

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014.**

<b>PRESENT</b>	An t-Ardmhéara Comhairleoir M. Shields
<b>NORTH EAST</b>	Comhairleoirí S. Cunningham, T. Tynan, T. Brosnan, J. Kavanagh.
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	Comhairleoirí T. Gould, M. Barry, L. O'Donnell, J. Sheehan.
<b>NORTH WEST</b>	Comhairleoirí M. Nugent, T. Fitzgerald, K. Collins, M. O'Sullivan.
<b>SOUTH EAST</b>	Comhairleoirí K. McCarthy, C. O'Leary, D. Cahill, T. Shannon, N. O'Keeffe, S. O'Shea.
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, F. Kerins, T. O'Driscoll, S. Martin.
<b>SOUTH WEST</b>	Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, F. Dennehy, P.J. Hourican, T. Moloney.
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Comhairleoir K. O'Flynn.
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Mr. T. Keating, Meetings Administrator, Corporate & External Affairs. Mr. N. Carroll, Staff Officer, Corporate & External Affairs. Ms. V. O'Sullivan, Director of Services, Corporate & External Affairs. Mr. D. Buggy, Assistant City Manager, Housing & Community. Mr. P. Ledwidge, Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development & Enterprise. Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect, Architects. Mr. T. Healy, Head of Finance. Mr. J. O'Donovan, Director of Services, Environment & Recreation. Mr. G. O'Beirne, Director of Services, Roads & Transportation.

An tArd-Mhéara recited the opening prayer.

**LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

An Chomhairle agreed to take Items No. 10.3 & 10.4 after Item 3 - Questions.

1.1 **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

A vote of sympathy was passed unanimously with An Chomhairle standing in silence to

- The Kelly Family on the death of Eileen Kelly.
- The Minihan Family on the death of Nellie Minihan.
- The O'Brien Family on the death of Catherine (Kitty) O'Brien.

1.2 **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS / BEST WISHES**

An Chomhairle extended a vote of congratulations to the following:-

- St. Finbarr's National Hurling & Football Club on winning the Junior Hurling & Football Double.
- Cork Camogie Team on winning the All Ireland Senior Title.
- Brian Aldworth, member of Ballincollig Gunners, on winning the Special Olympics 7 a-side soccer European Championship Gold Medal last week in Belgium for Ireland.

1.3.1 **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

The Lord Mayor had no item to raise.

1.4 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

An Chomhairle noted the report of Mr. Patrick Ledwidge, Chairperson Event Centre, Steering Group dated the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

2. **MINUTES**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the minutes of the following:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

3. **QUESTIONS**

3.1 **CHOICE BASED LETTING SCHEME**

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

Can the Manager tell me when the proposed "Choice Based Letting Scheme" will be operational by the Housing & Community Directorate?

**REPLY**

Following the recent approval to proceed with Choice Based Letting, Website Developers are being commissioned to commence work on a web based IT solution.

It is estimated that this will take three months to design. Following a test phase, it is estimated that choice based letting will be operational by quarter 2 of 2015.

Please note that following reports to the Housing and Community Functional Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014 and the Housing & Community Strategic Policy Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2014, an updated report will be made on Choice Based Letting shortly to the Housing & Community Functional Committee.

3.2 **PROVIDE THE COST OF ILLEGAL BONFIRES, DURING THE LAST SEASONAL BONFIRE PERIOD: MAY/JUNE 2014?**

**The following question submitted by Comhairleoir N. O’Keeffe was deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle.**

Can the Chief Executive please provide the cost of illegal bonfires, during the last seasonal bonfire period: May/June 2014?

- a) How many incidents of illegal bonfires were reported?
- b) How much did the clearing of illegal dumping, emergency service call-outs and the clean up cost Cork City Council?
- c) Was there any damage to public property reported as a result of illegal bonfires?
- d) What preventative measures were put in place to prevent illegal bonfires and at what cost to Cork City Council?

3.3 **NUMBER OF CONSULTANTS EMPLOYED/COMMISSIONED**

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

Could the Manager supply and outline the details of the number of consultants employed/commissioned and successfully tendered to carry out reports, audits, scoping studies and studies undertaken on Cork City Council operations/services, published and unpublished from 2012, 2013 and 2014. What was the criteria and amounts paid for each of same?

**REPLY**

I understand that this matter was dealt with at the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.

3.4 **IS THERE A DESIGNATED PERSON IN THE HOUSING AND ROADS DIRECTORATES TO DEAL WITH ANY COMPLAINTS OR QUERIES THAT ARE MADE WITH REGARD TO HOUSING MAINTENANCE OR ROAD REPAIRS ETC.**

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

Can the CEO tell me if there is a designated person in the Housing and Roads Directorates to deal with any complaints or queries that are made with regard to housing maintenance or road repairs etc.

When these complaints are logged is there a time frame when complaints get viewed and dealt with?

Does a City Council official go out and investigate the complaints?

Can this person put a rough price on the works that are needed to be carried out?

If there isn't a designated person, do you not think one should be put in place so people can have faith that any question, inquiries or complaints are going to be dealt with in a timely manner?

Notwithstanding the financial constraints each department finds themselves with, if people know they are being listening to and heard, and know that their question, inquiries or complaints are being reviewed and will be dealt with in time, and have a rough time to when that time is, they are going to be a lot happier. All people want is honesty, politeness and communication. Communication is the thing that seems to be missing a lot of the time from what I am hearing from people

## **REPLY**

### **Roads**

The Roads & Transportation Directorate operates a Customer Relationship Management System for service requests and queries (e.g. potholes, blocked gullies, traffic signals, road spillages, etc.). Requests received by phone, post, email, etc. are acknowledged, logged, and assigned to the appropriate staff member for attention. Request can be logged via the Roads & Transportation Customer Service Centre at 021 – 492 4189/ 492 4758 or by email [roads@corkcity.ie](mailto:roads@corkcity.ie). This system is to be integrated with the Council's recently introduced online ICT package for members' representations. The latter was introduced in 2014 and is also to be upgraded to provide for online tracking and queries.

There is also a specific online system available through Cork City Council's website for reporting street light faults.

While there is no specific revenue budget allocated to address requests received through the Customer Relationship Management System, all requests are considered and eligible works included in the work programmes.

The timeline for responding to service requests varies depending on the issues in question and in particular the demands/resources available at a given point in time.

### **Re Housing Maintenance Repairs**

There is no single designated person to deal with Housing Maintenance repair requests. Repair requests can be received via a dedicated telephone helpline or by email or by letter. The number of telephone calls alone received amounts to approx 30,000 per annum. The overall volume of valid repair requests amounts to approx 21,000 requests per annum.

The valid requests are logged into the Housing Maintenance repairs IT system by a number of clerical officers, and job dockets issued to the relevant depot foremen on a daily basis. Emergency and urgent requests which require immediate attention are also communicated by phone to the appropriate Engineer / General Foreman.

The target time for responding to repair requests is based on the categorisation of the request as follows:

Emergency : 3 days ;    Urgent : 14 days;    Routine : 42 days.

Emergency requests are generally responded to within 1 day. However due to resource constraints, it is not always possible to meet the target for Routine repairs.

Generally the tradesman to whom the repair is referred will assess the repair and complete the work. For more significant repairs, a foreman may need to pre-inspect in order to determine the scope of the work and to schedule requisite resources.

Where possible repairs are carried out directly by Cork City Council maintenance staff. Specialist repairs such as electrical or gas central heating or drain clearing etc, are carried out by procured contractors based generally on menu based term maintenance contracts.

Given the volume of repair requests received it is not feasible, given the current resource constraints, to designate a person or persons to respond individually to each repair request.

There is a project ongoing to review the operation of public telephone services. This project is looking at efficiencies and improvements in processes and procedures as well as the introduction of an ICT system (Citizen Relationship Management System) solution which will improve the customer experience when contacting Cork City Council with a service request

3.5 **REPAIRING DAMAGED FIRE PLACE IN THE COUNCIL'S REPAIRS PROGRAMME?**

*In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir T. O'Driscoll, a written reply was circulated as outlined below:-*

What level of priority is given to repairing damaged fire place in the Council's repairs programme?

**REPLY**

Repairs to damaged fireplaces would be categorised as Routine.

3.6 **FUNDING FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL FLATS**

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

Is there any funding in Cork City Council for the refurbishment of the Council flats in:

Connolly Road  
Connolly Green,  
Father Dominick Road  
Pearse Road  
Pearse Place  
Killeenreendowney Avenue  
Togher Road  
Edward Walsh Road

Has any application been made by Cork City Council in regard to sourcing funding from Central Government to the refurbishment of the above Local Authority houses?

## **REPLY**

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government indicated in 2013 that they were considering, in association with European Investment Bank funding, a possible scheme for retrofit and refurbishment of Local Authority flats and apartment complexes.

Cork City Council submitted lists of properties, including the flats at these locations, for consideration under this scheme. There have been no further discussions with Department of Environment, Community & Local Government regarding such a possible scheme in 2014.

Other than from central funding, Cork City Council would not have financial resources available to carry out total and overall refurbishment of entire flat complexes.

### 3.7 **TOTAL DEBT ASSOCIATED WITH THE KILBRACK GROVE DEVELOPMENT.**

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

To ask the Manager:

To outline to City Council the total debt associated with the Kilbrack Grove development.

Where is the short fall going to come from?

## **REPLY**

There is an outstanding debit balance in relation to the loans on this development of approximately €540,000. There are 3 no. unsold affordable units in Kilbrack. It is proposed to test the private market by putting these 3 No. units up for sale. If the properties can realise the above debit balance they will be sold. If not the position will be reviewed.

### 3.8 **HARBOUR VIEW ROAD**

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

- a) How much did it cost in total to re-house the six families from numbers 25 to 35 Harbour View Road?
- b) Did Cork City Council purchase houses to decant the six houses on Harbour View Road?
- c) What are the ongoing cost of securing these houses?
- d) When is Cork City Council going to commence the work that was promised over two years ago to secure the properties for the residents/neighbours in numbers 23 & 37 Harbour View Road?

**REPLY**

(a) €72,000.

(b) No.

(c) €60/week.

(d) All works agreed in relation to 23 Harbour View Road have been completed. There were no works agreed to be carried out in relation to 37 Harbour View Road.

3.9 **WHAT PLANS ARE PLACE FOR LANDS LOCATED BEHIND SCOIL MUIRE BANRION GIRLS SCHOOL, OFF BOHERBOY ROAD IN MAYFIELD**

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

Can the Chief Executive please advise on what plans are in place, if any, for any form of development in the immediate or long term future for the lands located behind Scoil Mhuire Banrion Girls School, off Boherboy Road in Mayfield?

**REPLY**

Cork City Council have ownership of a site at Boherboy Road, along with other sites around the City as reported previously to Council and Committee meetings and are presently exploring options with a view to developing these sites for housing in the future.

3.10 **PUBLIC LIGHTING FROM SILVERSPRINGS MORAN HOTEL TO THE DUNKETTLE ROUNDABOUT**

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

Can the Manager please confirm why the public lighting on the National Primary route from Silversprings Moran Hotel to the Dunkettle Roundabout has failed to illuminate after dark. Have the National Roads Authority and the Road Safety Authority been advised of this major failure as the roundabout at Dunkettle and the end of the Dual Carriageway near Silversprings Hotel are notorious accident areas. When can motorists and residents expect to have the lighting back in working order?

**REPLY**

The road lighting on the Tivoli Dual Carriageway caters for the National Primary Route that is located at the boundary of Cork City Council/Cork County Council and extends into the county area. The largest portion of the roadway is located within the County Council area.

The original lighting on Tivoli Dual Carriageway was installed in 1979/1980, 35 years ago and the equipment is life expired. The lanterns are of an obsolete type and are not regarded as being energy efficient.

In the City area, the Council replaced 14 lanterns outbound from Tivoli Overbridge, past Silversprings Hotel on the Tivoli Dual Carriageway, in 2013. This upgrade to the lighting catered for the needs of the residents accessing the Dual Carriageway on a critical section of the roadway. Of the public lights currently out, 9 are in the city area. Of these, 3 lights need to be replaced and 6 lights are obsolete. We are currently arranging with AUS to replace the former. The remaining lights are in the area of Cork County Council. Given the age of the lights, the scheme needs to be redesigned and replaced to provide a more cost effective solution in the area. The replacement of the scheme will be progressed in conjunction with the National Roads Authority and Cork County Council.

3.11 **COACH PARKING SPACES IN THE CITY CENTRE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive Officer to list the number of coach parking spaces in the city centre, the location of these coach parking spaces, the by-laws governing these spaces and in the response to outline plans to increase and develop the number of such parking spaces in the city and adjacent to key tourist locations?

**REPLY**

The Transportation Division advises that, within the city centre, the existing coach parking and bus stops for privately operated scheduled bus services are located on St. Patrick's Quay and a section of Popes Quay. There is also a new coach stop on Bishop's Street, adjacent to St. Fin Barre's Cathedral.

Currently there are no specific bye-laws governing coach parking in the City.

As part of the City Centre Movement Strategy, Cork City Council is currently preparing a high level review of tour bus and coach parking in the city centre which will identify suitable locations, as well as facilities needed for the various type bus services being provided, namely:

- Designated stop points for privately operated scheduled bus services;
- Drop off/ pick up stops for hotels and tourist day trip services;
- Overnight/ long term parking locations for coaches.

The coach parking review study will be presented to the Roads & Transportation Functional Committee for their consideration, in due course.

3.12 **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON THE BLARNEY ROAD**

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

Can the Manager outline why funding for a pedestrian crossing on the Blarney Road, near the Stoneridge Estate, seems to have been rescinded though the crossing was previously approved by Council and said to be installed in 2014? Was the funding moved to another project?

## **REPLY**

The Transportation Division advises that the need for a pedestrian crossing on Blarney Road, near the Stone Ridge Estate has been established. Cork City Council is committed to delivering this scheme.

Specific funding for the scheme was secured through a Non National (i.e., Regional and Local) Roads Low Cost Safety Improvement Works grant in 2013 and a preliminary design was prepared at that stage.

An application for Non National Roads Low Cost Safety Improvement Works funding to deliver the scheme in 2014 was made to allow project proceed to construction. The application was unsuccessful. In addition there was no Cork City Council revenue budget allocation to complete the scheme in 2014. Consequently it has not been possible to bring the scheme to construction in 2014.

Notwithstanding the above, we will shortly be applying for 2015 funding, and if successful the scheme will be progressed through a Section 38 of the 1994 Road Traffic Act and onto construction in 2015.

Funding under the Non National Roads Low Cost Safety Improvement Works Grant is not transferrable, either to another project or to another year.

### 3.13 **FUTURE OF THE EX SHANDON CRAFT CENTRE**

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

To ask the CE about the future of the ex Shandon Craft Centre? What is the plan regarding this site going forward and the keen interest expressed in developing the site as a community hub by local groups?

## **REPLY**

Over the past three years, a number of options have been examined for the Butter Exchange building in Shandon. These included the mounting of a permanent food and music exhibition, a Diaspora museum and accommodating a major third level institution in the premises. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, no suitable sustainable use has yet been identified for this iconic building. The Council recognise the value in rejuvenating this historic area of the city and will continue to explore all options for its future use.

### **AN CHOMHAIRLE AGREED TO TAKE ITEMS 10.3 & 10.4**

### 10.3 **RELOCATION OF COUNTRY CLEAN TO A NON- RESIDENTIAL AREA**

An Chomhairle considered the following Motion:-

‘The elected members of Cork City Council fully support the community call for the Country Clean waste facility and other waste facilities at Churchfield to be relocated to a non-residential area.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Barry 14/325)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. O’Leary, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Finn, An Chomhairle considered and approved the following amendment:-

‘The elected members of Cork City Council fully support the community call for the Country Clean and other waste facilities in Churchfield be relocated to non-residential areas or to non commercial/manufacturing business areas.’

10.4 **CHURCHFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IS NOT A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR WASTE COLLECTION COMPANIES**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the following Motion:-

‘That Cork City Council supports the view of residents campaign groups that Churchfield Industrial Estate is not a suitable location for Waste Collection companies particularly those engaged in operations such as black bag and food waste collections. Council believes such services should be relocated to an alternative location. The Chief Executive will write to Cork County Council seeking a high level meeting to examine the potential of the Bottlehill site to receive waste in the short term. Cork City Council acknowledges the discomfort and disruption endured by residents across the Northside due to the operations of Waste Collection companies in their community.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent, K. Collins, T. Gould 14/332)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. Collins, An Chomhairle unanimously approved that a letter be sent to the Minister for Environment outlining that the EPA Licence is not being enforced.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Finn, it was agreed to Suspend Standing Orders to continue the meeting to finish the Agenda.

4. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group, from its meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

4.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2014**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Financial Statement to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014.

4.2 **AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Buttimer, Seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle unanimously approved the appointment of the following as external members of the Audit Committee of Cork City Council:

Mr. Aidan Horan  
Mr. Sean Angland  
Ms. Gillian Keating  
Ms. Margaret Lane

5. **PARTY WHIPS & LEADERS – 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Party Whips & Leaders from its meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

6. **TOURISM, ARTS & CULTURE FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Tourism, Arts & Culture Functional Committee, from its meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

6.1 **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the Director of Services Reports dated 15<sup>th</sup> September on the following motions which were referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

6.1.1 **REINSTATE MOBILE LIBRARY AT MAHON AND BLACKROCK**

‘I propose the motion that Cork City Council reinstates the mobile library service for Mahon and Blackrock.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Keeffe 14/308)

The report stated that the Council took the decision to suspend the Mobile Library service for the time being, in July 2014. The decision was taken because of the moratorium on replacing staff in local authorities, which has impacted very seriously on the library service. Because of recent retirements the Council is not now in a position to staff the Mobile Library service.

As members will be aware, the Council’s intention is provide a permanent purpose-built library on Skehard Road, to serve the South East Ward, and this project received Part VII planning approval earlier this year.

The Council will keep the situation under continuous review.

6.1.2 **UPCOMING CENTENARIES OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS**

‘That Cork City Council formulate plans to celebrate the upcoming centenaries over the next ten years:-

1. Outbreak of World War 1
2. Sinking of Lusitania
3. 1916 Rising
4. War of Independence
5. Treaty
6. Civil War’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 11/185a)

The report stated that the capacity and the degree to which the above suggestions may be commemorated is entirely dependent on funding being made available through the budgetary process. The TEAM Unit is looking currently at a joint proposal with Cork County Council and the Port of Cork to commemorate the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915. The 1916 Rising and the special role which Cork played in the War of Independence will certainly be commemorated. However, the scale of each of those intentions will be determined by the funding available.

The Treaty and Civil War commemorations are as yet six and seven years away and proposals for same will be considered closer to the commemorative year.

### 6.1.3 **ANNIVERSARY OF CORK'S EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE AWARD**

‘That the Council mark the tenth anniversary in 2015 since the city’s European Capital of Culture award via a festival or lecture series etc.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 13/435)

The report stated that Cork City Council is working to secure funding as part of our budgetary process in advance of 2015 to prepare for a series of events celebrating the tenth anniversary of Cork 2005, European Capital of Culture. Once this allocation has been confirmed we will proceed with plans for these celebrations.

## 7. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Functional Committee, from its meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

### 7.1 **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered the reports of Tim Healy, Head of Finance, dated the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 on following motions referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

#### 7.1.1 **15% CUT IN PROPERTY TAX**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Tim Healy, Head of Finance on the following Motion, dated the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

‘That Cork City Council introduce a 15% cut in property tax for homeowners across the city & calls on the Fine Gael/Labour administration not to penalise Cork City on the introduction of the relief for homeowners.’

(Proposer: Cllr K. O’Flynn, Cllr M. Shields, Cllr T. Brosnan,  
Cllr T. Fitzgerald, Cllr F. Dennehy, Cllr N. O’Keeffe 14/287)

The report stated that under Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended by Section 5 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2013, a Local Authority may as a reserved function resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of +/- 15%.

In varying the rate, the Local Authority must take account of its financial position, and have regard to a number of factors:

- The Local Authority's estimation of the income it will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which the varied rate is to have effect,
- The financial position of the Local Authority,
- The financial effect of the varied rate, and
- Feedback from any consultation held.

The City Council has set the 29<sup>th</sup> September as the date on which the Local Adjustment Factor for the Property Tax in respect of the Cork City Area for next year will be set.

An Chomhairle unanimously agreed to write to the Minister for Finance outlining their concerns regarding the Property Tax.

It was agreed that the Local Property Tax would be set at the Statutory Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Comhairleoir F. Dennehy requested that his objection to this decision be noted.

#### 7.1.2 **RATE FREEZE**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the Report of Tim Healy, Head of Finance on the following Motion, dated the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

‘That Cork City Council introduce a rate freeze across the city to owners to allow community social groups, short term activity in vacant sites or short term lets in the Arts, Crafts and Artisan Food Sector.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/242)

The report stated that Commercial Rates are payable on all rated business premises in Cork City. However if a premises is vacant and actively marketed a refund of 50% of the rates can be availed of.

Any use of a rateable property renders it no longer vacant whether the use is commercial or otherwise.

However Cork City Council introduced a scheme in 2012 whereby discretionary rates relief is given on premises which are occupied by groups and individuals involved in the Arts and cultural activity at the current vacant property reduction rate of 50%. Copy of scheme attached.

The cultural nature of their activities, the benefits to the community because of these activities, and their role in ameliorating high vacancy rates, are all seen as of benefit to the city.

The scheme is a very positive action by Cork City Council in addressing the current vacancy levels in commercial premises and in bridging the facilities shortfall for artists and creative workshop spaces.

If members consider it appropriate to extend such a scheme to allow property owners let their premises at minimal rents to community, social groups or other not for profit groups the matter can be further investigated with a view to bringing forward such an extended scheme to the members.

### 7.1.3 **CARERS & THE HOUSEHOLD PROPERTY TAX**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the Report of Tim Healy, Head of Finance on the following Motion, dated the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

‘That Cork City Council give a commitment that we will extend local property tax exemptions to include household where a high level of care is provided.

Local Authorities will have power to control local property rates after 2015, make a household where a high level of care is provided exempt from property tax and at the very minimum commit to maintaining the local property tax at current rates for all other houses where care is provided.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 14/258)

The report stated that under Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended by Section 5 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2013, a Local Authority may as a reserved function resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax within its functional area by a maximum of +/- 15%.

However while members of Cork City Council have this discretion the relevant legislation sets out the exemptions that are allowed from the tax which are applied by the Revenue Commissioners and the City Council has no role or authority in those matters.

### 8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to note.

### 9. **MOTIONS**

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

#### 9.1 **ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAMME**

‘That Cork City Council include:-

1. O’Connell Crescent
2. Friar’s Road
3. Father Mathew Road
4. Douglas Road
5. Derrynane Road
6. Upper Derrynane Road
7. St. Ann’s Park and Beaufort Park.

in a programme of entire resurfacing.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 14/248)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

9.2 **ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAMME**

‘That Cork City Council include:-

1. Green Street
2. Bonaventure Place
3. Townsend Place
4. Presentation Place
5. Mount Carmel Road
6. Friars Walk.

in a programme of entire resurfacing.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 14/249)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

9.3 **SAFETY RAILINGS BETWEEN THE HOUSES AND ROADWAY ON ST STEPHEN ST AND BLUE COAT MEWS**

‘That Cork City Council installs safety railings between the houses and roadway on St Stephen St and Blue Coat Mews as there are no footpaths in this area and the houses (some of which houses young families on RAS) open straight onto the road; as part of this process, the old basketball court - now unused - be provided as a play area for children with access only from the rear of houses in Blue Coat Mews and adjoining properties (as already discussed with Recreation & Amenity).’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 14/264)

**Environment & Recreation Functional Committee**

9.4 **COUNCIL ESTABLISH A HOUSING TRUST**

‘That Cork City Council establish a housing trust, an arms-length company, in Cork City Council.

This company would then be able to borrow money from the Housing Finance Authority (HFA). The money would then be used to secure mortgages on which Cork City Council could build houses, which would then be rented to those on the housing lists.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/273)

**Housing & Community Functional Committee**

9.5 **COMPLETE THE RENOVATION OF NANO NAGLE BRIDGE**

‘That the City Council honours a commitment to complete the renovation of Nano Nagle Bridge which is one of the most used, yet grubbiest, access points into the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M, Finn 14/284)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

9.6 **WEEKLY “NIGHT MARKET” IN THE CITY CENTRE AREA**

‘As part of an initiative to bring people back into Cork City and enjoy the shopping experience that Cork has to offer ; that Cork City Council introduce a weekly “Night Market” in the city centre area that would commence in June and finish in August.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/288)

**Tourism, Arts & Culture Functional Committee**

9.7 **BUILD 1,300 HOUSES ON THE LAND BANKS THAT THE COUNCIL OWNS**

‘That Cork City Council would build 1,300 houses on the land banks that the Council owns ( information supplied by the City Manager following a question from me earlier this year ). That Cork City Council would explore establishing a housing Trust which would have the ability to access funding from the Housing Finance Authority, the European Investment Bank or any other financial institution to fund this social housing building project. There are 8,540 families and individuals on the Cork City Housing waiting list while Cork City Council is currently paying 2 million Euros a year for these land banks to lie idle during the worse housing crisis in the City’s history.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Gould 14/313)

**Housing & Community Functional Committee**

9.8 **INSTALL A WELL LIT WEIGHT RESTRICTION SIGN AT THE JUNCTION OF SHANAKIEL ROAD AND BLARNEY ROAD**

‘Can a large well lit sign be installed at the junction of Shanakiel Road and Blarney Road to notify HGV & Tour buses that Blarney Street is unsuitable & a weight restriction is in place.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 14/315)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

9.9 **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AT PARKLAND DRIVE, FAIRHILL**

‘Can traffic calming measures be installed on Parkland Drive Fair Hill to reduce the speed of vehicles using the road.’

(Proposer: Cllr K. Collins 14/316)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

9.10 **THAT CORK CITY COUNCIL ENFORCE A NO DOGS ALLOWED IN CEMETERIES POLICY**

‘That Cork City Council enforce a No Dogs Allowed (except for Guide Dogs) policy in respect of Cemeteries under the care of City Council similar to the policy of Cork County Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 14/319)

**Environment & Recreation Functional Committee**

9.11 **REPORT TO COUNCIL ON ACCESS TO PARKING IN THE CITY FOR SHOPPERS FOLLOWING THE INSTALLATION OF CYCLE LANES**

‘That following the installation of cycle lanes with the consequent disruption to City traffic, City Council officials would prepare a Report to Council on how they propose to advise and encourage shoppers from the Munster region to come shop in Cork and how they may access whatever Parking remains available. This Report should be available quickly so that a pro active shopping campaign can be got underway before min October.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 14/320)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

9.12 **REPAIR THE HONAN MAUSOLEUM IN ST. FINBARR’S CEMETERY**

‘That the Honan Mausoleum in St Finbarr’s Cemetery be repaired; it is in a dreadful condition.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 14/321)

**Environment & Recreation Functional Committee**

9.13 **RESURFACE DOUGLAS SWIMMING POOL CARPARK AND ROAD**

‘That Douglas Swimming Pool Carpark and Road be resurfaced as per the capital money put aside for it at last December’s budget.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 14/322)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

9.14 **ADULT EXERCISE EQUIPMENT AT THE LOUGH**

‘I propose that Cork City Council put adult exercise equipment strategically placed around the Lough. The Lough is an area used by everyone around the whole city, and with the placement of adult exercise equipment around it, it would encourage other users to this area as well as encouraging present users to get more active.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 14/323)

**Environment & Recreation Functional Committee**

9.15 **JUNCTION AT SKEHARD ROAD BLACKROCK**

‘That Cork City Council immediately assesses the urgent need for improvements at the Junction of Skehard Road, the CSO office & Eden & implements appropriate measures. This is a significant safety concern for drivers who are unable to make the turn into Eden safely because of approaching traffic. The lack of a filter lane and/or appropriate traffic light sequencing also creates significant traffic congestion in the area. Also that these improvements would involve the upgrading/painting of road markings; particularly pedestrian markings; as this junction has become treacherous for both pedestrians & vehicle users.

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O' Keefe 14/328)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

9.16 **METHODS OF PAYMENT FOR ON-STREET PAID PARKING**

‘That Cork City Council would develop new methods of payment for on-street paid parking.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 14/331)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

9.17 **FORMER COUNCIL DEPOT ON KNOCKNAHEENY AVENUE IS CLEANED UP**

‘That Cork City Council will ensure that the former council depot on Knocknaheeny Avenue is cleaned up and will also have weeds cleared and the grass cut at an adjacent green area which is behind the Ascension Heights Estate.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 14/333)

**Environment & Recreation Functional Committee**

9.18 **OFFICIAL RECEIPTS FOR PAYMENTS OF RENT TO CITY COUNCIL RECEIVED FROM THE TRAVELLERS WHO RESIDE IN OUR OFFICIAL HALTING SITES ACROSS THE CITY**

‘That City Council would provide official receipts for payments of rent to City Council received from the Travellers who reside in our official halting sites across the city. This would help in some way to alleviate a lot of problems that travellers are experiencing presently when trying to prove their place of residency.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/334)

**Housing & Community Functional Committee**

9.19 **LAMP NO. 42 IN KENLEY AVENUE MODEL FARM ROADS NOT FUNCTIONING**

‘That City Council would inquire from Airtricity why Lamp No. 42 in Kenley Avenue Model Farm Road is not functioning since last December, this particular public light has been reported numerous times to all the relevant bodies by residents of this area but they are still awaiting a successful result. These residents would like to have this problem sorted immediately for security and safety reasons.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/335)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

9.20 **TREE PRUNING IN THE BALLYPHEHANE AREA**

‘That Cork City Council would conduct a tree pruning programme in the Ballyphehane area as branches from many of the blossom trees in the area are unsightly and are becoming a safety hazard.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 14/337)

**Environment & Recreation Functional Committee**

9.21 **PUBLISH A LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN IN LIGHT OF THE COLLIERS REPORT ON THE CITY CENTRE STRATEGY**

‘That Cork City Council would publish a list of actions taken in light of the Colliers report on the City Centre Strategy, the costs associated with these actions, the expected benefit, outcome and effect of these actions and would also publish a schedule of work for the coming twelve, twenty four and thirty six months so as to keep a focus on the city centre.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 14/339)

**Strategic Planning & Economic Development & Enterprise**

10. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered the following motions, due notice of which has been given:-

10.1 **WATER METRES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following Motion.

‘Considering the known risks, ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_mr16JtDTk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_mr16JtDTk)) watch this to see the danger, water meters are not safe and can be contaminated from anyone outside your property. I call on Cork City Council to imminently call on the government to direct Irish Water to stop the insulation of the water meters, postpone the impending charges for water and review the whole operation. This is a step too far & there is a high level of risk & danger to the general public.

This would give the government an opportunity to take a complete review of how Irish Water was set up, the role they have and the charging of the Irish people for a resource that is a human right. Indeed, the Irish public are already paying for water through general taxation.

When the last government abolished the domestic water rates they added 5% onto car tax and 2% onto VAT to cover the cost of supplying water to the nation. These increases have never been removed from our general taxation system, and are totalling €1.2 billion per annum.

If they want to set up a company to take the costs off the Irish Government books then use the already €1.2 billion being paid into water charges but not to charge the Irish people again.

It is ok to admit when you make a mistake & people will accept that, what they will not accept is constant mistruths. Stop it now.'

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 14/317)

The objection of Comhairleoir J. Buttimer to this item was noted.

## 10.2 **ABOLITION OF DOMESTIC WATER CHARGES**

An Chomhairle considered the following Motion:-

'Cork City Council supports the abolition of unjust domestic water charges and supports attempts by the people of this city to resist their imposition.'

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Barry 14/324)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Nugent, An Chomhairle unanimously agreed to the following amendment:-

'Cork City Council supports the abolition of unjust domestic water charges and supports attempts by the people of this city to resist their imposition by peaceful protest.'

**Item 10.3 & 10.4 were taken after Questions.**

## 10.5 **TOURISM MARKETING FUND**

An Chomhairle considered an unanimously and approved the following Motion.

'That the Council calls for a dedicated Tourism Marketing fund to be put in place for the Cork Region.'

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O'Driscoll 14/338)

11. **MOTIONS DEFERRED FROM MEETING OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014.**

The following Motion was deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle.

11.1 **TRADE UNION FEES**

‘That the large Trade Unions cut their affiliation fees by at least 50% for a period of 5 years for employees on salaries less than the average industrial wage and by 25% for employees on salaries above that level in order to help those employees from an economic perspective.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 14/261)

This concluded the business of the meeting

**AN tARD-MHÉARA**  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**