

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENT	Leas Ard-Mhéara Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí S. Cunningham, T. Tynan, T. Brosnan.
NORTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí T. Gould, F. Ryan, K. O'Flynn, J. Sheehan.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí M. Nugent, T. Fitzgerald, K. Collins, M. O'Sullivan.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí K. McCarthy, C. O'Leary, L. McGonigle, T. Shannon, N. O'Keefe, S. O'Shea.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, T. O'Driscoll, S. Martin.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, H. Cremin, M. Shields, F. Dennehy, P.J. Hourican, T. Moloney.
APOLOGIES	Ard-Mhéara Comhairleoir D. Cahill, Chief Executive Ms. A. Doherty.
ALSO PRESENT	Ms. R. Buckley, Deputy Chief Executive. Mr. J. G. O'Riordan, Meetings Administrator, Corporate & External Affairs. Ms. N. Sheehan, Administration Officer, Corporate & External Affairs. Mr. P. Ledwidge, Director of Services, Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise Directorate. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate & External Affairs. Mr. G. O'Beirne, Director of Services, Roads & Transportation Directorate. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Environment & Recreation Directorate. Ms. V. O'Sullivan, Director of Services, Housing & Community Directorate. Mr. J. Hallahan, Head of Finance. Mr. B. Geaney, Programme Manager, Housing & Community Directorate. Mr. S. Coghlan, Senior Engineer, Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise Directorate. Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Brosnan seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend Standing Orders in order to discuss the temporary closure of Mayfield Library.

An tArd-Mhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The Dolan Family on the death of Mick Dolan.
- The Pettit Family on the death of Dr. Sean Pettit.
- The Power Family on the death of Cian Power.
- The Milner Family on the death of Mary Milner.
- The Collins Family on the death of Christy Collins.
- The Graham Family on the death of Charlie Graham.
- The Browne Family on the death of Kay Browne.

An Chomhairle agreed that the opening of a Book of Condolences was the sole prerogative of An tArd-Mhéara.

Following a discussion, An Chomhairle further agreed to forward a letter of sympathy to the Cuban Embassy relating to the death of Fidel Castro. At the request of Comhairleoir T. Shannon his name was not associated with the vote of sympathy.

2. **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS/BEST WISHES**

- Cork Innovates and Seamus Coughlan of the Planning Directorate on the organising of the Global Start-Up Nations Event.
- The Chief Executive, Valerie O’Sullivan from the Housing Directorate and Cork City Council on the organising of “The Engineer Ireland Excellence Award 2016” Event.
- Comhairleoir K. McCarthy and Suzanne Kirwan on the publication of new books “Cork City History Tour” and “Cork 1916 – A Year Examined”.
- Management and staff and Cork City Council on the success of the Glow Festival.
- Thomas McCarthy on winning the National Championship in Boxing for the 6th time in Dublin.
- Chief Superintendent Mick Finn on his promotion as Assistant Commissioner.
- Superintendent Tom Myers on his promotion as Chief Superintendent.
- Inspector Billy Duane on his promotion as Superintendent.
- Blackrock Senior Hurling Club on their success in the County Hurling League.
- Delaney Rovers on the Junior A Football League win.

3. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**

No Items raised.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S ITEMS**

4.1 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle agreed that there would be a joint meeting of the Housing and Community Strategic Policy Committee and the Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee to address current Housing Legislation including the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016.

4.2 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT ON A SITE SITUATED AT GERALD GRIFFIN STREET, GERALD GRIFFIN AVENUE AND BURKE'S AVENUE, BLACKPOOL, CORK**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. O'Flynn, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Ryan, An Chomhairle agreed to adopt the following resolution:-

“In accordance with Section 179 (4) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, An Chomhairle to consider the proposed residential development on a site situated at Gerald Griffin Street, Gerald Griffin Avenue and Burke's Avenue, Blackpool and the report of the Deputy Chief Executive thereon as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended dated the 24th November, 2016 and to adopt the following resolution:-

“Having considered the proposed development and the report of the Deputy Chief Executive of Cork City Council thereon, **RESOLVED** pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended that the development of 41 units and a community facility on a site situated at Gerald Griffin Street, Gerald Griffin Avenue and Burke's Avenue, Blackpool, Cork be carried out”

5. **MINUTES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Brosnan, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held 14th November 2016 subject to the following amendment:-

5.1 **ITEM 8.9 FLAGPOLES OUTSIDE CIVIC OFFICES**

To include:- ‘That the Flag Raising Ceremony on the 5th December 2016 would be held at the Terence McSwiney Quay, as agreed by Council’.

5.2 **PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 3 (MAHON RESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE) CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015-2021**

Comhairleoir S. Martin proposed and An Chomhairle agreed that legal advice would be sought in relation to the manner in which item 3.5 ‘Proposed Variation No. 3 (Mahon Residential Initiative City Development Plan 2015-2021’ was addressed by Council.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. O'Flynn, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Ryan, An Chomhairle considered and approved the Minutes of:-

- 2017 Budget Meeting held 16th November 2016.

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **PROCEDURE FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

Can Cork City Council advise regard the procedure for homeless families sourcing hotel accommodation in regards to: payment of the hotel, criteria for a hotel to be deemed acceptable, families with special needs in regards to children with disabilities?

(Cllr. Fiona Ryan)

REPLY

If a person or family becomes homeless in Cork City, they present as homeless to the Homeless Person's Unit at Drinan Street. The Homeless Unit is operated on an agency basis for Cork City Council by the Department of Social Protection and is the vehicle through which accommodation is sourced and advice and guidance provided as to entitlements, available supports etc.

Families who find themselves homeless may avail of temporary accommodation through hotel or B&B accommodation sourced either through the Homeless Person Unit or by the family themselves. Payment for any private emergency accommodation is a matter for the Homeless Persons Unit, DSP and the cost is recouped to the DSP under Section 10 through Cork City Council.

Cork City Council targets the avoidance of homelessness, particularly family homelessness, through its Tenancy Sustainment and Tenancy Protection measures, operated by Threshold as prevention is obviously much more desirable.

There is also an outreach service in place specifically for families in private emergency accommodation and this service is operated by Good Shepherd Service Cork and funded under Section 10 for homeless services through Cork City Council.

V. O'Sullivan,
Director of Services,
Housing & Community Services.

6.2 **FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR D.P.G. GRANTS**

Is there any funding available for D.P.G. grants for local authority tenants?

(Cllr. Sean Martin)

REPLY

The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) has granted monies to the Council for works to Local Authority properties under two headings in relation to housing adaptations for people with a disability.

1. Housing Adaptation Works

The Department have granted €848,808 to the City Council to fund Housing Adaptation Works to 67 properties in 2016

2. Housing Extension Works

The City Council received approval of Capital funding from DHPCLG of €1,869,450 to undertake house extension works. The works have now been tendered and a submission is with the Department for €3,101,322 for approval to complete works on 42 properties, which includes 3 properties that require extensions due to overcrowding.

Valerie O'Sullivan,
Director of Services,
Housing & Community Directorate.

6.3 **NEGOTIATIONS OF THE CON O'DONOVAN'S SITE**

Could the CE update the Council on negotiations with the developers and banks of the Con O'Donovan's site on Wolfetone Street of reopening of the right of way.

(Cllr. Kenneth O'Flynn)

REPLY

The Council is not involved in negotiations between developer/bank with respect to the redevelopment of the site previously known as Con Donovans Pub, Wolfe Tone Street. In relation to pedestrian movements it is to be noted that the previous owners allowed people to walk from the footpath on Wolf Tone Street through the private car park of what was 'Con O'Donovans' pub and exit via the vehicular entrance onto the laneway to the west of this property which then joined Glen Ryan Road. As such it appears that there was not a Council maintained public path at the location. The redevelopment of the property was commenced a number of years ago and this redevelopment includes for the provision of a new public footpath. Unfortunately the development has not been completed and there is currently no news as to when the development will be completed. As an interim measure to improve pedestrian facilities a temporary pedestrian path has been constructed by Cork City Council to facilitate pedestrians.

Gerry O'Beirne,
Director of Services,
Roads & Transportation.

6.4 **HORSE PROJECT IN CORK CITY**

Can the CE provide Council with a progress report on efforts by all the relevant stakeholders to establish a Horse Project in Cork City? Is there a Horse Forum currently in place and what is its role?

(Cllr. Michael Nugent)

REPLY

A Horse Project Initiative Working Group was established in late 2013 to develop a viable horse project aimed at creating a positive response to responsible Traveller horse ownership for Traveller men in Cork City. It was recognized that there was a need for an interagency approach to build trust, to engage Traveller horse owners in the process, and to ensure the proper welfare of animals. The Working Group comprises of representatives of

horse owners, TVG, Cork City Council, HSE, the Gardai, Department of Agriculture, Cork ETB, Cork City Partnership and the ISPCA.

Since then, the following initiatives have been undertaken;

- (i) Funding proposal for a horse project was prepared on behalf of Cork City Council and submitted to the Department of Agriculture. Work is ongoing in identifying a suitable site for such project
- (ii) Research undertaken with Traveller horse owners across Cork City to help establish horse ownership needs and what resources are needed to support these needs
- (iii) Funding secured from the Department to deliver a series of equine programmes to young Travellers. Coordinator engaged to coordinate and manage the delivery of the equine programme. To date, 3 equine programmes have been facilitated at Meelagh /Mahon, Spring Lane and the Fairhill/Farranree/City Centre areas.
Equine programmes for St Marys on the Hill and Terence Mc Swiney College are also planned for early 2017. The Working Group will evaluate these programmes and plan further ways to support young Travellers.

The Horse Forum which was set up in 2011 as a means to work on issues in relation to horse welfare no longer meets as its work has been superceded by the above Working Group.

David Joyce
Director of Services
Environment & Recreation

6.5 **FLAG RAISING CEREMONY**

Can the CE please confirm to Council that arrangements have been made to ensure that the Flag Raising Ceremony scheduled for 5th Dec 2016 takes place at the Terence Mac Swiney Quay side of City Hall as agreed by City Councillors at their meeting of 14th November 2016?

(Cllr. Tim Brosnan)

REPLY

Flag Raising Ceremonies are proposed to be held at a number of locations on the 5th December 2016. The City Council has consulted with the Army and the Garda Síochána in selecting an appropriate venue for the Cork Ceremony.

The Terence Mac Swiney Quay side of City Hall was considered as an option but was rejected on the basis that this location would necessitate a full road closure of the Quay. This would cause very significant disruption for the city, and would entail considerable expense and planning in terms of event management processes (including bringing in security, traffic management, health and safety expertise, etc.)

The Atrium Plaza was selected as a more appropriate venue for the 20 minute event involving attendance of up to 400 people. Also, in the event of inclement weather, this location also allows the option of a degree of shelter for the Lord Mayor and the Army Officer reading the proclamation. The Flag Raising Ceremony will conclude with the Lord Mayor hosting a brief reception in the Millenium Hall.

Paul Moynihan,
Director of Services,
Roads & Transportation.

6.6 **PARKING FOR VEHICLES OF VOLUNTEERS**

In recognition of the valuable contribution of citizens & community groups who engage in maintenance and care of the public realm (tending to flower beds, cleaning streams, cutting grass etc) – would it be possible to make suitable provision for parking vehicles which carry implements, tools etc, whilst undertaking this vital voluntary work?

(Cllr. Mary Shields)

REPLY

Cork City Council operates a scheme of Special Parking Permits that facilitates charitable organizations and voluntary bodies. The criteria for eligibility include:

- The organisation must be of charitable status;
- The Special Parking Permit will only be issued for use by unpaid volunteers of the organisation;
- The Special Parking Permit must be essential to the core business of the organisation;
- The Special Parking Permit will be location and time specific;
- A letter of support must be submitted with the completed application from the Chief Executive of the organisation to confirm that the permits, if issued, will be kept secure and under the control of the organisation and confirming details of who will be using the permits.

In addition to the foregoing special arrangements can be put in place on a case by case basis where community or voluntary groups are undertaking approved works in the public realm in consultation with the City Council.

Gerry O’Beirne,
Director of Services,
Roads & Transportation.

6.7 **SECURING ABODE BUILDING AND ITS SURROUNDS**

To ask the CE for the current status of the Abode building on Skehard Road? In the continued and regrettable absence of funding for the South East Library – what are the Council’s plans for securing the building and its surrounds sufficiently?

(Cllr. Nicholas O’Keeffe)

REPLY

In the absence of the required funding to develop the South East Library on the site of the former Abode Centre building on Skehard Road the overall site and building was secured from unauthorized entry with the erection of 2.4m high palisade fencing in December 2013. The condition of the building continues to deteriorate and despite the new fencing the property is subject to vandalism and anti social behaviour. The matter has been referred

to the Council's Building Control Department for inspection and recommendation as to any further action required. The matter will be kept under review.

Paul Moynihan,
Director of Services,
Corporate & External Affairs.

6.8 **OPENING TRAMORE VALLEY PARK**

To ask the CE about progress on the opening of Tramore Valley Park to the general public for 2017?

(Cllr. Kieran McCarthy)

REPLY

There are essential capital works required at Tramore Valley Park prior to the facility being open to the public. Some facilities are in use on Saturday mornings, such as the BMX Track and the Rugby pitch. Proposals are presently being considered with a view to extending the opening hours of the Park subject to available resources

David Joyce
Director of Services
Environment & Recreation

6.9 **PLAYGROUND IN BISHOPSTOWN**

Further to all of the discussions in relation to the building of a playground in Bishopstown, can the CE give us a timeline now in relation to getting the playground built please?

(Cllr. Thomas Moloney)

REPLY

In the 2017 Revenue Budget just approved by Council on 16th November, provision has been made to allow for engagement of a Consultant to oversee design and preparation of tender documents for a playground at Murphy's Farm. A Consultant will be appointed early in the New Year, with a view to having consultation with stake holders, detailed design, tender documents and Part 8 Planning Process complete by late 2017. Construction of the playground will be undertaken in 2018.

David Joyce
Director of Services
Environment & Recreation

6.10 **MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES UNDER THE HEALTHY CITIES INITIATIVES**

To ask the Chief Executive what strategies and measures are in place under the Healthy Cities initiatives to address mental health issues and in particular self harm and suicidal behaviour and what engagement has there been with strategic partners on these issues?

(Cllr. John Buttimer)

REPLY

Cork is a designated WHO Healthy City. To achieve this designation Cork City has demonstrated to the WHO that health is a core value for the city administration and that the vision, values and strategy for the city are translated into action for health through planning.

Cork Healthy Cities functions at inter-agency level with the following organisations involved: HSE (Public Health Dept., Health Promotion Dept., Dept. of Psychology, Community Work Dept.), Cork City Council (Dept. of Environment & Recreation, Corporate & External Affairs, EU Funding) , Young Knocknaheeny, Niche, Ballyphehane Togher CDP, Sexual Health Centre Cork, UCC, TUSLA, An Garda Síochána and Cork Local Sports Partnership.

In terms of mental well-being, Cork Healthy Cities as an entity and the partner agencies (listed above) individually support and promote partnerships to co-ordinate an inclusive approach to mental health and wellbeing. Below find some examples of measures, strategies and engagements with strategic partners to promote mental well-being across the city.

- The Cork Healthy Cities Co-ordinator participates on the ‘Connecting for Life’ (National Suicide Strategy) Citywide Steering Group.
- The HSE South Suicide Resource Officer has presented an update on the implementation of ‘Connecting for Life’ to the Healthy Cities steering group
- Cork Healthy Cities has partnered with the HSE South Suicide Resource Officer to facilitate community consultations for the Action Plan on Suicide and Self Harm Prevention for the city.
- Cork Healthy Cities supports existing strategies and inter agency committees aimed at improving positive mental health and wellbeing e.g. promotion of the ‘Your Good Self’ HSE Primary Care and Library service via social media and sharing in other networks.
- Healthy Cities steering group member (HAZ Community Health Worker) has delivered a number of ASSIST Training (Suicide Prevention) courses across the city in partnership with the Suicide Resource Officer.
- The Cork Healthy Cities Co-ordinator participates on the Traveller Health Unit. This has led to the delivery of mental health promotion workshops for Traveller men and women (The Traveller population suffer 6 times the national rate of suicide All Ireland Traveller Health Study 2010) in Cork City as well as efforts to develop a Horse Project for Traveller men
- Community Development Projects on the steering group work in local communities to prevent social exclusion and address health inequalities e.g. literacy skill development and adult learning opportunities in Ballyphehane Togher CDP, Parenting and Child Development support in Young Knocknaheeny, Women’s and Men’s Health Groups in Niche and HAZ areas.
- Cork Healthy Cities is a lead partner in the development of the Cork City Profile, which provides evidence and generates discussion among stakeholders to ultimately influence policy and the design and implementation of services to improve health and social inclusion (essential for suicide prevention) across the city.

David Joyce
Director of Services
Environment & Recreation

7. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 21st NOVEMBER 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group held 21st November 2016.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

An Chomhairle agreed to write to the Expert Advisory Group on Local Government Arrangements in Cork regarding Cork Local Government Review developments

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS DOCUMENTATION

The Deputy Chief Executive undertook to engage with certain members of An Chomhairle in order to advance electronic meetings documentation.

7.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31st OCTOBER 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31st October 2016.

7.2 **COAT OF ARMS – UPDATED BRAND GUIDELINES**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Coat of Arms - Brand Guidelines.

8. **PARTY WHIPS SPECIAL MEETING – 16th NOVEMBER 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips Special Meeting held 16th November 2016.

9. **PARTY WHIPS AND PARTY LEADERS SPECIAL MEETING – 16th NOVEMBER 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips and Party Leaders Special Meeting held 16th November 2016.

10. **JOINT MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE AND ROADS & TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 14th NOVEMBER 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the joint meeting of the Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee and the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held 14th November 2016.

11. **STRATEGIC PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 21ST NOVEMBER 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise Functional Committee from its meeting held 21st November 2016.

11.1 **GENERAL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS SCHEME 2017 – 2021 AND THE SUPPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME 2017 – 2021 (REPORT AND SCHEME TO BE TABLED)**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the A/Director of Services, Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise dated 17th November, 2016 on the General Development Contribution Scheme 2017 – 2021 and the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme 2017 – 2021.

11.2 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE 2017 - 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the A/Director of Services, Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise dated 17th November, 2016 on the Economic Development Initiative 2017 – 2021.

11.3 **HOUSING ESTATES**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the A/Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development dated 17th November, 2016 on Housing Estates from 1st January 2016 to 31st October, 2016.

11.4 **PLANNING STATISTICS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the A/Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development dated 17th November, 2016 on Planning Statistics from 1st January 2016 to 30th September, 2016.

11.5 **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the A/Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development dated 17th November, 2016 on Planning Enforcement Statistics from 1st January 2016 to 30th October, 2016.

11.6 **UP-DATE ON SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the A/Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development dated 17th November, 2016 on the Significant Developments.

11.7 **DERELICT SITES QUARTERLY REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the A/Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development dated 17th November, 2016 on the Derelict Sites Quarterly Report.

11.8 **TO RECONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS HELD IN COMMITTEE**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development dated 01st September 2016.

11.8.1 **NEW NON-COMPETING RENTAL AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

‘New non –competing rental and commercial services aimed at new initiatives that have not traded in Cork in the past two years and that will not compete directly with existing enterprises. The grant to be applicable for new developments or for premises vacant for at least three months. The grant relief to be 100% for first three years (Blackrock Village, Blackpool, derelict inner city areas.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 15/141)

11.8.2 **OFFICE REFURBISHMENT CITY CENTRE**

‘That Cork City Council facilitate refurbishment for new office accommodation and upgrading of existing offices excluding (equipment and furnishings). The grant to operate in a sliding scale of 100% to 25% over first three years.’

(Proposer: Cllr, S. Martin, T. O’Driscoll 15/143)

11.8.3 **ART CRAFT ARTISAN FOOD SHOPS IN OLD HISTORICAL CITY SPINE (BARRACKS STREET TO SHANDON)**

‘A grant applicable for commercial premises that have been vacant for over three months and measuring less than 40sqm. The grant to offer 100% municipal rate payable for the first three years.

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll, S. Martin 15/144)

11.8.4 **FIT-OUT FOR NEW CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR ENCOURAGING NEW BUSINESSES**

‘That Cork City Council pay a grant only to occupy commercial premises that have been vacant for at least three months. The grant to provide 100% rates paid for the first year.

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll, S. Martin 15/145)

The report stated that in response to four proposals by Councillors Tom O’Driscoll and Sean Martin from the June 2015 SPED Functional Committee meeting.

The proposals in summary were:

- A grant for new non-competing retail and commercial services that have not traded in Cork in the past two years. The new businesses would not compete directly with existing businesses. The grant would be on units vacant for at least three months. The grant relief would be 100% for the first three years. (Proposer Cllr. S. Martin)
- A grant aimed at refurbishment and upgrading for new office accommodation. The grant to operate on a sliding scale of 100% to 25% over the first three years. (Proposers: Cllrs. S. Martin & T. O’Driscoll)
- A grant for commercial premises on the old historic spine aimed at arts, crafts, artisan businesses. The grant of 100% for the first three years would be on premises that have been vacant for over three months and a size of less than 40sqm. (Proposers Cllrs T. O’Driscoll & S. Martin)
- A grant encouraging new clothing and footwear businesses was proposed on commercial premises that have been vacant for more than three months. The grant would be 100% for the first year. (Proposers Cllrs. T. O’Driscoll & S. Martin)

The detailed proposals can be found in full in appendix A.

Cork City Council’s mission as set out in the Corporate Plan is to... “assist the economic development of the city, facilitating investment and a competitive robust city economy”.

The focus of this report is on vacant commercial/retail properties in the city centre and targeted interventions, aimed at reducing vacancy, thus increasing footfall and hopefully benefiting all businesses on the street.

An analysis of commercial rates incentive schemes by other local authorities has aided the research for the proposed scheme which can be found in appendix B.

Rationale

Vacancy of commercial properties can occur due to a complex number of reasons including economic conditions, age and condition of stock, and capacity for retail activity with the city.

One of the economic conditions, age and condition of stock, and capacity for retail activity within the city.

One of the economic strategies in chapter 3 of the Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021 is “to stimulate the regeneration of the City Centre and promote its continuing role as the main employment location in the city”. Reducing the number of vacant properties/shops will aid regeneration and revitalisation of the city centre. This can be partly achieved through local authority intervention.

One of the areas where Cork City Council can intervene in reducing costs for businesses is in commercial rates. A reduced rates scheme would act as a form of assistance for new businesses in the start-up phase, during a high cost phase for the business.

These incentives will increase businesses activity and thereby any relief in terms of rates will be self-funding at a minimum if taken up and in fact, increase the rates income in the medium to long term, which would not occur without intervention. Net benefits include regeneration and an increase in rates income in the longer term.

In the medium to long term, reducing commercial vacancies may also encourage refurbishment of units and reduce potential decay of units and buildings, which if left unused may cost the City Council and its stakeholders more in the long term, through building control measures, dereliction and commercial rates foregone.

Some streets have older building stock which may be in poorer condition than others. Those streets can benefit from a scheme by encouraging new use and possible refurbishment by new tenants.

There is currently a scheme in place that allows landlords and property owners to avail of a 50% reduction on rates payable. This is only applicable if arts and cultural activity groups occupying the premises receive at least 50% below the commercial rent from the landlord or property owner. Arts Office approval is necessary in order to avail of the scheme.

A rates incentive scheme was introduced by Cork City Council in 2012. This was specifically restricted to vacant protected structures and operated only in the city centre. The grant in lieu of rates over three years was:

- Year 1: a 50% grant in lieu of rates waiver
- Year 2: a 35% grant in lieu of rates waiver
- Year 3: a 15% grant in lieu of rates waiver

The uptake of the scheme was low.

In order to address the motions from councillors, a pilot scheme focusing on rates incentives is proposed to stimulate business activity which is a key economic driver in the city centre.

Schemes in other Local Authorities

The research of previous commercial rates incentive schemes by other local authorities, which can be found in appendix B, shows different ways of designing the schemes including:

- Location based schemes – Fixed to specific streets, towns, and City or County wide.
- Early payment – A small reduction in rates bill if paid early.
- Sliding scale – For example 100% grant in year one, 50% and 25% in years two and three.
- Part of a larger package – Sliding scale scheme tied in with Local Enterprise Office (LEO) based assistance to encourage new businesses starting up.
- Sector specific – Aimed at encouraging more of businesses in a specific sector to be set up.

In the case of the packages offered with LEO support by some local authorities, Cork City Local Enterprise Office has suggested supports would be available to new and existing

businesses that avail of the proposed scheme. These would be communicated to potential applicants.

Selection of the area

In deciding which areas were most in need of intervention, a database and map of all vacancies was examined. While there are a significant number of vacant properties around the city centre, there is clustering of vacancy in certain areas which have a disproportionate impact on those areas and these are the areas which were selected.

Those areas with vacancies but where potential future public realm or private developments may be sufficient to assist in revitalising the area, were not included for a rates incentive. (e.g. South Main Street and South Mall)

Selected Areas

Therefore, based on the above criteria and review, it is proposed to focus initially on the Historic Spine, particularly Shandon Street, North Main Street and Barrack Street.

Barrack Street had a public realm scheme completed in 2013/14, to improve the environment of the street. It is also located close to Elizabeth Fort which was recently acquired by Cork City Council and is due for investment in the future. It is also adjacent to the proposed Event Centre at the Beamish & Crawford site on South Main Street. Both those interventions are likely to stimulate the reduction in vacancy, particularly at the lower/city end of Barrack Street. However, the middle and upper end may require to be prioritised for additional incentives (Fort Street to Pouladuff Road/O’Leary Place).

While previous public realm redevelopments on North Main Street and Shandon Street were undertaken, it is considered that further incentives should be considered to encourage reduction in vacancy at these locations.

A detailed examination of the streets was undertaken. For example, analysis of North Main Street can be found in Appendix C.

Analysis of issues

An analysis of potential issues under the scheme was undertaken to identify issues and possible solutions which would form the criteria for the scheme.

Revenue Forgone

The rates book was analysed to understand the general rateable value of the streets. This assisted in costing the scheme to identify the potential short and long-run costs of the scheme to the Council in terms of revenue foregone in the short-term only.

Without the proposed incentive, the revenue is already foregone due to vacancy, but with intervention the incentive can increase revenue in the medium to long term.

According to the rates valuation book, there are 101 commercial units on North Main Street. The median rates per unit are €5,265.70 per annum.

Shandon Street has 96 commercial units with a median rate per unit at €2,238.90. Barrack Street has a total of 61 units with a median rate per unit at €1,598.74 per annum.

Sectors

The Planning Policy Section confirmed that the intended effects of the rates incentive scheme fit the overall vision and long term plans for the Historic Spine. This includes local area plans and the Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021. This is to ensure that each street and its needs are met with a particular focus rather than a ‘one size fits all’ approach.

It is proposed that each street will have different types of businesses eligible for the scheme due to the different plans for each street and variety of businesses on the streets. The sector chosen were decided by analysis of what would benefit each street the most.

In some instances there may be some competing businesses; however this is very limited due to the different sectors which are eligible for the scheme. It may be that there will be no competing businesses availing of the scheme, due to the limited supply of units available within the scheme.

For Barrack Street, it is proposed that the businesses eligible for the rates incentive scheme are:

- Arts & Crafts
- Restaurant
- Artisan food
- Art Gallery
- Specialist retail

North Main Street:

- Non-discount retail
- Vintage clothing stores
- Food Hall
- Arts & Crafts

Shandon Street:

- Arts & Crafts
- Clothes shop
- Cafe
- Artisan food
- Evening restaurant
- Souvenir shop

Operation and funding of the scheme

It is proposed that a scheme of a 50% grant in lieu of rates for the first three years be considered. This scheme will be required to be put to the Finance Functional Committee, if and when approved by this committee.

The Finance Department have indicated that a business availing of a scheme must pay the full rates bill for each year, where a receipt will be issued upon payment. The receipt is proof of compliance and payment of rates which can then be presented to the relevant department in City Council to issue the grant to the business availing of the scheme.

Competitive application process

It is proposed that a competitive application process will be applied to the scheme by limiting the number of businesses that benefit from the scheme.

This proposal will:

1. Incentivise the scheme to be taken up quicker based on a first-come first-served basis.
2. Limit the financial exposure/risk to Cork City Council.

The design of the competitive application process is intended to serve as a means of encouraging interested parties to act quickly or potentially lose out on the scheme. This would speed up the process in which units may be filled on the Historic Spine as this is a pilot project. The number of units available through the competitive application process may be reviewed at a later stage to gauge further interest. By limiting the number of businesses availing of the scheme initially, it allows the Council to minimise exposure and risk and to review the effectiveness of this pilot scheme.

New and existing businesses can avail of the scheme. In the case of existing businesses, those currently located within the Historic Spine may not relocate within the street to avail of the scheme as it goes against the purpose of the scheme.

I recommend if this proposal is approved by this committee that it is sent to the Finance Functional Committee for ratification.

Patrick Ledwidge,
Director of Services,
Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise

1st September 2016

11.9 MOTIONS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY AN CHOMHAIRLE

11.9.1 SECURE VITA CORTEX SITE ON CURRAGH ROAD/PEARSE ROAD

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the A/Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016.

‘That in an effort to address serious anti-social behaviour at the location, the owners of the former Vita Cortex site on Curragh Road/Pearse Road be asked to secure it and announce intentions for its use in the medium to long term’.

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 16/282)

The Report stated that this site is currently under investigation under Derelict Sites. The owner has given the City Council an undertaking to secure the site and submit more detailed proposals to remove the dereliction from the site. Works to secure the site should commence shortly.

11.9.2 **TAKE IN CHARGE ST. JOHN’S MEWS, DOUGLAS STREET**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the A/Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016.

‘That St John’s Mews, Douglas Street, be taken in charge by Cork City Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 16/294)

The Report stated that St John’s Mews was developed by the National Building Agency (NBA) on lands owned by Cork City Council as part of a housing initiative in the late 1980s. In order to maintain private parking, the development was never taken in charge by Cork City Council and a management company was put in place. The management company would appear to be dissolved since April 2016.

It was confirmed that Cork City Council in the early 1990s published the required Statutory Notice for the purposes of the Taking in Charge of the roads and services within this development. The Council received a substantial amount of objections from the owners and occupiers of the houses/apartments within the developments and a decision was made not to proceed any further with the statutory procedure for Taking in Charge. In 2008, the residents requested to have the development taken in charge but with one allocated parking space for each house. This proposal was refused for legal reasons on the advice of Cork City Council Law Agent.

In 2013 Cork City Council completed the transfer of its interest in specific common areas relating to the apartment blocks. It was noted that Cork City Council remains the owner of the title over the roads and the common areas relating to the houses, however the roads and services in this estate have not been taken in charge.

11.9.3 **STATUS OF THE DWELLING ON BISHOPSCOURT GREEN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the A/Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016.

‘That Cork City Council would report on the status of the dwelling on Bishopscourt Green and outline what processes are Council engaged in with the owner of this site and any relevant actions plans’.

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 16/297)

The Report stated that the site remains on the Derelict Sites Register; the Planning Directorate have been liaising with the owner regarding his plans to remove dereliction but no formal proposals have been submitted to date. Building Control recently inspected the site.

12. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 9th NOVEMBER 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Functional Committee from its meeting held 9th November 2016.

13. **ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 21st NOVEMBER 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment & Recreation Functional Committee from its meeting held 21st November 2016.

13.1 **NORTHSIDE RECYCLING FACILITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Director of Services report dated the 17th November 2016 on the Northside Recycling Facility. It was also agreed to give details of inspection dates at the next meeting and to write to the EPA and ask them to review all waste licences at Churchfield.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir N. O’Keeffe, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Moloney, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend Standing Orders to continue the meeting past 8 p.m.

13.2 **MOTIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE COMMITTEE BY AN CHOMHAIRLE**

13.2.1 **BYE LAWS IN RELATION TO BUSKING WITHIN THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services on the following motions, dated the 17th November 2016.

‘That Cork City Council introduces the following Bye laws in relation to busking within the Cork City.

1. That performers will only use amplifiers of no greater power than 15 watts.
2. That several amp free zones are to be established within the City for a three month trial period and in turn reviewed in conjunction with Street performers at the end of this trial.
3. That street performers maintain proximity of no closer than 50 meters.
4. That performers at all times should be conscious of their proximity to both businesses and private residents. As noise pollution is a source of complaint, buskers must ensure that the volume of their performance is never allowed to have a negative effect on a business or to cause annoyance to a private residence.

5. No performer should be allowed to have a monopolisation of a performance site. A performance site must be shared equally amongst performers whom in turn must leave within an established period of their performance.
6. Silent acts such as Human Statues, Pavement artists and Balloon modellers are excluded from the time limit and 50m proximity rule as long as they are using sites that are only suited to their art form and not interfering with other acts.
7. Performers will not act, dress, say or do anything that is likely to cause alarm or distress to any member of the Public, Business owner, Cork City Council staff or the Gardaí Síochana.
8. Performers may not sell any merchandise on the street as this is a breach of casual trading bye laws. Members of the Public are free to make donations to the performers if they so wish but not be solicited.
9. Performers are permitted to only play between the times of 11am-11pm.
10. Performers are responsible for crowd control and must ensure that that at all time there is access and passage to nearing premises.
11. Musical performers must have a musical repertoire of at least 20 songs in order to avoid repetition of the same song/ piece of music.
12. As drum kits cannot be turned down and are found to be causing regular complaints, then acts will be asked to replace these kits with an unamplified Cajon/percussion instrument.
13. Any performer who continuously repeats to not adhere to these rules will subject to legal proceedings from Cork City Council.
14. Performers are all times must be mindful of their own safety and ensure that no aspect of their act will endanger the public.
15. New Performances will be subject to a laminating system while approved performers will inform all new performers of this system.

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 12/371)

and

13.2.2 **BYE LAWS IN RELATION TO BUSKERS**

‘Can Cork City Council adopt similar bye laws to Dublin City Council in relation to buskers? Recent results show improvements in Dublin and we should adopt the new procedures.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Cahill 16/172)

The report stated that Draft Bye-laws are currently being prepared which will manage and regulate busking within the City. It is proposed to advertise the Draft Bye-laws early in the New Year and a report brought before Committee at that stage for consideration including details of all submissions.

13.2.3 **IRISH BUSINESS AGAINST LITTER (IBAL) SURVEYS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016.

‘That due to the failure of the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) to appear before the Council’s Environment & Recreation Committee that the Council will no longer propose suburbs within Cork City to be graded in any future IBAL surveys.’

(Proposers: Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. K. Collins 16/249)

The report stated that Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) was set up in 1996 as an alliance of companies who believe that litter has a significant impact on our economic well-being. IBAL believes that it is the job of Local Government to solve the litter problem. It is through enforcement of litter laws - not public information campaigns - that we will rid our country of this scourge.

Commenced in 2002, the IBAL Anti-Litter League was developed to mobilise local authorities into action on the subject of litter. It claims success, in that a large number of towns are now Clean to European Norms, in contrast to two in the original survey. In their view, the success of the programme lies in its transparency.

It involves An Taisce regularly monitoring litter levels in towns and cities across Ireland according to international standards. The areas are then ranked in a league table format.

While Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) continues to keep Cork City Council informed of their activities and keeps lines of communication open they have not been given approval to set or select review/survey areas or locations.

IBAL is a respected nongovernmental organization and it is not clear if notifying them of our intention not to participate in the surveys would have any impact.

It would however be perfectly in order for Councillors to advise IBAL of their views and if so desired a suitable communication can be prepared.

13.2.4 **MAIN DRAINS IN HILLCREST DRIVE, BLARNEY ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016.

‘That Council would investigate the main drains in Hillcrest Drive, Blarney Road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 16/262)

The report stated that the main foul and storm drainage networks in Hillcrest are operating adequately. The road gullies in the estate were cleaned in early September. They are generally cleaned twice a year. No inspection has been carried out on the house drains.

13.2.5 **ASSESS OVERGROWN VEGETATION AT DISTILLERY WALK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016.

‘That Cork City Council would assess the Distillery Walk where the vegetation has overgrown, especially around the lifebuoys and cut back the vegetation where appropriate.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Sheehan 16/269)

The report stated that this vegetation had been cut back in recent weeks.

13.2.6 **TREES IN DEANROCK ESTATE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016

‘That City Council would revisit my appeal to have the trees cut/trimmed in Deanrock Estate, particularly around the Blackwater Grove area as this caused huge problems last year for the elderly residents in this estate. These were:-

- (1) The public lighting is blocked out by these trees thus total darkness at night.
- (2) The amount of fallen leaves on the footpaths are enormous and dangerous to walk on thus having to walk out onto the road for safety reasons.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 16/276)

The report stated that the trees at the above locations are scheduled to be pruned first week of December 2016.

13.2.7 **PALISADE FENCING BORDERING THE FAIRFIELD AND BRIDEVALLEY VIEW**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016

‘That council would repair the palisade fencing bordering the Fairfield and Bridevalley View.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 16/267)

The report stated that the necessary repairs will be undertaken in the coming weeks.

13.2.8 **REPLANTING PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016

‘That the Cherry Blossom Trees removed from Pearse Road (especially those at the Lough side) are replaced as part of a replanting programme early in 2017 and that funding is set aside in the budget for same.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 16/273)

The report stated that a replanting programme of trees at Pearse Road will be undertaken during 2017 subject to the necessary finances being approved in the 2017 Parks Nursery Stock budget.

13.2.9 **GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROGRAMME BARRACK ST/TOWER ST**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016

‘That a graffiti removal programme be rolled out for the Barrack St/ Tower St areas to combat an ongoing problem and that existing CCTV be scrutinised to monitor the situation and catch the culprits.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 16/281)

The report stated that Under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, upon service of a notice by a Local Authority, property owners /occupiers are required to:-

- (a) To remove the article or advertisement, or remove or otherwise remedy the defacement, or to take other specified steps in relation to the article, advertisement or defacement, as the case may be, and
- (b) To take other specified steps to prevent a recurrence of the exhibition or defacement, as the case may be.

Over the last few years Cork City Council has engaged the Probation Service to remove graffiti from buildings across the city, once an indemnity form has been completed by the property owner/occupier , and where a paint over is required that the paint is supplied by the property owner/occupier.

Discussions will be held with the Probation Service to ascertain what capacity they have and what resources they need to increase the level of service they can provide to Cork City Council.

Following these discussions a review of when, where and how graffiti removal will be dealt with will take place.

CCTV is best utilised in establishing evidence of offences where vehicles are involved, as the registration number can be used, to issue proceedings under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2009 and is problematic in identifying individuals and also presents data protection issues.

13.2.10 **PRUNE TREES IN LANSDOWNE COURT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016

‘The Cork City Council would assess and prune back the trees in Lansdowne Court as they are substantially overgrown’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Sheehan 16/287)

The report stated that the above trees have been added to the 2017 Tree Works Schedule for remedial pruning.

13.2.11 **TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF KILMORE PARK, KNOCKNAHEENY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016

‘That Cork City Council report on the temporary closure of Kilmore Park, Knocknaheeny, including timeline for the re-opening of the park, measures to safeguard the area from vandalism and the proposed provision of a controlled access gate to the park from Ardmore Heights.

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 16/312)

The report stated that Kilmore Park was opened in 2005 at a cost of approximately €300k, which included €75k for the provision of a playground. Additional items of equipment including a MUGA were provided in 2008 and 2009 at an additional cost of €115k.

Wanton vandalism of equipment since opening has resulted in the following additional revenue expenditure.

- 2006 - €15k
- 2008 - €10k
- 2010 – 2015 €15k
- 2016 (Mar – Aug) €2.5k

Since August, serious wanton vandalism attacks were carried out during September and October 2016, this resulted in the burning of major items of equipment and safer surfacing. The cost of repairs is estimated at between €55k and €60k, there is no provision in either the 2016 or 2017 budgets to cover this cost. In addition to repairs, a system of CCTV monitoring will be essential, otherwise the repaired equipment is likely to suffer the same fate. The cost of installing a suitable CCTV system is estimated at €15k.

Due to the nature of the most recent attacks and, the unsafe condition of the damaged equipment and surrounding area, it has been necessary to close the park for Health and Safety reasons.

In view of the serious ongoing acts of vandalism at the park, and the limited resources to address same both in the context of repairs and the provision of security, a review of play provision for this area is underway in the context of identifying the best options in terms of maintaining provision and securing same from vandalism.

Draft proposals on appropriate options will be presented to this committee in early 2017 for consideration.

13.2.12 **EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR JAPANESE KNOTWEED PROBLEM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016

‘That upon completion of a citywide survey to determine the extent of the Japanese Knotweed problem (and its potential to cause huge structural damage to buildings and millions to remedy in the future), Cork City Council applies to central government for emergency funding to eradicate the weed in areas/buildings under its own remit and to provide a grant scheme (or an approved treatment plan) for those affected in private areas.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 16/295)

The report stated that there is no Central Government funding available at present to address the issue of the eradication of Japanese Knotweed either on public or private lands. There is no provision in the City Council’s 2017 Revenue Budget for the eradication and control of Japanese Knotweed within the City.

13.2.13 **DISABILITY FRIENDLY PLAYGROUNDS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated the 17th November 2016

‘That Cork City Council ensure that its playgrounds will be disability-friendly.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 16/318)

The report stated that Cork City Council developed an All Inclusive Playground at Fitzgerald’s Park in 2015 that provides a range of play equipment and facilities that are accessible by children of all abilities. Considerable consultation was undertaken with schools, disability groups, special needs facilities and the Centre for Urban Design in advance of the design of the playground to ensure the playground would be all inclusive. The playground is bespoke with most play items specifically designed to ensure they are disability-friendly.

The development of the playground was made possible due to a generous contribution from the Bons Secours Hospital, Cork.

While every effort is made to ensure that all other City Playgrounds contain some disability-friendly equipment, this is difficult given the limited amount of playground equipment on the market that is disability friendly. Budget constraints are also a limiting factor in providing additional disability-friendly play equipment at present.

14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

15. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

An Chomhairle noted summaries by members of Conferences/Seminars attended.

16. **CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS**

None received.

17. **TRAINING**

None received.

18. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motions, due notice of which has been given:

18.1 **PARKING ON NICHOLAS STREET**

‘To request investigation of an ongoing parking issue on Nicholas Street that I have been advised of, with a view to putting bollards on the footpaths on the street to stop this practice. At the moment parked cars are blocking access to refuse collection and emergency services if required. Cars are parking on footpaths blocking access on an ongoing basis.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 16/254)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.2 **INCLUDE UPPER SECTION OF FRIARS ROAD IN THE ROADS PROGRAMME**

‘That the Upper Section of Friars Road be inspected and the footpath and road be included in the Road Programme for replacement.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 16/258)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.3 **PUBLIC REALM IN THE NANO PLACE DEVELOPMENT**

‘That Cork City Council improves the public realm (footpaths, roads, planting etc) in the immediate vicinity of the new multi- million Nano Place development straddling Abbey St, Evergreen St and Nicholas St and also the wider access areas from the quays, city centre and Douglas St.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 16/302)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.4 **PAINTING OF SPEED RAMPS ON MURMONT AVENUE**

‘That Cork City Council undertake the painting of the Speed Ramps on Murmont Avenue adjacent to the Tank Field and also the Speed Ramps on St Josephs Drive.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 16/326)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.5 **GATES AT THE ENTRY OF DISTILLERY COURT BLACKPOOL**

‘For Cork City Council to report on a previous motion carried in 2010 regarding the installation of gates at the entry of Distillery Court Blackpool, and whether funding will soon be allocated considering the disproportionately poor investment seen in the region as confirmed by the Blackpool Local Area Plan 2011-2016.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Ryan 16/329)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.6 **DESIGNATED OFFICIAL BE APPOINTED**

‘That a designated official be appointed to ensure that decisions made by Council are promptly implemented.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 16/330)

Party Whips

18.7 **TRAFFIC AT THE JUNCTION OF TRAMORE ROAD AND POULADUFF ROAD**

‘That measures are introduced to alleviate the long traffic details at the junction of Tramore Road and Pouladuff Road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 16/331)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.8 **SUPPORT THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY NEEDS OF THE FAIRHILL AREA**

‘That Cork City Council support the youth and community needs of the Fairhill area with a view to seeking national capital funding from central government to provide a coordinated integrated facility from various state agencies. In the meantime put in place local alternative accommodation that is currently available to support the emerging needs of the community as a matter of urgency.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 16/332)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

18.9 **PALISADE FENCING ON THE FORMER NORTH WEST HOUSING OFFICE**

‘That Cork City Council:

- A. Remove the remaining palisade fencing on the former North West Housing office and remove the unused container/former dressing room on the green area at Knocknaheeny Avenue/Killala Gardens.
- B. Clean up the entire area outside the soccer pitch and reseed the area in advance of the proposed plans for a Centre of Excellence Boxing facility.
- C. Enhance the area to the satisfaction of the residents as the area has environmental negative impact in their Health and wellbeing.
- D. Ensure that the entire area is secured and a safe area to play for the local community.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 16/333)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

18.10 **REVIEW OF PROCEDURES RE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE MEDIA**

‘Given that incorrect information was provided by Council to the media (July 14) re the unofficial traveler site in Blackpool, that Cork City Council carry out a review of the procedures re information provided to the media with a view to introducing safeguards to ensure that Cork City Council can stand over the full accuracy of its statements and avoid further such incidents of this sort.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Ryan 16/334)

Corporate Policy Group

18.11 **RESURFACE ROADS AT CURRAHEEN ESTATE**

‘That Curraheen Estate roads would be resurfaced as a matter of urgency as in many places the road looks as if it is sinking. There are also a very large number of potholes all around the estate.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 16/336)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.12 **BIN IN THE PUBLIC PARK ON SKEHARD ROAD**

‘That Cork City Council will install a bin in the public park on the Skehard road, or on the footpath just outside the park.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. McGonigle 16/337)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

18.13 **RESURFACING WORKS IN LEESDALE ESTATE**

‘The roads in Leesdale estate are in a very poor state, I request they be put on the list for resurfacing works as early as possible in 2017. There has been some filling going on but at this stage they do need to be resurfaced.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 16/340)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.14 **BANNER ON THE GRAND PARADE HOTEL**

‘That the historic themed banner on the old Grand Parade Hotel facade have the theme of the Ford Factory, Marina for 2017.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 16/342)

Tourism, Arts & Culture Functional Committee

18.15 **HONAN MEMORIAL TOMB IN ST. FINBARRE’S CEMETERY**

‘In light of the Honan Chapel Centenary, that the broken stained glass window of the Honan Memorial Tomb in St Finbarre's Cemetery be secured so that no other damage can get to it; plus a partnership be struck with UCC and the Honan Chapel in an effort to restore the broken glass and collapsing roof of this prominent memorial tomb.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 16/343)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

18.16 **TRAFFIC ISLANDS ON SKEHARD ROAD**

‘That Cork City Council roads department takes emergency action to make the traffic islands on Skehard Road visible. As there are no signs, bollards or reflectors on the concrete, they are a significant hazard for drivers and require urgent attention.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Keeffe 16/344)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.17 **CLOSE ACCESS TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AT FLY TIPPING BLACKSPOTS**

‘That city council would examine closing off access to vehicular traffic in areas which are known to be black spots for fly tipping and in the meantime we would introduce 24hr C.C.T.V. to try and record the culprits / law breakers that are costing our city hundreds of thousands of euros annually to clean up their mess.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 16/346)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

18.18 **REPRESENTATION LINK FOR COUNCILLORS**

‘That City Council would give members a full report on the process of the new representation link introduced for Cllrs. in the last few years.
That the report would contain detailed information to the following.
That this report would relate to the amount of Cllrs. using the link.
Are the representations looked at by the housing staff and taken into consideration when allocations are made.
What happens after they are logged by Cllrs. Are they put on the Applications file and there to be seen in the event of the applicant seeking to look at their file to prove that a specific Cllr. made representation.
Is the old system of representation still being used.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 16/347)

Housing & Communication Functional Committee

18.19 **JOHN F. CONNELLY ROAD, CHURCHFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**

‘That Cork City Council believes that John F. Connelly Road, Churchfield Industrial Estate is not a suitable location for a 'bring facility', Council supports the opinion of local residents that the industrial estate is already over-subscribed with waste facilities and that there should be no extension to the operations of such facilities.’

(Proposers: Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. K. Collins, Cllr. T. Gould 16/348)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

18.20 **PUBLIC LIGHTING AT LEE VIEW PLACE, SUNDAY’S WELL**

‘That City Council will ensure that Lee View Place, Sunday's Well has public lighting.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 16/349)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.21 **RE-OPENING OF THE FRANK O’CONNOR LIBRARY IN MAYFIELD**

‘That Cork City Council management will liase with the library services and immediately provide the funding required to ensure that the Frank O'Connor Library in Mayfield is re-opened at the earliest available opportunity. The library is an invaluable asset to the community and an extended closure would be completely unacceptable.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Cunningham 16/350)

Finance & Estimates Functional Committee

18.22 **PERMANENT BANNING OF RICKSHAWS**

‘That Cork City Council put in place whatever measures necessary that will ensure the permanent banning of Rickshaws from the streets of our City. This is in the interest of

public safety of motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and indeed the people who may use this service late at night.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 16/351)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.23 **CAR PARKING SPACES OUTSIDE COTTON BALL BAR ON OLD YOUGHAL ROAD, MAYFIELD**

‘Regarding the car parking spaces outside Cotton Ball bar on Old Youghal Road, Mayfield, there is insufficient space for larger cars to park without blocking the footpath, thereby forcing pedestrians to step out onto the busy road. This poses a potential hazard to pedestrians, and I propose that the Council take measures to address this problem.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 16/352)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

18.24 **30 KM SPEED LIMIT IN SILVERSPRINGS LAWN COURT AND BOHERBOY ROAD, MAYFIELD**

‘I propose that a 30 km speed limit be introduced in Silversprings Lawn court and Boherboy Road, Mayfield.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 16/353)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

19. **MOTIONS**

19.1 **VAT AT 13.5% ON CARBON TAX**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council requests the VAT section of the Revenue Commissioners to provide a statement of its rationale for charging VAT at 13.5% on the Carbon Tax amounts charged by ESB and Bord Gais to domestic customers.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 16/338)

An Chomhairle also agreed to forward a copy of the Revenue Commissioners correspondence to the Minister for Finance.

19.2 **TRANSFER THE SCULPTURE OF CHRISTY RING TO EMMET PLACE, CORK**

An Chomhairle agreed that this motion would be forwarded to the Environment & Recreation Functional Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council as a follow on to my motion (13/073) in which the Director confirmed that officials had made contact with Cork Airport with regard to the matter,

would now conclude an agreement with Airport authorities for the immediate transfer of the sculpture of Christy Ring to Emmet Place, Cork.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 16/339)

19.3 **PROMOTION OF POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘In light of the recent and escalating suicide crisis in Cork City and in response to an online petition with over 3,300 signatures we call on the Minister of Education to immediately assess the possibility of broadening the school curriculum to include education on the promotion of positive mental health and to raise awareness of mental health issues and suicide in schools. We also call on Central Government to commit necessary resources to fund 24/7 community mental health services and on a local level for Cork City Council and all other multi-disciplinary agencies to commit to doing everything that is practically possible to address this crisis immediately.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Keeffe 16/345)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Brosnan, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle had agreed to suspend Standing Orders in order to discuss the temporary closure of Mayfield Library. The Elected Members raised a number of queries in relation to the temporary closure to which the Director of Services, Corporate and External Affairs responded.

This concluded the business of the meeting

**ARD-MHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH**