

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9th MAY 2022

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir C. Kelleher.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, F. Ryan, D. Boylan.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, D. Forde.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O'Callaghan, F. Kerins.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, E. Rying.
APOLOGIES	Comhairleoir K. McCarthy.
ALSO PRESENT	Mr. B. Geaney, Deputy Chief Executive. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Mr. F. Reidy, Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development. Ms. A. Rodgers, Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations. Mr. G. O'Beirne, Director of Services, Infrastructure Development. Mr. N. Ó Donnabháin, Director of Services, Housing. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Ms. C. Kelly, Meetings Administrator. Ms. K. Fitzgerald, Administrative Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Ms. C. Currid, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

- The Bowe family on the death of Charlie Bowe.
- The O'Donovan family on the death of Catherena O'Donovan.
- The O'Shaughnessy family on the death of Kay O'Shaughnessy.
- The Bullman family on the death of Sheila Bullman.
- The Murray family on the death of John Murray.

- The Condrón family on the death of Maisie Condrón.
- The O'Brien family on the death of Martin O'Brien.
- The Lordan family on the death of Peggy Lordan.
- The Cronin family on the death of Jack Cronin.
- The Bonnar family on the death of Alan Bonnar.
- The Hogan family on the death of Kathleen Hogan.

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

- Katie Shannon and Darragh Ryan on the birth of their daughter Bláthnaid.
- Demi Higgins and family on organising Knocknaheeny/Hollyhill Darkness into Light.
- Cork City Missing Persons Search and Recovery on the opening of their new premises.
- First Minister elect Michelle O'Neill and all successful Assembly election candidates.

3. **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

None received.

4. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

None received.

4.1 **PROPOSED HOLDING OF AN EVENT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, dated 9th May 2022 on the proposed holding of Cork Carnival of Science, 11th and 12th June in Fitzgerald's Park.

5. **MINUTES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. O'Flynn, seconded by Comhairleoir M.R. Desmond, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 11th April 2022.

6. **QUESTION TIME**

6.1 **AMPLIFIERS BY BUSKERS**

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

Can the CE please advise on the status regulating the use of Amplifiers by Buskers on our City Centre Streets?

REPLY

Work on finalising the draft Busking Bye-laws is progressing. It is anticipated that same should be completed in the next month or so and that a full public consultation on same will commence in Q3 2022.

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

6.2 **DERELICT SITES REPORTING ON CORK CITY COUNCIL WEBSITE**

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

To ask the Chief Executive if limits have been placed on the number of derelict sites that can be reported by individual users of the Cork City Council website, and will she comment on the matter?

REPLY

No limits have been placed on the number of derelict sites that can be reported by individual users of the Cork City Council website. If members of the public need assistance or are experiencing difficulty with notification of a derelict site they should contact the planning policy team in the Strategic and Economic Development directorate.

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

6.3 **HOUSING VACANCY AND DERELICTION**

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

Can the CE give an update on the number of WTE staff dedicated to housing vacancy and dereliction?

REPLY

There are 4 WTE working on housing vacancy and dereliction.

In addition, there is a multi-disciplinary, multi-directorate team working on dereliction made up of Planning, Housing, Law and Property.

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

6.4

PRIORITY LISTING OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS WITH THE NEED TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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 a priority listing has been prepared of public building under its management with the need to improve energy efficiency in such buildings, and whether such a programme is in place?

REPLY

Energy Agency Section of the Operations Directorate is working with the Property Section and individual Directorates with the aim of putting together a list of suitable buildings on which to carry out energy efficiency improvement works. Once same is complete then funding, which does not exist at present, will need to be provided to undertake the works identified.

It is important to note that significant works have already been carried over the past number of years on some of our building infrastructure which have delivered significant benefits. Such projects include:

- 1) We have achieved ISO 50001 Energy Management Accreditation and retained same on our second audit
- 2) NEEAP 2020 – we achieved 53% improvement in energy efficiency since the baseline year (the Government target was set at 33%)
- 3) The replacement of the existing AHU system for the pool areas, with an enhanced system including substantial heat recovery and the automation and replacement of plant equipment and the replacement of the halogen lighting to LED on the AstroTurf football pitches in Leisureworld Bishopstown. The outcome of this project are projected savings of 51% electrical and 42% thermal costs.
- 4) A deep energy retrofit of the Main City Library on Grand Parade which included replacing the old heating system with an air-to-air heat pump, the installation of roof-mounted Solar PV and the installation of LED Lights throughout the building
- 5) Solar PV projects have also been carried out on the Lab buildings in Tramore Valley Park and the Ballyvolane Fire Station
- 6) Lighting has also been switched to energy efficient options in buildings such as the City Hall.
- 7) Attic and/or cavity wall insulation was installed in approx. 6,500 of our social housing properties
- 8) The Housing Directorate have also delivered a number of other energy efficiency projects including the deep retrofitting of 210 apartments to B2/COE Energy Efficiency Standard.

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

6.5 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME**

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

Can the CE update on the local Affordable Housing Program?

Have all the conditions and stipulations for same been received from the Department of Housing allowing the various schemes to proceed asap?

REPLY

The Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage issued Circular 17/2022 – “**Affordable Purchase and Cost Rental Regulations**” pertaining to the Affordable Housing Act 2021 on the 21st April 2022, for the benefit of Local Authorities.

Cork City Council is actively progressing a number of Affordable Housing Schemes across the City as outlined below. With the publication of the necessary supporting legislation and documentation the schemes at Newton Heights, Boherboy Road and Coolflugh, Tower are due for advertisement and launch in the coming weeks. The other schemes outlined will be advertised and launched closer to their delivery date. The Affordable Purchase Schemes currently being progressed across the city are:

- Newton Heights, Boherboy Road, Lotamore, Cork – 117 Affordable Units
- Crann Danach, Montenotte, Cork – 27 Affordable Units
- Coolflugh, Kerry Road, Tower, Cork – 36 Affordable Units
- Hawkes Road, Bishopstown, Cork – 35 Affordable Units
- O’Cualann Housing, Knocknaheeny, Cork – 17 Affordable Units
- Churchfield East, Cork – 21 Affordable Units

The Housing Directorate will also, in line with ‘Housing For All’ affordable housing targets for the city and funding availability seek to deliver other residential development sites, with emphasis on affordable housing, through varied initiatives and mechanisms over the coming years.

Given the importance of this issue a briefing for the Members of Council is being arranged for a date over the next 2 weeks at which the full detail of the Affordable Housing Legislation and Affordable Housing Schemes being progressed will be discussed.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

6.6 **KNOCKNAHEENY REGENERATION - % FOR ART FUND**

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

Can the CE advise if there is % for art fund available for the second phase of the Knocknaheeny regeneration?

REPLY

Each City North West Quarter Regeneration (CNWQR) Phase includes a Per Cent for Art Scheme allocation in line with the Government decision of August 1997. The funding allocation is approved by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) as part of the Stage 1-4 Submissions. The Per Cent for Art Scheme budget is ring-fenced i.e. it is secured and not available for any other element of the project.

All current CNWQR Phases namely Phase 1C, Phase 2B, Phase 3B and Phase 4A include Per Cent for Art allocation. The amount per phase varies but as a general rule is 1% of the capital construction cost up to a maximum value of €125,000.

Niall Ó Donnabháin,
Director of Services,
Housing.

6.7 **ST MARY'S PLACE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS**

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

To ask the Chief Executive to indicate when the:

1. Pedestrian access to St. Mary's Place on Sunvalley Drive will reopen?
2. How soon will repairs to the springs which is causing significant water waste whereby residents cannot walk in the area be completed?

REPLY

There are a number of pedestrian access routes between St. Mary's Place and Sunvalley Drive (as shown in the diagram below). Only the route shown in red (long dashed lines) is presently closed to the public, while works to address the issues with the Spring are addressed.

repair work to boundary walls, platforms and adjoining structures. The full extent of this work only became apparent when the overgrowth was fully removed.

Completion works for the new access ramp between the Greenway and the Marina (i.e. through Holland Park) is scheduled to commence in late 2022 as per the original programme. The work on this ramp is staggered to allow for the settlement of the earthwork's embankment.

The last remaining section of the Passage Greenway Project Phase 1 is scheduled to be fully open to the public in mid-July. The Contractor is likely to have some remaining off line works to complete beyond this date such as the completion of snags etc however this work will not affect users of the Greenway.

Gerry O'Beirne,
Director of Services,
Infrastructure Development.

7. **STATUTORY ITEMS**

7.1 **PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the reports of the Chief Executive, dated 28th April 2022 on the following property disposals:-

1. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of ground (approximately 54.9m²) situated at 6, Ballymachthomas Street, Cork to Keith Murphy and Monica Sanchez Olguin, c/o Fiona Twomey Solicitors, 3 Eastgate Village, Little Island, Cork for nil consideration.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Canty, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

2. Disposal by way of lease of nine individual dwellings located at Nos. 3,4,8,16,20,22,23,29 and 30 Kilbrack Grove, Skehard Road, Blackrock, Cork to Abode Doorway to Life Clg. c/o Coakley Moloney Solicitors, No. 49, South Mall, Cork by granting an extension of the current lease for further period of five years at a rent of €10.00 per annum.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Finn, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Moloney, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

3. Disposal of the freehold interest in property situated at No. 1, Ballymartin, Dungourney, Co. Cork to Bernadette Twomey & John Twomey c/o Murhpy Rice & Co. Solcrs, 103, Main Street, Midleton, Co. Cork for the sum of €300,000.00.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

4. Disposal of the freehold interest in an area of ground (approximately 125.8m²) on land situated at Farranferris Avenue, Cork to David Bermingham, c/o Kevin Quirke Solicitors, 72, South Mall, Cork for the sum of €55,000.00 plus costs €1,500.00 plus VAT.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, seconded by Comhairleoir K. Collins, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

7.2 **CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME: 6, CITY VIEW TERRACE, WINTERS HILL, SUNDAYS WELL, CORK – PETER MCVERRY TRUST CLG**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, dated 21st April 2022 in relation to a loan facility for Peter McVerry Trust CLG in respect of the provision of one unit of accommodation at 6, City View Terrace, Winters Hill, Sundays Well, Cork.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Nugent, An Chomhairle further agreed to adopt the following Resolution:-

“Resolved that, pursuant to the provision of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1992, a loan facility not exceeding €207,000 be granted to Peter McVerry Trust CLG, subject to the terms of the Capital Assistance Scheme for the provision of one unit of accommodation at 6 City View Terrace, Winters Hill, Sundays Well, Cork.”

8. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 3rd MAY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 3rd May 2022.

9. **PARTY WHIPS – 25th April 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 25th April 2022.

9.1 **LORD MAYOR ITEMS**

FREEDOM OF THE CITY

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle on his proposal to award the Freedom of the City to Mary Crilly at a ceremony to be held, 9th June 2022.

An Chomhairle approved the proposal.

LORD MAYOR’S CIVIC AWARDS 2022

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle on his nominations for the Civic Awards 2022 as follows:-

AWARD CEREMONY HELD, 28th JANUARY 2022:-

Don O’Leary, in recognition of his contribution to education in Cork through his work with Cork Life Centre.

AWARD CEREMONY TO BE HELD, 24th MAY 2022:-

Lil Downey, in recognition of her commitment to community and volunteering through her role as secretary of Ballinlough Community Association.

Julie Murphy, in recognition of her commitment to caring for older people through her role as Chief Executive Officer of the Westgate Foundation.

Eileen Nolan, in recognition to her lifelong contribution to the Arts as founder and director of The Montfort College of Performing Arts.

Kitty O’Callaghan, in recognition of her commitment to community and volunteering through her work with Ballincollig Tidy Towns.

Tony O’Connell, in recognition of his lifelong contribution to Athletics through his work with Cork City Sports.

An Chomhairle approved the nominations.

LORD MAYOR’S SPECIAL COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD 2022

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle on his nomination for the Special Community Spirit Award 2022 as follows:-

Caitríona Twomey, in recognition of her support to the most vulnerable in society during the Covid19 pandemic, and to acknowledge her travel to the Polish-Ukrainian border with Cork Humanitarian Aid Ireland bringing vital medical supplies and aid to the people of Ukraine.

An Chomhairle approved the nomination.

LORD MAYOR’S CULTURE AWARD 2022

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle on his nomination for the Culture Award 2022 as follows:-

Sean O Sé, in recognition of his lifelong dedication to music, education and the Irish language.

An Chomhairle approved the nomination.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

An tArdmhéara proposed Special Meetings of An Chomhairle as follows:-

- Special Meeting to approve the Draft Cork City Development Plan, 27th June 2022.
- Special Meeting, An Taoiseach Mr. Micheál Martin, TD to address An Chomhairle, date to be confirmed.

An Chomhairle approved the Special Meetings.

9.2 **SETTING DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING 2022**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, An Chomhairle agreed that the Annual General Meeting of Council will be held on Friday 24th June 2022.

9.3 **ROLE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP (CPG)**

A detailed discussion took place after which, on the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations, dated 21st April 2022 on the role and functioning of the Corporate Policy Group (CPG).

10. **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 19th APRIL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 19th April 2022.

10.1 **UPDATES/REPORTS**

10.1.1 **CORK BUS CONNECTS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development directorate, dated 13th April on Bus Connects.

10.2 **MOTIONS**

10.2.1 **E-SCOOTERS AND E-BIKES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations directorate, dated 4th April 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council in the interest of public safety, would put measures in place restricting the use of motorised vehicles such as e-scooters and e-bikes on public pedestrian footpaths and re-directing the use of these vehicles safely onto our growing network of cycle lanes across the city and suburban areas. Most importantly, these measures should also enhance the safety of the users of e-bikes and e-scooters and should subsequently increase the number of users of e-bikes and e-scooters travelling safely on our city cycle lane network.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 22/047)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council are awaiting national legislation to be published and enacted covering the use of e-scooters and e-bikes on public roads before considering putting any local measures in place, in order to ensure that there is no conflict with the soon to be enacted national legislation which takes precedence over local bye-laws.

10.2.2 **PORTAL FOR IMAGES OF ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 4th April 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That the CE will work with An Garda Síochana to develop a portal where the public can upload images of serious road traffic offences such as parking on footpaths and cycle lanes, or close passing of cyclists.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 22/102)

The report of the Director of Services stated that road traffic offences, including parking offences, can be reported to Cork City Council via our Customer Service Unit (021-492 4000) or via the City Councils Customer Service Request page (www.corkcity.ie) on our website. Any information submitted via either channel is passed to the Traffic Wardens Service. Images of such offences can be submitted to the Customer Service Unit via email (servicecentre@corkcity.ie) or via the website page. Alternatively, the offences can be reported to An Garda Síochána. As the facility to electronically engage with Cork City Council and upload/submit images already exists it would not be a good use of resources to create a second competing portal. Cork City Council would encourage members of the public to use the existing communication channels to continue to report matters of concern to them.

10.2.3 **REVISE BYELAWS ON TRAFFIC IN PATRICK STREET**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, dated 4th April 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That the byelaws be revised for the prohibition of private cars on Patrick Street between the hours of 3pm – 6.30pm daily to allow the cars who use the disabled parking in Academy Street to exit onto Patrick Street.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 22/103)

The report of the Director of Services stated that between the hours of 3:00pm and 6:30pm St Patricks’ Street is a Bus Lane. As such the national Bus Lane legislation (not local bye-laws) applies to St Patrick Street during this period. Section 32 of the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2012, states “A person shall not enter a bus lane with a vehicle other than a large public service vehicle or a pedal cycle during the period of operation of the bus lane indicated on an

information plate.” This legislation does not accommodate disabled drivers using the Bus Lanes on St Patrick Street during the above times.

However, it must be clearly understood that, as part of the preplanning consultation process, prior to the introduction of the Bus Lane, it was agreed that additional spaces would be provided in Emmet Place to counteract the loss of the Academy Street spaces in the afternoon (the Academy Street Spaces remain active outside of the hours of operation of the bus lane i.e. 21 and half hours per day). I can confirm that the spaces on Emmet Place have been provided and are available for use 24 hours a day. The enhancement of footpath facilities along Drawbridge Street also provides alternative access for those with mobility issues/ wheelchairs and buggies onto the northern end of St Patrick Street from Emmet Place and Academy street.

Those with blue disability badges can continue to park in any on-street car parking space in the city free of charge within the times designated for parking. Also the 15 minute set-down spaces provided as part of the scheme are available for use by everybody.

10.2.4 **TRAFFIC SIGNALS TRIGGERED BY BICYCLES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development Directorate, dated 4th April 2022 on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will contact Derry City and Strabane District Council on the back of their recent Rail Ambition for the North West webinar to investigate setting up a rail infrastructure working group between Cork and Limerick councils to expedite the provision of a direct Cork-Limerick rail line.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 22/162)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council will contact Derry and Strabane District Council to explore this.

11. **STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 19th APRIL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Strategic, Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 19th April 2022.

11.1 **CORK CITY CENTRE REVITALISATION PLAN**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 19th April 2022 on the Cork City Centre Revitalisation Plan.

11.2 **CITY ARCHAEOLOGIST**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the presentation outlining the work of the Archaeology Unit.

11.3 **HERITAGE COMMUNITY AND PUBLICATION GRANT SCHEMES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the grant payments outlined in the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 19th April 2022 on Heritage Community and Publication Grant Schemes.

11.4 **MOTIONS**

11.4.1 **15 MINUTE COMMUNITIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development, dated 13th April 2022 on the following motion:-

‘With the closure of High Street post office, the sixth business within a 70 metre stretch to have closed in recent years, that a pilot project in how these changes impact on the policy goal of 15 minute communities be conducted.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 22/157)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the 15-minute city is an urban planning response to contemporary challenges such as the climate change emergency. The basic concept of a 15-minute city is for residents to have access to their essential needs within no more than 15 minutes by public transport, foot or bicycle. Cork City Council’s approach to applying well-designed neighbourhoods provide a quality of life for the individual and their neighbourhood that stimulates and enriches everyday lives.

The availability of amenities and facilities in neighbourhoods differs, and retail and employment patterns change, such as the evolution of online retailing and working from home, and are always liable to change. Consequently, every resident’s experience of the 15-minute city and their 15-minute community differs due to their mobility preferences, their location, the quality and availability of services and differing abilities to access these services.

A pilot study on one particular street will have limited application beyond the local area. The key objective of the development plan is to create an environment in which a range of opportunities jobs, community, health, social and cultural services are within 15 minutes of where people live. Within the Draft City Development Plan, Cork City Council has identified a suite of neighbourhood sites and regeneration areas throughout the city designed to support the application of the 15 minute city concept. This will be underpinned by more applied strategies and plans such as the City Centre Revitalisation Plan and the Local Economic and Community Plan. In parallel the Local Enterprise Office will augmenting a targeted approach to sustaining proprietor managed businesses in local areas throughout the city.

The application of the walkable neighbourhood objectives will be monitored as part of the development plan implementation and reporting mechanisms.

12. **HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 20th APRIL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 20th April 2022.

12.1 **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing, on Housing for February 2022.

13. **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 28th APRIL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Community, Culture, & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its special meeting held, 28th April 2022.

13.1 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT GRANTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2022

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Finn, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking, on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council decline to approve the decision of the Community Culture and Placemaking SPC dated 24th March 2022 regarding the Cork City Council Community Development Grants 2022 Project Funding and that Cork City Council instead send the matter back to the Community Culture and Placemaking SPC so as to enable the Community Culture and Placemaking SPC to re-consider the recommendations made by Council officials in light of the fact that:

- Applications by Ashdene/Alderwood Residents Association, Ballypnehane Community Association, Castlegardens Residents Association, Douglas Tidy Towns, Eagle Valley Association of Residents and Home Owners, Elmgrove Residents Association, Grange Heights Residents Association, Hampstead Residents Association, Killowen Action Group and Douglas/Frankfield Men’s Shed were deemed by Council officials to be ineligible for funding, either partially or entirely on the basis that said applications were more suitable for grant funding from the Parks and Recreation Division of the Operations Directorate even though no such grant funding from the Parks and Recreation Division existed.
- Applications by Ashdene/Alderwood Residents Association, Ballypnehane Community Association, Castlegardens Residents Association, Douglas Tidy

Towns, Eagle Valley Association of Residents and Home Owners, Elmgrove Residents Association, Grange Heights Residents Association, Hampstead Residents Association, Killowen Action Group and Douglas/Frankfield Men's Shed were deemed by Council officials to be ineligible for funding, either partially or entirely on the basis of incorrect information.

- Councillors on the Community Culture and Placemaking SPC could not have made a proper and informed decision on 24th March 2022 regarding applications by Ashdene/Alderwood Residents Association, Ballyphehane Community Association, Castlegardens Residents Association, Douglas Tidy Towns, Eagle Valley Association of Residents and Home Owners, Elmgrove Residents Association, Grange Heights Residents Association, Hampstead Residents Association, Killowen Action Group and Douglas/Frankfield Men's Shed in circumstances where they were advised by Council officials that the aforementioned applications had been deemed by Council officials to be ineligible for funding, either partially or entirely on the basis of information, which it subsequently transpired was incorrect.
- The decision of the Community Culture and Placemaking SPC dated 24th March 2022 regarding applications by Ashdene/Alderwood Residents Association, Ballyphehane Community Association, Castlegardens Residents Association, Douglas Tidy Towns, Eagle Valley Association of Residents and Home Owners, Elmgrove Residents Association, Grange Heights Residents Association, Hampstead Residents Association, Killowen Action Group and Douglas/Frankfield Men's Shed may not have been valid in circumstances where said decision was based on incorrect information regarding the availability of alternative sources of funding, which did not, in fact, exist.
- The application for €39,000 in funding made by Foróige was deemed by Council officials to be an eligible application in circumstances where the City Council's advertisement inviting applications for grant funding from the Cork City Council Community Development Grants 2022 Project Funding specifically stated that "the maximum grant that can be applied for will be €2,500".
- Council officials recommended that Foróige be granted €20,000 in funding (a sum which amounted to almost one third of the total Cork City Council Community Development Grants 2022 Project Funding budget of €62,674) in circumstances where the City Council's advertisement inviting applications for grant funding from the Cork City Council Community Development Grants 2022 Project Funding specifically stated that "the maximum grant that can be applied for will be €2,500".
- The application for €6,000 in funding made by Le Chéile School Completion Programme was deemed by Council officials to be an eligible application in circumstances where the City Council's advertisement inviting applications for grant funding from the Cork City Council Community Development Grants 2022 Project Funding specifically stated that "the maximum grant that can be applied for will be €2,500".

- Council officials recommend that Le Chéile School Completion Programme be granted €4,000 in funding in circumstances where the City Council’s advertisement inviting €4,000 in funding in circumstances where the City Council’s advertisement inviting applications for grant funding from the Cork City Council Community Development Grants 2022 Project Funding specifically stated that “the maximum grant that can be applied for will be €2,500.”
- The creation of a Community Garden for Douglas was deemed to not be a suitable or worthy project by Council officials without any proper explanation as to why and upon what basis such a conclusion had been reached.
- The maintenance of the area of landscaping known as the “Riverwalk” in Douglas by Douglas Tidy Towns was deemed to not be a suitable or worthy project by Council officials without any proper explanation as to why and upon what basis such a conclusion had been reached.
- The purchase of equipment by some community groups were deemed by Council officials to be suitable projects worthy of funding whereas the purchase of equipment by other similar community groups were deemed by Council officials not to be suitable projects worthy of funding.
- The process which City Council officials engaged in to determine which applications for Cork City Council Community Development Grants 2022 Project Funding were deemed eligible for project grant funding and which applications were deemed ineligible may have been flawed.
- The decision of the Community Culture and Placemaking SPC dated 24th March 2022 to approve the recommendations made by Council officials in respect of the applications for Cork City Council Community Development Grants 2022 Project Funding could not have been a proper or informed decision for the reasons outlined.
- The decision of the Community Culture and Placemaking SPC dated 24th March 2022 to approve the recommendations made by Council officials in respect of the applications for Cork City Council Community Development Grants 2022 Project Funding may not have been a legitimate or valid decision for the reasons outlined.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 22/184)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council have been delivering the Community Development Grants since 2002, these grants began with the purpose of supporting the running and maintenance of Community Associations across the city through the community section of Community and Enterprise. Cork City Council has also supported Summer Schemes by way of an annual grant since 2004. In 2012 through the Rapid process project grants were introduced as a need was identified through the groundwork by the community team to support small scale grants across communities to enable them to establish new small scale projects within

their areas. In 2020 the community section assumed responsibility for the area maintenance grants.

These grants are advertised annually in late January/ early February, they are advertised through the Cork City Council website and social media, via the community newsletter and through a mail shot to all community groups registered with the Community section. All elected members are written to in relation to the grants ahead of them being advertised. Each year we give approx. 4 weeks for community groups to apply for the grants.

The team in community works in partnership with communities to support them to apply for the grants. All grants are assessed under the criteria with a primary focus on the support of Community Associations as this is the main purpose of the grants. This is a lengthy process as there are a large number of applications received annually. Each application is gone through, assessed and a recommendation is made based on the criteria. These recommendations go to the Community, Culture and Placemaking SPC from the Director Of Services, they are discussed on the night with any questions being answered. Following ratification from the SPC they go to full Council for approval.

The total budget available for the Community Association Development grants, Summer Scheme Grants and Project grants is €200,000. Due to Covid there was no summer scheme grants in 2020 and 2021 through prior arrangement with Foróige as they were not in a position to run summer schemes under the government guidelines. The total ask for the grants was €611,150.40 across the 3 grant schemes.

The team works closely with communities across the city and ensures it reflects on the feedback from communities on each round of grant awards and this is reflected throughout the assessment process and is reflected in the recommendations. Feedback in relation to the project grants from groups as well as a number of elected members indicated the need from communities that many groups found it difficult to deliver on the projects they applied for with only a small portion of the total grant applied for being awarded. Therefore, some of the recommended awards have increased to allow for the successful delivery of full projects applied for within the budget available while ensuring as many community groups as is feasible receive grants towards their project once it is within the grants criteria.

In 2022 the project grants were assessed by the senior team in Community and a recommendation was made by the Director of Services to the Community, Culture and Placemaking committee under the project grants of grants totaling €67,674, this was endorsed by the SPC and is to be agreed by full Council.

14. **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 12th APRIL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 12th April 2022.

15. **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 20th APRIL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its special meeting held, 20th April 2022.

16. **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 3rd MAY 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance & Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 3rd May 2022.

16.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

16.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF MARCH 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the Financial Statements to end of March 2022.

17. **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th APRIL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th April 2022.

17.1 **QUAY WALL AT SOUTH GATE BRIDGE/NANO NAGLE BRIDGE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate, dated 21st April 2022, on the following motion:-

‘That the deteriorating condition of the City quay wall between South Gate and Nano Nagle Bridge be viewed with concern and appropriate reinstatement measures be taken.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Boyle 22/198)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the deterioration of the quay wall opposite Sullivan’s Quay has been monitored in recent weeks. The ownership of the relevant quay wall is under examination as it is likely to form part of the private holdings of the adjoining commercial car park. The owners of the property will be informed of the matter and their responsibility to progress the necessary repairs. Pending clarification of ownership, the situation will continue to be monitored and if necessary temporary stabilisation works will be undertaken.

18. **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th APRIL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th April 2022.

19. **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th APRIL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th April 2022.

20. **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 25th APRIL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 25th April 2022.

21. **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 26th APRIL 2022**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 26th April 2022.

22. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence received.

23. **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

An Chomhairle noted conference/seminar summaries as follows:-

- Comhairleoirí. T. Shannon and D. Forde at the AILG Annual Training Conference 2022, held at the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal, 23rd - 24th March 2022.
- Comhairleoir D. Boyle at the IPI Annual Conference 2022- Planning for Climate Change, held at the Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel, Co. Kilkenny, 7th - 8th April 2022.
- Comhairleoir D. Boyle at the LAMA Awards 2021, held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dublin, 8th April 2022.
- Comhairleoir D. Forde at the Tourism and Digital Marketing Conference held at the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth, 4th - 6th March 2022.
- Comhairleoir D. Boyle at the SEAI Energy Show held at the RDS, Dublin, 30th - 31st March 2022.
- Comhairleoir .T. Shannon at the LAMA Autumn Seminar 2021 held at the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo, 3rd - 4th November 2021.
- Comhairleoir T. Shannon at the LAMA Spring Training Seminar held at the Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny, 11th - 12th April 2022.
- Comhairleoir M. Finn at the UNECE Conference of Mayors held in Geneva, Switzerland, 4th - 6th April 2022.

24. **SECTION 141 REPORTS**

None received.

25. **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None received.

25.1 **TOURISM AND DIGITAL MARKETING CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle considered and retrospectively approved the attendance of Comhairleoir D. Forde at the Tourism and Digital Marketing Conference held at the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth, 4th - 6th March 2022.

25.2 **NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the attendance of Comhairleoir D. Boyle at the National Biodiversity Conference to be held at Dublin Castle, 8th - 9th June 2022.

26. **TRAINING**

None received.

27. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for March 2022.

28. **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.

An Chomhairle agreed that motion 22/249, Audit of Vacant City Centre Retail Properties be referred to the Strategic, Economic Development, Enterprise, and Planning Strategic Policy Committee instead of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

An Chomhairle further agreed that motion 22/259, Irish Language Rights be considered at the end of the meeting.

29. **MOTIONS**

29.1 **IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE SUPPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'To write to the Minister for Education to include preschool and childcare facilities to the new scheme to provide Irish Sign Language support for children whose primary language is Irish Sign Language (ISL) and who are attending recognised schools.'

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 22/222)

29.2 **PILOT SCHEME FOR ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council calls on the Government and Minister of Social Protection to introduce a pilot scheme for artists with disabilities, to co-exist for the duration of the Basic Income for Artists pilot scheme, which would remove the weekly earnings limit and means test from those in receipt of disability supports.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 22/223)

29.3 **GENDER QUOTAS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That this Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Taoiseach, the Minister of State for Local Government and the Minister of State for Electoral Reform requesting that legislated candidate gender quotas of 40% be introduced to apply to the local elections in 2024.’

(Proposers: Cllr. C. Finn, Cllr. D. Forde, Cllr. M.R. Desmond, Cllr. M. Nugent, Cllr. F. Kerins 22/233)

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cahill, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend standing orders to continue the meeting past 8pm.

29.4 **POST OFFICE IN BLARNEY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will write to Minister Hildegard Naughton urging her to ensure that the Government in conjunction with An Post does all that it can to keep a post office in Blarney.’

‘Go scríobhfaidh An Comhairle go Hildegard Naughton chun iarfaí uirthi go ndéanfar (An Rialtas agus An Post) gach uile iarracht Oifig an Phoist Bhlárna a choimeád ar oscailt agus ag feidhmiú.’

(Proposers: Cllr. K. Collins, Cllr. M. Nugent 22/253)

29.5 **VISIBILITY MARKERS ON POWER CABLES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council write to the ESB to install visibility markers on the power cables that run across the Clogheenmilcon sanctuary in Blarney.’

‘Go scríobhfaidh An Comhairle go dtí an ESB chun iarratas a dhéanamh orthu ná cáblaí cumhachta a ritheann trasna Clogheenmillcon Sanctuary a dhéanamh níos feiceálach.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 22/254)

IRISH LANGUAGE RIGHTS

An tArdmhéara invited Comhairleoir E. Rynng to address the meeting on the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council:

- supports the campaign for Irish language rights.
- acknowledges that the delivery of Irish language legislation in the North is overdue, going back to unfulfilled commitments given in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and the St Andrews Agreement of 2007, to name but two examples.
- Recognises and commends Irish language activists who will travel to Béal Feirste on Saturday, May 21, to support the Dream Dearg campaign to achieve language rights.

And

- As an act of solidarity and support from the Council, we will, on 21st of May 2022, illuminate the Cork City Hall in red, symbolising the campaign for language rights.’

‘Go dtacaíonn Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí le cearta teanga Ghaeilge.

Go dtuigeann An Chomhairle nach bhfuil dul chun chinn déanta ar chás a bhí gheallta ai 1998 agus 2007 ó thaobh Cearta teanga ó thuaidh chun dhá shampla amháin a léiriú.

Go dtuigeann an Chomhairle go mbeidh mórthaispeántas ar 21u lá de Bhealtaine i mBeal Feirste chun na ceártaí seo a bhaint amach is go ndeanann an Chomhairle tacú leo.

Agus mar taispeántas dlúthpháirtíochta, go lasfar Halla Na Cathrach dearg ar an lá sin.’

(Proposer: Cllr. E. Rynng 22/259)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir E. Rynng, An Chomhairle approved the motion.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH