

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 19th JULY 2021

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir C. Kelleher
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, F. Ryan.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Rying.
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. Ms. E. Roberts, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure Development. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. D. Roche, A/Director of Services, Housing. Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect. Mr. N. Carroll, Meetings Administrator. Ms. N. Stewart, Administrative Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

1.1 **MEETING ON LOCAL PROPERTY TAX 2022**

Lord Mayor informed An Chomhairle that the Corporate Policy Group and Party Whips meetings will take place on Wednesday 21st July to receive the Chief Executive's report on the Local Property Tax 2022.

1.2 **INTOXICATING LIQUOR (DRINKING ON THE STREETS BYE LAWS) COMMITTEE**

Lord Mayor informed An Chomhairle that a meeting of the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor (Drinking on the Streets Bye Laws) Committee will be convened in the next few weeks to begin the Bye Law review.

1.3 **MOTION OF SOLIDARITY WITH COLOGNE**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Boyle, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, a motion of support and solidarity to the citizens of Cologne following the recent serious flooding was unanimously agreed.

2. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

No items raised.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. Bogue, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend Standing Orders to consider a motion in respect of Cork Life Centre.

‘That Cork City Council will write to the Department of Education and Skills to request that the Review of out of school provision report is published quickly in order that educational facilities such as the Cork Life project receive appropriate supports and sustainable finance to continue their valuable educational work which we support.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue)

3. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 5th JULY 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 5th July 2021 and further noted that a number of Councillors opposed the issuing of a letter of consent to Páirc Uí Chaoimh, whilst acknowledging this it is a matter for the Chief Executive. Comhairleoir D. Cahill asked for it to be noted that he objected to a vote not been taken on the motion.

3.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31st MAY 2021**

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

3.2 **REPORT ON MOTION**

CAR-FREE DAY

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture and Placemaking, dated 1st July 2021 on the following motion referred to Corporate Policy Group:

‘That Cork City Council would agree to hold a pilot car-free day in Cork city centre on Sunday, 19th September 2021 as part of E.U. Mobility Week with due consideration given to exemptions which may be required by blue badge holders and persons of reduced mobility.’

(Proposers: Cllr. G. Kelleher, Cllr. O. Moran, Cllr. C. Finn, Cllr. D. Boyle 21/269)

In the month of September Cork City Council will be supporting and promoting Bike Week 12th – 18th and European Mobility Week 16th – 22nd. Last year Cork City Council assisted in hosting over 150 events for both events and would look to do similar number of events this year providing current covid restrictions remain in place.

Car free day is scheduled for the 22nd of September, Cork City Council will be taking this opportunity to encourage people not to use their car on this day and Cork City Council will also use this day to highlight and promote the changes in the city’s infrastructure to make it easier and safer to travel around the city without the need of a car. In particular there will be promotion on the pedestrianisation of the city centre streets as well as the substantial investment in new cycling lanes and upgrades that have taken place over the last year. Cork City Council will continue to work with the relevant stakeholders to make both Bike Week and European Mobility Week along with Car Free Day a greater success this year.

As this last year has been particularly hard on the businesses in Cork City due to covid restrictions Cork City Council is aiming to support the revitalisation of a thriving city centre. With the increase in pedestrianisation and cycling infrastructure over the last 12 months we will focus on promoting the use of sustainable transport and “leaving your car at home” policy while keeping our city centre inviting and open for business, pleasure and enjoyment.

An Chomhairle further noted that certain Councillors opposed the issuing of a letter of consent to P.U.C., acknowledging this It is a matter for the Chief Executive.

4. **PARTY WHIPS – 28th JUNE 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 28th June 2021.

5. **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 21st JUNE 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 21st June 2021.

5.1 **UPDATES/REPORTS**

5.1.1 **PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate dated 14th June 2021 regarding Parking Enforcement.

5.1.2 **CORK BUS CONNECTS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the updated Briefing Note on Bus Connects from the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, dated 16th April 2021.

5.2 **MOTIONS**

5.2.1 **DEVELOPING AN URBAN GREENWAY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure & Development Directorate, dated 3rd June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That mindful of ongoing plans to improve access points to Tramore Valley Park, and conscious of national funding being made widely available for greenway projects, that Cork City Council embarks on an ambitious plan to develop, improve and connect the existing walkways from Togher to Kinsale Road and from Lehenaghmore to Bishopsotwn (Old Bandon Railway line) into an Urban Greenway connecting ultimately with Tramore Valley Park and onwards with the Marina and the Mahon-Passage walkway. Such plans to be considered as a masterplan for greenway routes in the city and for facilitating multi-point pedestrian and cyclist access to TVP to include Togher/Ballyphehane/Turners Cross sides. Short term improvements (e.g. surfacing and upgrading) should also be considered immediately for the routes which have experienced increased usage in the Covid-19 climate.’

(Proposers: Cllr. M. Finn, Cllr. T. Moloney 21/139)

The report stated that the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS) sets out a coordinated transport and land use strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area up to 2040. It details the necessary supporting programme of investment for infrastructure in the short, medium and long term and all NTA & TII funding allocations during the relevant period will be guided by CMATS. The delivery of new and improved cycle infrastructure as set out in the Cork Cycle Network Plan is an important part of CMATS and many of the suggested measures are now being progressed. City Council recently secured funding to enable the appointment of a design team later this year for the development of phase 1 of the Viaduct to City Greenway Scheme (ph 1 Viaduct to Kinsale Rd). This project will also enable the provision of connections to other adjoining areas. Discussions have also commenced with the NTA regarding the continuation of this route to the City Centre via existing roads with connections to Tramore Valley Park. It is expected that these plans will be developed over the coming five years. Large sections of cycle Infrastructure between the City Centre, Docklands, the Marina and Passage Greenway are also currently under construction with other elements scheduled to follow in the coming years. The increased financial resources that are becoming available for sustainable infrastructure in the City will support the delivery of improved interconnections and continuity of all routes as envisaged by CMATS and the related cycle network plan. Members will kept apprised of progress in the delivery of these improvements.

5.2.2 **WAIVE CHARGES FOR SEATING PERMITS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 3rd June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council waive the charges for seating permits in 2021 for restaurants, cafes and pubs in Cork City when they are allowed to reopen.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 21/148)

The report stated that Cork City Council is very conscious of the need for us to both support the reopening of the City and business therein following the various lockdown periods necessitated by the national response to the global COVID 19 pandemic. In 2020 Cork City Council made a very early decision to waive Street Furniture License fees for the entire year of 2020. Again for 2021 Cork City Council made a very early decision to waive fees in 2021. All applicants and license holders were informed of this decision. More recently the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has amended S254 of the Planning Act to waive fees for Street Furniture Licenses at a national level for the 2021 calendar year.

5.2.3 **REVIEW THE HOURS OF OPERATION OF ALL BUS LANES IN THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 3rd June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council will review the hours of operation of all bus lanes in the city with a view to expanding all bus lanes to 24-hour operation to support public transport, including taxis, safe cycling at all hours, and in advance of the implementation of BusConnects in the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 21/157)

The report stated that in accordance with best practise, the reallocation of road space, in this case to a bus lane, is made when there is a need / demand for same. Premature allocation can give rise to issues of non-compliance and abuse of the bus lane. There is ongoing engagement between Cork City Council and Bus Eireann and we will engage with Bus Eireann in relation locations that may benefit from a modification to the operational hours of the bus lanes in advance of BusConnects.

5.2.4 **ALTERNATIVES TO BUS SHELTERS FOR THE COMFORT OF PASSENGERS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 3rd June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council will report on alternatives to bus shelters for the comfort of passengers waiting at locations where there is reduced space, such as foldable benches and overhead canopies.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 21/158)

The report stated that the NTA have responsibility for selecting, designing, installing and maintaining bus shelters. The request for alternative bus shelters will be referred to the NTA for their consideration.

5.2.5 **TRAFFIC DIVERSIONS DURING MAINTENANCE OF THE JACK LYNCH TUNNEL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 3rd June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council will engage with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to put in place suitable diversions for traffic during scheduled maintenance of the Jack Lynch Tunnel so as to reduce the number of HGVs travelling through residential areas at night time, in particular residential sections of the Lower Glanmire Road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 21/167)

The report stated that Cork City Council will engage with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and request the investigation of suitable diversionary routes during scheduled maintenance of and unplanned events in the Jack Lynch Tunnel.

5.2.6 **IMPLEMENTATION OF A FREIGHT SURVEY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 3rd June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘To ask council to update members on the implementation of a Freight Survey and to ensure that Blarney Street, Blarney Road, Cathedral Road and Parklands estate are included to avoid HGVs travelling these routes.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 21/170)

The report stated that Traffic Operations will review the existing urban freight study and identify any obstacles in the use of these routes and remedial measures required, identify other actions required to maximise the efficiency of the network from a freight perspective and consider the need to restrict types and times of HGV uses on specified streets. Blarney Street, Blarney Road, Cathedral Road and Parklands estate can be considered as part of this review.

5.2.7 COMPLETE PROPOSED RAIL STATION/PARK AT STONEVIEW

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure & Development Directorate, dated 3rd June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council call on Deputy Eamon Ryan, Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport and ask that the funding be made available to Iarnróid Eireann and Cork City Council to complete the proposed (as demonstrated in the approved CMATS programme) rail station/park on the outskirts of Blarney known as Stoneview. This project is regarded the easiest to deliver and the most cost effective of the eight locations set out in CMATS. The use of rail as a form of sustainable travel and the connectivity of Cobh to Blarney from a tourist perspective can then be realised and the predicted growth of both workers and residents in the area can be accommodated.’

(Proposers: Cllr. D. Boylan, Cllr. D. Cahill 21/150)

The report stated that the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS) sets out the required land based transportation improvements for Cork over the coming two decades. Within CMATS provision is made for significant investment in inter-city services, the suburban rail network and existing and new train stations.

New train stations will support population and employment growth and have been proposed at locations that align with the strategic land use planning objectives of Cork City and County Councils.

CMATS envisages that these new stations would be developed in tandem with the early phases of new residential development so that they would be in place in advance of substantial occupation of such new development.

The new stations are proposed on both the Mallow and Middleton Cobh lines as follows –

Cork Mallow line	Cork – Middleton / Cobh line
Blackpol/Kilbarry,	Tivoli
Monard	Dunkettle
Blarney/Stoneview	Waterrock
	Ballynoe
	Carrigtouhill West

Iarnróid Eireann is currently undertaking a high-level study to support the development of the suburban rail system for the Cork metropolitan region. The review is expected to include a strategic assessment report and a concept, feasibility and options study which will help guide the detailed investment priorities and timelines for its future capital improvement projects.

It will also be supported by the recent National Recovery and Resilience Plan provisions relating to the Cork rail services. These include future electrification

through targeted investment in Cork commuter rail, providing significant capacity increases on the Cork Area Commuter Rail network, including construction of a through platform at Kent Station, line doubling between Glounthaune and Midleton, and re-signalling, with a view to future electrification.

The policies of Cork City Council are and will continue to be fully supportive of the development of new rail stations including that envisaged for Soneview above.

5.2.8 **OUTDOOR DINING IN THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 3rd June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council remove the need for business owners to go through the planning process in order to speed up the delivery of outdoor dining in the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 21/196)

The report stated that a street furniture license is issued under Section 71 of the Roads Act 1993 and Section 254 of the Planning & Development Act 2000. From an administrative perspective licenses are managed and issued by the Roads Operations Division. Licenses are however reviewed by the Planning Department to ensure planning permission is not required, by the Fire Department in terms of emergency access and by the Gardai in terms of crowd control and public order. Cork City Council has been operating a licensing system for many years and has well established and efficient systems for coordinating these inputs. Since the outset of the COVID pandemic Cork City Council has waived fees on the street furniture license (2020 and 2021), revised the format to license area rather than tables and chairs and created an online platform for applicants to apply for a license. These actions have greatly streamlined the application process. Furthermore, revisions to the legislation, applying zero fees for 2021 (already implemented by Cork City Council) as well a new exemption to planning to permit awnings be licensed under street furniture licenses (where as previously they required planning permission), have been implemented by the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It is important that the deployment of street furniture on public streets is managed and co-ordinated to ensure that there is not a “free for all” and that the needs of all users of the public realm are respected, especially those with mobility challenges. This is recognised by the Department who have made the above changes to the national legislation governing the issuing of such licenses but did not go as far as removing the legal requirement for businesses to have a valid license in place at all times. As such the Council has done everything in its power to speed up the application process with applications submitted in a timely manner, with the required supporting documents, being processed efficiently, as the 160 licenses processed annually are testament to.

5.2.9 **CORK TO BANDON AND WEST CORK RAIL LINE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure & Development Directorate, dated 3rd June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council utilise the E.U. and national finances available to have a feasibility study undertaken to investigate the use of the former Cork to Bandon and West Cork rail line as a green way and historical trail, incorporating the Chetwynd Viaduct and Gogginshill Tunnel, and its potential extension to the Halfway Viaduct and other historical features further west.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Dennehy 21/200)

The report stated that the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy sets out the investment requirements for the metropolitan area over the period to 2040. It recommends the delivery of an extensive cycle network as set out in the Cork Cycle Network Plan including a greenway along a section of the historic route of the Cork Bandon rail line. Much of the old rail line, including the features referenced above, are in the functional area of Cork County Council which is the relevant authority for such developments in its area. However it is to be noted that the City Council recently secured initial funding from the National Transport Authority in the amount €80,000 for the preliminary design of the first project along the route i.e. *The Viaduct to City Cycle Route Phase 1 (Viaduct to Kinsale Road)*. Over the coming years additional aspects of the proposed cycle route will be delivered (subject to funding and planning consents). These further phases will provide linkages to the City Centre and the wider cycle network. Members will be kept apprised of progress in the delivery of the proposed greenway infrastructure.

6. **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 31st MAY 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Roads & Transportation Policy Committee from its meeting held, 31st May 2021.

7. **HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 15th JUNE 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee from its special meeting held, 15th June 2021.

7.1 **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report on Housing for April 2021.

7.2 **MOTIONS**

7.2.1 **ANIMAL WELFARE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Housing, dated 15th June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council carry out a full veterinary inspection of all halting site animals, canine, equestrian and domestic animals, and for a full report to be presented to Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 21/105)

The report of the Acting Director of Services, Housing advised that the welfare of animals is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). The City Council has no responsibility in this regard.

The report also stated that we do have responsibilities that allow us to seize, detain and/or destroy horses in a number of situations; unlicensed horses in control areas, stray or unidentifiable horses or horses causing a nuisance or posing a danger. Likewise we have operational responsibilities regarding the control of dogs; but again this does not encompass animal welfare.

7.2.2 **PROVISION OF CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS, SMOKE ALARMS AND FIRE BLANKETS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Acting Director of Services, Housing, dated 10th June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council will report on its responsibility in providing carbon monoxide alarms, smoke alarms and fire blankets to its tenants and whether all households will be supplied with same.’

‘Go dtuairisceoidh Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí ar a duaglgas aláraim aonocsaíd charbóin, aláraim dheataigh agus blaincéad tine a chur ar fáil dá tionóntaí agus go ndéarfadh siad an gcuirfear amhlaidh ar fáil do gach teach.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 21/124)

The report of the Acting Director of Services, Housing advised that Cork City Council’s obligations in relation to the provision of carbon monoxide alarms, smoke alarms and fire blankets to its tenants is set out in SI No 137 of 2019 Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019, which updated and amended the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2017 (S.I. 17/2017). Obligations for Fire are also contained in the Fire Services Acts (1981 to 2003).

- Regulation 6(6) of SI 137 of 2019 states ‘Each house shall contain, where necessary, suitably located devices for the detection and alarm of carbon monoxide’.
- Regulation 10(1) of SI 137 of 2019 states ‘Each house shall contain a suitable self-contained fire detection and alarm system’
- Regulation 10(2) of SI 137 of 2019 states ‘Each house shall contain a suitably located fire blanket’.

Cork City Council is committed to complying with its obligations under the Regulations. Once a tenancy is agreed, the tenant agrees to be responsible for repairs, replacements or attention to detectors, alarm systems and fire blankets.

8. **STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 21st JUNE 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Strategic, Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 21st June 2021.

8.1 **BUTTER MARKET REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the process involved in developing the proposals for the Butter Market Redevelopment.

8.2 **CITY CENTRE PLACEMAKING – GREENING THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services on the City Centre Placemaking – Greening the City.

8.3 **LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) SUPPORTS UPDATE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Local Enterprise Office Supports update.

8.4 **MOTIONS**

8.4.1 **ZONING LAND FOR EDUCATIONAL USE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 27th May 2021 on the following motion referred to the committee:-

‘Given the extremely long waiting lists for ASD classes in local primary and secondary schools and the serious shortage of special schools in Cork, that Cork City Council ensure that, in the City Development Plan, a particular emphasis is placed in zoning land for educational use.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 21/188)

The report stated the Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028 will include educational uses in relevant land-use zonings across the city.

8.4.2 **SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 15th June 2021 on the following motion referred to the committee:-

‘That Cork City Council in the formation for their City Development Plan would strengthen the process of special contributions for new developments that would go to support local community projects.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Sheehan 21/191)

The report stated a new Development Contribution Scheme will be prepared following the adoption of the City Development Plan 2022-2028 in mid-2022. The process to make the new Scheme will consider how contributions are applied in accordance with the legislation.

A planning authority may require the payment of a contribution in respect of “public infrastructure and facilities” – including the provision of open spaces, recreational and community facilities and amenities, and in certain cases schools – benefiting development in the area and that is or will be provided by or on behalf of a local authority.

A Development Contribution Scheme must state the bases for determining contributions by estimating future development and identifying the required infrastructure and costs of its provision. Ministerial Guidelines specify that Schemes should only include details of infrastructure that has been identified in development plans and that only infrastructure essential to realising the objectives of the development plan should include.

The planning authority must have regard to the actual estimated cost of providing the public infrastructure and facilities, and money accruing under a Scheme may only be applied as capital for public infrastructure and facilities.

“Special contributions” only apply in cases where specific exceptional costs not covered by a Scheme are incurred by a local authority in respect of public infrastructure and facilities which benefit a particular proposed development.

8.4.3 **LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION ZONES**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 15th June 2021 on the following motion referred to the committee:-

‘That Cork City Council will develop a policy for the legal protection of areas of natural habitat and areas designated a Landscape Preservation Zone in the city; and that this policy will inform the strategy for protection of these areas in the new city development plan.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 21/207)

Landscape Preservation Zones is a land-use zoning category in the current Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021. Each individual Landscape Preservation Zone has its own characteristics, and many allow varying degrees of development. All Landscape Preservation Zones have been reviewed and assessed as part of the preparation of the Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028.

Legal protection for natural habitats is afforded under EU or Irish law, and governed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Special Areas of Conservation (EU Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (EU Birds Directive) are selected and designated under

EU law, while Natural Heritage Areas (Wildlife Amendment Act 2000) are selected and designated under Irish law.

The Draft City Development Plan 2022-2028 includes a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy to consider how best to protect and enhance Cork City's green and blue assets. The Strategy sets out a series of objectives and identifies a series of opportunities to deliver a range of green and blue infrastructure improvements across the City, which include wilder spaces, destination parks and support for biodiversity.

8.4.4 **BLACKPOOL LOCAL AREA PLAN**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 15th June 2021 on the following motion referred to the committee:-

‘That Cork City Council put in place a new Blackpool Local Area Plan (LAP), focussing on the regeneration of the area, while using the opportunity of the City Development Plan public consultation process to host a Collaborative Blackpool Village Centre Health Check Community Engagement which can inform the LAP.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 21/280)

The report stated that the North Blackpool Local Area Plan 2011 is currently still in force and has been extended until September 2021. The Draft Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028 includes specific reference to Blackpool and includes objectives to produce a framework plan for the development of the Blackpool/Kilbarry area and to produce a plan for the regeneration of the Blackpool neighbourhood centre.

The Collaborative Town Centre Health Check is a Heritage Council of Ireland program carried out in collaboration with local authorities, the education and business sectors and local communities. Heritage Council of Ireland approve the locations of the Health Checks and facilitate the process of producing and completing the Health Check report. Heritage Council of Ireland are not carrying out health checks under this programme on urban locations, however Cork City Council can request Heritage Council of Ireland to consider including urban locations such as Blackpool for Collaborative Town Centre Health Checks.

8.4.5 **REGENERATION PLAN FOR AVENUE DE RENNES**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 16th June 2021 on the following motion referred to the committee:-

‘The Council while it has now identified the various land owners in the Avenue de Rennes area it would now produce major regeneration plan for the area. This plan needs to be finalised as soon as possible and an application to government to fund this much needed project.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Cahill 21/254)

The report stated that Cork City Council has commenced engagement with the various property holders in Avenue de Rennes, with a view to redeveloping the area. The objectives of regeneration of this site will be considered as part of the City Development Plan 2022-2028. In parallel, Cork City Council will continue to work with landowners to appraise options for the suitable development of the site. Regeneration will be subject to business planning and active land management.

9. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th JUNE 2021**

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

10. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th JUNE 2021**

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

11. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th JUNE 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 28th June 2021.

12. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th JUNE 2021**

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

13. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 29th JUNE 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 29th June 2021.

14. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 14th JUNE 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 14th June 2021.

15. **CENTENARY COMMEMORATION 2019-2023 STEERING COMMITTEE – 15th JUNE 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Centenary Commemoration 2019-2023 Steering committee from its meeting held, 15th June 2021.

15.1 **MOTIONS**

15.1.1 **ATTACH QR CODE TO ALL REPUBLICAN MONUMENTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 10th June 2021 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council would attach a QR code to all republican monuments within Cork City Council administrative area and also that they would put a budget aside to clean said monuments every 5 years.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 21/151)

15.2 **COMMEMORATION FUND UPDATE**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 15th June 2021 on the Commemoration Fund Update.

16. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 5th JULY 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 5th July 2021.

16.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

16.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF MAY 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Financial Statements to end of May 2021.

17. **SPORTS COMMITTEE – 6th JULY 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Sports Committee from its meeting held, 6th July 2021.

18. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE – 7th JULY 2021**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the International Relations Committee from its meeting held, 7th July 2021.

19. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

None received.

20. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

21. **TRAINING**

None received.

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

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive’s Monthly Management report for May 2021.

23. **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 O. Moran, An Chomhairle agreed to refer motion 21/325- Amphitheatre at Farran Cleary Place to the North East Local Area Committee rather than to the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee.

24. **MOTIONS**

24.1 **DISTURBANCES AT RENTED PROPERTIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That in light of ongoing noise and disturbance issues in the vicinity of UCC in recent months and more generally across the city where such disturbances occur regularly at rented properties, Cork City Council writes to the Justice Minister to establish whether or not the Gardaí have sufficient powers to enforce the law and whether or not the law needs to be updated to ensure property owners take responsibility for what goes on in them. This is in the interest of residents’ rights to be able to live peacefully in their own homes and neighbourhoods.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 21/291)

24.2 **UPGRADE JUNCTION AT DOUGLAS VILLAGE EAST**

An Chomhairle agreed to defer the following motion to the next meeting of An Chomhairle to be held 13th September 2021:-

‘That Council write to the TII seeking immediate funding for upgrade of junction in Douglas East Village due to congestion of traffic through the village.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Forde 21/293)

24.3 **WATER TOWER IN KNOCKNAHEENY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to Irish Water and ask the company to replace the bulbs on the water tower in Knocknaheeny and relight the landmark tower.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 21/301)

24.4 **TEST KITS FOR HOMES WITH HIGH LEVELS OF RADON GAS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to introduce grants for test kits and sumps for homes affected with high levels of radon gas nationally. "Radon is a radioactive gas linked to 300 lung cancer cases each year in Ireland – the second largest cause after smoking - with one-third of the country classified as a high radon area by the EPA".’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 21/304)

24.5 **MONTENOTTE PARK POST OFFICE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council calls on the government to immediately reverse the decision to close Montenotte Park post office and to halt the policy of closing post offices, rural or urban, and to use the post office infrastructure to set up a state owned and operated citizens’ bank.

This citizen bank is to work with the credit unions throughout the State, and we must also recognise that the existing private banking sector are out to make massive profits at the expense of the citizens.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Tynan 21/308)

24.6 **EXTENSION OF 208 BUS SERVICE TO WATERFALL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City council will ask Bus Eireann and NTA for an update on the extension of 208 bus service to Waterfall.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 21/317)

24.7 **SHD PLANNING PROCESS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘In light of the systemic issues in the SHD planning process that led to the Sextant building being demolished, with the applicant for this site subsequently advising that this building was unfeasible, and further issues with build to rent developments granted permission under the SHD process signalling similar issues and therefore serious diseconomies and inefficiencies in delivering planning services - that Cork City Council will write to the minister responsible for planning to request that they ask the OPR to review this matter in ABP's decision-making process as is within their remit.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 21/323)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. Bogue, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend Standing Orders to consider a motion in respect of Cork Life Centre.

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will write to the Department of Education and Skills to request that the Review of out of school provision report is published quickly in order that educational facilities such as the Cork Life project receive appropriate supports and sustainable finance to continue their valuable educational work which we support.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue)

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH