

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016**

<b>PRESENT</b>	An tArd-Mhéara Comhairleoir C. O’Leary.
<b>NORTH EAST</b>	Comhairleoirí S. Cunningham, T. Tynan, T. Brosnan, J. Kavanagh.
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	Comhairleoirí T. Gould, F. Ryan, K. O’Flynn, L. O’Donnell, J. Sheehan.
<b>NORTH WEST</b>	Comhairleoirí M. Nugent, T. Fitzgerald, K. Collins.
<b>SOUTH EAST</b>	Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. McGonigle, T. Shannon, N. O’Keeffe, S. O’Shea.
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, T. O’Driscoll.
<b>SOUTH WEST</b>	Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, H. Cremin, M. Shields, F. Dennehy, P.J. Hourican, T. Moloney.
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Mr. J. G. O’Riordan, Meetings Administrator, Corporate & External Affairs. Ms. C. Currid, Staff Officer, Corporate & External Affairs. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate & External Affairs. Mr. P. Ledwidge, Director of Services, Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise Mr. J. O’Donovan, Director of Services, Environment & Recreation. Ms V. O’Sullivan, Director of Services, Housing & Community Services. Mr. G. O’Beirne, Director of Services, Roads & Transportation. Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect. Mr. J. Hallihan, Head of Finance. Mr. D. Joyce, Senior Executive Officer, ICT & Business Services.

An tArd-Mhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

No Votes of Sympathy received.

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

- Ms. Mary McGrath on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Members of An Chomhairle involved with the Dog Fouling Initiative.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

On the proposal of an t-Ard Mhéara, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon Standing Orders were suspended to discuss in Committee, Senior Counsel’s Opinion in respect of Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001 – Casual Vacancies. The Director of Services, Corporate & External Affairs answered questions from An Chomhairle after

which An Chomhairle agreed to proceed with filling of the Casual Vacancy. The matter to be dealt with at Item 5 on the Agenda.

3. **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

No items raised.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

4.1 **CHIEF EXECUTIVES MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

An Chomhairle noted the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for March 2016.

5. **SECTION 19 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001**

5.1 **CASUAL VACANCY IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF CORK CITY COUNCIL**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. O'Donnell, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Tynan the following motion was proposed from the floor:-

'That Cork City Council propose the co-option of Ms. Fiona Ryan to replace the seat left vacant by Mick Barry.'

(Proposer: Cllr. L. O'Donnell, Seconder: Cllr. T. Tynan)

A vote was called for on the approval of the motion where there appeared as follows:-

**FOR:** Comhairleoirí S. Cunningham, T. Tynan, T. Brosnan, K. O'Flynn, L. O'Donnell, J. Sheehan, M. Nugent, T. Fitzgerald, K. Collins, C. O'Leary, N. O'Keefe, S. O'Shea, M. Finn, F. Kerins, P. Dineen, T. O'Driscoll, H. Cremin, F. Dennehy, T. Moloney (19)

**AGAINST:** Comhairleoirí T. Shannon, M. Shields (2)

**ABSTAIN:** Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, D. Cahill, P.J. Hourican (3)

As those voting in favour was greater than those voting against, An t-Ard Mhéara declared the vote carried, the motion approved, and Ms. Fiona Ryan, AAA-PBP approved to fill the Casual Vacancy arising from the resignation of Comhairleoir M. Barry with immediate effect. Comhairleoir F. Ryan was invited to take her seat in the Council Chamber.

**SUSPENSION OF THE MEETING**

An t-Ard Mhéara suspended the meeting at 6.30pm to address an issue where a member of the public had caused an interruption of the meeting. The meeting was re-convened at 6.40pm.

5.2 **VACANCIES ON BOARDS/COMMITTEES – COMHAIRLEOIR M. BARRY**

An Chomhairle considered the vacancies on boards/committees caused by the resignation of M. Barry. On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Finn, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Moloney, An Chomhairle agreed to the appointment of Comhairleoir F. Ryan to the following committees.

- Housing & Community Strategic Policy Committee
- Housing & Community Functional Committee
- Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise Functional Committee
- Finance & Estimates Functional Committee

6. **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Draft Annual Report for 2015.

7. **MINUTES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn, seconded by Comhairleoir N. O’Keeffe, An Chomhairle considered and approved as correct record the Minutes of:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

8. **QUESTION TIME**

8.1 **ACTION TEAM HAS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAMME OF BRONZE PLAQUES**

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

What action has TEAM taken to implement a programme of Bronze Plaques commemorating Corks:

- A) Historical Figures
- B) Famous Academics
- C) Famous Cork Writers
- D) Cork Actors/Actresses
- E) Sports Stars

(Cllr. Sean Martin)

**REPLY**

Motion no. 11/297 requested that Cork City Council, through T.E.A.M, would consider the implementation of a programme of commemorative Bronze Plaques. This motion was referred to the Commemorative Motions Committee for consideration, but was not progressed further in the absence of an appropriate budget. The issue of providing a

specific budget for such a programme can be considered in the context of preparations for Budget 2017.

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

## 8.2 **PLAYGROUND AT FITZGERALDS PARK**

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 of:

- a) The cost of the Playground in Fitzgerald's Park.
- b) How Many times this playground has been flooded and closed?
- c) Was a full risk flood assessment report made available to Council before placing the new playground in Fitzgerald's Park?

(Cllr. Kenneth O'Flynn)

### **REPLY**

a) Total cost of the All Inclusive Playground including consultants fees, earth & civil works, supply & installation of play equipment, seating, picnic tables and signage amounted to €652, 000.

Bons Secours Hospital through their Community Initiatives Funding Programme generously donated €200,000 to the project.

b) The playground flooded during the prolonged period of intense rainfall and flooding in late December/ early January and again during similar conditions in early March and April. The entire area of Fitzgerald's Park was flooded on a number of occasions during December/January.

It should be noted that the rainfall during the above periods was unprecedented and many other City amenities (Lee Fields, Mahon Golf Course, Estuary Walk) situated in similar flood plains were also flooded and closed for lengthy periods.

c) A multi disciplinary team of specialist consultants was appointed to design and supervise the construction of the playground, this included assessment of the flood risk and the design of a drainage system to address same. On-site infiltration of rainwater to ground was deemed to be the appropriate means of disposal by using stone filled percolation trenches beneath the playground area. An identical drainage system is used to drain the sunken lawn performance area at the entrance to the park. A direct drain to the river from the playground drainage system was considered not necessary.

In light of the extreme adverse weather conditions since December and, the risk of this situation arising in the future, the consultants now recommend the installation of a direct drain ( with non return valve) linking the playground drainage system to the river. This work will be undertaken during early May by the Council's Job Initiative Scheme at minimal cost.

Jim O' Donovan  
Director of Services  
Environment and Recreation

8.3 **APPLICATION FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE LIVING CITY SCHEME**

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

Can the CE give an update on the progress in advancing the application for an extension of the Living City Scheme in Cork especially in the Blackpool area. It is now nearly a year since the application was forwarded to the Department of Finance for approval and the delay is causing concerns and potentially delaying much wanted development?

(Cllr. John Sheehan)

**REPLY**

The Department of Finance was asked for an update on the matter and responded on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 as follows:

*'For information, extending the Special Regeneration Area would require technical amendments to the tax code. The Minister considered potential extensions of the Living City Initiative in the run-up to Budget 2016, including the proposal regarding Cork, but decided not to bring forward changes at that time'.*

Pat Ledwidge,  
Director of Services,  
Strategic Planning & Economic Development.

8.4 **RAPID CO-ORDINATOR FOR THE MAYFIELD AREA**

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

Can the CE advise on the current status of the appointment of a Rapid Co-Ordinator for the Mayfield area?

(Cllr. Joe Kavanagh)

**REPLY**

The vacant post of Rapid Co-ordinator will be filled from the recently completed Administrative Officer competition..It is anticipated that the post will be filled in June 2016.

Michael Burke,  
A/Director of Services,  
Human Resource Management  
& Organisational Reform.

8.5 **DEVELOPMENT OF 2-3 SPRINGFIELD ROAD**

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

Can the Chief Executive take immediate action in relation to ensure the development of 2-3 Springfield Road ( k/a locally as O'Keeffe's) site which has been on the Derelict Sites Register since 2009 and continues to be a blight on the landscape of Lower Mayfield.

(Cllr. Tim Brosnan)

**REPLY**

The site was placed on the Derelict Sites Register on 14/07/09 and an annual levy applies. The owners received planning permission on 15/12/15 for site clearance to include the removal of 2 no. existing ruinous dwellings and the construction of 3 no. dwellings and all ancillary works. The owner will be contacted to ascertain the proposed timeframe for the implementation of the recent Planning Permission, which would eliminate the dereliction.

Pat Ledwidge,  
Director of Services,  
Strategic Planning & Economic Development.

8.6 **BLACKROCK REGENERATION PIER PROJECT**

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 Regeneration Pier Project?  
Especially in terms of completion schedule for Phase One of the works that have begun.

(Cllr. Kieran McCarthy)

**REPLY**

The construction of the Blackrock Harbour & Village Renewal Project has commenced. The construction period for phase 1 is 43 weeks and therefore the project should be substantially complete in January 2017.

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

8.7 **FLOODING PROBLEMS AT THE CHILDRENS PLAYGROUND, FITZGERALDS PARK**

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

Can the CE give an update on the situation in relation to the ongoing flooding problems with the new Children's Playground at Fitzgerald's Park?

(Cllr. Henry Cremin)

**REPLY**

a) Total cost of the All Inclusive Playground including consultants fees, earth & civil works, supply & installation of play equipment, seating, picnic tables and signage amounted to €652, 000.

Bons Secours Hospital through their Community Initiatives Funding Programme generously donated €200,000 to the project.

b) The playground flooded during the prolonged period of intense rainfall and flooding in late December/ early January and again during similar conditions in early March and April. The entire area of Fitzgerald's Park was flooded on a number of occasions during December/January.

It should be noted that the rainfall during the above periods was unprecedented and many other City amenities (Lee Fields, Mahon Golf Course, Estuary Walk) situated in similar flood plains were also flooded and closed for lengthy periods.

c) A multi disciplinary team of specialist consultants was appointed to design and supervise the construction of the playground, this included assessment of the flood risk and the design of a drainage system to address same. On-site infiltration of rainwater to ground was deemed to be the appropriate means of disposal by using stone filled percolation trenches beneath the playground area. An identical drainage system is used to drain the sunken lawn performance area at the entrance to the park. A direct drain to the river from the playground drainage system was considered not necessary.

In light of the extreme adverse weather conditions since December and, the risk of this situation arising in the future, the consultants now recommend the installation of a direct drain ( with non return valve) linking the playground drainage system to the river. This work will be undertaken during early May by the Council's Job Initiative Scheme at minimal cost.

Jim O' Donovan  
Director of Services  
Environment and Recreation

## 8.8 **FLOOD DEFENCES FOR CORK CITY CENTRE**

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

Can the CE outline what updates or commitments have been given to Cork City Council by the Office of Public Works in relation to the fast-tracking of flood defences for Cork City Centre?

How much funding, if any, has been allocated by the OPW?

At what stage are these plans currently?

When does the CE expect such plans to progress?

When is it anticipated that Cork City will have sufficient flood defences in place?

(Cllr. Nicholas O’Keeffe)

### **REPLY**

The City Council and OPW have agreed in principle to separate execution of the flood defense works on the north bank of the south channel, between Parnell Bridge and Parliament Bridge, from the delivery of Lower Lee Flood Defense Scheme. This allows for the works to be processed under the City Council Planning procedures rather than the Arterial Drainage Act.

The City Council proposes to carry out public realm improvement on Morrison’s Quay and Father Matthew Quay in conjunction with the flood defense and surface water drainage works.

The OPW have funding in place to meet the cost of their element of works. The City Council will fund the majority of the public realm works.

Preliminary design work on the public realm and detailed design on the flood defences is in progress. Subject to finalising arrangements between City Council and the OPW it is hoped that the Part 8 process will be initiated in July, with procurement in Q4 and work commencement in Q1 of 2017.

It should be noted that these proposed works address the tidal flooding threat, only, to City centre streets, South Mall, Oliver Plunkett Street, St. Patrick’s Street and associated side streets. Removal of threat from a fluvial event such as occurred in 2009 is dependent on more extensive works under the Lower Lee Flood Defense Scheme.

Jim O’Donovan,  
Director of Services  
Environment & Recreation.



8.9 **SINGLE APPLICANTS ON CITY COUNCIL'S SOCIAL HOUSING LIST**

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

Can the CE outline how many on the City Council's social housing list are single applicants? Of the current vacant housing units how many are suitable for single applicants? Will a percentage of proposed new social housing developments under the Council's housing strategy be designated for single applicants?

(Cllr. Kenneth Collins)

**REPLY**

There are currently 5,812 on Cork City Council's waiting list. Single applicants account for 2,519 of this figure.

Single applicants can be considered for bedsits, 1 and 2 bedroom properties. There are currently 2,632 units of this type in our housing stock. At present there are 151 units of this type at various stages of repair/refurbishment.

As part of the City Council's Housing Programme our aim is to provide units in line with demand.

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

8.10 **292 CATHEDRAL ROAD ON THE CHOICE BASED LETTING WEBSITE**

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

Can the CE tell me when vacant social housing unit, 292 Cathedral rd, will be uploaded to the Choice Based Letting website as available for allocation? In the interim can the Council ensure the house and its environs are kept free from any dumped materials.

(Cllr. Michael Nugent)

**REPLY**

Should funding be made available this property will be available for letting in November 2016. The time frame is as follows:

Completion of Tender preparation: 15<sup>th</sup> May (Part of batch of 80 properties)

Completion of tender period: 15<sup>th</sup> June

Tender Analysis: 15<sup>th</sup> July

Contract Award (Assuming Funding in place): 15<sup>th</sup> August

Completion of contract: 15<sup>th</sup> November (12 week construction period).

The Council cannot prevent unauthorised dumping inside the boundary of the property nor its environs. It will take steps to remove dumped rubbish on a regular basis.

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

9. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

9.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

10. **STRATEGIC PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

10.1 **VARIATION NO 3 TO CORK CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MAHON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE)**

An Chomhairle considered the report of the Director of Services, Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise on the Variation No 3 to Cork City Development Plan (Mahon Industrial Estate).

Following discussion, on the proposal of An t-Ard Mhéara Comhairleoir C. O'Leary, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle agreed to defer decision on the matter and to call a Ward Meeting to discuss same. On recommendation from the Director of Services, Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise, An Chomhairle further agreed to hold a full meeting of Council in Committee to discuss the matter following the Ward meeting.

10.2 **LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP)**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise on the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

11. **HOUSING & COMMUNITY FUNCTIONAL SPECIAL MEETING – 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Housing & Community Functional Special Meeting from its meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

11.1 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2016**

An Chomhairle considered the Report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Comhairleoirí T. O’Driscoll, T. Moloney, T. Shannon, H. Cremin, M. Shields, F. Kerins, M. Finn, P. Dineen, P.J. Hourican and J. Sheehan, having declared an interest in some of the community groups listed, excused themselves from the discussion, and the Chamber. On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn, the remaining members of An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

12. **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Housing & Community Functional Committee of its meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

12.1 **DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Chief Executive dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 in relation to the following property disposal:

Disposal of leasehold interest in the property situated adjacent to No. 5, Vincent’s Avenue, St. Mary’s Road, Cork to John Tobin, c/o O’Dowd Solicitors, Crestfield Centre, Glanmire, Co. Cork for the sum of €3,250.00 plus VAT (if applicable), plus costs in the sum of €1,350.00 plus VAT.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Shields, seconded by Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn, the disposal was approved.

12.2 **MONTHLY REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community Services on Housing for March 2016.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS TO CONTINUE THE MEETING PAST 8PM**

On the proposal of An t-Ard Mhéara, seconded by Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend Standing Orders to continue the meeting past 8 p.m.

12.3 **QUARTERLY REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community Services on Housing for the Quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016.

12.4 **HALTING SITE AT SPRING LANE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the amended report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 in relation to the Halting Site at Spring Lane.

Following discussion, An Chomhairle agreed to a full meeting of An Chomhairle, in Committee, to address the Halting Site at Spring Lane. They further agreed to invite Traveller Representative Groups to a further meeting.

12.5 **CHOICE BASED LETTING SCHEME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 in relation to an update on the Choice Based Letting Scheme.

12.6 **INCREMENTAL TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016, in relation to an update on the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme 2016.

12.7 **HOUSING MAINTENANCE – VACANT PROPERTIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 in relation to Housing Maintenance.

12.8 **HOUSING MAINTENANCE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 on the following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That a directive would be given to the housing maintenance department that; When Cork City Council housing maintenance department are calling to a tenants house to carry out inspections &/or maintenance work that they would first make phone contact with the resident to arrange an appropriate time that will suit both the tenant and the staff.

This will prevent the residents from getting frustrated that they have missed a visit from the maintenance department that they may have been waiting a very long time for & it would save time for the maintenance staff calling to residents that are not at home. A win win for both.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 16/044)

The Report stated that it is current policy to contact tenants by phone to make an appointment to carry out works. In circumstances where contact cannot be made a calling card is left for the tenant.

#### 12.9 **HOUSING ALLOCATIONS SYSTEM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 on the following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That in light of recent indications of high refusal rates, the housing allocations system (including scheme of letting priorities) is reviewed and amended if required... the scheme of priorities in force has not been agreed by this current council (or the last, to my knowledge).’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 16/045)

The Report stated that the current Allocations Scheme had been approved by Council and has been effective from 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015. This amended the existing Allocations Scheme to include provision for Choice Based Letting. The refusal rate has decreased from a 35 – 60% range over the last four years to 13% in December 2015 and 28% in January 2016.

#### 12.10 **CARPARK AT RADHARC AN MHACHAIRE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 on the following motion referred to the Committee by A Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council re-install a gate at the carpark at Radharc na Mhachaire, Geaneys Boreen as residents are anxious that the area be secure from unauthorised vehicles and persons.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 16/047)

The Report stated that this matter is currently under consideration by the Council

#### 12.11 **LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION COMMITTEE**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion returned by the Housing & Community Services Functional Committee from its meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016:

‘Cork City Council calls for independent regulation of Local Traveller Accommodation Committee (LTACCs) to ensure an effective delivery of accommodation, and a commitment to proactive partnership by all partners. Council calls on the relevant Minister to ensure that LTACCs are linked to all Local Authority Housing & Community Directorate Functional and Strategic Committee with a view to ensuring the creation of new, and continued progress of existing accommodation.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. T. Fitzgerald, Cllr. T. Moloney, Cllr. M. Shields, Cllr. H. Cremin, Cllr. J. Sheehan 16/054)

A vote was called on whether to refer the motion to the relevant Minister where there appeared as follows:-

**FOR:** Comhairleoirí S. Cunningham, T. Tynan, T. Gould, F. Ryan, K. O’Flynn, L. O’Donnell, J. Sheehan, M. Nugent, T. Fitzgerald, K. Collins, C. O’Leary, M. Finn, F. Kerins, T. O’Driscoll, H. Cremin, M. Shields, T. Moloney (17)

**AGAINST:** Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, D. Cahill, T. Shannon, P. Dineen, P.J. Hourican (5)

**ABSTAIN:** (0)

As the number voting in favour was greater than the number voting against An t-Ard Mhéara declared the vote carried, and the motion approved for referral to the relevant Minister.

13. **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Roads & Transportation Functional Committee from its meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016

13.1 **ROADWORKS PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services, dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 on the progress of the ongoing Roadworks Programme for the month ending March 2016.

Following discussion, on the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Finn An Chomhairle agreed to invite a representative from the Department of the Environment Community & Local Government to address a Special Meeting of An Chomhairle in Committee, to discuss concerns around the Roadworks Programme.

13.2 **MOTIONS REFERRED BY COUNCIL TO THE COMMITTEE**

13.2.1 **RE-SURFACING ROAD SURFACES WITHIN MELBOURN ESTATE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council undertake re surfacing to road surfaces within Melbourn Estate including Fremont Drive, Woburn Drive, Woburn Avenue, Beverly Drive and Allendale Ave, Foxford Avenue and Allendale Drive, to repair damaged footpaths throughout the estate which are a danger to pedestrians.’

(Proposers: Cllr. J. Buttimer, Cllr. H. Cremin, Cllr. M. Shields, Cllr. F. Dennehy, Cllr. P.J. Hourican, Cllr. T. Moloney 16/043)

The report stated that the footpaths and road surfaces at these locations will be assessed and considered for inclusion in the next Roads Programme which is subject to funding being available.

13.2.2 **FOOTPATH IN GREENHILLS COURT, SOUTH DOUGLAS ROAD, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council commits to fix the footpath and surrounding green area in Greenhills Court, South Douglas Road in order that residents can safely enter and leave their front gardens. A small bit of rain turns the footpaths into a flooded no go area, making it not only difficult but indeed very dangerous to simply enter their properties. This work should be undertaken at the earliest possible time as it is only an accident waiting to happen.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Shea 16/050)

The report stated that these issues will be investigated and any necessary remedial work will be undertaken during the current year.

13.2.3 **REPLACE ENTRANCE SIGN AT CURRAHEEN ESTATE, BISHOPSTOWN, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That City Council would inspect and replace the Entrance Sign to The Crescent Curraheen Estate, Bishopstown.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 16/052)

The report stated that that the entrance sign to The Crescent, Curraheen Estate, Bishopstown will be inspected.

If deemed appropriate to be replaced, it will be put forward for inclusion in the current Roadworks Programme.

13.2.4 **LOADING BAY AT THE JUNCTION OF QUAKER ROAD AND EVERGREEN STREET**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That the Roads & Transportation Directorate would consider installing a loading bay at the junction of Quaker Road, Evergreen Street. This loading bay would service the 2 business’s that operate there. The said business’s which are rate payers are finding it extremely difficult to conduct their daily business due to the unavailability of propert and adequate parking space for delivery vehicles.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Dineen 16/053)

The report stated that the area in the vicinity of the junction of Quaker Road and Everygreen Street will be examined to see if a loading bay can be provided.

If deemed appropriate, it will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme and will be undertaken, subject to funding being available.

#### 13.2.5 **CLOSE QUARRY STEPS OFF BALLYHOOLEY ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council now proceed to finally permanently close the Quarry Steps off Ballyhooley Road on Health and Safety grounds as the health and safety of the local community takes precedence over any dubious benefit the steps might have to any one individual.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 16/056)

The report stated that the quarry steps and adjacent quarry area have been the subject of significant works in recent years to install gates and fence off the adjacent open spaces. In addition to this CCC Planning Department are presently investigating options for its future usage. Roads will liaise with Planning to establish if there are other plans for the area going forward aside from a roads extinguishment as proposed.

#### 13.2.6 **ACCESS TO SUPERMARKET ON BISHOPSTOWN ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That City Councils Roads and Transport Dept. would investigate the access and exiting for vehicles at the recently opened supermarket on the Bishopstown Road as some signage that was in place to direct traffic in a certain direction when they are exiting is now missing.

I would also ask that if traffic are allowed to turn right into this supermarket from the west that an arrow would be put in this median space thus preventing traffic heading west using this median space as an extra lane.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 16/059)

The report of the Director of Services states that the recently opened supermarket on Bishopstown Road operates on a ‘left in/left out’ only access.

The signage on all approaches to the supermarket access will be examined. Where signage is missing, this will be replaced.



13.2.7 **PUBLIC ACCESS TO KILMORE PARK & KILMORE ROAD, KNOCKNAHEENY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council would facilitate public access to Kilmore Park & Kilmore Road from Ardmore Avenue/ Heights, Knocknaheeny. Previous 'Right of Way' to Kilmore Road for some residents was previously extinguished during regeneration works.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 16/060)

The report of the Director of Services states that the lower gate at Kilmore Park was closed on a permanent basis over five years ago at the request of local residents from Ardmore Heights, Ardmore Avenue and Killiney Heights. The request followed a lengthy period of unsocial behaviour in the park arising from youths accessing the park on motor bikes through the lower gate. This behaviour gave rise to serious health and safety issues for park users particularly young children. The gate can be reopened on a trial basis to facilitate pedestrian access, however, should the access be used again for motor bikes it will be necessary to close it immediately in the interests of Health & Safety.

As part of Phase 1C of the City Northwest Quarter Regeneration, a road/footpath route will be created, which will provide alternative access to Kilmore Road Lower. The construction of Phase 1C is due to commence in 2017.

13.2.8 **RE-INSTATE THE ELECTRONIC SPEED RADAR IN BEAUMONT DRIVE, BLACKROCK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council re-instate the electronic speed radar sign along Beaumont Drive, Blackrock and looks at other suitable measures that would alleviate the dangers caused by speeding along this road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N.O’Keeffe 16/063)

The report stated that the electronic speed radar sign, was a temporary installation using equipment on loan to Cork City Council for the purpose of measuring/monitoring/summarising speeds on Beaumont Drive.

It should be noted that a speed limit is a maximum speed at which vehicles may legally drive on a road. It is the responsibility of the driver to obey a speed limit at all times and to ensure that the speed at which their vehicle is being driven is appropriate for the conditions, even if that speed is lower than the signed speed limit.

The Cork City Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits at Specified Schools) Bye-Laws 2011 came into force on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012. Beaumont Drive is included in this bye-law which sets 30 km/h as the speed limit for mechanically propelled vehicles, between the hours of 08.00 to 18.00 hours, on each Monday to Friday, including holiday periods.

#### 13.2.9 **SPEED LIMIT ALONG THE CASTLE ROAD IN BLACKROCK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Report of Director of Services dated 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council reports on the feasibility of reducing the permitted speed limit along the Castle Road, Blackrock. As this road is narrow and is popular with walkers & cyclists - cars travelling at the limit of 50km/h can pose a significant danger to all road users. A reduced speed limit may alleviate such dangers.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Keeffe 16/064)

The report stated that the feasibility of reducing the speed limit on Castle Road, Blackrock will be explored. A reduced speed limit of 40km/h or 30km/h can only be introduced through the making of a Special Speed Limit Bye-Law.

In addition to the bye-law, physical or ‘hard’ measures may also be needed so that that the lower speed limit is self enforcing. Whilst a speed limit is a maximum speed at which vehicles may legally drive on a road, it is the responsibility of the driver to obey a speed limit at all times and to ensure that the speed at which their vehicle is being driven is appropriate for the conditions, even if that speed is lower than the signed speed limit.

#### 14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted the following correspondence:

- Letter from Office of An Taoiseach dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016
- Letter from the Minister for Health dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016
- Letter from the Department of Justice and Equality dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016
- Email from CIE Group Property Department dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016
- Cumann Iosaef Centre Tralee, Charter for Independent Living

#### 15. **CONFERENCE/ SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

An Chomhairle noted the summary of Comhairleoir M. Shields of the LAMA Spring Training Seminar held 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 in Sligo.

#### 16. **CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS**

No Conference/Seminars to note.

17. **TRAINING**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoirí T. Shannon, M. Shields and T. O’Driscoll at the AILG 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference 2016 to be held in Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal, 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

18. **MOTIONS**

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

18.1 **TIMING OF THE LIGHTS AT THE JUNCTION AT DENNEHYS CROSS**

‘That City Council would examine the allowed timing of the lights for pedestrians to cross safely at the Junction at Dennehy’s Cross. The time allowed presently is not sufficient for the elderly residents of the area to cross safely so I am calling on Council to increase the time allocated to facilitate the elderly and give them more confidence when trying to cross this Very Busy Junction to the Church or Supermarket.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 16/093)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

18.2 **REINSTATE RUBBISH BIN AT CANTY’S FIELD, NEAR CANNAUGHT AVENUE**

‘That the rubbish bin removed at Canty’s Field, near Connaught Avenue, be reinstated as it can easily be collected with others in the area (a nearby business of UCC to sponsor if necessary).’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 16/095)

**Environment & Recreation Functional Committee**

18.3 **REMOVE STAIR LIFTS FROM CORK CITY COUNCIL PROPERTIES**

‘That City Council would investigate the requests from our Council tenants to have stair lifts removed from their properties that are no longer needed, and re-install them in properties that are on our waiting list for these mobility aids.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 16/098)

**Housing & Community Functional Committee**

18.4 **ADDRESS THE LENGTHY DELAYS AT THE JUNCTION OF TRAMORE ROAD & POULADUFF ROAD**

‘That the lengthy delays being experienced by motorists at this junction be addressed as part of the South West and South Central Strategic Transport Corridor study.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 16/102)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

18.5 **TAKE IN CHARGE HYDE PARK**

‘That Hyde Park, a council-built site, be taken in charge immediately to allow essential repairs to be carried out and that in further council-built projects, the taking-in-charge process runs in parallel with construction.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 16/103)

**Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise Functional Committee**

18.6 **INCLUDE TORY TOP ROAD, FRIARS WALK JUNCTION IN THE ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAMME**

‘That Cork City Council include the Tory Top Road, Friars Walk Junction in the road resurfacing programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 16/104)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

18.7 **DOG DNA REGISTRATION SCHEME**

‘That Cork City introduce a dog DNA registration scheme’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 16/105)

**Environment & Recreation Functional Committee**

18.8 **PROVIDE PARKING IN THE UNUSED GRAVEL AREA PARALLEL TO THE HOUSES ON BANTRY PARK ROAD, FAIRHILL**

‘That Cork City Council take short or long term measures to provide parking in the unused gravel area parallel to the houses in Bantry Park Road, Fairhill.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 16/107)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

18.9 **INVESTIGATE DRAINS IN LARCHFIELD ESTATE**

‘That Council investigate the drains in Larchfield estate and clear where appropriate.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 16/109)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

18.10 **TAKE IN CHARGE TIVOLI ESTATE UPPER IN MONTENOTTE**

‘That Cork City Council would undertake the process as a matter of urgency the taking in charge of Tivoli Estate Upper in Montenotte.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 16/111)

**Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise  
Functional Committee**

18.11 **INCLUDE MCSWEENY’S VILLAS IN THE ROAD RESURFACING  
PROGRAMME**

‘That Cork City Council include McSweeny’s Villas on the Corks Road Resurfacing Programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Sheehan 16/114)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

18.12 **CLOSE THE CASUAL PATH THAT RUNS EAST/WEST TO THE SOUTH OF  
LAGAN GROVE**

‘That Cork City Council close the casual path that runs east/west to the south of Lagan Grove as it has never been properly kept by City Council, it is a constant source of anti social behavior and must be permanently closed in the interests of public safety and the common good.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 16/115)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

18.13 **REPORT ON HFA LOANS USED TO PURCHASE LAND PARCELS**

‘That Cork City Council prepare a report for Council in relation to the HFA loans of 37.5 m Euro used to purchase land parcels amounting to 102 acres. The Report should identify the parcels of land referred to, the purchase price of each and why no houses are being built on the lands. The crippling interest cost of 0.8m Euro annually is not sustainable and some explanation needs to be given as to who and why these lands were purchased at such high prices. The Report might also identify the parties from whom the lands were purchased.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 16/116)

**Finance & Estimates Functional Committee**

18.14 **TRAFFIC FLOW SURVEY ON THE NORTH RING ROAD**

‘That Cork City Council undertakes a traffic flow survey on the North Ring Road with Particular emphasis on the three roads exiting on to the North Ring Road. They are Boherboy Road, Silverheights Road and the road exiting Silversprings Court. These exit roads are catering for seriously increasing volume of traffic and with absolutely no traffic regulation it is becoming increasingly difficult and dangerous at each of these junctions. Based on my proposed Traffic Survey, can I request that a traffic management strategy be formulated for the area in the interest of regulating traffic flow and most importantly addressing public safety concerns.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 16/117)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

18.15 **RESURFACE THE JUNCTION OF SHANDON STREET AND CATHEDRAL ROAD**

‘Can Cork City Council resurface the junction of Shandon Street and Cathedral Road as a matter of urgency.’

(Proposer: Cllr: K. Collins 16/118)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

18.16 **DIGITAL AUDIT OF THE CITY**

‘That Cork City Council would carry out:-

- (A) Digital Audit of the city that identifies where digital innovation is taking place across all sectors of the city.
- (B) Opportunities for digital innovation within the city.

- (C) Put in place a full digital strategy.
- (D) Sets clear five-year targets for the city, including: doubling the number of Cork firms selling products and services online. A 35 per cent improvement in productivity growth achieved through digital technology. Support for 100 promising local digital start-up companies.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 16/119)

**Strategic Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise  
Functional Committee**

18.17 **COMMUNITY SAFETY IN LAGAN GROVE, LIFFEY PARK AND SHANNON  
LAWN**

‘That Cork City Council will engage with the residents of Lagan Grove, Liffey Park and Shannon Lawn with a view to improving community safety in the area, with a particular focus on the alleyway and surrounding land connecting Lagan Grove and Liffey Park.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Cunningham 16/120)

**Housing & Community Functional Committee**

18.18 **PROGRESS REPORT ON SOCIAL HOUSING STRATEGY**

‘That Cork City Council will provide a progress report on its social housing strategy including how targets are to met over the lifetime of the strategy and details of the various schemes involved in meeting same.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 16/122)

**Housing & Community Functional Committee**

18.19 **CLEAR BLOCKED DRAINS WITHIN AVONLEA COURT, CHURCH RD,  
BLACROCK**

‘That Cork City Council clear blocked drains within Avonlea Court, Church Rd, Blackrock. Any amount of rainfall causes localized flooding within the estate due to the blocked drains.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Keeffe 16/123)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

18.20 **PROVISION OF A SPECIAL PARKING PERMIT FOR HOME-HELP CARE ASSISTANTS**

‘That Cork City Council assesses the feasibility and the possible provision of a special parking permit for home-help care assistants. This would be a great support to home-helps who provide a vital service in every community.’

(Proposer: Cllr. N. O’Keeffe 16/124)

**Roads & Transportation Functional Committee**

19. **MOTIONS**

19.1 **POLICY OF DISREGARDING INCOME FROM THE CARERS’ ALLOWANCE**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council calls for an end to the policy of disregarding income from the Carers’ Allowance when assessing applications for the new Tenant Purchase Scheme as it’s discriminating against the many who are performing vital services throughout the country.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 16/106)

A number of queries were raised, after which a vote was called for on the approval of the motion where there appeared as follows:

**FOR:** Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, F. Ryan, L. O’Donnell, J. Sheehan, T. Fitzgerald, C. O’Leary, D. Cahill, T. Shannon, M. Finn, P. Dineen, T. O’Driscoll, M. Shields, P.J. Hourican, T. Moloney (15)

**AGAINST:** (0)

**ABSTAIN:** Comhairleoirí S. Cunningham, M. Nugent, K. Collins, F. Kerins, H. Cremin (5)

As those voting in favour was greater than those voting against, An t-Árd Mhéara declared the vote carried and the motion was approved.

19.2 **WRITE TO MINISTER ALAN KELLY IN SUPPORT OF THE EDUCATED OPINION OF MASTER EDWARD HONIHON**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘As passed by our colleges in Cork County Council, We call on Cork City Council to pass the same motion. ‘That this Council would take this opportunity identified by the Minister of the High Court in his open letter rebutting the statement that the Constitution stopped this Government from dealing with the housing crisis to write to acting Minister for the Environment Alan Kelly in support of the educated opinion of Master Edward Honihon.’ According to the Master of the High Court, the Minister for the Environment could use CPOs to buy back repossessed homes from vulture funds for use as social housing,



pointing out that CPO law allowed the purchase of property where the common good took priority.”

(Proposers: Cllr. T. Moloney, Cllr. P. Dineen 16/110)

Following discussion and on the approval of Comhairleoir T. Moloney and Comhairleoir P. Dineen, An Chomhairle approved an amended version of the motion to read:-

‘That this Council would take this opportunity identified by the Master of the High Court in his open letter rebutting the statement that the Constitution stopped this Government from dealing with the housing crisis to write to acting Minister for the Environment Alan Kelly, that he could use CPO’s to buy back repossessed homes from vulture funds for use as social housing, pointing out that CPO law allowed the purchase of property where the common good took priority.’

(Proposers: Cllr. T. Moloney, Cllr. P. Dineen 16/110)

19.3 **OPPOSE THE DECISION BY THE ACTING MINISTER FOR HEALTH TO CUT THE MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET FOR 2016**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council absolutely opposes the decision by the acting Minister for Health Leo Varadkar to significantly cut the mental health budget for 2016 believing it will have a detrimental impact on the delivery of mental health services and the implementation of mental health policy.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 16/121)

This concluded the business of the meeting

**ARD-MHÉARA  
CATHAOIRLEACH**