# MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL

# HELD ON TUESDAY 26th OCTOBER 2021

**PRESENT** Ardmhéara Comhairleoir C. Kelleher.

# NORTH EAST Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, G. Keohane.

# NORTH WEST Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, F. Ryan, D. Boylan.

**SOUTH EAST** Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, D. Forde.

**SOUTH CENTRAL** Comhairleoirí M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins.

**SOUTH WEST** Comhairleoirí D. Canty, C. Finn, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Ryng.

**ALSO PRESENT** Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive.

Mr. B. Geaney, Assistant Chief Executive.

Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.

 Mr. F. Reidy, Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development.

 Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations.

 Ms. A. Rodgers, Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking.

 Mr. G. O’Beirne, Director of Services, Infrastructure Development.

 Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer.

 Mr. D. Roche, A/Director of Services, Housing.

 Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect.

 Mr. J. Stapleton, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure Development.

 Ms. A. Murnane, Meetings Administrator.

 Ms. C. Currid, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.

**APOLOGIES** Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, T. Shannon, F. Dennehy.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **LORD MAYOR’S ITEMS**
	1. **NOVEMBER MEETINGS OF AN CHOMHAIRLE**

An tArdmhéara informed An Chomhairle that at the meeting of Party Whips held, 26th October 2021 it was agreed that the Ordinary and Budget meetings of An Chomhairle scheduled for the 8th and the 15th November 2021 respectively, would be held via Microsoft Teams and live streamed.

* 1. **TADHG BARRY CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS**

An tArdmhéara informed An Chomhairle that the centenary of the death of former Alderman Tadhg Barry will be commemorated on the 15th November 2021.

The commemoration will include a wreath laying ceremony at St. Finbarr’s Cemetery, tree planting at the North Monastery, the launch of the Tadhg Barry exhibition at the Cork City and County Archives, and the illumination of City Hall that evening in the National colours.

* 1. **UNVEILING OF A BUST OF TERENCE MACSWINEY**

An tArdmhéara informed An Chomhairle that the unveiling of a bust of Terence MacSwiney organised by the Kilmurry Independence Museum has been postponed to the new year.

1. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S ITEMS**

No items raised.

1. **MINUTES**

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

* Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 13th September 2021.
1. **QUESTION TIME**

4.1 **HOW MANY STAFF TRAINED TO HELP VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE IN HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Could the CE please inform the council as to how many staff have been trained in understanding and helping victims and survivors of domestic abuse in the housing department?

And what programme does the council have for staff to identify and help victims of domestic abuse?

**REPLY**

With the lifting of Covid restrictions, this will now enable the City Council to contact Mná Feasa to arrange for training of City Council staff in the above areas. It should also be noted that both the City Council’s Accommodation Placement Service and the Allocations Section liaise directly with OSS Cork and the Domestic Violence Network on a regular basis to provide both general advice in accessing social housing support and/or emergency accommodation and in relation to specific clients.

Declan Roche,

Acting Director of Services,

Housing.

4.2 **SOCIAL HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir F. Ryan, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Please outline the procedure and timeline that dictates the offering of social housing set aside specifically for older people (such as Madden's & Roches Buildings) and if the offer is rejected, what procedure is then followed when seeking an alternative tenant.

**REPLY**

Generally, housing units designated as suitable for older persons are allocated outside of the Choice Based Letting system using a “needs based model”. Applicants of an age appropriate to the specific development who have expressed interest in the areas or in the particular housing complexes are considered as units become available for letting based on their length of time on the list and any other circumstances that may impact on their housing need, e.g. medical, suitability of current accommodation, etc. in line with the City Council’s Allocation Scheme.

If a person turns down an offer of accommodation, the next most suitable person based on the applicable criteria outlined will be selected. The person who has rejected the offer will continue to be considered for other suitable vacancies that may arise depending on the reason for the refusal.

Declan Roche,

Acting Director of Services,

Housing.

4.3 **HOUSING UNITS FOR ELDERLY**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir T. Moloney, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

How many elderly housing units like Horgans Buildings have Cork City Council in stock?

How many of them are vacant in need or under repair across the city?

How many are ready for letting?

**REPLY**

Cork City Council has a range of housing units it deems suitable for senior citizens and is constantly adding additional numbers. The current position is:

The total number of senior citizen housing units 995

The number of these units that are vacant or in need or under repair 55

The number of these units ready for letting and /or are under offer 41

Declan Roche,

Acting Director of Services,

Housing.

4.4 **POLLUTION IN GLEN RIVER**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir O. Moran, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

To ask the Chief Executive to report on efforts to remedy pollution leading to a fish kill in September and other pollution entering the Glen River?

**REPLY**

Cork City Council Drainage Section has expended significant efforts in recent months to improve water quality within the Glen River, as it passes through the Glen Park.

In June 2021, a significant historic misconnection was identified and reconnected back into the foul sewer, towards the western side of the lake within the park.

In addition, Cork City Council crews carry out fortnightly maintenance to the existing combined sewer overflow tank in Sunnyview, near Dillons Cross, to ensure the tank remains clear of debris and blockages, and hence, avoid uncontrolled overflows to the Glen River.

In relation to the pollution event of September 2021, as reported to the EPA and Inland Fisheries at that time, this occurred as a result of a blockage in an upstream manhole near Meelick Park.

This manhole had an historic, unmapped bifurcation (i.e. informal overflow pipe) into the existing 1350mm river culvert that runs from Mervue Lawn to the Glen River on the south side of the North Ring Road.

This manhole has now been added to a programme of planned maintenance, wherein it will be inspected fortnightly. Ultimately, this bifurcation is to be removed entirely once an assessment of any residual flood risk this could cause has been completed.

David Joyce,

Director of Services,

 Roads & Environment Operations.

4.5 **FAULTY PBU AT JUNCTION BETWEEN WILTON SHOPPING CENTRE AND CUH**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir C. Finn, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

Can the CE give an update on the repair to the faulty PBU on the Cork University Hospital side of junction between Wilton Shopping Centre and CUH. What is the timeline envisaged by the CE for pedestrian movement improvements at this junction?

**REPLY**

I can confirm that the pushbutton repairs were resolved on the morning that the fault was reported to Cork City Council. Traffic signal fault reports can be reported to Cork City Council in a number of ways:

1. Via the Customer Services Requests button on the City Council’s website home page (available 24/7)
2. By contacting the City Council’s Customer Service Unit on 021-4924000 (available 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday)

Logging issues via one of the above methods allows the streamlining and prioritisation of fault management response which endeavours to manage fault attendance efficiently for continuity of vital services.

In relation to future capital works, it is anticipated that the junction and its crossings will be included in a major network redesign and upgrade under the Bus Connects programme. The first phase of consultation on the bus service review was undertaken by the National Transport Authority in July 2021. It is expected that consultation on the proposed future network will be commenced in Q4 2021 with a view to completion in Q1 2022. It is also expected that details of the proposed network improvements that are required to support the bus service will be ready for public consultation in 2022. The delivery of improvements will be subject to the normal public spending code requirements as well as design work, planning/ statutory approvals, land acquisition and procurement. The pre construction work phases for such projects are normally expected to take 3-4 years and funding is provided for planning and delivery of the Bus Connects network improvements in the National Development Plan.

David Joyce, Gerry O’Beirne,

Director of Services, Director of Services,

Roads & Environment Operations. Infrastructure Development.

4.6 **ENFORCEMENT JURISDICTION**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir M. Finn, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

DOES Cork City Council have enforcement jurisdiction in the following:

* Presentation of bins on public footpaths
* Dog fouling
* Derelict buildings
* Anti social behaviour in council houses
* Anti social behaviour in student houses
* Parking on cycle lanes/double yellow lines
* Drinking in public places

**REPLY**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Presentation of bins on public footpaths**Under the  Cork City Council Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws 2019 (Bye- Law No. 4)  Cork City Council may issue Fixed Payment Notices where waste containers are not stored within the curtilage of the premises where the waste is produced. | David Joyce,Director of Services,Roads & EnvironmentOperations. |
| **Dog Fouling**Cork City Council’s Litter Wardens are empowered to issue Fines for breaches of Section 22 (dog related offences)  of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. | David Joyce,Director of Services,Roads & EnvironmentOperations. |
| **Derelict Buildings**Under the Derelict Sites Act (1990) The Local Authority has powers to require owners of Derelict Sites to carry out works which will render the sites non-derelict. The powers also include the imposition of a Derelict Sites Levy where appropriate and for the taking of legal proceedings. Derelict Sites may also be acquired by a compulsory procedure in certain circumstances. Placement of sites on the Derelict Sites Register is also an action which can be taken by Local Authorities. In some cases, placement on the Derelict Sites Register can act as a catalyst for an owner to sell a site, to apply for planning permission, and generally set about carrying out some improvement works. Cork City Council favours positive engagement with site owners, where possible.  | Seamus Coghlan,A/Director of Services,Strategic & Economic Development. |
| **Anti social behaviour in council houses**Tenants who are involved in anti-social behaviour in their City Council home are in breach of the tenancy agreement and, following investigation, may be the subject of legal proceedings should the anti-social behaviour persist. Jurisdiction in this regard is governed by Local Authority legislation, primarily the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997. | Declan Roche,A/Director of Services,Housing. |
| **Anti social behaviour in student houses** Cork City Council has no role in this. | Ann Doherty,Chief Executive. |
| **Parking on cycle lanes/double yellow lines**Under the Local Authorities (Traffic Wardens) Act 1975 as amended, Local Authority Traffic Wardens in consultation with An Garda Síochana can carry out the functions in respect of offences of the Road Traffic Act including * Unlawful parking on a cycle track contrary to Articles 36(2)(M) of the Road Traffic(Traffic and Parking)Regulations 1997 an offence until Section 35(5)of the Road Traffic Act 1994 and;
* parking on that side of a section of roadway along the edge of which traffic sign no RRM008(Double Yellow Lines) have been provided, in contravention of Article 36(2)(A) of the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking ) Regulations 1997 an offence under Section 35(5) of the Road Traffic Act 1994 involving the use of a mechanically propelled vehicle.
 | David Joyce,Director of Services,Roads & EnvironmentOperations. |
| **Drinking in Public Places**The Local Government Act 2001, Part 19 deals with Bye Laws.  The power to make Bye Laws is a reserved function, contained in Section 199 of the Act.Bye-Laws for Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor On The Streets of Cork have been in place since 1998, revised Bye-Laws were made in 2001, with minor amendments being made to same in 2006, 2010 and 2011.  New Bye-Laws for Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor On The Streets of Cork is currently open for public consultation, with a closing date for submissions of 23rd November, 2021.  | Paul Moynihan,Director of Services,Corporate Affairs & International Relations. |

4.7 **BLACKROCK/MARINA GREENWAY WORKS**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

**To ask the CE for an update on the Blackrock/ The Marina Greenway Works?**

**REPLY**

Work on the Greenway Improvements Scheme Phase 1 is progressing well. Surfacing is now fully complete from Pairc Ui Chaoimh to Blackrock Station and from the St Michael’s Drive Ramp to the N40.

The first section of Public Lighting has been installed from Pairc Ui Chaoimh to Blackrock Station. The new access ramps from Eden, Ballinsheen Bridge and Skehard Road are currently under construction as is the new ramp from the Greenway to the Marina. The Marina Ramp requires staged construction to allow for settlement of the poor underlying ground. Similarly works are ongoing at Blackrock Station.

Landscaping work including tree planting will begin early in the new year. The section of the Greenway from Pairc Ui Chaoimh to the N40 flyover including all associated access ramps will be fully open by early summer 2022.  Completion of the Marina ramp will be delayed due to the required timeframe for settlement however it is expected to be fully complete by the end of the 2022.

Gerry O’Beirne,

Director of Services,

Infrastructure Development.

4.8 **MAINTENANCE WORKS FOR FAIRFIELD MEADOWS & FAIRFIELD LAWN**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir M. Nugent, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

To ask the CE to report on essential maintenance works due for Fairfield Meadows & Fairfield Lawn, Fairhill including a timeline?

**REPLY**

Tenders have been recently received from Contractors for this scheme and the City Council is currently in the process of finalising the procurement process.

The Council expects to be signing a contract soon and consulting with the various householders and stakeholders concerned regarding these planned improvements.

Declan Roche,

Acting Director of Services,

Housing.

4.9 **HOUSING WAITING LIST**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir D. Boyle, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

To ask the Chief Executive the number of single people over 50 years of age, on this Council’s Housing Waiting List, and the proportion this group represents on that list?

**REPLY**

The number of single person households over 50 years of age on the City Council’s list of eligible applicants is currently 901. This represents 20% of the total number of eligible applicants.

Declan Roche,

Acting Director of Services,

Housing.

4.10 **NORTH WEST REGIONAL PARK**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-

To ask the Chief Executive  to give an update on:

The plans for the North West Regional Park.

Does it remain a priority for Cork City Council within the City Development Plan.

Is the SEEP funding allocated required for the design ?

Is council planning other regional parks on the Northside of the city.

**REPLY**

1. Does it remain a priority for Cork City Council within the City Development Plan.

The development of a Regional Park similar in nature to Ballincollig Regional Park is a major priority for the City Council. In the Cork City Development Plan 2015 – 2021, Objective 11.21 clearly states the need for a Regional Park in the North West of the City and this should contain a variety of facilities e.g. sports pitches, hard surface courts, walkways, pitch and putt, children’s playground, nature areas, woodland and parkland. The same objective is included in the Draft City Development Plan 2022 – 2028 under Chapter 6 Table 6.4.

1. Is the SEEP funding allocated required for the design ?

The SEEP funding of €20k will help with the finance required to engage design consultants to prepare draft designs for consultation.

1. Is council planning other regional parks on the Northside of the city.

A Regional Park is also planned for the North East of the City and this objective is included in the Draft City Development Plan 2022 – 2028 under Chapter 6 Table 6.4.

David Joyce,

Director of Services,

Roads & Environment Operations.

1. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

5.1 **PART 8 PLANNING PROPOSAL - BEAMISH AND CRAWFORD QUARTER INFRASTRUCTURE PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 179 (4) (a) of Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed Beamish and Crawford Quarter Infrastructure Public Realm Improvement Scheme and the attached report of the Director of Infrastructure Development thereon, as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

An Chomhairle noted a typo on the date of the Resolution and on the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Boyle, further agreed to adopt the following amended Resolution:-

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development viz. the Beamish and Crawford Quarter Infrastructure Public Realm Improvement Scheme and the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, Cork City Council thereon, it is hereby resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the Beamish and Crawford Quarter Infrastructure Public Realm Improvement Scheme be carried out as recommended in the said report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, Cork City Council, which was put before Council on the 26th October 2021.”

5.2 **PART 8 PLANNING PROPOSAL – MONAGHAN ROAD EXTENSION SCHEME**

Concerns were raised by Comhairleoir L. Bogue that a bioswale, and the non-return flap valve at the Atlantic Pond were not provided for in the proposed Monaghan Road Extension Scheme.

An Chomhairle noted, on advice from the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development that while the proposed Monaghan Road Extension Scheme does not make provision for a bioswale, or the non-return flap valve, Cork City Councils policy on the broader development of Monaghan Road makes such provision.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 179 (4) (a) of Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed Monaghan Road Extension Scheme and the attached report of the Director of Infrastructure Development thereon, as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

An Chomhairle noted a typo on the date of the Resolution and on the proposal of Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn, seconded by Comhairleoir M.R. Desmond, further agreed to adopt the following amended Resolution:-

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development viz. the Monaghan Road Extension Scheme and the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, Cork City Council thereon, it is hereby resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the Monaghan Road Extension Scheme be carried out as recommended in the said report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, Cork City Council, which was put before Council on the 26th October 2021.”

5.3 **PART 8 PLANNING PROPOSAL – BISHOP LUCEY PARK REGENERATION SCHEME**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 179 (4) (a) of Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), An Chomhairle considered the proposed Bishop Lucey Park Regeneration Scheme and the attached report of the City Architect thereon, as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

On the proposal of Comhairleoir F. Ryan, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Forde, a vote was called for on the approval of the proposal where there appeared as follows:-

**FOR:** Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, D. Forde, M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (26)

**AGAINST:** (0)

**ABSTAIN:** Comhairleoirí F. Ryan, L. Bogue. (2)

As those voting in favour of the proposal were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried and the proposal approved.

An Chomhairle noted a typo on the date of the Resolution and on the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, further agreed to adopt the following amended Resolution:-

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development viz. the Bishop Lucey Park Regeneration Scheme and the report of the City Architect, Cork City Council thereon, it is hereby resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the Bishop Lucey Park Regeneration Scheme be carried out as recommended in the said report of the City Architect, Cork City Council, which was put before Council on the 26th October 2021.”

* 1. **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: COIS COILLE, THE GATE LODGE, TIVOLI, CORK - GALTAN CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Housing, dated 23rd September 2021 in relation to a loan facility for Galtan CLG in respect of the provision of two units of accommodation at Cois Coille, The Gate Lodge, Tivoli, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boylan, seconded by Comhairleoir P. Dineen, 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 €359,501 be granted to Galtan CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of 2 units of accommodation at Cois Coille, The Gate Lodge, Tivoli, Cork.”

5.5 **SECTION 38 REPORT ON ZEBRA CROSSING - PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING UPGRADE AT CLOGHEEN-KERRY PIKE NATIONAL SCHOOL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, seconded by Comhairleoir K. Collins, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report and recommendation of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 23rd September 2021, following public consultation, on the proposed pedestrian safety interventions at Clogheen-Kerrypike National School pursuant to Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, as amended by Section 46 of the Public Transport Regulation Act, 2009.

1. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 5th OCTOBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 5th October 2021.

* 1. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31st AUGUST 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31st August 2021.

* 1. **BANK OVERDRAFT FOR 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Head of Finance, dated 31st September 2021, on the Bank Overdraft Facility Y/E December 2022.

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

“That Cork City Council approves, pursuant to Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001, an overdraft facility of €25m (twenty-five million euro) for the twelve-month period to 31st December 2022.”

6.3 **REPORT ON BYE-LAWS FOR PROHIBITING THE CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR ON THE STREETS OF CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the A/Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 1st October 2021 in relation to the Bye-Laws for Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor On The Streets of Cork.

1. **PARTY WHIPS – 27th SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 27th September 2021.

* 1. **LORD MAYOR ITEMS**
		1. **MORE POWER TO YOU**

An Chomhairle considered the request from SIPTU and approved a virtual Briefing in relation to the “More Power to You” Campaign.

* 1. **MOTION REFERRED TO PARTY WHIPS**
		1. **RENAME NORTH GATE BRIDGE TO MOTHER JONES BRIDGE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 23rd September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council review again the potential for renaming North Gate Bridge as Mother Jones Bridge.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Ryan 21/289)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the renaming of North Gate Bridge as Mother Jones Bridge will be reviewed following clarification from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage on the regulations  for renaming a public road.

1. **ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 21st SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 21st September 2021.

* 1. **MOTIONS**
		1. **DOMESTIC REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That in light of increased dumping across the expanded city, the Environment SPC of Cork City Council investigates the possibilities around a return to providing domestic refuse collection services to include a nationally delivered incentivised waiver or discount scheme.’

(Proposers: Cllr. M. Finn, Cllr. T. Moloney, Cllr. H. Cremin 20/366)

The report of the Director of Services stated that in 1998 the Department of the Environment’s policy document “Changing Our Ways” highlighted the scope for increased participation by the private sector in the area of waste management.  This policy thus opened up the market to private collectors whereas previously predominantly Local Authorities were the only operators providing this service.

In 2011 Cork City Council had 27,000 residential customers, which had declined from a customer base of 45,000 in the 1980s, a drop of approximately 40%.  At this point in time our customer base was declining on average by 3,000 customers per year. It was clear that given these trends the continued provision by City Council’s of a household kerbside waste collection service was unsustainable and in 2011 Cork City Council exited the market.

At present there are several options available to members of the public in relation to proper disposal of waste. It is required, as per the provisions of the City Council Waster Presentation Bye-Laws, to retain receipts for proof of proper disposal:

1. **Option 1 - Kinsale Road Civic Amenity/Recycling Centre Location:** Located off the South City Link Road, Cork (Opposite Black Ash Park & Ride Facility) the civic amenity site is for domestic use only.
2. **Option 2 - Kerbside Collection**: Waste collectors authorised to collect kerbside household waste in Cork City.
3. **Option 3 - Facilities owned by other entities:**  Cork County Council and private companies operate other facilities to dispose of domestic in the immediate vicinity of Cork City
4. **Option 4 - Pay to Use Compactors:**  Another alternative operating in Cork City is a public waste compactor situated at the service station forecourt at Old Youghal Road.

Having reviewed this matter, it is abundantly clear that significant investment would be required to ensure that any municipal waste collection service is capable of providing a standard of service delivery that is in line with best practice and existing legislation. Analysis completed by Dublin City Council suggests that the rental and operation costs of a single bin truck are €65,000 per annum.  It is estimated that Cork City Council would require 6 of these to operate a service at an annual cost of almost €400,000 for the vehicles alone.  The above costs do not include payroll (crusher drivers, refuse collectors, supervisory staff, account admin support) or disposal costs (including the landfill levy of €75 per tonne and disposal cost of in excess of €45 per tonne for waste disposed) which would be very significantly higher than the vehicle costs detailed above.  Dublin City Council have also  estimated that the cost of a standard chipped household bin is €35 which would generate a cost of €2.1 million to provide 20,000 households with 3 bins to kick start the service.  Given the very competitive market and the wide variety of existing options and service providers already providing services it is not possible to justify such a significant expenditure.  There are also serious question marks regarding how the ongoing operating costs of this service would be funded.

It also must be acknowledged that charging for the door-to-door kerbside collection of domestic refuse represents the application of the long-established "polluter pays" principle, which is enshrined in EU environmental legislation and a widely accepted fundamental principle of waste management.

If it is the wish of Council Cork City Council can write to the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage regarding the introduction of a national waver scheme which would be funded by central exchequer monies.

* + 1. **INCENTIVISE THE USE OF THE CIVIC AMENITY SITE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will report on options to incentivise use of the civic amenity and responsible waste disposal as an alternative to illegal dumping. Such measures may include reduced fees at the civic amenity for people in receipt of certain social welfare payments, relaxation of rules around commercial waste for tradespeople without a waste collection permit, a year-round publicly available schedule for local collection of bulky items, and community provision of services for collection of waste from families without means to provide for their own waste collection or transport to the civic amenity.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 21/159)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council’s Civic Amenity Site, located at the Tramore Valley Park, is provided for domestic use only. Cork City Council is prohibited, under our waste collection permit  (W0012-03) condition 3.28.4, which was issued by the National Waste Collection Permit Office based in Co. Offaly, from accepting commercial waste from non domestic customers.  In light of recent tenders for the disposal of material from the Civic Amenity Site, which have increased since the last tender period thus increasing operating costs, we are reviewing the charges that are levied for use of the facility. The Civic Amenity Site is operated on a commercial basis, as provided for by the EU “polluter pays principle” approach to waste management and does not operate a waiver system except in the instances of nationally organised and funded campaigns (e.g. free mattress drop off days). Cork City Council is not in a position to provide a waste collection and drop off system at the Civic Amenity Site however we do provide up to 24 free bulky goods collection days a year in different areas of the City.  Extensive marketing takes place leading up to the bulky goods collection days to ensure that the public is aware of the dates and locations of the bulky goods collection points e.g. leaflet drops are made to all houses in the vicinity of the collection locations.

* + 1. **FEASIBILITY OF NEW WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would investigate the waste disposal system in Amsterdam andreport on the feasibility of its application to Cork.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 21/171)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the waste collection procedures in Amsterdam mainly fall into three distinct types:

1. Kerbside collection of “waste” i.e. non recyclable goods.  This is very similar to wheelie bin kerb side collection services provided in Cork.
2. Communal large waste and recycling bins on public streets.  These installations include a very significant underground element in order to allow sufficient capacity to be stored between emptying cycles.
3. Amsterdam also has 6 multifunctional waste collection points which in effect offer the same services as the City Council’s Civic Amenity Site.

Thus, Cork City presently offers two of the three options also offered in Amsterdam.

The only option offered in Amsterdam not offered in Cork, are the large on-street communal containers.

Introducing these containers in Cork would be problematic from a number of perspectives:

1. Siting difficulties, including lack of sufficient space to install the above ground and very significant underground infrastructure
2. Issues with water ingress into the underground containers – Cork City Centre is a bog and it would be impossible to fully and permanently seal the containers from water ingress
3. Objections from local residents/businesses regarding the siting of such large scale communal infrastructure directly outside their home or premises
4. Given the very significant capital costs involved, no service provider could afford to provide such substantial infrastructure within the limited Cork City market place (the population of Amsterdam is 1,157,519 in 2021 which gives the scope for such costly largescale infrastructure to be put in place).
5. Once installed an underground system would be very costly to operate and maintain, especially given the size and challenges in Cork.

Although we are not Amsterdam and we are unlikely to have the same infrastructure anytime soon (given the scale discrepancy), we are constantly working with government agencies, such as the EPA, to improve our awareness around recycling and improve our infrastructure.

For example in 2021 we trialled both solar compacting bins and recycling only litter bins on public streets in the City.

8.1.4 **OBLIGATIONS OF MANAGEMENT COMPANIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council clarify (a) the obligations of management companies under national and local legislation in relation to providing recycling and composting bins to properties under their management (b) state what , if any,  fines been issues in relation to same (c) that council build a database of such management companies and take action to ensure compliance with the law.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Forde 21/206)

The reply of the Director of Services stated that 1(a) The Cork City Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws are very clear that in the case of Multi-unit Buildings, Apartment Blocks etc. that the Management Company (if one exists), or the building owner (if the building is solely owned by one entity) or otherwise the individual owners of the individual apartments have certain duties and responsibilities.  These include that:

1. separate receptacles of adequate size and number are provided for the proper segregation, storage and collection of recyclable household kerbside waste and residual household kerbside waste,
2. additional receptacles are provided for the segregation, storage and collection of food waste where this practice is a requirement of the national legislation on food waste,
3. the receptacles referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) are located both within individual apartments and at the place where waste is stored prior to its collection,
4. any place where waste is to be stored prior to collection is secure, accessible at all times by tenants and other occupiers and is not accessible to any other person other than an authorised waste collector,
5. written information is provided to each tenant or other occupier about the arrangements for waste separation, segregation, storage and presentation prior to collection,
6. an authorised waste collector is engaged to regularly service the receptacles referred to in this section of these bye-laws, with documentary evidence, such as receipts, statements or other proof of payment, demonstrating the existence of this engagement being retained for a period of no less than two years. Such evidence shall be presented to an authorised person within a time specified in a written request.
7. Appropriate waste containers for kerbside waste are presented for collection on the designated waste collection day,
8. adequate access and egress to and from the premises by waste collection vehicles is maintained.

1(b) To date 2no. FPNs have been issued to property management companies (PMCos) in 2021 for failing to comply with Section 10 of the byelaws and in particular the obligation to provide an adequate number of each and every segregated bin type specified in the byelaws.

1(c)  Cork City Council has an existing database of PMCos managing apartments across our functional area. Given the changing nature of contracts between Owners, Owner Management Companies and/or Property Management Companies the database is currently in the process of being updated in order to accurately reflect who is responsible for managing waste at each specific apartment complex within our functional area. A targeted enforcement campaign is currently underway and it is CCCs intention to continue to bring these properties into compliance.  Where necessary, CCC will issue FPNs where non-compliances continue to be observed at multi-unit dwellings (including apartments).

 2. Cork City Council has been actively engaging with management companies across the city and over the past few months we have opened investigations into several properties on foot of our work in this area.  Cork City Council has written to these properties to advise of the targeted enforcement campaign underway within our functional area, focusing on multi-unit developments, mixed-use developments, flats or apartment blocks, combined living/working spaces or other similar complexes.

The purpose of this targeted campaign is to improve waste management

compliance levels including the segregation of waste (such as food waste) at

householder level with a particular focus on apartments and other multi-unit

dwellings (MUDs).

It is Cork City Council's intention to bring relevant properties into compliance

and where they fail to do so a Fixed Penalty Notice under the (Segregation,

Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws,

2019 will issue.

8.1.5 **TREE REMOVAL NOTICES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council institute a practice of tree removal notices, on any grouping of trees it intends to remove, giving public notice of such actions occurring while citing reasons why it is believed necessary to do so.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 21/227)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the practice of erecting tree removal notices will commence in October 2021. The notices will be placed adjacent to groups of trees and or individual specimen trees to be removed.

The notices will be placed well in advance of the proposed removal date and will give reasons for removal.

8.1.6 **POLICY REVIEW ON THE USE OF PUBLIC LITTER BINS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council instigate a policy review on the use of public litter bins assessing how many bins should exist, where they should be located and what type of segregation of litter should be facilitated.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 21/228)

The report of the Director of Services Stated that the current standard litter bins in cork city have been placed in strategic locations and where the need is greatest.  We continually review the volume or types of bins located across the City in response to feedback from the public as well as our own on-street knowledge. The locations of our current installed litter bins is reviewed in response to evidence and requests for additional litter bins are considered based on the situation pertaining in the given area and the availability of the significant additional resources required and associated costs of installing additional bins.

We are currently trialing solar compacting litter bins in the city centre and in key recreational facilities across the City. These solar compacting bins provide the public with additional litter bin capacity. The level sensors in these bins will also notify staff when the bins need to be emptied allowing us to provide an even more efficient service to the public. Alongside these solar compacting litter bins are standard non compacting recycling bins. These recycling bins will enable the public to segregate their litter. Over the period of the trial we will analysis the levels of contamination of the litter in the recycling bins.

8.1.7 **PUBLIC REALM AT MORRISONS ISLAND**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘Mindful of the increased need for and focus on public outdoor facilities and spaces, that Cork City Council, in the likely event of the Morrison's Island’s public realm and flood defence project getting the green light enhances the design by incorporating sit-down and gathering spaces to ensure full use of Cork’s riverside spaces. Extra tree planting would also benefit the scheme.’

 (Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 21/201)

The report of the Director of Service stated that as Members will be aware, the regeneration of Morrisons Island has been a long standing objective of the City Council. This quayside area is dominated car parking and suffers from poor quality public space and a considerable degree of vacancy, dereliction and low-quality uses*.*

In order to address these issues, Council prepared a scheme of public realm renewal incorporating flood protection measures for the area from Parnell Bridge along Morrisons Quay and Fr Matthew Quay to Parliament Bridge.

The scheme provides for creation of a 3m wide riverside promenade with the refurbishment of the existing quay walls to ensure their future integrity. It includes new high quality footpaths, new seating areas and new/improved plaza areas at Parnell Bridge and Trinity Bridge. It also includes for significantly improved public space at Holy Trinity Church and the creation of focal points at the entrances to Trinity Footbridge. While vehicular access is maintained to local properties, the pedestrian improvements and overall traffic changes will lead to a significant reduction in carparking and vehicular movements thereby improving the overall experience of the area.

The Morrisons Island Public Realm Improvement and Flood Protection Scheme was approved by Members in 2018 following public consultation. It was subsequently approved by An Bord Pleanala, in 2020 and its decision was upheld in related recent High Court judicial review proceedings. The detailed design drawings and tender documents for the scheme are currently being prepared with a view to tender in the coming months. This includes the delivery of quality seating, gathering spaces and planting as set out. The scheme design will also enable relatively easy further future adaptation in use of space as the City evolves and develops.

The impact of the scheme, when completed, will be transformative for the City adding to its visual amenity and helping to unlock the potential of this central area. The improved relationship with the river amenity and enhanced public space as planned is an essential catalyst to private sector regeneration as well as the public enjoyment of the overall area.

8.1.8 **WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE SEATS AT CITY PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council introduce a number of these wheelchair accessible seats around Cork city parks.’

 (Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 21/234)

The report of the Director of Services stated that wheelchair accessible picnic tables are installed close to the playgrounds at Fitzgerald’s Park and Bishopstown Park.

An increase in the playground budget has been included in the 2022 Draft Parks Estimates, should this be approved, a percentage of the increase can be allocated towards the provision of wheelchair assessable picnic tables in other parks and amenity areas.

8.1.9 **WILDFLOWER MEADOW TO BOOST BIO-DIVERSITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council introduce a wildflower meadow to boost bio-diversity on sides of roadways throughout the city and that our planting schedule would include as much wildflower planting as possible and also that we would introduce insect and bee hotels along various motor and roadway routes where applicable.’

 (Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 21/237)

The report of the Director of Services stated that wildflower meadow areas have been introduced in parks, amenity walks, roadside verges, and open space areas throughout the city in recent years, this practice will be extended to other areas during 2021.

Insect and bee hotels were installed in a number of parks during 2020 and 2021 and additional installations will be carried out during 2022.

8.1.10 **FACILITIES TO RECYCLE AND COMPOST WASTE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council take all necessary steps to ensure that management companies in Cork provide the residents of their properties with the necessary facilities (including recycling and composting bins) to recycle and compost their waste in accordance with the management companies’ obligations under the Cork City bye-laws regarding the segregation, storage and prevention of waste.’

 (Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 21/256)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Cork City Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws are very clear that in the case of Multi-unit Buildings, Apartment Blocks etc. that the Management Company (if one exists), the or the building owner (if the building is solely owned by one entity) or otherwise the individual owners of the individual apartments have certain duties and responsibilities.

Cork City Council has been actively engaging with management companies across the city and over the past few months we have opened investigations into several properties on foot of our work in this area.

Cork City Council has written to these properties to advise of the targeted enforcement campaign underway within our functional area, focusing on multi-unit developments, mixed-use developments, flats or apartment blocks, combined living/working spaces or other similar complexes. The purpose of this targeted campaign is to improve waste management compliance levels including the segregation of waste (such as food waste) at householder level with a particular focus on apartments and other multi-unit dwellings (MUDs).

It is Cork City Council's intention to bring relevant properties into compliance and where they fail to do so a Fixed Penalty Notice under the (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2019 will issue. To date 2no. FPNs have been issued to property management companies this year for failure to comply with said bye-laws.

8.1.11 **SIGNAGE AT CITY CEMETERIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council enhance their directions/signage in city cemeteries to help locate burial plots. Where the cemeteries are well maintained, in some of the older cemeteries it is difficult to locate faded inscribed numerical markers. In additional, that there be an increased effort by the City Council to put burial records online so they can be located, either on their own website or on Cork City and County Archives website, and especially through the use of volunteers.’

 (Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 21/261)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a review of Parks and Cemeteries signage is presently underway, new signage will be erected during 2022 as resources allow. Signage at cemeteries will include plans to assist visitors locate burial plots. Cork City and County Archives have been uploading cemetery burial records for the past number of years and these are available on their web site. Uploading the records is labour intensive and it will take several years before all records are uploaded.

8.1.12 **ALL IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 15th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would select Ballincollig as a pilot area for the strict enforcement of the commitments it has made under the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to eliminate the use of chemical herbicides and pesticides in work carried throughout our communities.’

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Kelleher 21/277)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a review of the use of herbicides and pesticides by the City Council is currently underway and a report on same will be presented to this committee in November for consideration.

The aim is to use several alternatives to herbicides in amenity areas during 2022.

1. **INTERNATIONAL REALTIONS & TOURISM STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 20th SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the International Relations & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 20th September 2021.

9.1 **REPORT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE TOURISM SECTOR IN CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 6th September 2021 on recent activities to support the Tourism sector in Cork.

9.2 **REPORT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 6th September 2021 on recent activities in International Relations.

9.3 **MOTIONS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE:**

9.3.1 **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE RIVER LEE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 6th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council works with the relevant stakeholders to come up with a strategic plan for the River Lee that looks at tourism opportunities, usage of our quays and commercial opportunities.’

(Proposer Cllr. J. Maher 21/284)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Failte Ireland is currently developing a Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP) for the Cork City, Cork harbour and East Cork area. The DEDP will be a 5 year sustainable tourism development plan for the area which will capture proposed tourism development projects into a single plan in order to maximise their potential over the next 5 years. Water (the River Lee and wider harbour) is one of the key resources identified for the DEDP. Cork City Council is working with Failte Ireland on the development of this plan and consultation workshops have taken place with elected members and the International Relations and Tourism SPC and with Council staff.

In addition, a Green and Blue Infrastructure Study was undertaken to inform the City Development Plan. This includes key actions to enhance the attractiveness of the River Lee and other waterways throughout Cork City as amenities and strengthen biodiversity in the rivers and green areas of the city.

9.3.2 **TWINNING WITH A CITY IN PALESTINE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 6th September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will explore building networks with a city in Palestine with the intention of forming a twin city or partnership relationship. This is in acknowledgement of the connections that already exist between the people of Cork City and Palestine, to provide tangible support through greater economic connection and opportunity and to express solidarity to the people of Palestine.’

(Proposer Cllr. L. Bogue 21/322)

The report of the Director of Services stated that it is acknowledged that connections have been established between the people of Palestine and Cork. The Director would be happy to engage with the Department of Foreign Affairs to discuss the potential for bringing these connections to a more formal level, consistent with national policy. Based on the advice of the Department, engagement could then be undertaken with the local Palestinian Community and with the Palestine Embassy.

1. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 23rd SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 23rd September 2021.

* 1. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

10.1.1 **BUDGET NEEDS IDENTIFIED THROUGH LOCAL POLICING FORUMS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 23rd September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘Would Cork City Council create a budget (new line) in our annual budget to deal with needs that are identified through the local policing forums.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Cahill 21/252)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the structure which upholds Community Safety Forums was borne of a desire in Cork City Council to work on the basis of Community Development to engage with communities, in partnership with An Garda Síochána Community Policing. These forums were established and supported particularly in RAPID areas. Amongst the many benefits arising from this method of operation is the collaborative approach to tackling issues of public safety and operational priorities, both with community policing partners and with colleagues in departments across the Council. The issues identified at Community Safety Forums which can be categorised as City Council services are dealt with as part of the programme of work for the year, and as such are budgeted for under existing annual budgets. Community Culture and Placemaking does not envisage the creation of a distinct budget line to respond to items arisings at local forums but rather directing any issues that arise to the relevant Directorates/Sections for their attention.

* + 1. **SUB STATION ON CAROLINE STREET**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 23rd September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That the City Council and the ESB work on a joint programme of works to return the sub-station on Caroline Street to an art gallery/cultural space.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 21/204)

# The report of the Director of Services stated that the Sub Station on Caroline Street is in the ownership of the ESB. Until recently the Sub Station was advertised for Commercial Let and Cork City Council does not have sight of the ESB’s plans for the building.

The wider needs in terms of cultural infrastructure in the city will be reviewed in the context of the forthcoming Arts & Culture Strategy, currently under development.

* + 1. **FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENTS ON ST. JOHN’S EVE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 23rd September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council would recommit to holding family friendly community events on St. John’s Eve in future years when current public health restrictions are lifted. In addition, that Cork City Council would plan to extend these events to areas incorporated into the City Council, like Ballincollig for example.’

(Proposer: Cllr. E. Ryng 21/305)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council recognises and values the unique cultural significance which Bonfire Night/St John’s Night has Cork, and has worked hand in hand with communities and youth organisations to run community Summer Fun Evenings over the last decade. These events have encouraged community members both young and old to celebrate the occasion safely and inclusively, and have contributed to a significant decrease in illegal and dangerous fire activity across cork City.

In 2020 and 2021, public health restrictions meant that these events could not be run, and interim arrangements were put in place. A planning and coordination exercise was carried out with Council colleagues, Fire Service and An Garda Síochána’s Community Policing Team and youth work organisations were key partners in running small group activities on the night.

A comprehensive debrief is scheduled for early September with all engaged stakeholders to consider plans for 2022 and beyond. The Community team is cognisant of the need to engage communities around this important event and is also keenly aware that communities in the newer areas of the City have their own St John’s Night traditions also.

* + 1. **USER FRIENDLY PLANNING WEBSITE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 23rd September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That a more user-friendly planning website be explored where is easier to access information such as letters and drawings.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 21/313)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council is currently examining the potential to update our IT planning system. This would have a positive impact on the website and the accessibility of information available to the public. We are also liaising with the LGMA on the national e-planning project regarding the potential of introducing an online planning application system.

* + 1. **EMERGENCY CALLS FROM PUBLIC SPACES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 23rd September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That the CE would ascertain from the National ambulance service their up to date policy in relation to emergency calls from public spaces.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 21/315)

The report of the Director of Services stated, please see attached document regarding NAS policy, additionally the NAS does not track any mobile phones nor do we have the capability to do so , we do however use “Locate me text” which allows the Emergency call taker to send a sms message to a mobile phone, provided the data service and location service are switched on the mobile phone , the caller then can open the text message  and NAS will the get a location. We only get the only the location of the mobile phone when the caller opens the text message therefore we are not tracking the location of the phone.

Fire Control currently will ask for address of the incident, if caller does not know address (for instance if it was a road traffic incident on a road) they would ask for further information, where are you near?, what road are you travelling ?, where is the nearest townland / village / town ? would also ask are you near any landmark’s etc., incident locations would be determined in a very professional manner and experienced emergency call operators are well used to these issues and ascertaining incident locations from often panicked, confused persons whom sometimes are in unfamiliar surroundings

* + 1. **RORY GALLAGHER MUSIC FESTIVAL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 23rd September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council work with the local hospitality sector to establish and fund an annual “Rory Gallagher Music Festival” in Cork. Such a festival would assist the local hospitality sector by attracting music enthusiasts to Cork on a specific weekend every year and would recognise Rory Gallagher’s enormous contribution to Cork and to music.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 21/318)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Arts Office will be happy to work with any group or organisation who wishes to develop an arts-based festival based around Rory Gallagher Music.

The SED directorate will engage with businesses in the Huguenot Quarter to explore the possibility of holding of a Rory Gallagher music event in Rory Gallagher Place.

* + 1. **NO PARKING PUBLIC PLAZA AT THE ENTRANCE TO ELIZABETH FORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 23rd September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That a no parking public plaza be created at the entrance of Elizabeth Fort to allow for the holding of open air markets and other events.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 21/321)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a temporary license for a once-off market can be sought and approved without any need to officially designate the area for a market, subject to an assessment of the proposal and any roads, traffic issues etc.

If they are requesting that the area be permanently designated for a market, this would need to be submitted as part of the consultation on the review of our casual trading bye-laws which are due to go for consultation in the next few months.  We would need to consider the impact of a market here on our traditional markets such as the Coal Quay and the English market and I would think that we would have concerns about a permanent/full-time market here affecting those.

Cork City Council is trying to reduce cars parking inside the fort – visitors staying overnight in the two Landmark Trust houses inside the fort are not allowed to bring their cars in so the area outside is the closest parking for them (as well as other visitors).  Also the fort is used to host Visit Cork whose staff currently park inside the fort – but we are trying to encourage them to reduce this and use the public parking spaces nearby instead.

* + 1. **CORK CITY MISSING PERSONS SEARCH AND RECOVERY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, dated 23rd September 2021 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will assist the Cork City Missing Persons Search and Recovery in securing a fit for purpose base with the facilities to match other large urban areas across Ireland. Therefore, Council will put in place a working group of elected members and officials to examine what is required to ensure that CCMPSR, in partnership with the relevant agencies, can continue to carry on their outstanding work in search, recovery and rescue on land and sea.’

‘Go gcabhróidh Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí le Cork City Missing Persons Search and Recovery chun bunáit oiriúnach a aimsiú leis na háiseanna céanna atá ag ceantair móra uirbeacha eile ar fud na hÉireann. Dá bhrí sin, cuirfidh an Chomhairle grúpa oibre le chéile de bhaill thofa agus oifigigh chun imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar a bhfuil de dhíth chun cinnte a dhéanamh de gur féidir le CCMPSR, leis na heagraíochtaí cuí, leanúint ar aghaidh lena n-obair iontach ag cuardach, ag tarrtháil agus ag bisiú ar thalamh agus san fharraige.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 21/328)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City has had engagement with interested parties with regard to providing a suitable space for water-based activities of which missing persons search and recovery are one, this engagement is currently on going. Cork City Council has also encouraged these groups to submit a submission to the City Development plan.

* 1. **ARTS COMMITTEE MINUTES 28th MAY 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, on the Arts Committee meeting of 28th May 2021.

1. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 14th SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 14th September 2021.

1. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 15th SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 15th September 2021.

1. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 13th SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 13th September 2021.

1. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 11th OCTOBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 11th October 2021.

1. **CENTENARY COMMEMORATION 2019-2023 STEERING COMMITTEE – 21st SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Centenary Commemoration 2019-2023 Steering Committee from its meeting held, 21st September 2021.

1. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th September 2021.

1. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th September 2021.

1. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th September 2021.

1. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 27th SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 27th September 2021.

1. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th SEPTEMBER 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 28th September 2021.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

22. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

An Chomhairle noted Conference/Seminar Summaries as follows:-

* Comhairleoir S. Martin at the IPB Autumn Seminar held at the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on the 8th October 2021.
* Comhairleoir D. Boyle at the AILG Module 1 Training, Renumeration and Allowances payable to LA Members and update on Planning/Development Bill held at The Tower Hotel, Waterford on the 18th September 2021.
1. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

An Chomhairle noted Section 141 reports as follows:-

* Comhairleoir G. Kelleher - Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (C.L.R.A.E.) 2019.
* Comhairleoir G. Kelleher - Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) 2019/2020.
* Comhairleoir G. Kelleher – Southern Regional Assembly 2020.

24. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

25. **TRAINING**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boylan, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Forde, An Chomhairle approved attendance at training as follows:-

* Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, S. Martin, G. Kelleher, and D. Forde at the LAMA Autumn Training Seminar, Planning and Mental Health to be held at the Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo from the 3rd to the 5th November 2021.
* Comhairleoir S. Martin at the AILG, County Development Plan Policy: Transport to be held online on the 26th November 2021.
	1. **I.P.B. INSURANCE MEMBER’S FORUM**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir G. Kelleher, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, An Chomhairle retrospectively approved the attendance of Comhairleoirí S. Martin at the I.P.B. Insurance Member’s Forum held at the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone on the 8th October 2021.

* 1. **AILG MODULE 2**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir O. Moran, An Chomhairle retrospectively approved the attendance of Comhairleoir D. Boyle at the AILG Module 2 training held at the Tower Hotel, Waterford on the 18th September 2021.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive’s Monthly Management reports for June, July, and August 2021.

27. **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.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. O’Callaghan, An Chomhairle agreed that motion 13, Bulky Goods Collection Site (21/382), be referred to the South Central Local Area Committee as well as the South East Local Area Committee.

28. **MOTIONS**

* 1. **INCOME LIMITS FOR SOCIAL HOUSING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council recognises and calls on the Minister to acknowledge the income limits for eligibility for social housing need to be changed to enable working families to apply in circumstances where obtaining a mortgage is beyond their reach.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 21/302)

* 1. **REVIEW CHANGES LINKING RENT HIKES TO INFLATION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council urgently demand government to review recent changes linking rent hikes to inflation given inflation rose to 3%, a 13 year high thus far since its introduction and reintroduce the rent freeze to ease the burden on an entire generation of renters.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Ryan 21/381)

* 1. **SHOPPER TRAVEL BEHAVIOUR STUDY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That the CE would request that the NTA fund a shopper travel behaviour study for Cork.’

(Proposers: Cllr. C. Finn, Cllr. O. Moran 21/394)

* 1. **OWENCURRA CENTRE, MIDLETON**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will write to Minister Mary Butler to call for the suspension of the closure process of the Owencurra Centre, Midleton, including the transfer of residents until such time as the Public Accounts Committee has fully considered documents relating to the rationale for closure and the suitability of alternative facilities, and until an independent structural engineer has assessed the feasibility of essential renovations on the Owencurra Centre. This letter should also express Cork City Council's support for the community campaign to protect this vital facility for the people of Cork and our full support of the community-based model of service provided.’

(Proposers: Cllr. L. Bogue, Cllr. D. Boyle 21/401)

This concluded the business of the meeting

# ARDMHÉARA

# CATHAOIRLEACH