

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 27th NOVEMBER, 2006

- PRESENT** An tArdmhéara, Comhairleoir M. Ahern in the chair.
- NORTH EAST** Comhairleoirí T. Brosnan, J. Kelleher, D. Murphy, A. Spillane.
- NORTH CENTRAL** Comhairleoirí M. Barry, C. Clancy, G. O' Flynn, D. Wallace, P. Gosch.
- NORTH WEST** Comhairleoirí J. O'Brien, D. McCarthy, C. Burke, M. O' Connell, T. Fitzgerald.
- SOUTH EAST** Comhairleoirí D. Clune, D. Counihan, C. O' Leary, T. Shannon, J. Corr.
- SOUTH CENTRAL** Comhairleoirí C. O'Connell, C. Lynch, S. Martin, T. O' Driscoll.
- SOUTH WEST** Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, F. Dennehy, M. Shields, B. Bermingham,
- APOLOGIES** Comhairleoirí M. Quill, D. Cregan
- ALSO PRESENT** Mr. J. Gavin, City Manager.
Mr. D. O'Mahony, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs.
Mr. S. Kearney, Director of Services, Housing & Community.
Mr. P. Ledwidge, Director of Services, Docklands Development.
Mr. T. Healy, Head of Finance
Mr. T. Fleming, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation
Mr. P. Moynihan, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Community
Ms. N. Mulcahy, A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs.
Ms. J. Gazely, A/Administrative Officer, Corporate Affairs

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1.(a) **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

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

- The McCarthy Family on the death of Chris McCarthy
- The Stillwell Family on the death of John Stillwell
- The Lehane Family on the death of Con Lehane
- The O'Leary Family on the death of Paddy O'Leary
- The Casey Family on the death of Mary Casey
- The O'Herlihy Family on the death of Mrs. O'Herlihy
- The Coombes Family on the death of Rosie Coombes.

1.(b) **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

An Chomhairle extended a vote of congratulations to:

- St. Vincents on winning the Intermediate Premier Football Final
- Organisers of the Domestic Violence exhibition currently taking place in City Library
- Cllr. D. McCarthy on his long term commitment in supporting young people
- The Cork Hurling/Football Teams on winning 6 All-Star Awards.
- Ballyphehane Community Association & Ballyphehane/Togher Community Development Association on the successful organisation of Volunteer Week.

1.(c) **CIVIC RECEPTION**

An Chomhairle approved the hosting of a Civic Reception for St. Vincents Football Team on winning the Intermediate Football Final.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held on 13th November, 2006 were considered and approved.

3. **QUESTIONS**

3.1 **MUSEUM SUB-COMMITTEE**

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

When will the Museum Sub-Committee be re-established?

The Museum Advisory Committee will reconvene in early 2007

3.2 **ROUTE RIVER WALKWAY THROUGH "THE GROVE"**

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

Due to the reasonable and considerable concerns raised by the residents of "The Grove", Orchard Road, would the Manager please inform me as to what steps Cork City Council have taken to date to abandon plans to route part of the river walkway through "The Grove" as residents of the area have to endure enough hardship with the amount of high-rise flats in the area without adding to their problems?

The implications of the recent vote by City Council will be examined in the context of the Development Plan, and the Draft Bishopstown Area Plan. Suitable proposals will be brought forward in due course.

3.3 **FACILITIES FOR PARK AND RIDE FOR THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD**

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

Would the Manager outline to Council what facilities will be made available for Park and Ride for the Christmas period and in particular will the car park facility at the County Hall be made available during the Christmas period?

Park and Ride facilities will be available at both Black Ash and County Hall to facilitate Christmas Shopping 2006.

In addition to the normal Monday to Saturday service, the Black Ash will be in operation each Sunday in December i.e. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st. Hours of operation on Sunday will be 11.00 to 19.30. The Black Ash Park and Ride facility will be closed December 25th, 26th and New Year's Day.

Temporary Park and Ride facilities will be provided at the County Hall to facilitate shoppers from the west side of the city each Saturday and Sunday in December. The following operating times apply:

On Saturdays, December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th – operating times are from 09.30 to 18.15. On Sundays, December 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st – operating times are from 09.30 to 18.15.

Buses will run every 15 minutes and fares are maintained at previous years' levels.

3.4 **ESTIMATED LOSS OF WATER DUE TO LEAKS**

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

Request the Manager to provide information on the estimated loss of water due to leaks within the City of Cork.

- What is the estimated loss of water
- What is the estimated loss in financial terms.
- What is the estimated measured damage to water piping.
- What is the total length of our water piping?

Cork City Council Water Department have a proactive approach in dealing with loss of water from the City Council's water mains. The city network has been divided into a number of district meter areas (DMA's), water usage in each of these DMA's is monitored daily and fluctuations in usage are recorded. The Water Conservation Office has a crew deployed to identify points of water loss. When leaks are identified a repair crew repairs the leaks as soon as is practical. The inhouse team is augmented from time to time with contracted expertise. A preliminary report for phase one of the €100M. pipework rehabilitation programme which is in the sum of €10M is currently being completed.

1. The estimated unaccounted for water (U.F.W.) is 2.26 cubic meters of water per Km. of main per Hour (Water Audit in October 2006).
2. The estimated cost of U.F.W. is 7.7 Cent per cubic meter (estimated cost in year 2006).
3. Some of the U.F.W. is caused by breaks in pipes. The average number of repairs to pipes carried out by City Council (including service pipes) is approx. 8 per week. (This figure is based on records of the average number of repairs carried out over a 7 year period - Jan 2000 to October 2006).
4. The total length of water distribution pipe is approx. 650 Km (excluding service pipes).

3.5 **ENFORCEMENT SECTION OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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

To ask the City Manager to outline to Council what arrangements are in place after Council hours or at weekends in the Enforcement Section of the Planning Department if planning conditions are broken or enforcement letters and or warnings are ignored?

On foot of written complaints or matters being brought to the attention of the Planning Authority and based on the seriousness of breach, which may require an on-site investigation, the appropriate Enforcement Proceedings (i.e. Warning Letter followed by Enforcement Notice ; Emergency Enforcement Notice , Injunction) are taken by the Planning Enforcement Section.

Generally Clerical Administrative & Technical Staff operate during normal office hours (9.00 am to 5.00 pm from Monday to Friday) and any matters arising outside of these core hours are investigated the next working day and as soon as is practicable. Based on the volume of matters arising outside these core hours, the existing procedures are the most effective manner of applying our existing resources.

If a matter requires immediate/urgent attention, access to the City Council's Emergency Services is available to all citizens.

3.6 **TONNAGE OF DUMPED WASTE BEING COLLECTED IN THE CITY**

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

Can the Manager please inform Council as to the tonnage of dumped waste being collected in the city by Council workers now on a monthly basis? Can he provide any comparative figures for October 2005 and October 2004?

The total tonnages of dumped material collected are as follows:

	October 2004	October 2005	October 2006
Total Tonnes	158.76	327.78	190.90

3.7 **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF MUSGRAVE PARK**

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

To ask the City Manager to inform Council of the following matters in relation to the proposed development of Musgrave Park (File No. 06/31401)

- Have pre-planning meetings taken place with the developer?
- In the event of such pre-planning meetings having taken place, are the minutes of these meetings a matter of public record?
- Has the developer been informed that the proposal to develop apartment blocks and town houses on this site under what is described as “Ancillary”, is contrary to the Cork City Development Plan?
- Is it appropriate for the Planning Department of City Council to be engaged in pre-planning meetings which assist in planning applications being submitted which are in conflict with the Cork City Development Plan?
- Would a vote by Council be required to re-zone this area prior to the application being granted?

There have been no formal pre-planning consultations under Section 247 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in relation to the proposed development. Meetings with the Director of Planning took place in 2005 and 2006, but these were of a general nature and not within the terms of Section 247 or specific to planning application T.P.06/31401.

A previous planning application T.P.05/30076 for 55 apartments and 10 townhouses on the eastern portion of the land fronting Pearse Road was withdrawn on 28/07/06. The developers would have been aware of the land use zoning.

Section 247 of the 2000 Act provides for formal pre-application consultations, between prospective applicants who have an interest in land and the Planning Authority. The Planning Authority has discretion in regard to entering into such discussions but consent to requests to meet should not be unreasonably withheld. The application is currently being considered. The site is located at Musgrave Park grounds on lands zoned for *sports facilities* and grounds where the following, as set out under NHR12, is the land use planning policy:

- To protect the existing supply of sporting facilities. There will be a general presumption against the loss of sports pitches for development. In exceptional circumstances limited development may be considered if the proposed development:

Is ancillary to the principle use of the site as playing pitches and does not affect the quantity or quality of the pitches or adversely impact upon their use.

Only affects land incapable of forming part of the playing pitches and does not result in the loss of any playing pitch.

- To promote the provision and management of high quality sporting facilities.
- To facilitate access to sports facilities for all members of the community and ensure that the particular needs of different groups are incorporated into the planning, design and management of new facilities.
- The City Council will continue to encourage joint provision and dual use of sports facilities in appropriate locations.
- To promote, in co-operation with the County Council, the urban fringe and green belt as important resources for the provision of sports facilities e.g. golf courses, pitches etc
- To take account of the priorities set out in both national and local sports strategies when planning new facilities.

If the proposal is not compatible with this policy it would then require either (a) a variation of the City Plan zoning from sports ground for that sector of the land on which the apartments are proposed or else (b) a decision by the elected representatives to materially contravene the City Plan before permission could be granted.

3.8 **PROSECUTIONS FOR DOG FOULING**

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

Can the Manager state how many prosecutions for dog fouling have been issued in the last 12 months?

No fines have been issued under section 22(1) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (dog related offence) in the past 12 months.

A litter fine under this section can only be issued when a litter warden observes a dog in the act of fouling and can identify the person in charge of the dog. This is particularly difficult in the case of loose dogs.

A fine may also be issued if a member of the public is prepared to act as a witness for Cork City Council. This situation has not arisen in the past 12 months.

Recreation and Amenity Directorate Park Rangers have carried out an information awareness programme for dog owners in the major parks in the city over the past three months. This awareness programme includes informing dog owners of their responsibilities under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 and the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

3.9 **TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT JUNCTIONS OF THE NORTH RING ROAD AND THE FIRE STATION, BALLYVOLANE**

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

To ask the Manager when the Traffic Lights at the junction of The North Ring Road and The Fire Station, Ballyvolane will be erected?

A contractor has been appointed to carry out the installation of the traffic signals at the junction of the North Ring Road and the Fire Station, Ballyvolane. He recently also obtained the necessary road opening licence for the work.

The Contractor has indicated that he will start work in the very near future and the situation will be monitored to ensure the work will begin and will progress as quickly as possible.

3.10 **REMEDIAL WORKS ON ROSALEE CLOSE, MAYFIELD**

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

Can the Manager please confirm that he is still on target to complete all the promised remedial works on Rosalee Close, Mayfield, by Christmas 2006?

The building works to the properties at Rosalee Close, comprising replacement windows, external doors, soffits, fascias, gutters, downpipes and external painting are ongoing and are scheduled to be completed by Christmas 2006.

It was always envisaged that the external improvement works to boundary walls, paths and courtyard areas would follow sequentially after the building works. Tenders for these external works have been received, and the Contract will be awarded shortly. It is expected that the external works will then commence on site early in 2007.

3.11 **DEVELOPMENT OF FOUR HOUSES ON THE SITE OF THE OLD SCOUT HALL, HOLLYHILL LANE**

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

Can the Manager tell me when plans for the development of four houses on the site of the old Scout Hall in Hollyhill Lane will come before Council?

As part of the North City Environmental Enhancement Action Plan, the City Council has engaged the services of a consultant architect to consider proposals for the upgrading of Hollyhill Lane between it’s junctions with Harbour View Road and Kilmore Road. The proposal for the construction of housing on the Scout Hall site will be considered by the consultant and plans for the overall upgrading of Hollyhill Lane will be available and advised to Council early in the New Year.

3.12 **CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2004 - 2009**

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

To ask the Manager to explain the following wording which appears in the 2004 – 2009 City Development Plan. Paragraph 11.22 Page 177

“Planning Applications which include proposals for development of public open spaces, including access across public open space, will be referred to Council for decision”?

The making of a decision on a planning application is an executive function. Transfer of open space land to a developer would come before Council for decision where it is in public ownership.

It is in this context that the sentence in the development plan, “*Planning Applications which include proposals for development of public open spaces, including access across public open space, will be referred to Council for decision*”, should be viewed.

4. **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE –
20th NOVEMBER 2006**

**MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF THE CORK CITY DEVELOPMENT
PLAN 2004 REGISTER REFERENCE 06/31139**

An Chomhairle considered the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development & City Engineer dated 16th November, 2006 on the material contravention of the Cork City Development Plan 2004 in respect of proposed development at Mount Agnes Road, Churchfield, Cork, Register Reference 06/31139.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. O’Connell, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Brosnan, An Chomhairle agreed to defer a decision on this material contravention to the next meeting of An Chomhairle to be held on the 11th December, 2006.

ITEMS REFERRED FROM MEETING HELD ON 13th NOVEMBER 2006

The following items were referred from meeting of An Chomhairle held on 13th November 2006.

4. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE
– 6TH NOVEMBER 2006**

4.1 **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN VARIATION FOR NORTH
BLACKPOOL (SUNBEAM)**

An Chomhairle considered the proposed Development Plan Variation for North Blackpool (Sunbeam).

An Chomhairle unanimously agreed to defer this item to a meeting of An Chomhairle to be held in February/March 2007.

5. **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 6th
NOVEMBER 2006**

5.1 **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT THE GLEN, GLEN AVENUE**

An Chomhairle considered the proposed development at the Glen, Glen Avenue and the report of the Director of Services dated 2nd November, 2006 thereon. On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Brosnan, seconded by Comhairleoir A. Spillane, An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services.

The Report of the Director of Services stated that the development proposed constitutes Phase 2 of the Glen Regeneration Project. The proposed development will include for the construction of 59 No. new dwellings at Glen Avenue, details of house types as follows:

- 27 no 3-bedroom 2 storey houses
- 15 no 3-bedroom 3 storey houses
- 2 no 2-bedroom 2 storey houses
- 5 no 2-bedroom 3 storey houses
- 3 no 2-bedroom 2 storey duplex dwellings, over
- 3 no 2-bedroom ground floor apartments
- 4 no 2-bedroom apartments in a split - level building over four floors.

A Community Building of approximately 1800 sq. metres is also to be built. The proposed project will provide for off-road parking on Glen Avenue, the closure of the pedestrian tunnel under Glen Avenue, the construction of new boundary walls, gardens and driveways to House Nos. 61-78 incl. Arderin Way, Nos. 91-108 incl. Comeragh Park and Nos. 1-5 Glenmount, and for the carrying out of associated site development works.

The development described above was advertised as a development proposed to be carried out by Cork City Council. A location map showing the site is attached together with a site layout plan showing the proposed development as advertised. Cork City Council has advertised the proposed development as required by Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001. Plans and particulars of the proposed development were available for public inspection for the prescribed period. The period within which any submissions or observations were to be made ended on July 19th, 2006.

A total of 4 no. submissions/observations were received within the specified period in relation to the proposed development.

5.2 **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT FAIRFIELD HOUSE, OFF FAIRFIELD ROAD, FARRANREE, CORK**

Chomhairleoir D. Wallace declared his interest in the proposed development at Fairfield House, Off Fairfield Road, Farranree, Cork.

An Chomhairle considered the proposed development at Fairfield House, Off Fairfield Road, Farranree and the report of the Director of Services dated 2nd November, 2006 thereon. On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Brosnan, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Corr, An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services.

The Report of the Director of Services stated that the proposed development will include demolition of existing structures, and the construction of a total of 13 No. dwellings, on a site measuring 1647 Sq Metres (0.1647ha).

Access to the proposed development will be via Fairfield Road. Details of the house types proposed are given as follows:

- 2 No. One Bedroom Apartment over 2 Storey Two Bedroom Apartments.
- 6 No. Two Bedroom 2 Storey Apartments.
- 2 No. Three Bedroom 2 Storey Semi-Detached Houses.
- 3 No. Three Bedroom 2 Storey Townhouses.

The development described above was advertised as a scheme proposed to be carried out by A.P.O.C. Ltd in partnership with Cork City Council pursuant to a contract with Cork City Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. The site of the proposed development is shown on the accompanying map and a site layout plan is also attached showing the proposed development scheme, as advertised. Cork City Council has advertised the proposed development as required by Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001. Plans and particulars of the proposed development were available for public inspection for the prescribed period. The period within which any submissions or observations were to be made ended on the 9th October, 2006.

One submission was received in relation to the proposed development.

ITEMS DEFERRED FROM MEETING HELD ON 13th NOVEMBER 2006

The following items were deferred from meeting of An Chomhairle held on 13th November 2006.

6. **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 6th NOVEMBER 2006**

6.1 **MONTHLY REPORT**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services on Housing for the month of October, 2006.

6.2 **PROPOSED LOAN FACILITY TO THE CORK SIMON COMMUNITY FOR THE ACQUISITION AND REDEVELOPMENT OF 34 LEITRIM STREET INTO A WET SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services dated 2nd November, 2006 in relation to the proposed loan facility to the Cork Simon Community for the acquisition and redevelopment of 34 Leitrim Street into a Wet Shelter for the Homeless:

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Corr, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle adopted the following resolution :-

“**RESOLVED**, pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992, that a loan facility not exceeding € 1,865,844 be granted to Cork Simon Community, subject to the conditions of the Capital Assistance Scheme and the approval of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government”.

6.3 **WALL BETWEEN ASCENSION HEIGHTS AND NU FARM PITCH**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services dated 2nd November, 2006 in relation to the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘Wall be put in place between Ascension Heights and Nu Farm pitch.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. McCarthy 06/396)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the feasibility of the provision of a wall between Ascension Heights and Nu Farm pitch will be examined in conjunction with the future use of the open space and a further report will issue when this review is completed.

As an interim measure a palisade fence will be put in place by the City Council.

6.4 **BUILDING PROGRAMME – BUNGALOW TYPE HOUSING**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services dated 2nd November, 2006 in relation to the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘Given the increased demand for bungalow type housing in the city, I propose that Cork City Council put a building in place for such housing as a matter of urgency.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. McCarthy 06/398)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Members will be aware that the Housing Programme is framed within the Social & Affordable Action Plan 2004 – 2008 approved by the City Council. The Plan provides for the provision of different types and sizes of dwellings to meet the various needs of those looking for local authority housing.

Regard is had to the Action Plan and the particular needs of applicants in particular areas when the Council develops the design for individual schemes. The option of using the house purchase programme as a means of addressing specific needs is also available to the Council. The Programme as currently being implemented is capable of responding flexibly to various diverse needs and it is

not considered necessary to apply any new initiatives or requirements as sought by the motion.

6.5 **MOUNT ST. JOSEPH HEIGHTS – WALLS & NAME PLATE**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services dated 2nd November, 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘I propose that Cork City Council erect walls between the houses in Mount St. Joseph Heights, and that a name plate be put in place at the entrance.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. McCarthy 06/447)

The report of the Director of Services stated that The City Council will erect walls and put railings in place between existing houses at Mount St. Josephs Heights. A name plate will also be put in place at the entrance to the estate.

6.6 **MINIATURE CIRCUIT BREAKER BOARDS IN KILLINEY HEIGHTS**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services dated 2nd November, 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘Put in place new Miniature Circuit Breaker Boards (MCB Boards) in Killiney Heights, Knocknaheeny and any other estate that requires them to bring the homes there up to the modern electrical standards.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 06/479)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a stock survey is currently underway of Cork City Council’s housing stock and this will identify any properties that do not have modern MCB Boards. A programme will then be drawn up to replace fuse boards with MCB Boards in these properties commencing in 2007.

6.7 **HARBOUR VIEW ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services dated 2nd November, 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That the homes that require refurbishment on the left hand side of Harbour View Road (the oldest homes in Knocknaheeny and with the oldest population) be included in the Block D development and Block F & H, respectively.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 06/480)

The report of the Director of Services stated that members will be aware that a Contract is in place and that there is a Building Contractor on site carrying out the works provided for in the approved development for Block D. It is not considered reasonable or practical to extend this contract to include dwellings on the left hand side of Harbour View Road.

The formal Part 8 Planning process has now been initiated for the next phase of regeneration covering Blocks E, F, G, H. and issues raised through this process are currently being reviewed. Again, it is not considered reasonable to now include the houses on Harbour View Road in this phase of work.

Plans will be advanced for the houses on Harbour View Road and a further report will issue to Council in due course.

Comhairleoir M. Barry requested that his objection to the motion be noted in the minutes.

CONTINUATION OF MEETING

An Chomhairle agreed to continue the meeting beyond 8 p.m. and agreed unanimously that the meeting would finish at 9 p.m.

7. ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 6th NOVEMBER 2006

7.1 ROADWORKS PROGRAMME

An Chomhairle noted the report of the Assistant City Manager dated 30th November, 2006, on the progress of ongoing Roadworks Programme for month ended October, 2006.

7.2 DRAFT ROADWORKS PROGRAMME – 2007

An Chomhairle noted the report of the Assistant City Manager dated 2nd November, 2006 regarding Draft Roadworks Programme 2007.

7.3 TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES 2006

An Chomhairle noted the report of the Assistant City Manager dated 2nd November, 2006 regarding Traffic Calming Measures 2006.

7.4 **PROVISION OF LIGHT AT ST. MARY'S ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That a light be put on St. Mary’s Road overlooking Farran Street to facilitate local residents especially during the wintertime.

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Gosch 06/381)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the public lighting on St. Mary Road at the junction of Farran Street will be surveyed and the provision of any necessary additional lights will be put forward for consideration in the roads programme. Alternatively any new light(s) could be funded, if agreed by the Members, out of Ward Funds.

7.5 **RAMPS AT ST. ANNE’S ROAD, GURRANABRAHER**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That ramps would be located on St. Anne’s Road, Gurranaברה, in order to slow down traffic passing through the area which is a very narrow road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Gosch 06/384)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that St. Anne’s Road, Gurranaברה will be added to the list of areas, where a request for traffic calming as been received. Traffic volume and speed surveys will be carried out to determine the extent of the problems in order to identify any possible mitigation measures that could be provided there. Identified appropriate traffic calming measures will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme.

7.6 **CLOSURE OF LANEWAY BETWEEN 51/53 UPPER FAIR HILL AND 40/41 BANTRY PARK**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council close the Laneway between No 51/53 Upper Fair Hill and 40/41 Bantry Park.

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 06/390)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the closure of the laneway between No. 51/53 Upper Fair Hill and 40/41 Bantry Park will be considered for inclusion in the 2007 laneway closure programme.

7.7 **REPLACE FOOTPATHS IN FRONT OF 1 & 2 CUSHING RD., FARRANREE**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council Roads Dept. replace the footpaths fronting numbers 1 and 2 Cushing Road Farranree.

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 06/411)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the footpath on Cushing Road, Farranree, extending from house No. 1 to house No. 2 is in reasonable condition and does not require replacement at this time. However, this length of footpath will be considered for Ecoflex resurfacing in the 2007 Roads Maintenance Programme of works. In the meantime any minor defects will be rectified.

7.8 **FOOTPATHS ON SARAHVILLE PLACE**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That the footpaths on Sarahville Place be included in the 2007 Renewal Programme as they are in very poor condition.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 06/425)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the footpaths on Sarahville Place will be considered for inclusion in the 2007 Footpath Renewal Programme.

7.9 **SIGNAL CONTROLS AT TRAMORE RD. JUNCTION**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council consider installing Signal Controls at the junction of Tramore Road and Lower Pouladuff Road in order to prevent lengthy tailbacks from forming in a North South direction.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 06/426)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the junction of Tramore Road and Lower Pouladuff Road is controlled by a roundabout and is locally known as “Casey’s Cross”. It is Cork City Council’s policy, where possible, to eliminate roundabouts in built up areas and replace them with signal controlled junctions. The reason for the policy is that roundabouts are not appropriate in areas where there are significant volumes of cyclists or pedestrians. Roundabouts offer poor facilities for such road users and are particularly unsafe for vulnerable pedestrians such as the very young, the elderly and those with disabilities.

However the roundabout at Casey’s Cross does perform one very important function, i.e. it allows traffic coming northbound over Pouladuff Bridge (over the South Ring Road) to do a u-turn and travel down the eastbound ramp onto the South Ring Road. This traffic is not allowed to turn right directly onto this ramp because of the delays and congestion this manoeuvre would cause.

A detailed assessment of the issues involved, i.e. pedestrian/cycle movements, right turn ban, delays in the north south direction etc. will have to be carried out in order to identify the optimum traffic management controls for the area. The NRA will be involved in this assessment because of the possible impacts of any new measures on the N25 South Ring Road. A further report will be submitted when the assessments are carried out.

7.10 **CURRAHEEN ESTATE IN BISHOPSTOWN**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would carry out a renewal and regeneration plan of the Curraheen Estate in Bishopstown, and Leesdale in Model Farm Rd. The plan to include:

- (i) Landscaping of the green and open areas
- (ii) Erection of new street signs
- (iii) Enhancement of the public realm
- (iv) Road and path renewal
- (v) Laneway closures.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 06/432)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that:

- (i) Awaiting reply from Recreation, Amenity and Culture Directorate.
- (ii) A scheme has been drawn up which consists of 9 new signs. This scheme is available for viewing by the members at any time. The nameplates will be ordered and erected before the end of the year. Nameplates for Leedale are being considered for inclusion in the 2007 programme.
- (iii) Awaiting reply from Recreation, Amenity and Culture Directorate.
- (iv) The footpaths and carriageways in Curraheen Estate in Bishopstown, and Leedale in Model Farm Rd will be considered for inclusion in the 2007 Road and Footpath Renewal Programme.
- (v) Tenders have been received for the laneway closures in Curraheen Estate and the contract will be completed by the end of the year.

7.11 **ROAD SIGNAGE ON THE N25**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council, the NRA and/or Cork County Council would improve the road signage on the N25 from the Kinsale Road Interchange, highlighting the exits for Bishopstown and Wilton.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 06/433)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the construction of the South Ring Road, Kinsale Road Interchange, etc. is responsibility of the NRA. The provision of appropriate signage is also part of their responsibility and they will be contacted with a request to improve, where necessary, the signage for the exits for Bishopstown and Wilton.

7.12 **REINSTATE THE IRISH INSCRIPTIONS ON ST. PATRICKS BRIDGE AND PARLIAMENT BRIDGE**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council reinstate the Irish inscriptions on St. Patrick’s Bridge and Parliament Bridge and on the other city bridges where the Irish inscriptions have been allowed to deteriorate.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 06/439)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that it is planned to reinstate the Irish inscriptions on St. Patrick's Bridge and Parliament Bridge. All the other bridges around the city will also be inspected and renewed if considered necessary.

7.13 **SURVEY – IMPROVING PEDESTRIAN ACCESS – SPRING LANE, BLACKPOOL**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council Roads Department carry out a survey with the view to improving pedestrian access and widening the footpaths in Spring Lane, Blackpool.

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 06/412)

The report of the Assistant City Manger stated that The Roads Maintenance Division will survey the width of the footpaths in Spring Lane, Blackpool to determine their compliance with the minimum requirements. Should it be necessary to adjust the widths this adjustment will be done where possible taking into account the restricted nature of Spring Lane.

Spring Lane, although now one-way, is still a relatively narrow roadway and there may not be much scope for widening the footpaths. However, the area will be surveyed, and if appropriate the widening of the footpaths will be put forward for consideration to be included in the roads programme.

7.14 **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT BLARNEY ST. JUNCTION**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That a pedestrian crossing would be put in place at the junction of Blarney Street and Shandon Street, near Irwins Chemist Shop.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Gosch 06/430)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that a major refurbishment scheme has recently been completed in Shandon Street at the junction with Blarney Road. The scheme involved major upgrading of the public realm and the new footpaths and surfacing has improved the pedestrian facilities in the area.

In the design of the new scheme, the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Blarney Road and Shandon Street was not envisaged. A pedestrian

crossing cannot be provided close to a junction and if signals are to be provided, the junction would have to be fully signalised for road safety reasons.

A signalised junction here would be too close to the traffic signals at North Gate Bridge and are also now not appropriate because of the large excavations that would be required in the new surfaces for ducting, etc. Accordingly, the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Shandon Street and Blarney Street is not recommended.

7.15 **SPRING LANE**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council Roads Department consult with the Gardaí with the view to having Spring Lane regulated as a street not suitable for heavy goods vehicles.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 06/438)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Spring Lane will be examined in conjunction with the Gardaí and if deemed appropriate, signage will be installed either discouraging or prohibiting the use of the roadway by heavy goods vehicles.

7.16 **SURVEY – SUNNYSIDE, BELMONT, BALLINLOUGH**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That this Council would survey Sunnyside, Belmont, Ballinlough with a view to reducing the speed and volume of traffic using this route.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Clune 06/446)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Sunnyside, Belmont, Ballinlough is already on the list of areas, where a request for traffic calming has been received. Traffic volume and speed surveys are due to be carried out to determine the extent of the problems in order to identify any possible mitigation measures that could be provided there.

Identified appropriate traffic calming measures will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme.

7.17 YELLOW BOX – SHANAKIEL ROAD

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council put in place a yellow box on Shanakiel Road at the junction of the road leading to Ashboro and also at the junction of Strawberry Hill.

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Burke 06/448)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the area will be visited in conjunction with the Gardaí to determine if yellow boxes should be painted on Shanakiel Road at the junctions with Ashboro and Strawberry Hill. If deemed necessary, the painting of the yellow boxes will be inputted in the road marking programme.

7.18 TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES – MARDYKE

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council should put in place traffic calming measures on the Mardyke in view of the fact that the speed of traffic using the roadway has increased and in addition the volume of traffic has tripled in the last few years due to access to the U.C.C. Sports Ground being made available from Mardyke Walk.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Burke 06/453)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Mardyke Walk is already on the list of areas, where a request for traffic calming has been received. Traffic volume and speed surveys are due to be carried out to determine the extent of the problems in order to identify any possible mitigation measures that could be provided there.

Identified appropriate traffic calming measures will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme.

7.19 **RESURFACE – CAHERGAL AVENUE – 2007 ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council resurface the remainder of Cahergal Avenue and Cahergal Lawn in 2007 and that it make appropriate provision for this work in the 2007 Estimate of Expenses.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 06/454)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the Roads Maintenance Division will consider the remaining area of road in Cahergal Avenue for resurfacing in the 2007 Roads Maintenance Programme of works.

7.20 **RESURFACE – BELLEVUE PARK 2007**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council resurface the remainder of Bellevue Park in 2007 and that it make the appropriate provision in the 2007 Estimate of Expenses.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 06/455)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the Roads Maintenance Division will consider the remaining area of road in Bellevue Park for resurfacing in the 2007 Roads Maintenance Programme of works.

7.21 **UPGRADING FOOTPATHS – SILVERCOURT**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That the upgrading of the foot-paths and the road in Silvercourt, North Ring Road, Silversprings, be including in the programme of works for the coming year.

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kelleher 06/462)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the footpaths in Silvercourt are in reasonably good condition and do not require to be upgraded at this time. However, consideration will be given, on their merits, for Ecoflex surfacing in the 2007 Roads Maintenance Programme of works.

The road surface is similarly in reasonably good condition, however, it will be considered for resurfacing in the 2007 Roads Maintenance Programme.

7.22 **ELTON LAWN, UAM VAR ESTATE, BISHOPSTOWN – ON STREET PARKING ISSUES**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘In light of extreme difficulties being experienced by residents of Elton Lawn, Uam Var estate Bishopstown, in gaining access egress from their residences due to chronic on street parking and in the interests of health and safety, Cork City Council would designate them as priority areas in need of urgent assistance to alleviate the on street parking issues.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 06/465)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that work is ongoing on the current disc parking zone (DPZ) extension scheme. It will be implemented as soon as possible within the constraints of resources and demands of other traffic related work. However because of the size of the area involved, it is likely that it will be sometime in the latter half of 2007 before the scheme is completed.

Elton Lawn and Uam Var Estate generally are not in the 2006-2007 DPZ extension scheme and disc parking controls cannot be installed there at present. However, because of the parking problems in the area it is likely that it will be included in the next DPZ extension scheme.

In the meantime, the area will be visited in conjunction with the Gardaí and any measures such as double/single lines will be considered in order to alleviate the parking problems there.

7.23 **ROADS RESURFACING PROGRAMME – ASHFORD ESTATE**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would include Ashford Estate in its road resurfacing programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 06/466)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Ashford Estate will be considered for inclusion in the 2007 road resurfacing programme.

7.24 **GREEN MAN CROSSING ON SKEHARD ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council install a green man crossing and other traffic calming measures on the Skehard Road adjacent to Brickfields and Douglas Hall Mews. The cost of such works can be easily found in the development charges gathered from this new development.

(Proposers: Cllr. S. Martin and T. Shannon 06/471)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Skehard Road in the vicinity of Brickfields and Douglas Hall Mews will be examined and assessed for the provision of pedestrian crossing and traffic management measures. It should be noted that Skehard Road is a major local distributor between the City Centre/Douglas and Mahon and generally would not be regarded as suitable for traffic calming measures.

Other issues in the area of the new developments include poor visibility and lack of sight distance lines. The area will be examined in the context of these issues and also in the context of road widening where this is the last section of road widening to be done on Skehard Road. A road reservation has been preserved for many years in the area and I will arrange for the Roads Design Division to examine the possibility of implementing this remaining section of road widening, which would resolve many of the traffic issues adjacent to the new developments.

A further report will follow when the assessments have been carried out.

7.25 **INSTALL PARK AND DISPLAY MACHINES IN THE CITY**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 2nd November, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘To facilitate both residents of Cork and visitors to our city I propose that Cork City Council install “Park and Display” machines in the City to complement or replace the scratch card system.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. McCarthy 06/400)

The report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Pay and Display machines are currently on trial in the White Street off-street car park. The purpose of the trial is to test and check the reliability and robustness of the machines and measure the reaction of the car park customers. The trial which started on the 12th

September is due to last for three months and if deemed successful, a separate trial of Pay & Display machines will be held in the City Centre to measure their effectiveness in an ‘on-street’ situation.

A full report will be sent to Council on the completion of the off-street and on-street trials.

8. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered the following motions which were referred from meetings of An Chomhairle held on 11th and 25th September, 9th and 23rd October, 13th November 2006.

8.1 **OPPOSITION – 25% INCREASE IN GAS PRICES**

An Chomhairle approved the following motion.

‘Cork City Council states its opposition to the 25% increase in the gas prices due on October 1 and calls on the Government to provide Bord Gais with a subsidy that would allow it to cancel this draconian price hike.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Barry 06/413)

8.2 **OPPOSITION – GOVERNMENT POLICY – AER LINGUS**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council states its total opposition to Government policy regarding privatisation of the national airline, Aer Lingus.

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Barry 06/414)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Corr seconded by Comhairleoir D. Wallace a vote was called for where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí A. Spillane, M. Barry, C. O’ Leary. –(3)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí T. Brosnan, D. Murphy, D. Wallace, P. Gosch, D. McCarthy, C. Burke, D. Counihan, T. Shannon, J. Corr, S. Martin, M. Ahern. - (11)

ABSTAINED: Comhairleoir C. Clancy, C. Lynch.-(2)

An tArd-Mhéara declared the vote lost and the motion defeated.

To consider the following motion which was referred from meetings of An Chomhairle held on 25th September, 9th and 23rd October, 13th November, 2006.

8.3 **HSE HOME HELPS**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council opposes the new rules for calculating HSE home helps income when assessing eligibility for medical cards.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Barry 06/442)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Wallace seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin a vote was called for where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí D. Murphy, A. Spillane, M. Barry, C. Clancy, P. Gosch, C. Burke, C. O’ Leary, J. Corr, C. Lynch, M. Ahern.- (10)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí T. Brosnan, D. Wallace, D. McCarthy, D. Coughlan, T. Shannon, S. Martin. -(6)

An tArd-Mhéara declared the vote carried and the motion approved.

An Chomhairle considered the following motions which were referred from meetings of An Chomhairle held on 9th and 23rd October, 13th November, 2006.

8.4 **SCOIL PADRE PIO, CHURCHFIELD – LAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A SCHOOL HALL/GYMN**

An Chomhairle approved the following motion:-

‘That this City Council would discuss with Scoil Padre Pio, Churchfield, the possibility of donating the land adjacent to the school for the construction of a School Hall/Gymnasium.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. O’ Brien 06/451)

8.5 **GARDA SIOCHANA – SHELL OIL GAS REFINERY**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council opposes the decision to mobilise approximately 200 members of the Garda Siochana, including Gardai from Cork, to assist the Shell Oil corporation in implementing their plans for a gas refinery in North Mayo.

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Barry 06/469)

9. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

An tArdmhéara declared the meeting adjourned and that the above motion and the remainder of items on the agenda were deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle.

10. **TENDERS**

The following tenders were opened:-

- Sídhéán Teo, Spiddal, Go. Galway

This concluded the business of the meeting.

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH