

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 17th JULY, 2006

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

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1.(a) **MESSAGE OF SUPPORT**

An Chomhairle extended their best wishes and support to Comhairleoir C. O' Leary on the recent actions taken against him and his family.

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

An Chomhairle extended a vote of congratulations to:

- The Cork Football team on winning the Munster Senior Football Final.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held on 10th July, 2006 were considered and approved.

ITEMS DEFERRED FROM MEETING OF AN CHOMHAIRLE HELD ON 10th JULY, 2006:-

3. **BISHOPSTOWN AND WILTON AREA ACTION PLAN**

An Chomhairle noted the report of the City Manager on the Bishopstown and Wilton Area Action Plan.

4. **PROHIBITION OF CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR ON THE STREETS OF CORK AND IN PUBLIC PLACES WITHIN THE CITY OF CORK, BYE LAWS 2001.**

An Chomhairle approved the amended report of the City Manager dated 6th July 2006 on Prohibition of Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor on the Streets of Cork and in Public Places within the City of Cork, Bye Laws 2001.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Corr seconded by Comhairleoir J. Buttimer An Chomhairle also adopted the following Resolution:-

“**RESOLVED THAT** – Bye-Law 10 be amended to reflect the increase in the fixed payment as provided for in Statutory Instrument No 78 of 1999 which increased the fixed payment fine from IR £25 to IR £50 (€63) and to the following additional amendment thereto to amend the Bye Laws to have all references to “The Lord Mayor, Alderman and Burgesses of Cork” and/or “Cork Corporation” amended to read “Cork City Council”.

5. **ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 6th JUNE 2006**

5.1 **TO PUT IN PLACE A NOTICE WHEN ENGAGING IN WORKS**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would put in place as a matter of courtesy and good practice a written and verbal public notice to residents when engaging in works involving repair and closure of roads, paths, and turning water off.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer (06/208))

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that road resurfacing contracts require the contractor to notify all residents of the intended works no later than two working days prior to commencement. This takes the form of advance notification signs on the roadway. Residents and businesses along affected roads usually receive a leaflet drop informing them of the works including timetable, parking restrictions, access restrictions method of work and any other relevant information. This leaflet is usually distributed not sooner than 4 working days prior to commencement and not later than 2 working days prior to commencement. Planned direct labour works such as footpath renewals are publicised through similar leaflet drops. Other repairs which are small-scale are often carried out as an urgent response to requests from the public, are not particularly disruptive and would not normally involve publicity on the scale described above. Procedures for interruption of water supplies can be outlined by the Environment Directorate.

5.2 **AUDIT OF THE PUBLIC LIGHTING IN THE ESTATE ROADS IN UAM VAR**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would carry out an audit of the public lighting in the estate roads in Uam Var and as a matter of urgency would install public lighting in areas currently lacking.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer (06/209))

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the public lighting in the estate roads in Uam Var will be examined and assessed for any necessary improvements to ensure it reaches modern standards. Any identified improvements will be put forward for consideration to be included in the roads programme. Alternatively the costs of the improvements may be considered for funding out of Ward Funds.

5.3 **PUT PROPER ROAD MARKINGS IN PLACE ON THE TORY TOP ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council will ensure that proper road markings are put in place on the section of Tory Top Road between Connolly Road and the Curragh Road Junction. This is still outstanding following earlier resurfacing work carried out on the road.

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Lynch (06/211))

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that The section of Tory Top Road between Connolly Road and Curragh Road will be examined and any outstanding road markings will be put in place without delay. I recommend that the Roads & Transportation Functional Committee consider this report and refer to Council for approval.

5.4 **DISC PARKING TO BE EXTENDED IN BLARNEY STREET**

An Chomhairle approved the amended Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That disc parking is extended in Blarney Street from Baker’s Road to Blarney Road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. O’Connell (06/215))

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the section of Blarney Street between Baker’s Road and Blarney Road is part of the current Disc Parking Zone (DPZ) extension scheme. The total scheme will be completed in the latter half of 2007. However, it is intended to start the process of installing pay parking controls on this section of Blarney Street in the coming weeks. The process includes:

- Consultation with local residents and the Gardaí
- Installing the signage and road marking controls on the ground.
- Enforcing the parking controls in the new area.

5.5 **BIRCH PLACE, TOGHER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR RESURFACING**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Birch Place, Togher be considered for resurfacing as the road is currently in a very bad state of disrepair.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Dennehy (06/217))

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Birch Place, Togher will be considered for inclusion in the 2007 Estates Resurfacing Programme.

5.6 **LIGHTING AT BALLYHOOLEY ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That the old and inadequate lighting at the entrance to Oakpark on the Ballyhooley Road be urgently upgraded as it’s causing serious problems for the residents.’

(Proposers: Cllr. D. Murphy, Cllr. M. Quill, Cllr. T. Brosnan, Cllr. J. Kelleher, Cllr. A. Spillane 06/226)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that The public lighting at the entrance to Oakpark on the Ballyhooley New Road will be examined and assessed for any necessary improvements to ensure it reaches modern standards. Any identified improvements will be put forward for consideration to be included in the roads programme. Alternatively the costs of the improvements may be considered for funding out of Ward Funds.

5.7 **INNER SECTION OF CLAREVILLE**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That the inner section of Clareville be included in the 2007 Estate Road Resurfacing Programme which would also include footpath renewal.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 06/112)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the inner section of Clareville will be considered for inclusion in the 2007 Estates Resurfacing Programme.

5.8 **CONNOLLY PARK**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Connolly Park be included in the 2007 Estate Road Resurfacing Programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 06/113)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Connolly Park will be considered for inclusion in the 2007 Estates Resurfacing Programme.

5.9 **PELICAN CROSSING AT JUNCTION OF SOUTH DOUGLAS ROAD AND SKEHENAMORE**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘ That Cork City Council would up grade the Pelican crossing at the junction of South Douglas Road and Skehenamore to full traffic signal control to facilitate the large numbers of residents wishing to exit onto the South Douglas Road, but are unable to, due to large volume of vehicles using the main road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Shannon 06/223)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the Pelican Crossing on the South Douglas Road adjacent to the junction at the entrance to Skehanore Estate (which also leads onto Glencurrag Park and to the new Nemo Rangers Football & Hurling Club facility) provides a good pedestrian crossing on the main road. However, the volume of vehicles using the junction has increased dramatically as a result of the relocation of Nemo Rangers and the construction of new housing estates using the junction. Traffic counts will be carried out at the junction in order to determine if sufficient traffic movements now exist to warrant the installation of traffic signals. If the warrants are satisfied, the installation of the traffic signals will be put forward for consideration to be included in the roads programme.

5.10 **YELLOW BOXES AT ENTRANCE TO CHRIST THE KING CHURCH**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That yellow boxes would be placed outside the car park entrance at Christ the King Church, Turners Cross, as this would create easy access for the public during Mass times.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. O’Flynn 06/227)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Yellow boxes have no legal standing unless they are provided at a road junction. Requests are regularly received for yellow boxes outside institutions, businesses, etc. and only in exceptional circumstances (e.g. outside St. Finbarr’s Hospital on Douglas Road), are they provided. Further provision of these ‘non legal’ yellow boxes would generate more and more requests for similar boxes. Yellow boxes are also very expensive to lay and maintain. The car park entrance at Christ the King Church, Turner’s Cross is not a road junction and it should also be noted that at Mass times, which is usually on Sunday or Saturday evening, traffic on the main road is usually relatively light. A yellow box here close to the nearby Turner’s Cross junction would also impact on the performance of the junction and increase congestion at peak traffic periods. Accordingly, the installation of a yellow box at this location is not recommended. Traffic counts will be carried out at the junction of Military Road and Old Youghal Road in order to determine if sufficient traffic movements exist to warrant the installation of traffic signals. If the warrants are satisfied, the installation of the traffic signals will be put forward for consideration to be included in the roads programme. The area will also be visited, in conjunction with the Gardaí, to examine if there are other measures that can be taken such as the provision of parking restrictions, which may improve road safety at the junction.

5.11 **RESURFACING OF FOOTPATHS AND ROADS NEAR OLD DOUGLAS ST. POST OFFICE**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That that footpaths and road surfaces near the old Douglas Street Post Office be resurfaced as soon as possible as they are in very poor condition.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. O’Driscoll 06/237)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Defective footpaths and kerbs adjacent to the old Douglas Street Post Office will be repaired in the near future.

5.12 **TRAFFIC LIGHTS – JUNCTION OF MILITARY ROAD AND OLD YOUGHAL ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would erect Traffic Lights at the junction of Military Road and Old Youghal Road as the junction is quite dangerous for motorists turning right or left from Military Road due to speeding traffic on Old Youghal Road and the fact that cars parked on either side of the junction obstruct the view of motorists adds further to the danger.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 06/241)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Traffic counts will be carried out at the junction of Military Road and Old Youghal Road in order to determine if sufficient traffic movements exist to warrant the installation of traffic signals. If the warrants are satisfied, the installation of the traffic signals will be put forward for consideration to be included in the roads programme. The area will also be visited, in conjunction with the Gardaí, to examine if there are other measures that can be taken such as the provision of parking restrictions, which may improve road safety at the junction.

5.13 **GREEN AREA AT KNOCKNAHEENY**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That the green area between No. 9 to No. 12 Courtown Drive Knocknaheeny would be converted into a parking area for residents, and that the footpath which runs along at the side of No. 9 be repaired as soon as possible.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. O’Connell 06/244)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the footpath outside no. 9 will be examined and repaired if necessary. The Roads & Transportation Directorate has no objection to the removal of the small green area between No. 9 to No. 12 Courtown Drive Knocknaheeny in order to improve access and parking facilities for the residents if required. The Recreation & Amenity Directorate, who is responsible for maintaining open space/green areas, will be consulted for the views on the matter. I will arrange for the Roads/Design Division to carry out a design and cost estimate for carrying out the necessary work. There are no funds in this year's roads programme for such a scheme, however the works will be put forward for consideration to be included in next year's programme. Alternatively Members may consider funding the work out of Ward Funds. Recent works carried out by Cork City Council's Road Maintenance Dept. provided footpath access from the existing car park to No's. 9 to 12 which improved the situation for the residents.

5.14 **TRAFFIC SURVEY AT DEERPARK**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

'That this Council agrees that a complete traffic survey of Deerpark Estate, be undertaken as a matter of urgency with the view to putting extensive traffic calming measures in place. This is essential given the large number of young children resident on the Estate. Speeding traffic is a great hazard particularly at school holiday time.'

(Proposer: Cllr. C. O'Connell 06/245)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Deerpark Estate Road will be added to the list of areas, where a request for traffic calming has 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.

5.15 **ROAD MARKINGS AT WOODLANDS, MIDDLE GLANMIRE ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

'That, in order to reduce the possibility of traffic accidents occurring, proper road markings be put in place at the entrance to Woodlands, Middle Glanmire Road, Montenotte.'

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kelleher 06/251)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the entrance to Woodlands on the Middle Glanmire Road will be examined in conjunction with the Gardaí and any appropriate road markings to improve road safety there will be installed.

5.16 **NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING – CLASHDUV PARK**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would in the interest of health and safety and to avoid any potential injury to all who use the playground install a new pedestrian crossing at the entrance to the playground on Clashduv park on Clashduv road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 06/252)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that traffic and pedestrian surveys will be carried out to determine if sufficient warrants exist for the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Clashduv Park adjacent to the playground on Clashduv Road. If the warrants are met the provision of the pedestrian crossing facility will be put forward for consideration in the roads programme. It should be noted that there is an existing pedestrian facility adjacent to Riverview Estate and national guidelines recommended minimum of 300 metres distance between crossing points. However, the fact that the crossing will service a playground will be taken into account when all the relevant information is gathered.

5.17 **TRAFFIC CALMING SYCAMORE PLACE, TOGHER**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would in consultation with residents install traffic calming in Sycamore Place, Togher.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 06/253)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Sycamore Place is already on the list of areas, where a request for traffic calming has 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.

5.18 **DESMOND SQUARE**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Desmond Square be included in the 2007 Estate Road Resurfacing Programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 06/114)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Desmond Square will be considered for inclusion in the 2007 Estates Resurfacing Programme.

5.19 **FOOTPATH AT HOLLYMOUNT EST.**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council provide a footpath between Hollywood Est. and Hollymount.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. McCarthy 06/229)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that footpaths connect Hollymount and Hollywood Estate on the Harbour View Road side and provide safe access for pedestrians. It is not necessary to construct an additional footpath with a steeper grade through the green area.

5.20 **PUBLIC LIGHT IN THE LOUGH**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council put money in next years Estimates to carry out a major upgrading of public light in the Lough as this is a city walk amenity.’

(Proposers: Cllr. S. Martin, Cllr. C. Lynch, Cllr. T. O’Driscoll, Cllr. D. Cregan 06/236)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the Lough is a public park and the maintenance of which is the responsibility of the Recreation & Amenity Directorate. Discussions have been held with officials from this directorate and a source of funds has been identified for the carrying out of public lighting improvements. A scheme for the upgrading of the public lighting at the Lough will now be designed and it is planned that the work will be carried out later on this year.

5.21 **STOP SIGN AT THE END OF ST. JOSEPHS LAWN**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That a stop sign be put at the end of St. Joseph’s Lawn going into Brookfield to make motorists aware of the dangers.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Dennehy 06/254)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the junction of St. Joseph’s Lawn and Brookfield Park will be examined in conjunction with the Gardaí and any necessary signage or road markings deemed necessary to improve road safety at the junction will be installed.

5.22 **TARA LAWN/ COURT INCLUDED IN ROAD SURFACING PROGRAMME**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Tara Lawn/Court be included in the road surfacing programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Dennehy 06/255)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Tara Lawn/Court will be considered for inclusion in the 2007 Estates Resurfacing Programme.

5.23 **REPAIR THE ROAD ON FAIR HILL UPPER**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council repair the road on Fair Hill Upper and upgrade the footpaths from the Junction of Mt. Agnes Road to Lower Killeens with a particular focus on the section near Na Piarasaigh GAA Pavilion and the entry to Larchfield and Parklands Drive and leading down to the Blackstone Bridge.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 06/257)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the majority of the road at Fair Hill Upper is in reasonably good condition and does not require any significant attention at this time. The footpaths from the junction with Mount Agnes Road to Na Piarasaigh GAA Pavilion are also in fairly good condition and do not require to be upgraded. However, consideration will be given to the poor condition of the road and a new footpath from the entrance to Na Piarasaigh club house to the Blackstone Bridge. Any local repairs necessary both on the road and on the footpaths from the Mount Agnes Road junction will be attended to in the Roads Maintenance Divisions programme of works.

5.24 **REPAIR THE FOOTPATH ON BLARNEY ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That urgent repairs are made to the footpath on Blarney Road from Hollyhill Lane to Hollymount Estate northwards bordering Hillcrest Estate and Laurel Ridge which would also include the removing of weeds and reinforcing sections of the wall where necessary.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 06/258)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Cork City Council’s Roads Maintenance Division will carry out repairs where necessary on the footpath between Hollyhill Lane and Hollymount Estate on the Blarney Road. This will include removal of weeds. The stone wall will be examined and repaired where possible.

5.25 **“NO CYCLING ON FOOTPATHS” SIGNS**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘Bearing in mind the dangers for pedestrians, that “No Cycling on Foot-paths” signs be erected at various locations, and that more cycle lanes be provided for cyclists.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kelleher 06/261)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that putting up ‘no cycling’ signs generally on footpaths could quickly lead to their proliferation around the City, and as well of adding to the general ‘clutter’ of signs, their effectiveness would be greatly reduced. The signs should only be installed where there is an identified need. The issue will be discussed with the Gardaí, who would be responsible for enforcing such signs, and they will be erected where they are deemed necessary. Cycle facilities are continuously being upgraded as major parts of the Green Route projects and the construction of large sections of new cycle lanes will begin later on this year as part of the City end of the Ballincollig Green Route. The new cycle lanes form part of the Cork City Cycle Strategy Plan which being implemented over the next few years.

5.26 **GLENCOO GARDENS, BOREENMANNA ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That the road in Glencoo Gardens, Boreenmanna Road would be repaired as a matter of urgency as it is in very poor condition and would be included in the Estimates for 2007.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. O’Flynn 06/265)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Glencoo Gardens, Boreenmanna Road will be considered for inclusion in the 2007 Resurfacing Programme. In the meantime, any remedial works considered necessary will be carried out.

5.27 **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IN SKEHARD ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That a pedestrian crossing would be put in place as a matter of extreme urgency in Skehard Road (close by St. Michael’s cemetery) so that children & adults can cross in safety to the new amenities located at Loughmahon Park.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. O’Flynn 06/266)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that pedestrian and traffic surveys will be carried out on Skehard Road in the vicinity of Loughmahon Park in order to determine if sufficient warrants exist for the provision of a pedestrian crossing facility in the area. If the warrants exist, the provision of the pedestrian crossing will be put forward for consideration to be concluded in the roads programme.

5.28 **PLAQUES AND IRON LAMPS ON PATRICKS BRIDGE**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Council directs that maintenance work be done as soon as possible on the stone plaques and iron lamps on Patrick’s Bridge.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Barry 06/283)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Cork City Council’s Road Maintenance Department will examine the stone plaques on Patricks Bridge and will undertake a refurbishment of the written contents where possible.

The Traffic Division has met with it’s lighting suppliers with a view to assessing the options with regards to upgrading the lights on Saint Patrick’s Bridge. Further meetings are scheduled to finalise a proposal. It is scheduled that these works will be carried out before the end of 2006.

5.29 **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON GLEN AVENUE**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council install traffic calming measures on Glen Avenue in order to improve safety for residents exiting Glenview Park.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 06/292)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that Glen Avenue will be added to the list of areas, where a request for traffic calming has 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. The junction of Glen Avenue and Glenview Park will also be examined in conjunction with the Gardaí and any identified measures that will improve the road safety at the junction will be installed.

5.30 **REPLACE FOOTPATH ON LR. KENT ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Assistant City Manager, dated 1st June, 2006, on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That works be carried out as part of the 2007 Roads Work programme to replace the existing footpath on Lr. Kent Road. The current poor state of the footpath presents both a danger to pedestrians and a possible liability to Cork City Council.

In addition, this work would allow local residents to avail of the Council’s ‘footpath dishing scheme’, thereby facilitating greater access for residents to park their cars on their own property.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Lynch 06/295)

The Report of the Assistant City Manager stated that the footpaths on Lower Kent Road will be considered for inclusion in the 2007 Roadworks Programme.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence.

7. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 19th JUNE 2006**

7.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31st MAY 2006**

An Chomhairle approved the Financial Statement to 31st May 2006.

7.2 **BANK OVERDRAFT FOR HALF YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2006**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the City Manager dated 15th June 2006 recommending approval to the renewal of the existing level of overdraft facilities of €10m. On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Corr, seconded by Comhairleoir B. Bermingham, An Chomhairle agreed to adopt the following Resolution:

‘**RESOLVED** that Cork City Council approves, pursuant to Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001, the renewal of the existing level of €10m (Ten Million Euro) of Cork City Council’s Overdraft Facility for the second-half year to 31st December, 2006’.

7.3 **OPEN DAY IN CORK CITY COUNCIL**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the City Manager dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Group by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would have an open day along the same lines as the European day held in the Dáil recently whereby standing orders could be suspended to allow a Government Minister to take questions from members similar to Managers question with the option of a supplementary and a debate around this issue raised.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. O’Connell 06/286)

The Report of the City Manager stated that the facility exists for Members under existing Standing Orders to submit questions to the Manager which is answered in written format at the next Council Meeting.

8. **ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 19TH JUNE 2006**

8.1 **ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS UNDER WATER SERVICES INVESTMENT PROGRAMME.**

An Chomhairle approved the proposed assessment of Water Services Needs for period to 2013 which is currently being undertaken, subject to consideration being given to any submissions received.

9. **RECREATION AMENITY AND STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 19th JUNE 2006**

9.1 **PRESENTATION ON LIBRARIES “ACCESS ALL AREAS” DOCUMENT**

An Chomhairle noted the information contained in the ‘Access All Areas’ Document.

9.2 **BONFIRE NIGHT**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council given the success of the “Bonfire Night” pilot programme in 2005 would continue and expand the programme in 2006 to include other residents Association and Estates interested in entering into the programme in 2006 and enter into consultation with these groups immediately.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 06/156)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council last year initiated a pilot project with Leesdale Residents Association in relation to Bonfire night. This project is continuing this year with the Council erecting No Bonfires Signs at the entrance to the estate and near the green area, writing to all residents in the area asking for their assistance, at the behest of the Residents Association not to have a bonfire on the green. In addition, the Council litter wardens are closely monitoring the estate to prevent dumping. One of the main reasons for the success of the scheme is that this initiative has the full support of the local community and that the Residents Association organise a sports night on the green for the local children on Bonfire Night itself.

Other estates have contacted the City Council in relation to Bonfire Night and we have undertaken to remove bonfire material where it represents a danger to health or property, having Parks crews on duty from 6.00 am each morning for the next few weeks removing such material. However unlike in Leedale, there generally is no consensus amongst residents in estates regarding bonfire night, bonfires being a social event for many in the community. The Council is willing to extend its pilot project to other areas where there is broad support for the initiative and particularly where residents associations are willing to organise alternative activities on the night.

10. **RECREATION AMENITY AND CULTURE FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 19th JUNE 2006**

10.1 **QUARTERLY REPORT ON LEISURE AND LIBRARY FACILITIES, INCLUDING ANNUAL REPORT ON LEISUREWORLD ACTIVITIES**

An Chomhairle noted the Quarterly Report on Leisure and Library facilities and the Annual Report on Leisureworld Activities.

10.2 **RECREATION PROJECTS FOR KNOCKNAHEENY**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘In relation to the Knocknaheeny RAPID area, that Cork City Council:-

- a) Develop a new play ground for the Children in Hollyhill near the Ardculen/Hollyville area.
- b) Develop a Scrambling Park in a suitable location in the area.
- c) Develop a play area for the Children of **Killala Gardens/Churchfield Green** on the Sporting Grounds of Knocknaheeny Avenue.
- d) Resurface Hollyhill Road (Northwards) from Harbour View Road to Kilmore Road and to take away the small green borders on the lane as they are of no benefit to the community at large.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 06/77)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that the report of the Director of Services which stated that a new playground was being developed at Kilmore Road was also considered. The report also stated that a feasibility study in relation to the provision of a scrambling park was being examined by the Farranree/Fairhill/Gurranabraher RAPID AIT.

10.3 **CONNAUGHT AVENUE DEVELOPMENT**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motions which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

- A) 'That Cork City Council take immediate action to clean up the Monument in Connaught Avenue dedicated to the Cork people who died in the Boer War. This was agreed by a previous Council, money was allocated but nothing happened.'
- B) 'That a plan is brought forward to develop the park for the people of the surrounding area.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 06/109)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that works would be undertaken late Summer early Autumn was also considered by the Committee. The report also stated that improvement plans for additional works and costings will be prepared shortly in consultation with local Ward Councillors and the local residents association.

10.4 **SPRING LANE, BLACKPOOL**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

'That Cork City Council Recreation, Amenity & Culture Department would upgrade the park in Spring Lane, Blackpool.'

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 06/124)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that improvement works including the provision of perimeter railings would be included in 2007 Draft Estimates for consideration was also considered.

10.5 **DRESSING ROOMS FOR KNOCKNAHEENY CELTIC F.C.**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

'That Cork City Council make funding available as a matter of urgency to provide for dressing rooms for Knocknaheeny Celtic FC.'

(Proposer: Cllr. D. McCarthy 06/178)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that the Sports Capital Grant Scheme, operated by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism each year is available to assist clubs in enhancing sports facilities. In recent years, the City Council, where its own pitches are used by clubs who would have no prospect of raising a local contribution to develop changing facilities, has directly applied for grant aid itself, with the City Council funding the balance of the cost which in most cases amounts to two thirds of the cost. In all cases, the pavilions serve either a number of teams and/or a number of pitches. Coffey's Field Pavilion in Togher, serving three clubs and two pitches was completed in December 2005. Work has just commenced on construction of four room Changing Pavilion at Murphy's Farm, to serve five clubs and four pitches. Grant aid has also been confirmed for the Fairfield, Farranree (three clubs/two pitches) and Popham's Park (two clubs – two room pavilion). At present Knocknaheeny Celtic pitch only serves one team. Whilst the Council very much supports Knocknaheeny Celtic, in its endeavours, there are other priorities at present as outlined above. The City Council will continue to support the club – previously paying for palisade fencing around temporary changing area providing fencing around pitch and assistance in obtaining small grants each year. The Council is currently installing a playground adjoining the pitch, and will shortly be constructing a basketball court alongside.

If the Council is successful in developing a North West Regional Park in Knocknaheeny, one of the possibilities would be to develop a suite of pitches with shared changing pavilion catering for the pitches.

10.6 **DEVELOP RECREATION PARK ON KILLALA GARDENS**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘In relation to NuFarm Park that Cork City Council

- a) Develop the recreation park on Killala Gardens / Knocknaheeny Avenue with a view to a new play area for the children near Churchfield Green and put in place a railing on the bend of Killala Gardens to address anti social behaviour in this area and
- b) That in the event of the North West Housing Office moving to the new community building that this area be considered for an Affordable Housing Project or a similar Housing Development ***while at the same time retaining and developing the NuFarm pitch.***

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 06/182)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that the open space situated at Killala Gardens and the rear of Ascension Heights was primarily set aside as an open area for informal recreation. The area is now heavily abused due to littering and fly-tipping because of its open nature and the fact that houses back onto two boundaries. Future plans for this space will be developed in the context of the requirements of Nufarm SC, childrens playground, housing, and the problems of littering and fly-tipping. These plans will be prepared jointly with the Housing Directorate in due course.

The provision of a railing on the bend at Killala Gardens to address anti-social behaviour will be investigated and carried out if deemed appropriate.

10.7 **NUFARM SC KNOCKNAHEENY**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘I propose that when the Cork City Council vacates the section of grounds they now occupy at Nufarm SC Knocknaheeny, that City Council would;

- Erect a wall and railing around the ground
- Provide state of the art dressing rooms
- Provide an all weather pitch for this club that caters for up to 300 children between the ages of 6-16 years of age.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. McCarthy 06/234)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that future plans for the open space at Killala Gardens would be developed in the context of requirements of NuFarm SC, a children’s playground, housing and problems of litter and fly-tipping was also considered. The plans would be prepared jointly with the Housing Directorate.

The report also stated that the provision of railings on the bend at Killala Gardens to address anti-social behaviour would be investigated and carried out if deemed necessary.

10.8 **CUTTING BACK OF HEDGING AND BUSHES**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council carry out an immediate cutting back of hedging and bushes on the southern and eastern side of Ballyhooley Road from Callaghan’s Cross to the city side boundary of Oakpark.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 06/189)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that the above roadside hedges were cut-back within the past week and will receive further cuts in July/August/September as necessary.

10.9 **SECURITY AT FITZGERALD PARK**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘Whilst acknowledging one of the most well kept and presented parks in Ireland, I request that Cork City Council increase the weekend security at Fitzgerald Park to ensure the safety of all users of the park and in doing so enforce laws prohibiting consumption of alcohol in public places thus ensuring that the park is more family friendly.

I would also request that a bicycle parking zone would be located in closer proximity to the security hut rather than at the rear of the Museum.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Dennehy 06/218)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that full-time park security staff are on duty at week-ends and bank holidays throughout the year during park opening times. In addition the local gardai visit the park throughout the week-end and respond to calls for assistance as and when required. These security arrangements are adequate at present and will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Provision for bicycle parking adjacent to the security hut is being considered to determine if the area is suitable.

10.10 **FENCING BETWEEN CHAPEL GATE AND KEMPTON PARK, BALLYVOLANE**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council would examine the fencing between Chapel Gate and Kempton Park, Ballyvolane with a view to upgrading it to a standard that does not lend it to accumulating rubbish.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 06/219)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that an examination of the above fence will be undertaken along with the Roads and Planning Departments to establish its present condition and the Council's position in regard to upgrading/repairs if necessary.

10.11 **LORD MAYOR'S PAVILION**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council would as a matter of urgency and civic pride, restore the Presidents / Lord Mayors Pavilion in the Mardyke as it is in a serious state of disrepair.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. McCarthy 06/228)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that Major refurbishment works were carried out on the Lord Mayor's pavilion approximately twelve years ago. The interior of the pavilion is in good condition and does not require any repairs. Some timber work on the exterior is in need of repair and this is presently being assessed with a view to replacement.

10.12 **CATHEDRAL WALK/ BACK WATERCOURSE ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council Recreation and Amenity Department carry out an assessment of the River Bride and land at the junction of Cathedral Walk/ Back Watercourse Road with a view to landscaping and protecting the wildlife.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 06/220)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that an Assessment of the River Bride at the above location will be carried out within the next few weeks in conjunction with the Environment Department and the findings reported to this Committee for consideration.

10.13 **GLENTHORN ROAD, DUBLIN HILL**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That the strip of land at the end of the cul-de-sac at Glenthorn Road, Dublin Hill, be taken into the ownership of Cork City Council so that the area can be maintained properly to avoid a nuisance to nearby residents.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Gosch 06/256)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that the above strip of ground is situated at the rear and side of houses within the Glenthorn Estate. The area is vulnerable to littering and flytipping of garden waste thereby creating a nuisance to some local residents. The Council undertakes a number of clean-ups throughout the year and will continue to do this in addition to grass moving etc.

10.14 **BALLYPHEHANE G.A.A. CLUB**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That this Council provide the full funding for the fencing planned for the Ballyphehane GAA Club at The Green, Tramore Road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. O’Connell 06/280)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that Ballyphenae GAA Club based at Tramore Road have two teams at present, a minor and junior team. It is recognised that the club are struggling financially and play an important role in the local community. At a recent meeting with the club, it was agreed that the City Council would contribute €3,000 towards erection of palisade fencing around the dressing rooms, the club funding the balance from its own funds, and other sources, total cost circa €10K. The club are also anxious to do necessary repairs to the current dressing rooms which have been costed at €6K. The Council will look favourably at making a contribution to these costs as well, as without support, the clubs viability would be questionable, and current minor repairs could become major expensive repairs if not completed shortly.

10.15 **FISHING AT THE LOUGH**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council will enact a by-law to ensure that only ‘Catch and Release’ fishing is allowed at The Lough.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Lynch 06/294)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that Council officials have had a number of recent meetings with the Lough Carp Anglers Club in relation to fishing practices etc., at the Lough. A difficulty has arisen in recent times whereby some non-nationals are removing carp from the Lough. It has been agreed to draft Bye Laws regulating fishing at the Lough, with the assistance of the Club and the Central Fisheries Board who are introducing Bye Laws at present in other areas. Signs have also been erected recently advising that the Lough is a nature reserve and that all fish caught must be returned to the lake. The Council's Park Rangers are monitoring the situation. A copy of the Draft Bye Laws will be brought before the Committee at an early date.

10.16 **V.E.C – PLAYING GROUNDS FARRANLEA RD.**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 15th June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

That Cork City Council instruct the City Manager to enter into negotiations with the V.E.C to purchase the playing fields situated on Farranlea Rd, which said lands would be retained for sports clubs in the Bishopstown area.'

(Proposer:- Cllr. C. Burke – 06/230)

The Report of the Director of Services stated that the pitch at Farranlea Road owned by the City of Cork VEC is used by the college of Commerce who have no outdoor facility and by Wilton United. The pitch is zoned Sports Ground in the City Development Plan. The Bishopstown & Wilton Area Action Plan is currently being finalised. Included in the preliminary objective is one that existing sporting facilities should be protected and retained in their existing locations – this includes the Farranlea Road pitch. The City Council's function will be to ensure that the pitch continues as a playing facility.

11. **PARTY WHIPS MEETING – 23rd JUNE 2006**

11.1 **SKIDDY'S CHARITY**

An Chomhairle approved the nomination of Comhairleoir S. Martin & Comhairleoir D. Cregan as Trustees for Skiddy's Charity.

11.2 **SPORTING CLUBS**

An Chomhairle approved the recommendation of the Party Whips on the following motion that the Sports Committee should comprise of 11 members and that this committee should be a subcommittee of Recreation, Amenity & Culture Functional Committee.

‘That this Council notes with concern reports that some Sporting Clubs are questioning their financial viability and considers it timely to investigate the basis of such reports which if true Council will consider where all possible sources of financial assistance can be sourced and assist the clubs to ensure they remain within the City and the benefit these clubs are giving to the people of Cork will be maintained and strengthened into the future’.

(Proposer: Cllr. B. Bermingham 06/72)

An Chomhairle approved the nomination of the following members to the sports committee:-

Comhairleoirí S. Martin, T. Shannon, D. Wallace and D. McCarthy were nominated to the committee on the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Wallace, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin.

Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, D. Murphy and D. Clune were nominated to the committee on the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Cregan, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Buttimer.

Comhairleoirí J. O’Brien and C. O’Leary were nominated to the committee on the proposal of Comhairleoir C. O’Leary, seconded by Comhairleoir A. Spillane.

The remaining nominations are to be forwarded to the Meetings Administrator.

12. **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 23rd JUNE 2006**

12.1 **REVIEW OF TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2005 – 2008**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services dated 16th June 2006.

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council’s Traveller Accommodation Programme covering the period 2005-2008 was adopted by Council in February 2005.

In assessing the demand for Traveller accommodation in Cork City, reference has been made to the following sources of information :

- (a) The March 2002 statutory Triennial Assessment of overall Housing needs in Cork City, prepared by Cork City Council and submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

- (b) The November 2003 annual returns in respect of Traveller Accommodation, prepared by Cork City Council and submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- (c) Data in relation to Traveller families contained in Cork City Council's housing waiting list.
- (d) Information made available by Traveller support groups.
- (e) In order to supplement the information available from the above sources and specifically in connection with the assessment of needs required to formulate this plan, Cork City Council also undertook a survey of Traveller accommodation needs by way of a questionnaire distributed to Traveller families.

Summary of Estimated Requirements 2005 to 2008

Based on the foregoing analysis, the estimated requirements for the defined types of Traveller accommodation over the period of the Programme are summarised in the following table:

<u>Accommodation Type</u>	<u>Estimated Requirement</u>
STANDARD HOUSING	50 to 55 units
GROUP HOUSING	15 to 16 units
PERMANENT HALTING SITE	37 bays*
TRANSIENT SITE	15 to 20 bays

* The requirement for this number of halting Bays refers to the retention of the number of permanent bays already in existence.

Progress on targets set out in the Traveller Accommodation Programme

STANDARD HOUSING

The Traveller Accommodation Programme identified an estimated requirement of 50-55 units of standard accommodation. In response to the identified need it was agreed that a minimum of 10 new tenancies per annum should be secured.

The City Council's success in housing travellers over the last 5 years has resulted in a situation where the Council is finding it more difficult to meet the accommodation requirements of traveller families on the waiting list. This is primarily caused by the specific demands of the families in regard to the types of property they are willing to accept as well as other expectations.

YEAR	TARGET	OFFERS	ACCEPTANCES	% TARGET
2005	10	19	12	120
2006 (to 31/05)	10	09	05	50

GROUP HOUSING

Three family groupings have been tentatively identified as being suitable for accommodation in Group Housing Schemes. One of these groups is resident in the Spring Lane Halting Site and the second group of people is made up of families parked in Corcoran's Quay and in possession of Halting Bays at the Hollyhill Halting Site. The third group of potentials for Group Housing is currently parked without permission on Council lands at Nash's Boreen.

Efforts are continuing to identify suitable sites where such group housing schemes might be located. On identification of suitable sites, further intensive canvas of the potential family groupings will be required to establish the viability and commitment of the families to group housing.

Thereafter the process will consist of preliminary design and planning approval, followed by detailed design, tendering and construction. Accordingly, progress on site identification is urgently required if the targets in the Accommodation Programme are to be achieved.

HALTING SITES

Currently there are 3 existing Halting Sites within the city located at Carrigrohane Rd, Hollyhill and at Spring Lane, Ballyvolane. These sites provide 34 bays in total. There are also 3 halting bays located within the group housing scheme at Meelagh in Mahon. The survey of Traveller housing preferences on which the Accommodation Programme was based indicated that there was no net increase required in the number of permanent stay halting bays provided.

Since the Programme was approved by Council, a refurbishment contract has been completed at the Hollyhill Halting Site. The work undertaken as part of this contract included

- The removal of baths and the installation of shower facilities and associated plumbing works.
- The provision of metal gates at the entrance to each halting bay.
- Repairs to existing drains as well as road resurfacing work.
- Enhancement work to the surrounding fence

Proposals are currently being drawn up with a view to improving facilities at the Carrigrohane Rd Halting Site. The work proposed includes

- Refurbishment of the Caretakers facility,
- Upgrading the Welfare units with replacement windows, doors and sanitary facilities as required,
- Upgrading drainage system within the site,
- Improvement works to the perimeter fencing.

It is envisaged that a submission for funding to facilitate this work will be made to the Department of the Environment before the end of 2006.

Within the remaining timescale of the Accommodation Plan, it is also proposed to review the standard of the bays and welfare units at the Spring Lane halting site. However, any refurbishment works at this location will have to be carried out in tandem with provision of housing for the significant number of families at Spring Lane who do not wish to remain at this location.

TRANSIENT HALTING SITE FACILITIES

Cork City Council data on illegal roadside parking, coupled with information made available by Traveller representative groups on transient traveller demand and patterns of nomadic Travellers, indicate that there is a need for a transient halting site in the general Cork area.

It is extremely difficult to quantify this demand due to the very nature of the nomadism. Data supplied by the Traveller Visibility Group suggests that up to 50 to 60 Traveller families might require Transient accommodation at different times during any given year. Cork City Council records would indicate that in recent times a maximum of 15 families could be parked on the roadside within the Cork City area at any given time.

Based on all of the data available, it is estimated that at any given time during the period 2005 to 2008, the maximum demand for transient accommodation in Cork City and its environs would amount to approximately 15 halting bay spaces.

The City Council continues work on the identification of a suitable site for a transient halting site. When a suitable site has been secured work will commence on the design and construction of this facility.

13. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 26TH JUNE 2006

13.1 INNER CITY & SUBURBAN RENEWAL

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services Planning and Development and City Engineer dated 22nd June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council commission a report to study the ongoing problem of inner city and suburban renewal vis a vis quality family accommodation including the possibility of tax incentive – structure planning enforcement and to create a more living vibrant City Community.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 06/108)

The Report of the Director of Services Planning & Development and City Engineer stated that the City Development Plan Policy H6 Housing Mix seeks to encourage the establishment of sustainable residential communities within the city by ensuring that a mix of both housing and apartment types and sizes are provided. This requires that both smaller, 1-2 person, households and family households are catered for where required. The City Plan (as varied) aims to have at least 33% of new residential units in the City Centre suitable for families i.e. either houses or apartments or houses having 3 or more bedrooms. While the trend over the last 10 years was towards quite small apartments we are now seeing an increase in size of apartments being applied for. Recognizing the need for high quality units suitable for long term living rather than short term renting, the City Council varied the City Plan in 2005 to increase the minimum size of units permitted. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will also shortly be issuing revised guidelines on minimum apartment size. These measures should see an increase in sustainable residential units in the city centre. The protection of existing family type housing in the inner city and other areas is also important and existing policies in the City Plan seek to achieve, including preventing conversion of existing houses into apartments unless the houses are excessively large for single family occupation. High quality public realm and local facilities are also essential if the inner city is to be attractive to families and other long term residents. This requires on-going investment both public and private, similar to that which is being expended in the City Centre, Shandon and on creating the Banks of the Lee walkways at present.

A review of the Joint City and County Housing Strategy will need to be carried out over the next year and this will include a review of the progress and appropriateness of existing policies in relation to housing mix and type in the city.

13.2 **SPORTS FACILITIES & GROUNDS – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2004**

An Chomhairle agreed to defer consideration on the Report of the Director of Services Planning and Development and City Engineer dated 22nd June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle to a future meeting of An Chomhairle.

‘To delete the concept that in exceptional circumstances limited development may be considered if the proposed development:

- a) only affects land incapable of forming part of the playing pitches and does not result in the loss of any playing pitch.
- b) Is ancillary to the principal use of the site as playing pitches and does not affect the quantity or quality of the pitches or adversely impact upon their use i.e. chapter 8, paragraph 8.59 – 8.64

Delete the concept that only development that is ancillary to the principal use of the site for sports e.g. clubhouses and which will only affect land incapable of forming part of the playing pitches will be considered in these areas.’

(Proposer: Cllrs. S. Martin, J. Buttimer, M. Ahern, T. Shannon & D.O’Flynn 06/177)

13.3 **MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION TO CORK CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

An Chomhairle agreed to defer consideration on the Report of the Director of Services, Planning and Development and City Engineer dated 22nd June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle until the completion of the Bishopstown and Wilton Area Action Plan.

‘That this City Council would enact a Material Contravention to Cork City Development Plan 2004 – 2009 to the effect that all Planning Applications for Residential Apartments of over 3 storeys high would be deemed inappropriate and contrary to good planning.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Shields 06/180)

13.4 **CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2004**

An Chomhairle agreed to defer consideration of the Report of the Director of Services, Planning and Development and City Engineer dated 22nd June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle until the completion of the Bishopstown and Wilton Area Action Plan.

‘That Cork City Council would alter its City Development Plan 2004 to include the wording of the City Manager as stated at Council Meeting of 27/03/06 re “the Building of Apartments 3 storeys in layout within established residential community will not receive Planning Permission from Cork City Council in the interest of good and proper planning and development and having regard to the provisions of the current City Development Plan.”

(Proposer: Cllrs. B. Bermingham & J. Buttimer 06/181)

13.5 **RIVER BUS TO SERVE THE AREA OF MAHON & BLACKROCK**

An Chomhairle approved the Report of the Director of Services, Planning and Development and City Engineer dated 22nd June 2006 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That this Council as part of the Blackrock Village Area Action Plan would include a River bus to serve the area of Mahon and Blackrock, as this facility would act as the Green Route for the South East Area. Most European Cities use their natural waterways to transport people to and from their place of employment and City Centres. By using our natural waterway this would free up any traffic congestion, which would be generated by the large number of new residential developments in this area.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. O’ Flynn 05/391)

The Report of the Director of Services Planning & Development and City Engineer stated that the Blackrock Village Area Action Plan was adopted by Council at its meeting held on 10th April 2006. This Plan as adopted by Council does not make provision for a waterbus for the Blackrock/Mahon Area.

However at a meeting of An Chomhairle held on 28th November 2005 it was agreed that a feasibility study on the introduction of a waterbus on the River Lee would be undertaken. Consultants Ernst & Young have been engaged to carry out this feasibility study which is now underway.

14. **HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 3rd JULY 2006**

14.1 **MONTHLY REPORT**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the A/Director of Services dated 29th June 2006 on Housing for the month of June, 2006.

14.2 **QUARTERLY REPORT**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the A/Director of Services dated 29th June 2006 on Housing for the quarter ended 29th June, 2006.

14.3 **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BLARNEY ROAD, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered the proposed development at Blarney Road, Cork and the report of the A/Director of Services dated 29th June, 2006 thereon and agreed to approve the report of the A/Director of Services.

The report of the A/Director of Services stated that the development was advertised as a development proposed to be carried out by Lyonshall Limited, pursuant to a contract to be entered into with Cork City Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

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 May 22nd, 2006. The relevant prescribed bodies were also notified of the proposal. No submissions/observations were received within the specified period in relation to the proposed development.

The report also stated that there is substantial demand for housing across the entire city. At the 29th June, 2006 there were 5114 eligible applicants seeking local authority housing with a further 775 applicants awaiting assessment. The proposed scheme will provide much needed quality accommodation and will help to meet these demands for housing. The proposal has been considered by the Planning and Development Directorate, the Roads and Transportation Directorate, the Environment Directorate and the Recreation, Amenity and Culture Directorate and the inputs of the various Directorates have been considered in the advancement of the project. Members will appreciate the great need for housing which exists in the City. The proposed development will deliver housing accommodation on Cork's North-side for 30 no. households.

14.4 **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BOYCE'S STREET, CORK**

An Chomhairle considered the proposed development at Boyce's Street, Cork and the report of the A/Director of Services dated 29th June, 2006 thereon and agreed to approve the report of the Director of Services.

The report of the A/Director of Services stated that the development is proposed to be carried out by Cork City Council.

The housing on Boyce's Street was originally built by the City Council in the early 1980's and comprised of 4 no. blocks of flats (each with 6 dwellings) and 25 no. single bedroom bungalows for the elderly. Whilst the condition of the dwellings is structurally good, the living environment for the residents of Boyce's Street has been less than satisfactory in recent years. Further infill houses were built by the City Council in 2000 to deal with difficult areas of anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhood. Members will be aware that the area continues to suffer from anti-social behaviour. In our consultations with the Garda Síochána, the presence of a multiplicity of lanes and access points onto Boyce's Street was identified as a significant contributor to the creation of anti-social behaviour and as the single biggest impediment to effective policing of the area.

The report also stated that the development proposals which are now being put forward are intended to deal with the difficulties being experienced and to improve the quality of living for residents. The scheme proposes the closure of all laneways into Boyce's Street (including from McSwineys Villas, Friar Avenue and Blarney Street), effectively meaning that there will be a single point of access to Boyce's Street - from Upper Cattle Market Street. It is also proposed to carry out improvement works to the elderly dwellings, to provide improved security and privacy for all residents, to restrict access to the open areas between the flat blocks and Blarney Street to residents of these dwellings, and to construct a further infill bungalow at the top of the Street.

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 April 20th, 2006. Contact was made with most of the individuals affected by the proposals and many of the concerns were addressed in this manner. A number of meetings were also held with the Ward Members in relation to the proposals.

A total of 9 no. submissions/observations were received within the specified period in relation to the proposed development. The submissions/ observations were received from the following:

1. Mr. Warren Pickles, 5 St. Anthony's Road, Gurrabraher, Cork.
2. Mr. John Moher, 337 Blarney Street, Cork.
3. John and Margo Lynch, 5 Maymount, Boyce's Street, Cork.
4. Ms. Madeline O'Riordan, Post Office, Blarney Street, Cork.
5. Residents of Friar Street, c/o Sheila Chambers, 17 Friars Avenue, Blarney Street, Cork.
6. Cllr. Catherine Clancy, 5 Assumption Road, Cork.
7. Cllr. Patricia Gosch, Castlejane, Glanmire, Co. Cork.
8. Superintendent T.J.Hayes, Gurrabraher Garda Station, Baker's Road, Cork.
9. Mr. Tom Coleman, Chairman, Blarney Street and Surrounding Areas Community Association, 189 Blarney Street, Cork.

The submissions/observations have been considered and the issues raised are summarised below, with responses to these issues given.

A: Closure of Laneways:

Various objections and observations are made in the submissions regarding the proposed closure of the laneways.

1. The lanes provide safe pedestrian access between Gurrabraher and Blarney Street and North Mall and their closure will divert pedestrians to use either Friars Avenue or Upper Cattle Market Street. The existing traffic volumes on these roads will create a danger for pedestrians.
2. The closure of lanes will inconvenience people by requiring them to walk longer and more awkward distances.
3. The existing routes make the area pedestrian friendly and their closure would impact negatively on the character of the area and would deprive pedestrians of the views from these routes over the city.
4. It is suggested that consideration should be given to gating the laneways and locking them by night.
5. It is stated that the proposed closure of lanes contradicts Development Plan Policy 6.15 relating to the protection of Cork's Historic Street Pattern. The relevant extract is as follows: "The historic street pattern of Cork is an intrinsic part of the City. In all their surviving forms the laneways are of special significance to the character of the historic core of Cork City. In addition to their historic interest, the laneways also play an important role in making the City Centre more accessible by providing routes through larger City Centre blocks. For example, both Saint Peter's Church Lane and Coleman's Lane play a crucial role in making North Main Street accessible to the Marsh area. It is the policy of Cork City Council to preserve the City's historic street pattern, and in particular to encourage the survival and enhancement of the laneways within any new developments." The following is the stated objective, "The City Council will seek to protect Cork's historic street pattern, and in particular, seek to conserve and enhance the laneways within the historic core of the city centre."
6. It is stated that the closure of the laneways will provide four or five new mini dumping areas which will be impossible to clear and will ultimately be the source of a health hazard.
7. A query is raised by the resident of No. 25 McSwiney's Villas as to whether she will have access to the rear of her property following the closure of the lane between No. 28 and 29 McSwiney's Villas.

RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED:

- 1,2,3 It is acknowledged that the proposed closure of the laneways will create inconvenience for people. This level of inconvenience needs to be considered and balanced in the context of the improvement in the living environment that the proposals are intended to deliver. Having regard to the need for the City Council to address the difficulties currently being experienced, on balance the closure of the laneways is considered to be the correct and appropriate course of action.

4. The overall thrust of the proposals is to restrict access to Boyce's Street by non-residents. This will create the conditions for improved security and privacy for residents as well as improving the situation from a policing perspective. To open up day-time access for non-residents would dilute and compromise the integrity of what is being set out to achieve.
5. The Development Plan objective as stated relates to laneways within the City Centre.
6. As outlined above, the intention is to restrict access to the areas between the flats and Blarney Street to residents of these dwellings. These areas will be railed off from each other and developed effectively as a semiprivate space for the residents of each individual block. This will create for a secure amenity space for the residents and should not result in the creation of mini dumping areas.
7. Assurances have been given to residents that existing access will be preserved. This lane will be gated at Boyce's Street and each affected resident will be given keys for the gate.

B: Effects on Friar's Avenue:

1. The request is made for the installation of traffic calming measures on Friar's Avenue and that a one-way traffic system (downwards) be put in place. A query is raised also as to whether the existing footpath could be pushed in to allow extra room on the hill.
2. It is stated by the residents on the Avenue that the parking provision on Friar's Avenue is not adequate. It is requested that consideration be given to increase the number of spaces on Friar's Avenue and that access would be allowed to the parking spaces in Boyce's Street.

RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED:

1. The issue of traffic measures for Friar's Avenue is one for consideration outside the scope of the current redevelopment plans for Boyce's Street. This matter will be referred to the Roads and Transportation Directorate for attention. The proposals advertised will be revised to allow for setback of the footpath into Boyce's Street. This will create extra space on the hill and allow for increased parking.
2. For the reasons outlined earlier it is not proposed to allow access to Boyce's Street from Friar's Avenue.

C: Closure of Link From Maymount:

The resident of No. 5 Maymount expressed concern that the treatment of the area at the top of Boyce's Street would effectively create extra space for anti-social behaviour and provide a sheltered vulnerable corner next to the proposed bungalow.

The request is made to integrate the gardens of the houses in Maymount into the retaining wall allowing access to the parking spaces in Boyce's Street.

RESPONSE:

The area at the top of Boyce's Street is to be re-treated as part of the proposals. The area will be laid out in delineated parking spaces with a green strip of landscaped ground interfacing with Friar's Street. For the reasons outlined earlier it is not proposed to allow access from Friar's Avenue into Boyce's Street. In these circumstances it is not possible to integrate the gardens as is requested. The four residents of Maymount were contacted individually and a majority expressed a preference to retain access to Friar's Avenue. No issues were raised in the submissions made by Superintendent Hayes and the Blarney Street and Surrounding Areas Community Association. The submissions made were in support of the proposals. The proposed development works are considered to be consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The proposals have been considered by the Planning and Development Directorate, the Roads and Transportation Directorate, the Environment Directorate and the Recreation, Amenity and Culture Directorate and all have indicated that they consider the proposed development to be acceptable.

15. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Comhairleoir D. O' Flynn proposed, Comhairleoir T. Brosnan seconded that the meeting be extended to 8.30PM. A vote was called for where there appeared as follows:

FOR: Comhairleoirí T. Brosnan, A. Spillane, C. Clancy, P. Gosch, D. McCarthy, T. Fitzgerald, D. Counihan, C. O' Leary, D. O' Flynn, J. Buttimer, F. Dennehy. (11)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí D. Murphy, D. Wallace, C. Burke, M. O' Connell, D. Clune, J. Corr, S. Martin, D. Cregan, M. Shields, B. Bermingham, M. Ahern. (11)

As the vote was a tie, An t-Ard-Mheara issued his casting vote against the suspension of Standing Orders and declared the vote defeated and the meeting adjourned.

An Chomhairle agreed to defer the remainder of the agenda to the next meeting of An Chomhairle to be held on 24th July 2006.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH