

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir K. McCarthy.
<b>NORTH EAST</b>	Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane.
<b>NORTH WEST</b>	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, D. Boylan.
<b>SOUTH EAST</b>	Comhairleoirí L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, D. Forde.
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, F. Kerins.
<b>SOUTH WEST</b>	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney E. Ryng.
<b>ALSO PRESENT</b>	Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Housing. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. F. Reidy, Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development. Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect. Ms. A. Murnane, Meetings Administrator. Ms. V. Keating, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Comhairleoir D. Cahill.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir B. McCarthy to address An Chomhairle on the following motion:-

‘This Council calls on the executive to look into the use of the tenant in situ scheme and any other available measures to take the historic Choristers House into public ownership as an urgent measure to stop this mass eviction. The building should be used to provide long-term, quality, public housing with rent based on Cork City Council rental policy.’

On the proposal of Comhairleoir B. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir L. Bogue, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders to discuss the motion at the end of the meeting, where there appeared as follows:-

**FOR:** Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, G. Keohane, M. Nugent, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, L. Bogue, M. Finn, F. Kerins, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (11)

**AGAINST:** Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, J. Sheehan, D. Boylan, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, D. Forde, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, G. Kelleher. (15)

**ABSTAIN:** Comhairleoir K. McCarthy. (1)

As those voting against the proposal to suspend standing orders were greater than those voting for, An tArdmhéara declared the proposal defeated. An Chomhairle agreed to refer this motion to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for consideration.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The Keogh family on the death of Professor Dermot Keogh.
- The McGarry family on the death of Noreen McGarry.
- The Feeney family on the death of Seán Feeney.
- The McKeone family on the death of Kieran McKeone.
- The McCarthy family on the death of Jo McCarthy.
- The O'Sullivan family on the death of Jack O'Sullivan.
- The Doolan family on the death of Mary Doolan.
- The Fitzgerald family on the death of Tony Fitzgerald.
- The Murray family on the death of Michael Murray.
- The Byrne family on the death of Eileen Byrne.
- The Lucey family on the death of Sean Lucey.
- The McGee family on the death of Leslie McGee.
- The Fitzgerald family on the death of Jim Fitzgerald.
- The Roche family on the death of John Roche.
- The Noone family on the death of Colin Noone.
- The Murphy family on the death of Sheila Murphy.
- The O'Callaghan family on the death of Julielle O'Callaghan.
- The O'Callaghan family on the death of Noreen O'Callaghan.
- The Mahony family on the death of Flor Mahony.
- The Grant family on the death of Andrew Grant.
- The Nation family on the death of James (Jim) Nation.
- The Dennehy family on the death of Carmel Dennehy.
- The O'Donncha family on the death of Mary O'Donncha.
- The Madden family on the death of Ann Madden.

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

- Liam Casey on his retirement from Cork City Council.
- Angela Long on being awarded a bronze medal for Team Ireland in the Para Powerlifting World Championships in Dubai.

## 3. **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

### 3.1 **CIVIC RECEPTION – 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

An tArdmhéara reminded An Chomhairle that there would be a Civic Reception taking place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to mark the retirement of Dr. Patrick O'Shea, former President of UCC.

### 3.2 **CIVIC RECEPTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the holding of Civic Receptions for both the Cork Camogie Players, and the Cork Community Art Link.

### 3.3 **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

An tArdmhéara informed An Chomhairle that a special meeting of Council will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to mark the closing out of the Decade of Centenaries, which will be followed by a Commemorative Gala Event in the Concert Hall.

### 3.4 **LORD MAYOR'S DELEGATION TO CHINA**

An tArdmhéara sought political expressions of interest for travel to China in November as part of a Lord Mayor's led delegation.

### 3.5 **STUDY VISIT TO BRUSSELS**

An tArdmhéara noted that there will be a Cork City Council Study Visit to Brussels taking place from 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

### 3.6 **COVENTRY IRISH SOCIETY 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SUMMER BALL**

An Chomhairle considered and retrospectively approved the Lord Mayor's travel to Coventry for the Coventry Irish Society 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Ball on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

### 3.7 **SCHOOL VISITS**

An tArdmhéara noted that a number of students had advised him during recent school visits that they tuned into Council Meetings online, and he extended best wishes to them.

### 3.8 **ALUMINIUM BOTTLES**

An tArdmhéara gifted aluminium water bottles to each member of An Chomhairle for use at Council Meetings, in order to reduce the use of plastic in the Council Chamber.

## 4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

### 4.1 **RETIREMENT OF CORK CITY COUNCIL STAFF**

The Chief Executive wished both Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect, and Mr. L. Casey, Senior Park & Landscape Officer, all the best on their upcoming retirements, and thanked them for their service to Cork City Council.

## 5. **MINUTES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir G. Kelleher, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Maher, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of:-

- Special Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

## 6. **QUESTION TIME**

### 6.1 **DERELICT SITE LEVIES**

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

How many fines has Cork City Council issued under the Derelict Site Levies?

How much has been collected so far under the Derelict Site Levies?

How many staff have been allocated to this section?

Has Cork City Council applied to the government for more staff to support the collection of the Levies?

If so what was the outcome, if not why not?

### **REPLY**

**How many fines has Cork City Council issued under the Derelict Site Levies?**

Cork City Council has issued the following number of invoices under the Derelict Sites Act:

2020 – 67 properties levied

2021 – 61 properties levied

2022 – 57 properties levied

2023 – 61 properties levied

Properties where ownership is not resolved, or dereliction is removed, or have not been on the derelict sites register at the time of invoice do not receive invoices.

Invoices are issued annually. These are followed up with statements and other follow up contact. Cork City Council is actively pursuing legal action on a number of fines.

**How much has been collected so far under the Derelict Site Levies?**

In 2020 - €163,231

In 2021 - €570,143

In 2022 - €281,565

2023 to end August - €84,672

**How many staff have been allocated to this section?**

In total there are 7 staff working on dereliction and vacancy in the planning policy section.

In addition a multi disciplinary team in housing, property, finance and law are working on derelict sites.

**Has Cork City Council applied to the government for more staff to support the collection of the Levies?**

**If so what was the outcome, if not why not?**

Cork City Council obtained €120,000 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which is used in the management of derelict and vacant sites.

In addition, Cork City Council applied for and was awarded €6million under URDF 3, which will be used to acquire derelict sites and bring them back into use.

Cork City Council has also requested the Department's assistance with sourcing external persons qualified to complete property inspections for the Croí Connaithe (Towns) Fund.

Fearghal Reidy,  
Director of Services,  
Strategic Planning & Economic Development.

6.2 **FLATS AT NOONAN'S ROAD, DEANE STREET, FORT STREET & ST. FINBARRS ROAD**

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

Can we have a breakdown of these properties:

1. Owner occupied
2. Vacant properties
3. Single Units
4. Family units
5. Total Number of Tenants and Dwellings

**REPLY**

1. Owner occupied - 4
2. Vacant properties - 23
3. Single Units – 57 (including vacant units)
4. Family units – 57 (including vacant units and owner occupied units)
5. Total Number of Tenants and Dwellings - 87 Active Tenancies and 114 Dwellings

Niall Ó Donnabháin,  
Director of Services,  
Housing.

6.3 **EVENTS CENTRE**

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

Can an up-to-date report on the proposed centre be made to Council, indicating any new asks of Council or state and a revised timetable on delivery?

**REPLY**

Detailed design of the Events Centre was completed by the Event Centre consortium in July 2023. These costs indicate an increase in the cost of the Event Centre over previous estimates. As discussions with the consortium are continuing in respect of this increase it is not possible at this time to confirm a revised timetable for it's delivery.

Ann Doherty,  
Chief Executive.

6.4 **STAFF WELFARE IN WORKPLACE (TRAFFIC WARDENS)**

**The following question submitted by Comhairleoir P. Dineen was deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023:-**

Staff welfare in the workplace (Traffic Wardens).

As a consequence to the protests within the environs of City Libraries and the welfare of staff I ask the CEO to outline what protection is given to the welfare of City Council Traffic Wardens while in the course of performing their duties on public streets. In particular can the CEO share what protection if any are provided/addressed through the current parking by laws by way of enforcement/fines and or possible court appearance for a person who uses threatening behaviour to a Traffic Warden while on/off duty.

6.5 **BAKERS ROAD FLATS**

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

Can the CE update if funding under 'Apartment Deep Retrofitting' has been applied for in respect of Bakers Road Flats? In the interim can the Flats be assessed for remedial maintenance works?

**REPLY**

The Apartment Deep Retrofit Programme (set out under the South Eastern Assembly Operational Programme 2014 to 2020), provided approx. €10m funding for City Council and the City Council delivered upgrades to over 210 apartments across the City. The Apartment Deep Retrofit Programme no longer exists and has been superseded by the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (EERP), launched in 2021.

In general and strategic planning terms, retrofitting with deep energy efficiency improvement measures is part of the Government's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the housing stock in order to achieve targets by 2030 under the Government's Climate Action Plan (2019) where 500,000 homes in Ireland will be retrofitted. The target is for properties to have a B2 energy rating. Cork City Council has a major role to play in same, with an expected upgrade of approx. 2,500 properties by 2030. Cork City Council has a number of projects and extensive stock that we will take every opportunity to improve under same.

Cork City Council currently has 828 properties in the EERP pipeline. The Bakers Road apartment complex is not included in the current pipeline but a further assessment of all apartment complexes of this type, including Bakers Road, is

currently being undertaken to ascertain the options, measures, cost and extent of works that would be necessary to upgrade the buildings and/or achieve a B2 energy rating.

The flats were assessed for remedial maintenance works by a City Council Engineer and Housing Officer on 31st August 2023. All maintenance issues were assigned to a Contractor on 5th September 2023. It is intended that the assigned works will be undertaken shortly.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,  
Director of Services,  
Housing.

#### 6.6 **NAMING OF NEW ESTATE ON WATERFALL ROAD**

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

Can I please ask for clarification on when the name "Waterfall" was assigned to the new estate on the Waterfall Road? The assigned name is the same as that of the nearby village of Waterfall (approximately 3 km from the development). The proposed name has resulted in considerable upset and concern for the residents of Waterfall village, who feel that it will cause inevitable and unnecessary confusion and disruption and have asked me to request that consideration be given to changing the name assigned to the new estate.

#### **REPLY**

The naming of this housing development was a requirement of a condition of the planning permission, which was an approved Strategic Housing Development by An Bord Pleanála (ref ABP-310274-21). Compliance with this condition is dealt with by the Planning Authority. The developer submitted revised compliance details on 31/08/2023 and revised the name of this housing development to Waterfall Heights/Ard an Easa. This was acceptable to the Planning Authority.

David O'Brien,  
A/Director of Services,  
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

#### 6.7 **NUMBER OF STREET SIGNS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if any metric exists that measures the number of street signs and poles that are found in the city, whether a review takes place on their necessity, and how many have been removed in the last calendar year?



## **REPLY**

A survey of redundant signs and poles in the City Centre was completed by the Strategic and Economic Development Directorate in 2020. As a result of this survey, a pole removal programme was put in place which is now largely complete.

In addition to the above, there is likely to be a TII led project in 2024 to replace/modify signs on national routes. This contract will also combine and rationalise some directional signs in the city.

Any specific poles of concern to Cllr Boyle or members of the public can be reported to the Customer Service Unit (021-492 4000) or via the City Councils Customer Service Request page ([www.corkcity.ie](http://www.corkcity.ie)) on our website.

David Joyce,  
Director of Services,  
Roads & Environment Directorate.

## 6.8 **NORTH WEST REGENERATION SCHEME**

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

Can the CE provide an up to date report on Phase 2C of the City North West Regeneration Scheme.

## **REPLY**

The construction site on Kilmore Road, Knocknaheeny forms part of the City Northwest Quarter Regeneration Programme, and part of Cork City Council's wider social housing delivery programme.

The project is, however, the subject of a complex contractual dispute. There is a quality control issue with the works on site which the employer, Cork City Council, is addressing contractually with the main building contractor.

Works are not currently being progressed on site by the contractor. Cork City Council is treating this with the utmost priority and is seeking to progress a prompt solution to this matter with a view to the earliest possible delivery of more quality homes at this location.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,  
Director of Services,  
Housing.

6.9 **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT- SMGS SECONDARY SCHOOL, BLARNEY**

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

To ask the CE to outline measures and timeline re traffic management in the area of SMGS Secondary School in Blarney. While the new school building is very welcome, the ongoing construction, the lack of a footpath near the school poses a significant challenge in terms of road safety.

**REPLY**

The construction of the Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal secondary school in Blarney and associated works has been underway for approximately two years. While the main school building is complete, there are remaining associated works yet to be completed including the staff car park, footpath works etc. The contractor has advised that all works are due to be completed by the end of the year. Any traffic management in place to facilitate the construction works is in consultation with the Area Engineer and in agreement with Traffic Operations.

Planning Development Management has issued correspondence to the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál Secondary School in Blarney in relation to outstanding compliances.

David Joyce,  
Director of Services,  
Roads & Environment Operations Directorate.

David O'Brien,  
A/Director of Services,  
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

6.10 **NOONAN'S ROAD, FORT STREET, DEAN STREET AND ST. FINBARR'S ROAD**

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

What are the next steps in addressing issues highlighted at Noonans Road, Fort Street, Dean Street and St. Finbarr's road?

What works have taken place since the walkabout with residents, elected representatives and members of the council executive?

## **REPLY**

Since the walkabout with residents, elected representatives and members of the council executive, a structured response from the Housing Directorate to action at Noonan Road and surrounding flat complexes is now in place. The concerns of the tenants and those homeowners in these complexes is our primary concern and two cross directorate working teams, comprising staff from Housing Maintenance, Housing Capital and Area Management have contacted and attempted to visit and meet with all residents to discuss their concerns over the last number of weeks.

A total of 87 tenanted properties were due to be visited. The teams called to each property and, in some cases called a number of times as tenants haven't been available due to absence, illness or bereavements. Letters are being issued to those remaining tenants to arrange visits at a time convenient to them. Maintenance issues identified during the visits were assigned to contract at the end of August. Identified works have commenced and will continue throughout the area but will take time to complete.

Clean up work has been undertaken, extensive pest control investigations have been carried out and treatment programmes have been put in place. Progress in this regard will be monitored.

During the course of the visits and meetings, tenants, who expressed an interest, were provided with transfer application forms. There are currently 47 households who have submitted transfer applications. All parties have been provided with information regarding the Choice Based Letting System and how to access and use it. 10 households have been offered transfers either through CBL or for sheltered accommodation/accommodation reserved for the elderly. 6 of those 10 offers of alternative accommodation have been refused.

At all times, staff have made it clear that any large-scale redevelopment of the area will be subject to extensive consultation and engagement and government funding approval and will understandably take time to bring to fruition. Initial findings of the feasibility study for Noonan Road and the surrounding flat complexes will be presented to the South-Central Local Area Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,  
Director of Services,  
Housing.

## 6.11 **LINE PAINTING IN SOUTH WEST WARD**

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

Can I ask the CE for an update on the line painting done in 2023 with particular reference to the south west ward?

### **REPLY**

The strategic lining programme for 2023 is still ongoing noting that this and any lining works is dependent on capacity and weather conditions. In addition to the strategic lining programme responsive lining work is carried out on a smaller scale. The following locations have had various lining works undertaken in past twelve months in the South West ward. The list may not be exhaustive as responsive lining is not recorded on the area basis.

- Innishmore (by Lidl/playground)
- Innishmore Lawn (near church and road to Regional Park)
- Inniscarra Road, Coolroe (near Inniscarra bridge)
- Main Street from Colaiste Colm to Poulavone roundabout
- Leedale estate – main spine road
- Church Hill above Carrigrohane Road
- Model Farm Road Ballincollig Side
- Clash Road
- Curraheen Road
- Sitecast Industrial Estate
- Spur Hill
- Clifton Estate, Elmvale
- Ballineaspig Lawn (Bishopstown GAA approach)
- Westgate Estate
- Junction of Model Farm Road and Farranlea Park
- Togher Rd/Tramore Rd. Jnct
- Bishopstown Rd from Wilton Roundabout to Curraheen jnct
- Model Farm Rd City Side
- Wilton Gardens

In addition to the above lining work, areas that have been resurfaced have also been relined including the following areas in the South West area noting again that the resurfacing programme is also still ongoing

#### **2022 Estates Contract (completed January/February 2023)**

- The Avenue, Coolroe Heights, Ballincollig
- Highfield Estate, Ballincollig
- Hazel Road, Togher
- Brook Avenue, Togher

- Leedale Avenue, Bishopstown

2023 Main Contract (completed April 2023 onwards to date)

- Main Street, Ballincollig
- Bothar Saclay, Ballincollig
- Station Road, Ballincollig
- Glendale Estate, Glasheen
- Model Farm Road, Bishopstown
- Wilton Road
- Bishopstown Road (06/09/23 to 08/09/23)

2023 Estates Contract (completed April 2023 through to August 2023)

- Leedale Estate, Ballincollig
- Garrane Lane, Bishopstown
- Westgate Road, Bishopstown
- White Oaks Entrance, Wilton
- Curraheen Drive, Curraheen

David Joyce,  
Director of Services,  
Roads & Environment Directorate.

6.12 **PROGRESS TO NAME A STREET AFTER FREDERICK DOUGLAS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive on progress to name a street or place after Frederick Douglass (20/253) and if this will be considered in the context of the city's friendship agreement with Washington, DC?

**REPLY**

Roads Operations has a limited list of unnamed streets and it will examine the historical suitability of these with Local Studies in Cork City Library, the Heritage Officer, City Archaeologist and Conversation Officer in Planning and Development to determine if any of the unnamed roads are suitable to be named after Frederick Douglass. As part of the process for naming a road, a report will then be prepared for the next Party Whips meeting for consideration. If a suitable road is chosen and agreed by Party Whips, a recommendation will then be sent to the relevant Local Area Committee for consideration and recommendation to Full Council.

David Joyce,  
Director of Services,  
Roads & Environment Operations Directorate.

6.13 **ROBOT TREES**

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

To ask the CE for a report on the effectiveness of the Robot Trees.

**REPLY**

Data from the sensors on the Moss Walls installed on both Saint Patrick's Street and Grand Parade are being analysed at present. As soon as this analysis is complete a report will issue.

David Joyce,  
Director of Services,  
Roads & Environment Operations Directorate.

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT HEATHFIELD, BALLINCOLLIG, CORK**

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed residential development at Heathfield, Ballincollig, Cork, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive thereon as required under Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, dated 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. Kelleher, seconded by Comhairleoir G. Kelleher, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Now Council hereby RESOLVE THAT having considered the proposed development at Heathfield, Ballincollig, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive, Cork City Council thereon, it is hereby resolved pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the development at Heathfield, Ballincollig, in the City of Cork be carried out as recommended in the said report of the Chief Executive, Cork City Council, which was put before Council on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023.”

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

8.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31/07/2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31/07/2023.

## 8.2 **LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Chief Executive, dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, in relation to the establishment of a permanent Local Authority Integration Team.

## 8.3 **MOTIONS**

### 8.3.1 **POLICY FOR UNUSED PHONE BOXES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That this Council adopt a policy in relation to unused phone boxes around the City.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Kerins 23/314)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council is currently reviewing the number of telephone boxes in the city centre, with a view to reducing clutter whilst maintaining sufficient numbers to support safety and security in the city centre. On completion of this, the providers will be advised of the optimum requirement and asked to reduce the number of telephone boxes accordingly.

### 8.3.2 **FOUR-DAY WEEK**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, People & Organisation Development, dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will report on the potential to implement a four-day week across the organisation and to pilot reduced working time without loss of pay or productivity for staff.’

(Proposers: Cllr. O. Moran, Cllr. J. Maher 23/331)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the implementation of the 4-day week concept would be a Public sector wide issue and could not be considered by Cork City Council in isolation but would have to be considered by Department of Public Expenditure and Reform for the Public Sector as a whole.

It should be noted that in 2021 the Minister for Public Expenditure Michael McGrath indicated that ‘a move to a four-day working week would add at least €4.2 billion on to the public sector pay bill.’ The Minister indicated that the move would also pose a ‘huge challenge’ to emergency service provision, teaching children and childcare arrangements and that with this in mind, and in light of the large potential costs and disruption to critical services, I do not believe that it is the right time to consider a transition to a four-day week.

### 8.3.3 **CLIMATE PROOF FUTURE PROJECTS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That it become the policy of this Council to climate proof (not increase the carbon impact) any project it undertakes, while also introducing criteria that any grants administered by it cannot be used in ways that negatively affects biodiversity in the City.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/336)

The report of the Director of Services stated that as members are aware, Cork City Council is currently developing its draft Climate Action Plan which will go for consultation shortly. It is proposed that this will contain an action seeking to develop a system to embed climate action in all City Council actions, plans & policies, including staff induction training and for all City Councillors.

### 8.3.4 **BOYCOTT, DISINVESTMENT, SANCTIONS CAMPAIGN (BDS)**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council ensure that any festivals or events it funds or hosts is compliant with the Boycott, Disinvestment, Sanctions campaign (BDS), as endorsed by the Council, pertaining to Israel.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 23/351)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council recognises the affinity between Corkonians and Palestinians, and pursuant to motions approved by Council, is actively engaged with the Palestinian Mission in Dublin in deepening links. It is noteworthy that BDS applies to trade and economic engagement. The question of cultural boycotting arose for Cork City Council in April/May 2023 as the Ron Galilee Israeli Choir participated in the Cork International Choral Festival. While the festival itself receives funding through Arts Grants, Cork City Council does not support specific choirs. Choir selection is a matter for the festival organisers themselves as is entirely appropriate.

City Hall partners with hundreds of cultural and community organisations each year, and practically speaking, it is neither practical nor credible for the Council to vet all arts and community partnerships for connections with particular states. It is not considered that Cork City should be perceived as censoring the cultural expression of cultural and community partner groups.

Now that a full time International Relations Office is in place, Cork City Council has built trust and an excellent working relationship with the Mission of the State of Palestine in Dublin throughout 2023 in order to meet the aspirations of Council motions pertaining to deepening links with Palestine. Following a meeting held between the Ambassador and the International Relations team in Dublin, former Lord



Mayor, Cllr. Deirdre Forde, welcomed the Ambassador to Cork for a programme of engagement in May 2023. The Ambassador is very supportive of Council engagement, and has emphasised the value of the development of meaningful and practical links between Cork and a city in Palestine. A call will soon be scheduled between the Lord Mayor and the Mayor of Nablus to discuss partnership opportunities in the areas of heritage and biodiversity, which Nablus has expressed interest in. The Ambassador is also in discussion with Council on the possibility of hosting a Palestinian Youth Orchestra in Cork City in 2024. Progress will be reported through the International Relations & Tourism SPC. Cork City has the clear potential to be the leading Irish city in terms of Irish Palestinian civic engagement, and Cork City Council is working to realise this challenging but worthy ambition.

9. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

10. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

10.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

10.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF JULY 2023**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Financial Statements to end of July 2023.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

12. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

An Chomhairle noted summaries of conferences/seminars attended as follows:-

- Comhairleoir O. Moran at the Atlantic Cities General Assembly Meeting, held at Biarritz, France, 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- Comhairleoirí T. Shannon and G. Kelleher at the AILG Module 4 training, Uisce Éireann, A Briefing for Councillors, held at Radisson Blu Hotel, Rosses Point, Sligo, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the AILG Module 3 training, Overview of Existing Planning Legislation and Policy Guidance, held at Avalon House Hotel, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the National Healthy Cities Network and Community Gardens Meeting, held at Leinster House, Dublin, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the 7<sup>th</sup> WHO Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, held at Budapest, Hungary, 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

13. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

14. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

14.1 **SOUTHERN REGION AUDIT COMMITTEE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoir S. Martin at the Southern Region Audit Committee to be held at Cashel, Co. Tipperary, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

14.2 **I.P.B MEETING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoir S. Martin at the I.P.B. Meeting to be held at Savoy Hotel, Henry Street, Co. Limerick, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

14.3 **IRISH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL HOUSING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoir D. Boyle at the Irish Council for Social Housing to be held at Co. Wexford, 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

14.4 **AILG TRAINING SEMINAR**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh at the AILG Training Seminar, The Future of Local Government in Ireland, to be held at Sligo Park Hotel, Co. Sligo, 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

15. **TRAINING**

None received.

16. **MOTIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

An Chomhairle noted the motions on Appendix 1, that have been referred to the relevant Committees as determined by the Meetings Administrator, due notice of which has been given.

17. **MOTIONS**

17.1 **BUS SHELTER AT MARWOOD ESTATE, RIVERSTOWN, GLANMIRE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘Dear Cork City Council, can I repeat my calls and ask you to write to Bus Éireann to install a bus shelter at the lower end of the Marwood Estate, Riverstown, Glanmire. There is a bus stop halfway up the steep hill but elderly residents and people with mobility issues find it difficult to climb the hill.’

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Keohane 23/239)

17.2 **STREETLIGHT OUTAGES AT MURMONT ROAD, MONTENOTTE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘Dear Cork City Council, could we ask Electric Skyline please to do a comprehensive investigation into the continuing outages of the streetlights along the Murmont Road, Montenotte. Electric Skyline would fix the problem on one day but the outages would occur again within days. Clearly there is an issue and if there are more streetlights to be installed, which are due shortly, this issue will have to be addressed.’

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Keohane 23/241)

17.3 **RETAIN THE 9% VAT RATE FOR RESTAURANTS AND FOOD BUSINESSES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council supports the campaign to retain the 9% VAT rate for the restaurant and food business sector, once consumers continue to benefit from it.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 23/369)

17.4 **RETENTION OF VAT AT 9% FOR FOOD RELATED BUSINESSES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council supports the retention of VAT at 9% for the food related businesses and the Council is calling on the Minister for Finance to extend the VAT rate of 9% to the end of 2024. A letter outlining the Council’s support should be sent to Government.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Cahill 23/370)

17.5 **SUPPORT MEASURES FOR FOSTER FAMILIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council calls on the Minister for Children to address financial hardship of foster families in Cork and elsewhere in Ireland and in recognition of same implement urgent support measures.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Forde 23/389)

17.6 **POLICIES TO REDUCE ROAD DEATHS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council notes with concern the upward turn in road deaths, in particular the exponential growth in pedestrian deaths, and calls upon national authorities to review policies that can help reverse this trend.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 23/399)

An Chomhairle further agreed to circulate a copy of this motion to all other Local Authorities.

17.7 **RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATION TABLE WITH FÓRSA**

‘That Cork City Council calls on the Minister for Housing Darragh O’Brien and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) to return to the negotiation table with Fórsa, representing workers in Local Authorities, and to agree a mechanism for progressing the job evaluation process as a key element of addressing the retention and recruitment crisis in Local Government. Council notes that Fórsa trade union members have initiated industrial action involving an indefinite ban on engagement with all political representatives.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 23/403)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. Bogue, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, a vote was called for on the approval of the motion where there appeared as follows:-

**FOR:** Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, B. McCarthy, D. Boylan, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Forde, M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. O’Callaghan, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Ryng. (26)

**AGAINST:** (0)

**ABSTAIN:** (0)

An Chomhairle unanimously agreed that the motion was approved.

This concluded the business of the meeting

**ARDMHÉARA**  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**