

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE MONTHLY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 29th OF JUNE 2015**

PRESENT:	Councillor	John Joe Fennelly	In the Chair
	Councillors	William Aird	Ben Brennan
		Paddy Bracken	Catherine Fitzgerald
		Padraig Fleming	David Goodwin
		John King	James Kelly
		Jerry Lodge	Seamus McDonald
		Paschal McEvoy	John Moran
		Tom Mulhall	Aidan Mullins
		Brendan Phelan	Mary Sweeney
		Noel Tuohy	Caroline Dwane Stanley

Messers Gerry Murphy, Chief Executive, Henry Ritchie, A/Director of Services, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

67. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the following families on the death of their loved ones tragically killed in the Berkeley Tragedy:

- The Culligan Family, Rathfarnam, Dublin on the death of Mr. Eoghan Culligan
- The Schuster Family, Terenure, Dublin on the death of Mr. Niccolai Schuster
- The Miller Family, Shankill, Dublin on the death of Mr. Lorcán Miller
- The Walsh Family, Foxrock, Dublin on the death of Ms. Eimear Walsh
- The Burke Family, Foxrock, Dublin on the death of Ms. Olivia Burke
- The Donohoe Family, Rohnert Park, California on the death of Ms. Ashley Donohoe

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the following families on the death of their loved ones tragically killed in Tunisia

- The Carty Family, Retaine, Robinstown, Navan, Co. Meath on the death of Mrs. Lorna Carty
- The Hayes Family, Westlodge, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on the death of Larry & Martina Hayes

68. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Mr. Michael O' Reilly on recently winning Middleweight Gold at the 2015 European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan.

On the proposition of Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Thep Fitzpatrick, a student in St. Fergal's Rathdowney who won the U-14 All-Ireland Feile Skills Competition.

68. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25TH OF MAY 2015 & SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH OF JUNE 2015

- (i) On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Minutes of the May meeting of Laois County Council held on the 25th of May 2015 were confirmed as circulated.
- (ii) On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Minutes of the special meeting of Laois County Council held on the 9th of June 2015 were confirmed as circulated

69. REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN MAY 2015

The Members noted the reports on Municipal District Meetings held in May 2015

70. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR MAY 2015 (IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR LETTER LG 18/2014)

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for May was circulated. The report for May 2015 was unanimously agreed and noted. A number of queries were raised on the report and the Directors of Services responded to the queries raised.

72. PROPOSED MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF THE (1) LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2017 & THE (2) PORTLAOISE LOCAL AREA PLAN 2012-2018 – PLANNING REF: 14/342

The Members were circulated with the planning report on the proposed material contravention of the (1) Laois County Development Plan 2011- 2017 & the (2) Portlaoise Local Area Plan 2012-2018 – Planning Ref: 14/342 for the construction of a single storey (400 sqm) treatment and therapy centre to be used by the Community Alcohol and Drugs Service; including ancillary works, minor changes to and provision of additional signage and lighting at campus entrance and access road. All on a site of approximately 0.25 ha within the campus of St. Fintan's Hospital, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. The site is located within the curtilage of St. Fintan's Hospital, Portlaoise, a Protected Structure.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed material contravention.

73. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001

(i) DISPOSAL OF 73 M² OF LAND ADJACENT TO HOUSE AT NO. 14 ERKINA COURT, RATHDOWNEY, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 73 m² of land adjacent to house at No. 14 Erkina Court, Rathdowney, Co. Laois in the townland of Corraun for a consideration of €100.00.

(ii) DISPOSAL OF 53M² OF LAND AT CONOBORO ROAD, RATHDOWNEY, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 53m² of land at Conoboro Road, Rathdowney, Co. Laois in the townland of Corraun for a consideration of €100.00.

(iii) DISPOSAL OF 168M² OF LAND AT CONOBORO ROAD, RATHDOWNEY

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 168m² of land at Conoboro Road, Rathdowney, Co.Laois in the townland of Corraun for a consideration of €100.00.

(iv) DISPOSAL OF 1.424 HECTARES OF LAND AT BALLYDAVIS

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 1.424 hectares of land at Ballydavis in the townland of Ballydavis for a consideration of €15,000.

(v)DISPOSAL OF 2722M² OF LAND AT OLD BORRIS, CASTLETOWN

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 2722m² of land at Old Borris, Castletown in the townland of Oldborris for a consideration of €5,000.00.

74. TAKING IN CHARGE OF 'ROCKVIEW', MOUNTRATH ROAD, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of 'Rockview', Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.

75. NOMINATION OF PPN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of the PPN representatives to the Strategic Policy Committees as follows:

Nominations – Environment Sector

- ❖ Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC – Mr. Noel Gavigan, Ballycarroll, Stradbally, Co. Laois.
- ❖ Transportation, Environment and Emergency Services SPC – Ms. Kitty Creighton, 12 Kirwan Park, Mountmellick, Co. Laois.
- ❖ Community, Social, Cultural & Heritage SPC – Mr. Ricky Whelan, Derrylusk, Mountrath, Co. Laois.

Nominations – Community & Voluntary Sector

- ❖ Housing SPC – Ms. Barbara Lalor, Harbour Street, Mountmellick, Co. Laois.
- ❖ Community, Social, Cultural & Heritage SPC – Mr. P.J. Phelan, 1 Woodlawn, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

76. NOMINATION OF PPN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEES

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of the PPN representatives to the Joint Policing Committees as follows:

- Mr. Michael Cobbe
- Mr. Noel Dooley
- Mr. Tom Jones
- Mr. Pat Fitzpatrick

77. CARLOW BOUNDARY COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services advised the Members that notification has recently been received from the Department of the Environment, Community &

Local Government that the Minister has established the Carlow Boundary Committee to carry out a review of the boundary between Carlow and Laois. A copy of the notification was circulated to the Members. The Committee are required to furnish their report to the Minister by the 29th of February 2016.

The Members of the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District expressed their strong opposition to the Minister's proposal to have Graiguecullen re-located from Laois to Carlow and requested that a letter issue to the Minister opposing the proposal.

78. ADOPTION OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Laois County Council Annual Report for 2014. On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the adoption of the Laois County Council Annual Report 2014 as circulated.

79. PRESENTATION BY MS. GORMLA O' CORRIN, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER ON THE PRE-DRAFT CONSULTATION REPORT FOR THE LAOIS LOCAL & ECONOMIC COMMUNITY PLAN

Ms. Gormla O' Corrain, A/Senior Executive Planner gave a very comprehensive presentation on the pre-draft consultation report for the Laois Local & Economic Community Plan. The Members were advised that the report sets out the background to the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for Laois and details the pre-draft public consultations undertaken to date. It also outlines the next steps in the plan-making process. It summarises the submissions received and includes a response to these submissions on behalf of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Laois County Council (LCC). The Members welcomed the report and complimented Ms. O' Corrain on her presentation. Ms. O' Corrain responded to the various queries raised.

80. PRESENTATION BY MS. GORMLA O' CORRIN, A/SENIOR PLANNER ON DRAFT WALKING & CYCLING STRATEGY

Ms. Gormla O' Corrain, A/Senior Executive Planner gave a very comprehensive presentation on the Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy. Ms. O' Corrain outlined the current provision for walkers and cyclists in County Laois and the proposals by which walking and cycling will be encouraged and provided for in Laois. The Members welcomed the draft strategy and Ms. O' Corrain responded to the various queries raised.

81. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES & ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan the Members unanimously agreed to the ratification of conferences/attendance at training as circulated.

82. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members were circulated with the following correspondence which had been received since the last meeting:-

- (i) Correspondence dated June 3rd 2015 received from the Department of Social Protection in relation to Notice of Motion No: 44/2015
- (ii) Correspondence in relation to the Eastern/Midlands Water Supply Strategy

83. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 49/2015

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council call on the Minister for Justice to review the sentencing policy in relation to assaults on Prison Officers and Gardaí”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for Justice in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 50/2015

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council calls on the Minister for Justice to ensure that proper resources are put in place to combat rural and urban crime and in particular in our parks and playgrounds around the County”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for Justice in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2015

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“What plans have Laois County Council put in place to deal with the alarming increase in people presenting themselves as homeless in Laois County Council”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, Cathaoirleach. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is part of the Midlands Region in terms of dealing with homelessness. The other Counties in this region are Offaly, Longford and Westmeath. The lead Authority for the Region is Westmeath. The Midlands Region Homelessness Action Plan 2013-2016 was adopted in September 2013.

This is a statutory plan which reflects the housing led approach advocated in the National Homelessness Policy Statement, “The Implementation Plan on the State’s Response to Homelessness May 2014-December 2016.” This Plan incorporates provision for meeting the target of ending long term homelessness by the end of 2016.

When a person/family unit present as homeless a comprehensive assessment is carried out, including network checks. The following accommodation options are then considered and are dependent on availability on any given day.

- Hostel Accommodation.
- Bed and Breakfast Accommodation.
- Private rented deposits.
- Laois County Council’s transitional/emergency units.
- Direct provision of housing by Laois County Council and the Approved Housing Bodies such as Cluid, Respond, Sue Ryder and Midlands Simon.

As part of the Midlands Region Laois County Council has access to emergency hostel accommodation in the following areas.

- Male beds – Midlands Simon Tullamore. (4)
St. Martha’s, Longford. (11)
Midlands Simon, Athlone (3)
- Female beds – Midlands Simon, Tullamore. (2)
Midlands Simon, Athlone. (3)
Teach Failte, Mullingar. (11)
Bethany House, Longford. (19)
Esker House, Athlone (Domestic Violence.) – 3 family units.

Due to the increased numbers presenting as homeless Laois County Council has increased the number of transitional units in the County from 2 to 5. The numbers of referrals to Midlands Simon Regional Settlement Service has also increased. The Regional Settlement Service is staffed by a Senior Settlement Worker, Settlement Worker and Community Liaison Nurse who provide a comprehensive service to the five Midlands Simon Properties In County Laois and to all persons referred to Midlands Simon by Laois County Council who are at risk of becoming homeless, Laois County Council has increased its utilization of B&B accommodation due to the high numbers presenting and private rented deposits still remain a central part in dealing with the homeless situation.

Further to above the DECLG has confirmed that a current and capital allocation of €31.1 million has been made available for the delivery of social housing programmes in Co. Laois between 2015 and 2017.

A total of 158 new units are to be delivered under the capital programme. Housing construction will deliver 49 of these units through the Conniberry Way (Portlaoise), Shannon St. (Mountrath) and Pattison Estate (Mountmellick) developments and these are already at design stage. A further 24 units have been identified across the county

for acquisition in 2015. The Council has also submitted three significant Capital Assistance Scheme proposals to the DECLG for their consideration.

A further 180 units are to be delivered through social housing leasing between 2015 and the end of 2017. As with above the Council has made significant progress in 2015 under this programme and the DECLG have given approval for 39 units to be delivered through leasing at a number of locations within the County.

Notice of Motion No: 52/2015

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion

“That this Council call on Irish Water to re-visit the standing charge of €20 which is being imposed on all people who have a meter irrespective of the usage”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. It was agreed that a letter issue to Irish Water in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

CATHAOIRLEACH

Certified:

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS