Kinsella,
C. Murphy

AMAI Centenary Conference 2012
Shearwater Hotel,
Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway.

Cllrs. D. Hurley, T. O'Neill

European CoOperation Day,
Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Dundalk, Co. Louth.
20th September 2012

Cllrs. A. McDonald,
C. Townsend, C. Murphy,
J. Pender & J. Townsend

The Changing Role of Carers,
Cahir House Hotel,

Cllrs. W. Quinn &
J. Townsend

Cahir, Co. Tipperary.
28th to 30th September 2012

LAMA Autumn Conference 2012,
Mount Errigal Hotel,
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.
28th to 29th September 2012

Cllrs. M. Abbey,
F. Hunter, D. Foley,
T. O'Neill, W. Fennell &
A. Ahern

2012 La Touche Legacy Seminar,
Charlesland County Club Hotel,
Greystones, Co. Limerick.
28th to 30th September 2012

Cllr. T. Kinsella

Protecting Public from Dishonest Traders,
The Kingsvalley Hotel,
Merlin Park Road,
Galway.
5th to 6th October 2012

Cllr. J. Murnane
O'Connor

Constitutional & Political Reform,
Millrace Carlton Hotel,
Bunclody, Co. Carlow.
5th to 6th October 2012

Cllr. J. Murphy

National Disability Conference,
Croke Park,
Dublin.
10th October 2012

Cllrs. A. McDonald,
C. Townsend, C. Murphy,
J. Townsend & J. Pender

Nuclear Free Local Authorities,
Civic Centre,
Ardglass Road, Downpatrick,
Co. Down.
12th October 2012

Cllrs. A. McDonald,
C. Townsend,
J. Murnane O'Connor,
C. Murphy & J Townsend

This concluded the business of the meeting.