

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2020

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir J. Sheehan.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí K. Collins, F. Ryan, D. Boylan.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Forde.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, P. Dineen.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, H. Cremin.
ALSO PRESENT	Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Ms. A. Murnane, Meetings Administrator. Mr. N. Carroll, Administrative Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Mr. F. Reidy, Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development. Mr. B. Geaney, Director of Services, Housing. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations. Ms. A. Rodgers, Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Deputy T. Gould. T.D.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The O'Callaghan Family on the death of Fionn O'Callaghan.
- The Groarke family on the death of Maureen Groarke.
- The Byrne family on the death of Thomas Byrne.
- The Cotter family on the death of Kathleen Cotter.

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

- Cllr. Fiona Kerins on the birth of her new baby girl.
- The Office of the Returning Officer and Count Centre Staff for their diligence during the General Election 2020.

3. **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

3.1 An tArdmhéara invited Deputy T. Gould into the Council Chamber to address members.

3.2 An tArdmhéara thanked members and officials for their participation and organisation of the Special Meeting of An Chomhairle on the 30th January, 2020.

3.3 On the proposal of An tArdmhéara, An Chomhairle approved the Cork 2020 Commemoration Funding allocation as agreed by the Centenary Commemoration 2019-2023 Steering Committee.

3.4 An Chomhairle approved the visit by An tArdmhéara and a delegation of members of An Chomhairle to our Sister City San Francisco in March 2020.

3.5 An tArdmhéara informed members of a Special Meeting of An Chomhairle that will take place within the next two weeks to fill the vacancy arising from the resignation of Comhairleoir T. Gould.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

4.1 **CORK ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL 2020**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Dineen, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Chief Executive dated 10th February 2020 on the proposed holding of an event by Cork City Council under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Planning and Development Regulations 2001. The event is the Cork St. Patrick's Day Parade, Tuesday 17th March 2020.

4.2 **CORPORATE PLAN TO 2024**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the report of the Chief Executive, dated 6th February 2020 on the Cork City Council Corporate Plan to 2024.

4.3 **DOUGLAS PARKING ARRANGEMENTS**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the report of the Director of Services, Operations, dated 9th February 2020 on Douglas parking arrangements.

5. **MINUTES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Canty, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 13th January 2020.

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **AIR QUALITY MONITORING AT NORTH LINK ROAD**

To ask the Chief Executive if she could provide an update in relation to my motion in relation to the need for air quality monitoring at the North Link Road which was deferred at a meeting in September 2018 on the basis of budgetary constraints. Is it now possible to proceed with the monitoring and, if not, when is it likely to proceed?

(Cllr. Ted Tynan)

REPLY

Cork City Council air quality monitoring staff has investigated a possible site for locating an air monitoring unit (indicative PM2.5 unit) along the North Ring Road. The site chosen is within a privately owned shopping complex. The City Council is currently awaiting permission from the property owner to allow mounting and powering of the unit (via mains power).

On receipt of permission, the City Council estimate that the unit will be operational within one month.

David Joyce
Director of Services
Roads & Environment Operations Directorate

6.2 **FUNDING FOR HALF MOON LANE ENTRANCE TO TRAMORE VALLEY PARK**

Is the funding for the development of the Half Moon Lane entrance to Tramore Valley Park in the budget for 2020?

(Cllr. Sean Martin)

REPLY

The development of an entrance to Tramore Valley Park, using Half Moon Lane, is highly desirable and would enhance the access options available to this new public recreation facility. However careful planning and detailed design works need to be completed before this project can be progressed.

Financial provision for the appointment of Traffic Consultants to progress this project is included in the 2020 request for Parks Capital Funding. Should this request for funding be successful then it would be planned to appoint consultants during the first half of 2020.

The role of the Traffic Consultants will be to undertake a traffic assessment/analysis and complete a survey of the lane. This data will then be presented as a set of draft improvement proposals specifically designed to address safety issues that exist at present.

This exercise will be followed by a Part 8 application which will involve consultation, engagement with stakeholders and the preparation of detailed proposals. If the Part 8 is approved by Council the project will proceed to detail design, tender and ultimately contract award and construction.

It is impossible to say at this point in time what the construction costs will be as these will only become apparent upon completion of the selection of measures to be implemented and finalisation of the detailed design. Obviously delivery of this project will be dependent on the required funding being available to cover said construction costs. An estimate of the total cost will be undertaken at detailed design stage. Options to finance the works will also be considered at this stage with a view to, preferably, identifying an external funding source for the project.

Total timescale to get this project to the end of the Part 8 process is approximately twelve months from the date of appointment of the Traffic Consultants.

David Joyce
Director of Services
Roads & Environment Operations Directorate

6.3 **HIGH SPEED CHARGING POINTS**

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr. Richard Burton T.D. announced (on Monday 26th August 2019) funding to support the roll-out by local authorities of up to 1,000 on-street public charge points for electric vehicles on a phased basis over the next 5 years.

Capital supports of 75% of the cost up to maximum of €5,000 per charge point will be provided to Local Authorities for the development of up to 200 on-street charge points per annum.

Can the CE tell me how many of these reliable high speed public charge points have Cork City Council applied for and plan to install of each of the next 5 years and has Cork City Council put in place the appropriate staffing to manage these high speed charging points?

(Cllr. Thomas Moloney)

REPLY

Prior to any application being made to the support scheme recently announced by the Minister significant preparation work must be completed. It is important that any charging point infrastructure applied for provides the maximum benefit for users and that any such scheme is rolled out in a planned and coherent manner. There are also other organisations who are planning the rollout of charging infrastructure (e.g. ESB). We are liaising with them to avoid duplication and deliver the optimal spatial network. The ad-hoc installation of random charging points would significantly lessen the impact and usefulness of this new infrastructure

As such the Traffic Operations Section is preparing to review the following:
The current requirements for EV charging points on public roads
The likely requirements over the coming years

How this infrastructure is to be deployed

The optimum parking model to be implemented to meet future needs.

Following completion of this review and analysis, a guideline for the future deployment of EV charging on public roads in Cork City will be developed. This will form the basis of changing the parking network over time.

Once the optimum deployment model and locations have been identified the required quantum of City Council matching funding will be known. As this funding scheme does not fully fund the project costs, Cork City Council will need to identify and commit to provide the required matching funds from our own resources. It is anticipated that applications to the Government Scheme will be made towards the end of this year and if said applications are successful, Cork City Council will commence the roll out additional infrastructure.

David Joyce

Director of Services

Roads & Environment Operations Directorate

6.4 **205-221 PEARSE ROAD**

Can I receive an update on when works are due to commence on the above properties?

(Cllr. Fiona Kerins)

REPLY

The Council has applied for grant aid to the Department of Housing Planning & Local Government to support a Deep Retrofit project for Pearse Road homes under the Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2014 to 2020, as an additional scheme under the Council's on-going extensive programme of works to improve the sustainability and climate resilience of apartment units in its housing stock. The Council is awaiting budgetary approval for these works from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and looks forward to engaging with the residents and proceeding with these works as soon as possible.

B. Geaney

Director of Housing

6.5 CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE IN CITY

"To ask the Chief Executive for a statement of the design philosophy for cycle infrastructure in the city. In particular:

"- The concept of shared space between cyclists and pedestrians on pathways, crossings, and intersections; and how the Chief Executive sees this working in the city.

"- The necessity to cross carriageways and pedestrian/shared space areas when travelling from one section of dedicated cycle infrastructure to another.

"- The question of the segregation of cycle lanes from motorised traffic; and the use of the cycle symbol on the carriageway when the same lane is used by motorised traffic.

"- The relative convenience and safety provided for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists; and guidance for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists in the above conditions."

(Cllr. Oliver Moran)

REPLY

New cycle infrastructure within Cork City is designed and constructed in compliance with current regulations, design guides and standards. All such documents have safety of the road user as an overriding consideration. The standards and guidance documents also seek to balance the needs of different and often competing road users.

In providing new or upgraded cycle infrastructure the City Council seeks to improve coherence, provide better links between origins and destinations, and ensure that there are continuous and direct connections to the greatest possible extent. The infrastructure should provide a level of comfort and convenience for the end user without compromising the safety of other road users. The infrastructure should be appropriately sized, with a high quality pavement, at appropriate gradients, with crossing facilities along desire lines and the infrastructure must be complementary to the overall streetscape.

Segregation measures or segregation design solutions will be provided where required in compliance with design standards. The use of shared space as a design solution will also be considered for specific locations where necessary subject to the needs and/or constraints of the particular area. The provision of lining and road symbols is governed by the guidance provided in the National Cycle Manual, The National Signs & Lines Manual and other related guidance documents. Cork City Council does not provide stand-alone guidance for road users at particular locations all such guidance stems from national standards etc.

Members will also be aware that cycle infrastructure across the City is not usually developed in isolation. It is normally developed as part of overall route improvement

schemes within which the needs of all users must be considered (incl pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, general vehicular traffic, freight etc).Route improvement schemes are also subject to public consultation under the Roads or Planning and Development Acts and all comments and suggestions received as part of the consultation processes are assessed prior to a final recommendation to Council and schemes only proceed to construction where approved by Council.

Gerry O'Beirne
Director of Infrastructure Development

6.6 **LITTER – MAGAZINE ROAD**

Can an update be given on the council's endeavours to deal with the litter caused by some in rented accommodation in the Magazine Road area?

(Cllr. Colette Finn)

REPLY

Cork City Council continue to engage with local stake holders on this matter. Most recently Senior Engineer, Noel Murtagh, has engaged with the Magazine Road and surrounding areas residents committee.

The following details the resources that Cork City Council deploys on an ongoing basis. It identifies the regular and recurring activities that we carryout to ensure that the area is maintained litter free:

1. The area is serviced by a suction sweeper on Wednesdays of every week.
2. Monday and Friday the Dumping Investigation Unit attends the general area. They remove any illegally dumped waste and follow up with litter fines where possible.
3. The flying squad provide cover daily in response to any calls/complaints/service requests received. Particular attention is paid to Highfield West & Avenue on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
4. The start of Magazine Road from Bandon road to Dorgan's road (including all off roads around Horgan's Buildings, Westbourne Park etc.) is serviced daily as part of a manual sweeping beat.
5. We also have supplied bags to local residents groups when requested and also removed the waste following the community clean-up initiative.
6. After any major college nights out specific resources are deployed to a clean up the following morning. For example following a recent student event a suction sweeper and 2 pick-up trucks were deployed the following morning to assist the standard resources assigned to the area.
7. We continue to monitor the area on an ongoing basis and take immediate action when same is warranted.
8. Magazine Road and College road have also been designated as one of the locations for our upcoming annual bulky goods removal initiative. This is proposed to take place in the 1st and 2nd Quarters of 2020.

David Joyce
Director of Services
Roads & Environment Operations Directorate

6.7 **WORKS AT 62-65 NORTH MAIN STREET**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on works occurring at 62-65 North Main Street, whether an undertaking is being sought from those pursuing these works as to when the public footpath outside these buildings will once again be available for use?

(Cllr. Dan Boyle)

REPLY

Cork City Council continue to actively work on this matter with a view to remedying the issues raised by the local communities and traders as quickly as possible.

This is a very complex issue with Cork City Council is utilising all of the various legislative tools at our disposal to resolve. Given the multifaceted and varied issues being addressed, the City Council has brought together a grouping across all of the relevant Directorates in order to fully and comprehensively address this situation in a coherent and thorough manner.

We continue to work with those responsible for the building to remove the external building supports and internalise same within the footprint of the building at 63 north Main Street. As soon as this work is complete the hoarding will be removed immediately and the footpath will become fully accessible again. The purpose of the hoarding which is in situ at present is to protect the public from the dangers posed by the external a-frame building support structures. Without these structures being in place the building would be in danger of collapse and would pose a significant danger to the public, pedestrian and motorist.

Most recently works have been completed to improve the sightlines in the vicinity of the hoarding as well as repairs being carried out to the hoarding which had become damaged. Issues which have been raised with regards to litter have also been followed up and are being actively pursued.

It is important to note that North Main Street remains open for business with all shops actively trading. The portion of the street which is inaccessible behind the hoarding represents a very small portion of the overall streetscape. Cork City Council has actively promoted North Main Street and continues to encourage shoppers and visitors to continue to visit the uniquely Cork experience which is provided by the many local and unique businesses which are based on the North Main Street.

David Joyce
Director of Services
Roads & Environment Operations Directorate

6.8 **HOMELESSNESS**

To ask the CE about the mechanisms in place to combat homelessness this past winter season in the city?

How many homelessness cases on the streets in the two weeks of January 2020?

Are their beds available for all homelessness at this point in time in the city

How many emergency accommodation units are there?

To ask for the breakdown of finance given to housing homeless agencies in the city in 2019 and to be allocated in 2020?

(Cllr Kieran McCarthy)

REPLY

To ask the CE about the mechanisms in place to combat homelessness this past winter season in the city?

As part of the 2019/2020 Cold Weather Strategy to enhance homelessness services, Cork City Council allocated 15 additional emergency beds to ensure that no one had to sleep rough during the cold weather. This seasonal intervention was to concentrate on ensuring there was capacity within the Cork Simon emergency shelter to accommodate those who are rough sleeping and who normally have high support requirements.

As in previous years, to provide appropriate accommodation for people who are sleeping rough, it was necessary to create vacancies in the Cork Simon shelter by facilitating the accommodation of current Anderson's Quay residents, where possible, in St. Vincent's House, a lower threshold emergency shelter for men over 20 years. Individuals who are considered most suited to the B&Bs are moved from St. Vincent's and all moves are subject to the approval at weekly review meetings, chaired by Cork City Council. This winter, St. Vincent de Paul increased the emergency beds at St. Vincent's House by 4 beds.

The space in the Cork Simon Day Centre at Anderson's Quay provides sleeping space for up to 15 additional people, men and women, each night throughout the winter period. The beds are available to ensure that those most in need, and individuals known to services as sleeping rough, will all have the option of accommodation during the cold weather period. The location is central and well known to people accessing the rough sleeper service. All participants have been and are encouraged to link in with the outreach team and the HSE Adult Multi disciplinary Team.

How many homelessness cases on the streets in the two weeks of January 2020?

At the recent Cold Weather Initiative meeting held on 30th of January, 2020 the most recent rough sleeper count was 12 persons in total across the City. These figures are reported on a weekly basis by Cork City Council and Cork Simon's outreach team who patrol the City and engage with rough sleepers every day. The reasons behind rough sleeping are very complex and not directly related to availability of a bed/home.

Are their beds available for all homelessness at this point in time in the city?
Yes. There are beds available every night for anyone presenting homeless to the Accommodation Placement Service or to Cork Simon's Night Light.

How many emergency accommodation units are there?
In total, combining Cork Simon, St. Vincent de Paul, Good Shepherd Services and the Family Hub there are a total of 231 emergency beds available in Cork City for homeless persons or rough sleepers.

To ask for the breakdown of finance given to housing homeless agencies in the City in 2019 and to be allocated in 2020?

The following amounts were expended on various service providers dealing with homelessness in 2019:

Service Provider	Total Expenditure 2019
Threshold	€ 317,000.00
Cork Simon	€ 1,111,036.00
Good Shepherd Services	€ 712,749.00
St. Vincent de Paul	€ 934,947.00
Sophia Housing	€ 312,058.00
Focus ireland	€ 128,000.00
O'Connell Court Ltd	€ 139,080.00
Oakdene Ltd	€ 89,011.00
Mount Cara Ltd	€ 133,517.00
The Cork Foyer	€175,050.00
Wellsprings	€ 44,506.00
Renewal	€ 38,942.00

It is estimated by the Council that a similar scale of payments will be required for 2020.

B. Geaney
Director of Housing

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **ITEM DEFERRED FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING OF AN CHOMHAIRLE HELD, 13th JANUARY 2020**

7.1.1 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT POULADUFF ROAD, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered in accordance with Section 179 (4) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the proposed residential development at Pouladuff Road, in the City of Cork and the report of the Acting Director of Housing thereon as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated, 31st December 2019.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Ryan, a vote was called for, for or against the approval in accordance with Section 179 (4) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, on the proposed residential development at Pouladuff Road, in the City of Cork and the report of the Acting Director of Housing thereon as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated, 31st December 2019, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: - Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, Ardmhéara J. Sheehan, K. Collins, F. Ryan, L. Bogue, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Forde, D. Boyle, P. Dineen, F. Dennehy, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, T. Moloney, H. Cremin. (18)

AGAINST: - Comhairleoirí D. Boylan, D. Cahill, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, D. Canty, G. Kelleher. (6)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried, and in accordance with Section 179 (4) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the proposed residential development at Pouladuff Road, in the City of Cork and the report of the Acting Director of Housing thereon as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated, 31st December 2019 approved.

7.2 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT WATERCOURSE ROAD, CORK**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. Collins, seconded by Comhairleoir O. Moran An Chomhairle considered and approved in accordance with Section 179 (4) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the proposed residential development at Watercourse Road, in the City of Cork and the report of the Director of Housing thereon as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated, 6th February 2020.

7.3 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT MIDDLE GLANMIRE ROAD, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered in accordance with Section 179 (4) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the proposed residential development at Middle Glanmire Road, in the City of Cork and the report of the Director of Housing thereon as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated, 30th January 2020.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Dineen, a vote was called for, for or against the proposed residential development at Middle Glanmire Road, in the City of Cork and the report of the Director of Housing thereon as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated, 30th January 2020 where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: - Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, Ardmhéara J. Sheehan, K. Collins, F. Ryan, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, L. Bogue, T. Shannon, D. Forde, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, H. Cremin. (23)

AGAINST: - Comhairleoirí K. McCarthy (1)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried, and the proposed residential development at Middle Glanmire Road, in the City of Cork and the report of the Director of Housing thereon as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated, 30th January 2020 approved.

7.4 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: MOUNT OVAL VILLAGE, ROCHESTOWN, CORK – CORK SIMON COMMUNITY CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Housing dated 23rd January, 2020 in relation to a loan facility for Cork Simon Community CLG in respect of the provision of one unit of accommodation at 94 Clarkes Wood, Mount Oval Village, Rochestown, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Moloney, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Resolved that, pursuant to the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, a loan facility not exceeding €213,981 be granted to Cork Simon Community CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of one unit of accommodation at 94 Clarkes Wood, Mount Oval Village, Rochestown, Cork”.

7.5 **TAKING IN CHARGE OF SECTION OF FOOTPATH WITHIN ORCHARD CLOSE, BALLINCURRIG PARK, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Operations dated 23rd January 2020 in relation to the proposed taking in charge of section of footpath within Orchard Close, Ballincurrig Park, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. O’Callaghan seconded by Comhairleoir H. Cremin, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Having considered the Report of the Director of Operations, dated 23rd January 2020, and the provisions of Section 11 (1) of the Roads Act 1993, it is now hereby declared by this Order that the said footpath serving Orchard Close, Ballincurrig Park, Cork is a public road.”

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 3rd FEBRUARY 2020**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 3rd February 2020.

MOTIONS

8.1 **LORD MAYOR’S CAR**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs and International Relations, dated 30th January 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That in light of the Council’s policy on active transport that the Chief Executive would end the acceptance of a Ford car every six months for the Lord Mayor’s office.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 20/009)

The report stated that in tandem with the significant workload and multitude of diary engagements which are a major and critical cornerstone of the Lord Mayor’s representative duties, it is a practical prerequisite for the Lord Mayor to have access to a car to traverse the newly extended city.

In addition, the Lord Mayor’s car is also synonymous with the respect and high regard in which the Lord Mayor’s office is held in. The long-standing arrangement by Ford Ireland to provide the Lord Mayor of Cork City with a car has been in place since the 1980’s and in 2019, the move to provide a hybrid car was welcomed. This is with a view to receiving a fully electric vehicle as the Ford business model evolves and is in a position to provide same, which is fully in line with the City Council’s policy on active transport.

It is my recommendation that there is no change to the current scenario.

8.2 **CITIZENS’ ASSEMBLY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs and International Relations, dated 30th January 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘Noting the result of and the debate around the plebiscite on whether to have a directly elected Lord Mayor of Cork with executive powers that was held in May, developments taking place in the City and County of Limerick after the result of a similar plebiscite there, and plans for a citizens’ assembly on executive arrangements in the City of Dublin; that the Chief Executive will prepare a report for the information of Council on the estimated costs and capacity of convening a citizens’ assembly to deliberate on the question of local government arrangements in and the devolution of powers to the City of Cork; and, if cost effective once convened, to have such a citizens’ assembly deliberate other difficult issues of long-term significance to the city, such as housing and transport arrangements in the city,

flood defences, and the challenges involved in adapting to and mitigating against climate change.’

(Proposers: Cllr. O. Moran, Cllr. D. Boyle, Cllr. C. Finn 20/016)

The report stated that a plebiscite took place in May 2019 on a Directly Elected Mayor (DEM) in Cork, Waterford and Limerick. Government decided that the matter of a DEM for Dublin would be put to a Citizens Assembly and arrangements for this are to be put in place. The plebiscite in Cork and Waterford rejected the proposal for a Directly Elected Mayor. Following acceptance of the proposal for Limerick, structures are being put in place to advance the proposal.

There are statutory mechanisms in place for policy formulation, development plans, infrastructural developments etc, and structures are in place through PPN’s, LCDC’s etc to enable active stakeholder engagement as part of these processes. The introduction of a Citizens Assembly in Cork City would be likely to demand considerable resources to implement. It should be noted that a Statutory Committee was established in January 2015 to carry out a comprehensive and thorough review of local government arrangements in Cork. This was a protracted process which concluded in January last year with the enactment of the Local Government Act 2019 providing for the extension of the City Boundary.

Accordingly, the creation of a Citizens Forum to revisit the matter of local government arrangements in Cork is not considered appropriate at this time. The other matters referenced in the motion are either ones for national legislation or which should feed into the National Citizens Assembly.

8.3 **LIGHT UP CITY HALL TO MARK EU DAY**

An Chomhairle considered the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs and International Relations, dated 30th January 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council would undertake to light up City Hall with the European Union colours and fly the E.U. flag from the 7th – 9th May this year and agree to repeat this initiative annually to mark E.U. Day which falls on May 9th each year.’

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Kelleher 20/053)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir F. Ryan, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Tynan, a vote was called for, for or against the report where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: - Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, Ardmhéara J. Sheehan, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, L. Bogue, T. Shannon, D. Forde, M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, H. Cremin. (19)

AGAINST: - Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, F. Kerins. (2)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried, and the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs and International Relations, dated 30th January 2020 approved.

The report stated that in recent times the opportunity has been taken to light up City Hall to mark significant events, to support various causes and charities, etc.

I confirm that arrangements will be made for the lighting up of City Hall to mark E.U. Day this year, and in subsequent years.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T Moloney, seconded by Comhairleoir H. Cremin, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend Standing orders to allow the meeting to continue beyond 8pm.

9. PARTY WHIPS – 27th JANUARY 2020

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of Party Whips from its meeting held, 27th January 2020.

10. ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE - 20th JANUARY 2020

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Environment, Water and Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 20th January 2020.

10.1 MOTIONS

10.1.1 AIR POLLUTION MONITORING STATIONS

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations, dated 12th September, 2019 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That this Council enters into a discussion with the Environmental Protection Agency about the number and location of air pollution monitoring stations within its administrative area.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 19/299)

The report stated that an air quality action plan is currently being drawn up (currently in draft format) and it is envisaged that the plan will be finalised in early 2020. The action plan will include current and future proposals for the monitoring and reporting of air quality throughout Cork City Council’s administrative area.

The following activities will form an integral part of the action plan:

Currently, air monitoring is ongoing at two no. locations in Cork City. One is representative of an urban residential background (Heatherton Park, South Douglas Road) and the other is a monitoring station where the effect of traffic is measured

(South Link Road, entrance gate to Tramore Valley Park). This is a cooperative venture between the Environmental Protection Agency and Cork City Council. The monitoring data is hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency on their website (<https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/data/>).

- In keeping with EU and national regulations, Cork City Council is also working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess a suitable location for a roadside reference monitoring unit to measure nitrous oxides (NOx) associated with car exhaust emissions. A trial survey of NOx emissions has been ongoing in the city for over 18 months and is due to conclude in December 2019. The results of the trial will inform the EPA and the City Council on the most suitable location for the NOx monitoring unit.

- In addition to the above, City Council air monitoring staff are working in conjunction with UCC's Centre for Research into Atmospheric Chemistry to assess the usability and adaptability of low cost sensors for measuring airborne particulate matter, specifically Particulate Matter 2.5 microns (PM 2.5). This trial is due to conclude in late 2019. Cork City Council air monitoring staff will then assess the feasibility of deploying the PM 2.5 sensors at several locations across the Council's administrative area.

10.1.2 **GREENROOF BUS STOPS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations, dated 31st October, 2019 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That this Council seek to replicate the example of the city of Utrecht in The Netherlands which has greenroofed its bus stops as an exercise in bettering biodiversity.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 19/405)

The report stated that Bus Stop shelters are the property of Bus Éireann and not City Council and their approval would be required before proceeding with this project. It is important to note there is no provision in the 2020 Draft Estimates to finance this project.

10.1.3 **POLICY OF REPLACING TREES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations, dated 20th December, 2019 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council would implement a policy of replacing trees that it removes - unless a danger to the public for example estates such as Uam Var in Bishopstown.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 19/480)

The report stated that trees removed due to poor health or for safety reasons are replaced with appropriate species as resources allow.

10.1.4 **TREE PLANTING SCHEME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations, dated 20th December, 2019 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council (mindful of a previous proposal of mine to plant trees in memory of all those Cork people who died in World War 1) considers a wider planting scheme inviting members of the public to fund/sponsor trees in memory of their loved ones across existing parks in the city or in new community locations or suitable public spaces. Such a scheme would underpin the city’s climate action strategy, assist in our bio-diversity efforts and also meet the demand for commemorations and tree planting among the public.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 19/520)

The report stated that this motion is very commendable and would advance a number of the objectives in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, add to the City’s current actions on bio-diversity and, enhance the visual appeal of residential areas and City streets.

To advance a project of this scale would require the services of a dedicated officer and options to resource same will be explored during 2020 with a view to advancing elements of the motion in 2021.

10.1.5 **TREE PLANTING EVENTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations, dated 20th December, 2019 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That the City Council begin to host visible tree planting events that the public can engage with.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 19/524)

The report of the Director of Services stated that engaging with the public, local communities, schools and businesses is an important way to raise the significance of trees in the urban environment and their contribution to enhancing the local environment, increasing biodiversity and addressing issues of Climate Change.

The City Council presently respond to tree planting requests from residents, local communities and schools and will explore options to increase the publicity associated with these events in the future.

10.1.6 **USE OF PUBLIC PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations, dated 20th December, 2019 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That this Council investigate the use of its public parks to create memorial forests/gardens, allowing members of the public to plant trees in honour of loved ones.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 19/536)

The report stated that most existing public parks and open space areas are well planted with trees many of which are semi-mature with many years remaining to reach maturity and their maximum size. Parks and open space areas exist for a variety of purposes and uses and these include the visual enhancement of the local environment, recreation activities, event space and biodiversity. Over planting these areas with trees (while well intentioned) can alter their character and use which may not be in the best interest of the park, open space or its users.

To advance a project to create memorial forests/gardens would require the services of a dedicated officer and options to resource same will be explored during 2020 with a view to advancing elements of the motion in 2021.

10.1.7 **ASSESS ALL PARKS AND WALKWAYS**

An Chomhairle considered the report of the Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations, dated 20th December, 2019 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council will assess all parks and walkways for more park access points and for hours to be managed for mobility of workers who require these facilities outside currently existing park hours. Once this assessment is completed Cork City Council will publish a report on mobility strategy and permeability through publicly owned land.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 19/496)

The report stated that Amenity walk/cycleways are open for use 24/7 and can be accessed by workers to commute to their place of employment at any time.

An Chomhairle agreed to refer this item to the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

10.1.8 **BUSKING BYE LAWS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations, dated 20th December, 2019 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council would put in place, similar to Dublin City Council, a set of Bye Laws which would put measures in place to regulate and control Busking in the City Centre streets. While Busking and street entertainment on our City Streets is a very welcome addition to the ambiance, environment and general buzz in the City Centre it is always important to put in place some form of regulation and controls in the form of Bye Laws which have been implemented successfully in Dublin by Dublin City Council.’

(Proposer Cllr. J. Kavanagh 19/418)

The report stated that the possibility of introducing Bye Laws to regulate busking in the City Centre has been an issue for a number of years. Following representations from elected members and the public Cork City Council formed a working group, to investigate the feasibility of introducing such bye laws. The working group comprised Council staff from the Environment, Roads & Corporate Affairs Directorates and representatives from An Garda Síochana. The group met on several occasions to discuss the issue. Members of the group also met separately with a representative from the Cork Business Association to listen to their concerns and perspective on the introduction of bye laws. The main concerns raised by the Business Association related to the level of noise created by amplifiers and the obstruction of access and egress to and from retail premises in the City by buskers and crowds gathering to listen to them.

Based on the discussions above a set of bye laws were drafted by the Working Group. These included the following provisions:

- Specific locations where busking would be permitted and a time limit on how long one act could stay in a particular location.
- A permit system for buskers
- Time restrictions on when busking would be allowed
- Restrictions on noise levels allowed
- Fixed penalty notices from breach of the Bye Laws

It is envisaged that the busking bye laws will be put forward for public consultation in the first quarter of 2020.

David Joyce
Director, Roads and Environment Operations

10.1.9 **WATER STATIONS/FOUNTAINS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations, dated 20th December, 2019 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council introduce water stations/fountains around areas of Cork City with heavy footfall/adjacent to amenities and in City Centre Island in the fight against single use plastics.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 19/322)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Irish Water is in the process developing a policy in relation to drinking water points in public areas. They are in discussions with the regulator as to how to they should be progressed. Their installation in public areas is being investigated under a current Cork City Council infrastructure project and in the shorter term other areas are likely to be progressed where deemed suitable.

Currently it is proposed that these connections to the water network are to be treated as new connections to the Irish Water network and that they would be operated and maintained by the Cork Council.

10.1.10 **PUBLIC ALLOTMENTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads and Environment Operations, dated 20th December, 2019 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That this Council provide public allotments in each of its electoral areas.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 19/534)

The report of the Director of Services stated that public allotments are provided in the North West Ward at Churchfield Allotments (50) and the South West ward at the Regional Park Ballincollig (55).

New public allotments will be provided at Tannery Gardens, Blackpool during 2020 at the request of a number of local residents who plan to engage local children in the project.

Opportunities to provide public allotments at other City locations will be considered in the context of the existing availability of private allotments and available resources.

11. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE - 20th JANUARY 2020**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Community, Culture and Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 20th January 2020.

11.1.1 **ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE THEME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking dated 20th January, 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That this Council consider the theme for 2020 St. Patrick’s Day Parade to be “1920 - a year in Cork & Ireland’s revolutionary story” with participants encouraged to reflect on the events of the time.’

(Proposers: Cllr. F. Kerins, Cllr. H. Cremin 19/527)

The report of the Director of Services stated that This year's St. Patrick's Day parade will be based on the Decade of Centenaries, specifically reflecting Cork's central role on same in 1920. Final wording is to be confirmed and agreed with the Lord Mayor, and the proposed wording above will be included for consideration. All participants in the parade will be encouraged to engage with the theme as part of their participation.

11.1.2 **CITY OF SANCTUARY ACTION PLAN**

An Chomhairle considered the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking dated 13th January, 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘To ask Community, Culture and Place-Making Directorate for a progress and implementation report on the City of Sanctuary Action Plan.’

(Proposer: Cllr K. McCarthy 19/528)

An Chomhairle agreed to defer this item to the next meeting of An Chomhairle.

11.2 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

11.2.1 **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE LIBRARY SERVICE 2020-2024:**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of Mr. L. Ronayne, City Librarian on the Strategic Plan for the Library Service 2020-2024.

11.2.2 **CORK PUBLIC MUSEUM:**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking on Cork Public Museum.

12. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & TOURISM STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE - 20th JANUARY 2020**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the International Relations and Tourism Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 20th January 2020.

12.1 **FAILTE IRELAND “DESTINATION TOWN” FUNDING FOR CORK CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report from the Director of Services, Strategic and Economic Development on Fáilte Ireland “Destination Town” funding for Cork City.

12.2 **FAILTE IRELAND “PLATFORMS FOR GROWTH” FUNDING FOR CORK CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report from the Director of Services, Strategic and Economic Development on Fáilte Ireland “Platforms for Growth” funding for Cork City.

12.3 **CORK CITY DELEGATION TO SHANGHAI, NOVEMBER 2019.**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report from the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs and International Relations on the Cork City delegation to Shanghai in November 2019.

13. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE - 27th JANUARY 2020**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th January 2020.

14. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE - 27th JANUARY 2020**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th January 2020.

15. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th JANUARY 2020**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th January 2020.

16. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th JANUARY 2020**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th January 2020.

17. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th JANUARY 2020**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 28th January 2020.

18. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE - 13th JANUARY 2020**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 13th January 2020.

19. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence as follows:-

- Letter from Donegal County Council dated 2nd December, 2019.
- Letter from Clare County Council dated 12th November, 2019.

- Letter from Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government dated 9th October, 2019.
- Letter from Department of housing Planning and Local Government dated 7th November, 2019.
- Letter from Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council dated 21st October, 2019.

20. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

An Chomhairle noted Conference/Seminar Summaries as follows:-

- Comhairleoir G. Kelleher at the AILG Autumn Training Seminar 2019 held in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan on the 11th and 12th September 2019.

21. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

21.1 **IPI PLANNING FOR GROWTH CONFERENCE**

- An Chomhairle retrospectively approved the attendance of Comhairleoir D. Boyle at the Irish Planning Institute, Planning for Growth – How High Quality Density Can Improve Communities conference held at The Metropole Hotel, Cork on the 5th February 2020.
- An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoir D. Forde at the 31st Colmcille Winter School 2020 – ‘The Contribution of Irish Christianity to Irish, European and World Civilisation’ in the Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gratan, Churchhill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 27th/28th February, 2020.

22. **TRAINING**

None received.

23. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

An Chomhairle noted the Chief Executive’s Monthly Management Reports for November and December 2019.

24. **MOTIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

An Chomhairle noted the motions on Appendix 1, that have been referred to the relevant Committees as determined by the Meetings Administrator, due notice of which has been given. An Chomhairle noted Item No. 30, Motion No. 20/078 has been withdrawn by proposer Cllr. K. McCarthy.

25. **MOTIONS**

25.1 **ST. VINCENT'S CENTRE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council urge the government to intervene in the ongoing St. Vincent Centre employment struggle which has left many workers without their increments, pension contributions or welfare entitlements for years. We demand that all money owed be paid to the workers urgently and the costs recouped at a later date should the courts rule the HSE are not the employer.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Ryan 20/037)

25.2 **BESSBORO LAND**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council calls on the government to provide finances up front for Council to purchase the property and work with all parties to provide an integrated balanced housing scheme in conjunction with acknowledging the history of Bessboro and ensuring that all present stakeholders are included in the redevelopment of same.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 20/045)

25.3 **GARDA RECRUITS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘Considering the fact that Cork City has lost the majority of Garda recruits deployed over the Christmas period and the fact that there is always going to be a considerable number of Gardaí unable to be on patrol in their designated units due to matt leave, light duties, career break, retirements and lack of replacements, added to this Gardaí attending court there is a lack of Gardaí available to cover all of Cork City.

Cork City Council write to the Garda Commissioner and his management team requesting them to deploy a significant number of Garda and Garda recruits coming out of Templemore at the next passing out to Cork City and announce the number being allocated early so plans can be put in place to open up all Garda stations on a full time bases again as well as giving appropriate numbers to fill all five patrol units in all stations to manage Cork City and County properly.

Also, that the Garda Commissioner and his management team would review the Garda rostering system.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 20/089)

25.4 **BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council formally write to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and to An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney to congratulate and commend them for their role in the Brexit negotiations, particularly for their achievement in ensuring that the withdrawal agreement contains a legally binding guarantee, which prevents the return of a hard border on the island of Ireland.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 20/092)

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH