

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS  
AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE ON 28<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2010**

<b>PRESENT: Councillors</b>	James Daly	In the Chair
	Rotimi Adebari	William Aird
	Pat Bowe	John Bonham
	Paddy Bracken	Ben Brennan
	Ray Cribbin	James Deegan
	John Joe Fennelly	Catherine Fitzgerald
	Padraig Fleming	David Goodwin
	John King	Michael Lalor
	Jerry Lodge	Seamus McDonald
	Paul Mitchell	John Moran
	Tom Mulhall	Kathleen O' Brien
	Brendan Phelan	Martin Phelan
	Brian Stanley	Mary Sweeney

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, Michael O' Hora, A/Director of Services, Declan Byrne, Director of Services, John Daly, Director of Services, Ms. Julie Bergin, A/Head of Finance, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

**72. VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of sympathy be passed onto the Frayne family on the recent death of Mr. Michael Frayne, former County Development Officer with Laois County Council.

On the proposition of Councillor James Deegan seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of sympathy be passed onto to Molloy and Dunne families in Stradbally on the recent tragic death of Mr. Kevin Molloy.

On the proposition of Councillor James Daly seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of sympathy be passed onto the Corbett Family, Sheffield on the recent sudden death of Mr. John Corbett.

**73. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and unanimously agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Mr. Alan O' Hanlon who attained three gold medals in the All-Ireland Special Olympics. All the Laois participants were congratulated.

#### **74. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> OF MAY 2010**

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor, the Minutes of the May meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2010 were confirmed as circulated.

#### **75. REPORT ON S.P.C. MEETINGS HELD IN JUNE 2010**

The reports on the S.P.C. Meetings held in June 2010 were circulated to the Members.

Councillor James Deegan requested that a letter issue to COMREG regarding eligibility of the towns of Portarlington and Mountmellick for broadband.

Councillor William Aird requested an update on the Clonminam Upgrade Works. Mr. Declan Byrne, Director of Services indicated that works have been carried out at Clonminam and that further works will be carried out in the coming months to improve the standard of the industrial estate.

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald enquired as to how many tenders were received for Kyletelisha. Mr. John Daly, Director of Services indicated that 5 tenders had been received. It is intended to have a special meeting in the coming months to discuss the future of Kyletelisha.

Councillor Brendan Phelan enquired about Donaghmore. Mr. Declan Byrne, Director of Services indicated that a feasibility study is being carried out on the conservation of the buildings and the chapel. The application has been lodged with Laois Partnership and the works to be carried out will be identified and funding can be applied for. This is being done in consultation with the Museum Committee.

#### **76. ADOPTION OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

The Members were circulated with a CD copy of the Annual Report for 2009. On the proposition of Councillor James Deegan seconded by Councillor John Bonham, the Members unanimously agreed to the adoption of the Laois County Council Annual Report 2009. The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey welcomed the completion of the annual report for 2009 which is an opportunity to reflect on the past twelve months. Mr. Carey thanked everyone involved in the compilation of the report and in particular the staff in the Corporate Services area together with the Elected Members and the community at large.

Mr. Peter Carey, County Manager also thanked everyone involved in the festivals which were held over the June Bank Holiday Weekend in Portlaoise, i.e., the Gordon Bennett

Classic Car Run, The Regional Rose of Tralee Finals & The International Sheep Shearing Festival. The Members also complimented everyone involved and in particular Ms. Honor Deevy, Tourism Officer.

#### **77. TAKING IN CHARGE OF 'ROSSDARAGH', BORRIS ROAD, PORTLAOISE**

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, it was unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of 'Rosssdaragh', Borris Road, Portlaoise. The Members requested that the entrance be completed and that a light also be erected.

#### **78. DRAFT MIDLANDS REGION HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN (2010 – 2013)**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Action Plan with the Agenda. Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services briefed the Members on the draft Midlands Region Homelessness Action Plan (2010 – 2013). She stated that in accordance with the provisions of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009, the Local Authorities of the Midlands Region must prepare a Regional Homelessness Action Plan. The Minister designated Westmeath County Council as the lead authority. Ms. Delaney indicated that a Management Group and a Midland's Region Joint Consultative Forum were established. The draft Action Plan was prepared and has been agreed by the Strategic Policy Committee.

The two Laois County Council nominees are Mr. Tony O' Riordan, SIMON & Ms. Marna Hatton, Laois Support Services Against Domestic Abuse, Portlaoise.

The Members raised concerns that there was no representation by the elected members of Laois County Council on the Consultative Forum. This should be considered at a future date.

The Members also acknowledged the prompt service afforded by Laois County Council to homeless persons and also to domestic violence cases.

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney indicated that all the concerns raised by the Members will be taken up with the Chair of the Management Committee. She stated that the Plan is very generic and a more detailed implementation blueprint will be prepared within 6 months. There will also be an annual review of the plan which will allow for monitoring and evaluation.

The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey indicated that this framework will provide a strengthened regional response to the issue of homelessness. He emphasized that Laois County Council will continue to work in close consultation with SIMON to ensure their central involvement. Councillor Brian Stanley proposed that an invitation should issue to

SIMON to make a presentation to Laois County Council on their activities. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird.

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney the draft Midlands Region Homelessness Action Plan (2010 – 2013) was adopted.

**79. CONSIDERATION OF THE MANAGER'S REPORT ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> STAGE PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE REVIEW OF THE LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PREPARATION OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2012 – 2018)**

The Members were previously circulated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010 with a copy of the Manager's Report on the 1<sup>st</sup> stage public consultation of the review of the Laois County Development Plan 2006-2012 and the preparation of the Laois County Development Plan 2012 – 2018. Ms. Angela McEvoy, A/Senior Planner made a presentation to the Members on the report and submissions received from the public and responded to the various queries raised by the Members.

Cllr P Fleming requested that the following should be considered

1. Impact of the other regions on the County besides the Midland Region such as the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) and South East Region.
2. Green schools programme and environmental awareness
3. Proactive education to tackle problem of littering
4. Flooding / drainage
5. Rural business in rural areas
6. Service areas on the motorways
7. Undergrounding of electricity lines

Cllr J Moran noted the impact Habitats/ Species have on development.

Cllr J Bonham requested that the following should be considered

1. Wind/solar/hydro energy should be encouraged
2. Reuse of established industrial areas such as quarries – should consider zoning these areas for industry
3. Access from motorways for business and enterprise expansion
4. Rural design and sustainable building methods
5. Tree Preservation Orders should be considered
6. Review policy in relation to protected structures
7. Review policy in relation to access to backlands
8. Promote tourism within plan
9. Facilitate broadband roll out

Cllr. P Mitchell requested that the following should be considered

1. Flooding / dredging/ drainage
2. Hedgerow maintenance
3. Reuse of Peatlands and turfcutting should be allowed
4. Service areas on motorways

Cllr. B Stanley requested that the following should be considered

1. Quality of life standards
2. 15m rear gardens in residential layout
3. Use of crèches , Review requirement for 1 creche per 75 dwellings
4. Turfcutting to be allowed

Cllr. M Phelan requested that the following should be considered

1. Durrow as a local service town
2. Flooding / drainage
3. Waste Water Treatment Plants in small towns and villages should be funded
4. Impact of NRA policy on the county in relation to signage and motorway services

Cllr. M Lalor requested that the following should be considered

1. Flooding and Drainage

It was noted that the Draft County Development Plan 2012 – 2018 will be submitted to the members in mid September and following adoption as the Draft Plan will be put on public display towards the end of 2010.

## **80. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

### **Notice of Motion No: 14/10**

Councillor Rotimi Adebari proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That this Council calls on the Government to give workers employed under the Employment Permit System the right to freely change employer”***

This motion was seconded by Councillor Brian Stanley. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Government in this regard and also that the support of L.A.M.A. & A.C.C.C. be sought on this motion.

### **Notice of Motion No: 15/10**

Councillor Rotimi Adebari proposed the following Notice of Motion:

*“That the Government to date has invested billions into bailing out banks, but very little into stimulating the creation of jobs, this Council now calls on the Government to invest €1 billion Euro in the Jobs Stimulus Plan”*

This motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department in this regard and that we seek the support of all local authorities on this motion and also L.A.M.A. & A.C.C.C.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS