

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2010

- PRESENT** An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir M. O'Connell in the Chair.
- NORTH EAST** Comhairleoirí J. Kelleher, D. Murphy, T. Tynan.
- NORTH CENTRAL** Comhairleoirí C. Clancy, P. Gosch, K. O'Flynn, T. Gould.
- NORTH WEST** Comhairleoirí J. O'Brien, T. Fitzgerald.
- SOUTH EAST** Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. McGonigle, T. Shannon, C. O' Leary, K. McCarthy, J. Corr.
- SOUTH CENTRAL** Comhairleoirí L. Kingston, E. O'Halloran, S. Martin, M. Finn, F. Kerins.
- SOUTH WEST** Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, M. Shields, M. Ahern, B. Bermingham, H. Cremin, G. Gibbons.
- ALSO PRESENT** Mr. T. Lucey, City Manager.
Mr. T. Healy, Head of Finance.
Mr. K. Terry, Director of Services Planning & Development & City Engineer.
Ms. V. O'Sullivan, Director of Services, Recreation Amenity & Culture.
Mr. D. O'Mahony, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs.
Mr. P. Moynihan, Meetings Administrator, Corporate Affairs.
Mr. C. Dorgan, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs.

An t-Ardmhéara recited the opening prayer.

WELCOME FOR NEW CITY MANAGER

An tArdmhéara, representatives of the political parties and non-party members welcomed the new City Manger, Mr. Tim Lucey to the City Council.

Members wished Mr. Lucey well for his term of office. The City Manager in turn thanked Council for their best wishes saying that he looked forward to working with them over the coming years.

1. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

- The O'Keeffe Family on the death of Daniel O'Keeffe.
- Clann Uí Cuanacháin on the death of Noirín Uí Chuanacháin.
- The Kennedy Family on the death of James Kennedy.

2. **MINUTES**

- (a) The minutes of Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held on 12th July were considered and approved subject to the following amendment of item 5.4.6 to reflect that the motion was agreed by An Chomhairle.
- (b) The minutes of Special Meeting of An Chomhairle held on 24th August 2010 were considered and approved.

3. **QUESTIONS**

3.1 **HOLLYHILL/ KNOCKNAHEENY LIBRARY**

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

When will work begin on the Hollyhill/Knocknaheeny Library?

Was a fee paid to the VEC in relation to part of the site in question?

Commencement of work on this proposed library is dependent on funding availability. No fee has been paid to the City of Cork VEC.

An application for funding has been prepared for submission to the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government. The proposal has gone through the Part VIII planning process and the Council is in a position to proceed to tender if the funding application is successful.

3.2 **FIRE STATION IN THE BISHOPSTOWN/ WILTON AREA**

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

As previously discussed, request the Manager to update Council on plans for a fire station in the Bishopstown Wilton Area.

Cork City Fire Department is committed to providing an appropriate level of Fire service cover to the City of Cork and surrounding area. The need for a fire station and the decision as to the best possible location of such a station will be influenced by the risk based approach to safety management as proposed by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management. Consideration will also have to be given to the future plans of the County Fire Service.

3.3 **RE-INVESTMENT OF TRAMORE ROAD**

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

a) What happened to the funding for the re-investment of Tramore Road?

b) *When will this work be carried out?*

a) The funding for the resurfacing of Tramore Road is in place/secure

b) The details of actual timing of the resurfacing works are under discussion with a view of ensuring that the works will be completed by end of October 2010.

3.4 **TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT SILVERSPRINGS LANE**

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

Can the Manager please advise when the proposed traffic lights at the end of Silversprings Lane will be erected?

The provision of traffic lights at the end of the Silversprings Lane at the junction of the up-ramp from Lower Glanmire Road was the subject of planning conditions of proposed developments in the local area. In the current economic climate it is unlikely that these developments will be implemented in the near future so as to provide funding for the traffic lights.

Cork City Council has no funds to provide the traffic signals, and they can only be funded by new developments or by the NRA in conjunction with planned improvements works on the N8 Lower Glanmire Road adjacent to Silversprings Hotel.

3.5 **NO. 3 THE GREEN, BALLYPHEHANE**

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

In relation to closed-up Council houses, can the Manager clarify the status of No.3 The Green, Ballyphehane and confirm or otherwise that it is not being used as a storage facility?

No 3, The Green, Ballyphehane is not being used as a storage facility.

The house is included in the Energy Efficiency upgrade scheme, which works should be completed by December of this year.

3.6 **BELLGRAVE PLACE, LOWER WELLINGTON ROAD**

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

Will the Manager inform Council if there are any plans to upgrade and improve Bellgrave Place, Lower Wellington Road, which is an area of special conservation and where the historic railings are rotting and falling apart?

A few years ago at Belgrave Place a section of antique boundary railing, which had become extremely dilapidated and liable to collapse onto the footpath at Wellington

Road, was removed together with the overgrown laurel trees that had contributed to damaging the railing. At the time a temporary fence was erected where the railing had stood whilst we endeavoured to source funding to provide a replacement wrought iron railing for the removed section and to carry out a refurbishment of the remainder of the railing still standing. Because of the very expensive nature of this type of conservation work a considerable six figure sum was required but funding of this order has not been forthcoming.

We now propose to proceed with a medium term solution whereby we will supply and erect a modern mild steel railing at a more modest cost which will replace both the section removed four years ago together with a further section which is in a very poor state of repair. The latter section will be placed in storage for future use if the aforementioned funding should become available. The imminent work will entail considerable wall/capping repairs, the removal of further shrubbery growth and the grassed areas within Belgrave Place being topsoiled and reseeded.

3.7 **CHARGES LEVIED FROM FIVE CITY COUNCILS**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir J. Corr, a written reply was circulated:-

To ask the City Manager:

1. *To provide Council with comparative figures from the five City Councils of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford in relation to charges levied in the current year in respect of:*
 - (a) Commercial Rates*
 - (b) Charges for non-domestic water.*
 - (c) Charges for the collection and disposal of commercial waste.*
 - (d) Charges for the collection and disposal of domestic waste.*
 - (e) Charges for on-street parking.*
 - (f) Charges for off-street parking in municipal facilities.*
2. *To investigate if any of the above cities are providing free parking on Saturday mornings in municipal facilities and if the private sector are providing a similar free service.*

3.8 **TREE CUTTING OPERATIONS ON PEARSE ROAD**

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

Can the Manager outline if the recent tree cutting operations on Pearse Road were carried out by Council staff or by an external contractor?

If the work was carried out by a contractor:

- *Was Cork City Council furnished with a statement of intent.*

- *Was the work executed in a manner consistent with the high level of workmanship of previous years.*
- *Is the Manager satisfied that the current state of the trees doesn't undermine the public realm of Pearse Road.*

Tree works recently carried out at Pearse Road were undertaken by external contractors. The contractors were engaged by the ESB in accordance with their responsibility under Health and Safety Regulations in regard to overhead cables.

Works at Pearse Road were agreed in advance with the ESB including the approval of the appointed contractor.

The ESB's responsibility is to maintain a safe zone either side of the cable, they will not incur the expense of pruning the entire tree, this remains the responsibility of the City Council.

Some trees at this location do look unbalanced and require further remedial pruning. In light of the reduced staffing in the arboriculture section, a complete review of all tree operations is underway to examine the various options that will deliver a satisfactory service in this area into the future.

The Council at all times is conscious of the value of trees within the urban environment and will strive to put in place a new system to manage and maintain its stock of trees in accordance with good arboriculture practice.

3.9 **PROPOSED REMEDIAL WORKS AT JUNCTION OF TRAMORE ROAD AND TOGHER ROAD**

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 the proposed remedial works at the junction of Tramore Road and Togher Road, to outline what surveys have been undertaken in support of the proposed works, the nature of public consultation undertaken, and to provide reassurance for local residents and commuters of this important junction by giving a firm commitment of a commencement date and completion date for such works?

Cork City Council employed the services of MHL Consulting Engineers to carry out a review of the present traffic control arrangements at the Tramore Road/Togher road junction and prepare a report with recommendations as to modifications required. The consultants in arriving at their final recommendations took on board the various complaints received from members of the public and feedback from engineers in the Traffic Division. The recommendations of the report are that a series of controlled zebra crossings and also a mini-roundabout, delineated simply by road markings, be installed.

The scheme will be put forward for consideration and installation in the 2011 Roads Programme.

3.10 **COUNCIL TAKING ON APPRENTICES LET GO BY EMPLOYERS**

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

Can the Manager please inform the Council as to the current position regarding plans to take on apprentices let go by employers before having come out of their time?

Agreement in principle has been obtained from the Unions to participate in the scheme.

FAS have indicated that their approval will be forthcoming.

The sanction of the Department of Environment has been sought. This should be available shortly. The process can take up to two months.

There will be a financial implication for the Council and I hope to make provision for this in the forthcoming estimates.

I would hope to commence the scheme shortly once all the necessary approvals are in place and I am confident that they will be.

3.11 **STATUS OF REPAIR WORK ON ST. PATRICK'S BRIDGE**

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

To ask the City Manager about the status of repair work on St. Patrick's Bridge.

Following damage by car impact to the coping stones and balustrades on St. Patrick's Bridge, we sought quotations for the repair work and appointed a contractor to carry out this specialised restoration work. The greater part of the work, which is off-site, has now been completed. This involved the sourcing, cutting and preparation of the replacement coping stones and balustrades for installation.

The installation work is due to commence on site next Monday, 13th September and is expected to take approximately one week to complete.

3.12 **VISITORS TO FITZGERALD PARK MUSEUM**

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

How many visitors had Fitzgerald Park Museum over the months of May, June, July and August and is it true that school buses are no longer permitted to wait inside the park to collect their students?

Due to the damage caused by last November's flooding, the Museum did not re open until 14th June.

Attendances for the months in question were as follows

June (14th on) 1483
July 3930
August 3741

School buses were never allowed access to Fitzgeralds Park.

3.13 **PRIVATISATION OF CORK CITY COUNCIL SERVICES**

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

Could the City Manager please make a statement to Council in relation to the privatisation of Cork City Council services.

- a) What plans are there with regards to the privatisation of Cork City Council services ie: Housing Maintenance, Water Supply and Services, Waste Collection and Recycling, Car Parks or any other services under consideration?*
- b) What stages/level of development are these plans at?*
- c) Have all stakeholders been informed and consulted in these plans for privatisation of services?*
- d) Have negotiations taken place between Cork City Council and interested third parties, and if so who are these third parties and what level are these negotiations at?*
- e) How much is expected to be raised in the privatization of these services?*
- f) What will be the status of workers currently employed in these service areas?*
- g) What time scales are involved in the privatization of the services?*
- h) Has a directive been issued by Government on privatization of Local Authority services?*

A number of key issues currently impact on this area.

These include:

1. The Public Service Agreement 2010-2014 (Croke Park Agreement) and the Sectoral Plan for the Local Government Sector which will arise from it, which is currently under discussion with the staff side nationally. It can be assumed that whatever is agreed in the national sectoral plan will be incorporated into a local agreement with our staff.

The Public Service Agreement enables Public Service members to reduce substantially over the coming years. In order to sustain the delivering of excellent public services, alongside reductions in public service numbers, efficiencies will need to be maximised and productivity in the use of resources greatly increased through revised work practices and other initiatives.

2. It is already clear that there is a distinct trend emerging across the Public Service towards a reduction in service provision by direct labour and the increasing use of outsourcing to deliver services. The Croke Park Agreement specifically provides for such eventualities and sets out criteria and implementation mechanisms to permit such developments.

3. The recently published Efficiency Review Group Report also has potentially serious implications for the Council and its delivery of services to the public. Among many of its recommendations is the increased use of outsourcing for the provision of services where this may be deemed to be more cost effective than traditional methods.

It is abundantly clear therefore that in the years ahead some services currently delivered directly by the Public Service bodies may be outsourced. The Council will not be immune from such developments.

Service delivery options are an on-going issue in regular discussions with the staff side, and any management proposals emerging from such discussions will be advised to the Unions in the first instance. If and when such proposals emerge they will become the subject of discussions and agreement with the staff side in accordance with the terms of the Croke Park Agreement.

3.14 **O'MEARA/ LIDA SITE, BLACKPOOL**

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

Given the prominence of the run down O'Meara / Lida Site, Blackpool;

- a) To ask the Manager is the site declared derelict?*
- b) If not, that Cork City Council make contact with the owners to clean up the site and develop it.*
- c) If no progress is made with the owners that Cork City Council acquire the site under a compulsory purchase order.*

The site has been declared derelict and the process of placing the property on the Derelict Sites Register, including title investigation and contact with the owner, is in progress. Other action under the Derelict Sites Act can be considered if appropriate.

4. **HOMECOMING EVENT**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir B. Bermingham, An Chomhairle approved the holding of a Homecoming Event for the Cork Minor & Senior Football Teams on Monday 20th September 2010 following their contesting of the All Ireland Finals, and a supplementary budget of €50,000 for that purpose.

5. **AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community dated 9th September 2010, and to approve the following Disposals:-

1. Disposal of units number 2, 10, 15, 35 & 40 Ard Na Rí, Banduff, Cork to Affordable Housing applicants under the Affordable Housing Scheme. On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by M. Shields, the disposals were approved.
2. Disposal of units No. 56, Block 3, Coppingers Acre, Bantry Park Road, Cork to Affordable Housing applicant under the Affordable Housing Scheme. On the

proposal of Comhairleoir J. Corr, seconded by K. O'Flynn, the disposals were approved.

3. Disposal of units numbers 1 & 3, Beech Tree Avenue, Ard Sionnach, Shanakiel, Cork to Affordable Housing applicants under the Affordable Housing Scheme. On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by S. Martin, the disposals were approved.
4. Disposal of unit number 29, Heather Walk, Ard Sionnach, Shanakiel, Cork to Affordable Housing applicants under the Affordable Housing Scheme. On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, seconded by B. Bermingham, the disposal was approved.
5. Disposal of units numbers 23 and 29 Kilbrack Grove, Skehard Road, Cork to Affordable Housing applicants under the Affordable Housing Scheme. On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by G. Gibbons, the disposals were approved.
6. Disposal of unit No. 13 Kilbrack Grove, Skehard Road, Cork to Affordable Housing Applicant under the Affordable Housing Scheme, and grant of shared Right of Way of area between 13 & 14 Kilbrack Grove. On the proposal of Comhairleoir B. Bermingham, seconded by T. Shannon, the disposal was approved.

6. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 6th SEPTEMBER 2010**

6.1 **PROPOSED VARIATION NO 2 TO CORK CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 – 2015 – CARRIGROHANE ROAD PARK & RIDE**

Members considered the report of the City Manager dated 17th August 2010, on the public consultation in relation to the Proposed Variation No 2 to Cork City Development Plan 2009 – 2015 – Carrigrohane Road Park & Ride. On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Kelleher, seconded by Comhairleoir B. Bermingham, An Chomhairle unanimously agreed to adopt the following resolution:-

“**RESOLVES THAT** having considered the proposed variation and the City Manager’s report dated 17th August 2010, to make Variation (No. 2) – Carrigrohane Road Park & Ride Facility, to Cork City Development Plan 2009-2015, pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000”

6.2 **BEAMISH & CRAWFORD SITE**

An Chomhairle noted the draft development brief for the former Beamish & Crawford Site and the decision of the Strategic Policy Committee that the draft brief be publicised and the views of all interested parties be sought within a four week period.

6.3 **BLACKPOOL VILLAGE AREA ACTION PLAN 2010**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the City Manager dated 8th June 2010, on the Blackpool Village Area Action Plan 2010. The City Manager agreed to meet, in due course, with representatives of local community groups with regard to issues highlighted in the consultation process.

6.4 **POPULATION LEVELS IN TURNERS CROSS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the A/Director of Services, Planning & Development dated 24th August 2010, on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council develop an area plan for Turners Cross aimed at increasing population and in particular targeting a high level of home ownership’.

(Proposer: Cllr. E. O’Halloran 10/222)

The report of the A/Director of Services stated that a programme of local plans is in place based on priorities identified in the City Development Plan. Available resources are focussed on areas with significant development potential such as Mahon and North Blackpool and older areas in need of renewal such as Blackpool Village and the South Parish. However, if there are specific issues in the Turners Cross area the Director of Planning and Development and other relevant officials will meet with Councillors and local stakeholders to discuss how they might be addressed.

6.5 **PAINTING GRANT SCHEME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the A/Director of Services, Planning & Development dated 24th August 2010, on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘Due to the recent success of the painting grant scheme in Blackpool, that it be reintroduced in 2010 to the Blackpool area, so the residents that had applied and were refused due to the number of applications would have an opportunity to avail of the scheme’.

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 09/378)

The report of the A/Director of Services stated that the purpose of the Painting Grant Scheme is to provide an incentive for people in areas in need of upgrading to paint their buildings and improve the overall appearance of the area. The scheme operated in Blackpool in 2009. It was jointly funded by the City Council and RAPID provided grants towards the painting of 35 buildings. The scheme was oversubscribed and funding was allocated on a first come first served basis.

In 2010 the scheme is operating in the South Parish, funded solely by the City Council. Applications have been received and approved and the available funds allocated. There is therefore no funding available to give additional grants in Balckpool.

It is hoped that the scheme will continue in future years in other areas in need of upgrading if funding is available.

7. **FINANCE FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 12th JULY 2010**

7.1 **CAR PARKING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – PAY AND DISPLAY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Senior Engineer (Traffic) dated 8th of July 2010 on Car Parking Income and Expenditure – Pay and Display.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue after 8.00 p.m.

7.2 **LIABILITY INSURANCES AND CLAIMS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Head of Finance dated the 8th of July on Liability Insurances and Claims.

7.3 **ADVERTISING COSTS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Corporate Affairs dated the 8th of July on Advertising Costs.

7.4 **LANDLORDS TO USE FRONTAGE IN A MORE POSITIVE WAY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Head of Finance dated 8th July 2010, on the following motion which was referred to committee by An Chomhairle:

‘With over 100 retail units vacant in the city, as a Council we are encouraging Landlords to allow their frontage be used in a more positive way. Therefore would Council consider reducing the rates to these premises who partake in this scheme to a reduction in their rates from 50% to 25%.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Cahill 10/148)

The report of the Head of Finance stated that the concession for rates payable on vacant properties requires that the property is vacant at the date the rate is made and it is either available for letting or under repair/refurbishment. In certain cases we have been asked whether the use of a shop front by a neighbouring business would compromise entitlement to vacancy. The approach taken is to facilitate such initiatives once there is not a rental income involved and the premises does not become part of the neighbours business other than for advertising/display purposes.

It is important to note that the use of any premises for storage purposes would constitute a rateable activity and invalidate any claim for vacancy credit. We will continue to facilitate any reasonable proposal for more positive usage of shop fronts but a concession of 50% is the maximum permitted under rating law. Any departure from this position, apart from being in contravention of the provisions of the Cork City Management (Amendment) Act 1941, would also have repercussions for all other City Councils where similar legal provisions apply.

7.5 **TENDERS TO CORK CITY COUNCIL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Head of Finance dated 8th July 2010, on the following motion which was referred to committee by An Chomhairle:

‘That Cork City Council would refuse to accept a tender for work from any company or individual who is subject to an enforcement order from Cork City Council Planning Department until such time as the enforcement order is complied with or otherwise settled to the satisfaction of Cork City Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 10/219)

The report of the Head of Finance stated that the European Community (Award of Public Authorities Contracts) Regulations 2006 states (in Paragraph 17) In awarding a public contract, a contracting authority shall:

- a) Treat all economic operators equally and without discrimination
- b) Act in a transparent way

To comply with this requirement a public body can only take information into account which is contained in the tender documents submitted to them. Applicants’ exclusion can only take place in circumstances as set out in Article 45 of EU Council Directive 2004/18/EC and accordingly Cork City Council cannot exclude on the basis of enforcement orders.

8. **RECREATION AMENITY & CULTURE FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 12th JULY 2010**

8.1 **PART 8 REPORT ON THE NEW LIBRARY AT HOLLYHILL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed development of a new library at Hollyhill and the report of the Director of Services, dated 23rd June, 2010 thereon.

The report of the Director of Services stated that:-

Members will be aware that the Council has provided a library service to the Knocknaheeny/Hollyhill wider area through a succession of temporary facilities since the early 1990’s. The library has in turn been housed in a room in the second level school, a rented unit in the local shopping centre, and currently in a series of rooms in a recently built complex developed by the Housing Directorate of the City Council. The service currently offered is constrained by the size of the temporary facility in terms of stock, range of services, reading/study spaces etc., the North West Ward having a population of 12436 (2006).

Plans have now been prepared to construct a new branch library at Hollyhill to serve the North West suburbs of the City. The library will be constructed as a stand alone building in the grounds of Terence McSwiney Community College, the City of Cork very kindly donating the site to City Council. It will have an area of 800m² approx., and will contain a mix of resources for lending and consultation, along with community facilities. The estimated cost is in the region of €4m with Department grant aid sought for the development.

The proposal was advertised in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 in the Irish Examiner on 20th April 2010. No submissions were received in relation to the proposed development, the closing date for same being 17th June 2010. The development is in accordance with proper planning and development of the area, both capitalizing on the group of amenities and services – school, shopping facilities, credit union, family centre etc., and contribute to building a “vibrant and sustainable centre” as described in the City Development Plan.

A good quality library, with a distinct community focus, will be an integral part of achieving social inclusion, higher literacy rates, community involvement and enhanced creative and educational activities for young people in the area.

8.2 **REPORT ON THE LOUGH**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 23rd June, 2010 on water quality at The Lough.

8.3 **FENCE BETWEEN MEADOW PARK AND MEELICK PARK HAVE IMMEDIATE REPAIRS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That the fence between Meadow Park and Meelick Park have immediate repairs carried out and that the fence be reinforced to avoid further vandalism and cutting of the aforementioned fence.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 09/288)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Palisade Steel Fence between Meadow Park and Meelick Park is subject to ongoing damage by means of cutting the individual bars to create an unauthorized access between both parks.

On each of the previous occasions the damage has been repaired and reinforced. Arrangements are in hand to carry out the necessary repairs within the next two to three weeks.

8.4 **ERECT LIGHTING ON WALKWAYS AND PUBLIC PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That this Council will produce a programme of work to erect lighting on our walkways and public parks with solar, light and wind energy.’

(Proposer: Cllr. B. Bermingham 10/135)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the provision of lighting along amenity walks and within public parks will be considered under the Parks Strategy Review which is presently underway. A first draft of this review will be submitted to the relevant Council Committees for consideration in September early October.

8.5 **LIBRARY IN NORTH CENTRAL WARD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Council aspires to have its own publicly owned state of the art library, and library built in a central location in the North Central Ward and instruct the Recreation, Amenity & Culture Directorate to prioritise this objective within the next 5 years.

Furthermore, Council instructs the Recreation, Amenity & Culture Directorate to submit an annual report to Council on the new North Central Ward library which will include the following headings:

- a) Number of active members, both adult and children*
- b) Number of new registered members*
- c) Number of members from the City and the County*
- d) Numbers and names of schools using the facility and frequency of use*
- e) Book Club*
- f) Gramophone Society*
- g) Internet Use*
- h) Children’s Fun Activities*
- i) Photocopying*
- j) Number of Books issued to adults and children.’*

(Proposers: Cllr. T. Tynan, Cllr. M. Barry, Cllr. C. Clancy, Cllr. P. Gosch, Cllr. K. O’Flynn, Cllr. T. Gould 10/142)

The report of the Director of Services stated that The draft Strategic Plan for the library service, currently before Council, includes the following in respect of library services in the North Central Ward:

“Establish Blackpool Library as a key resource in North Central Ward. This would involve Blackpool Library being established as a vital community resource with a full range of services; St Mary’s Rd building being handed over for community-type use; and the Library service in North Central Ward further enhanced”.

Regular reports are produced for the Recreation, Amenity & Culture Functional Committee for all libraries in the city, including the data listed above.

8.6 **PASSAGEWAY AT LEEDS FC GROUND, BALLYVOLANE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Council calls on the relevant department to ensure that the passageway leading into and parallel to the Leeds FC ground in Ballyvolane be swept and cleaned on a weekly basis.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Barry, Cllr. C. Clancy, Cllr. P. Gosch, Cllr. K. O’Flynn, Cllr. T. Gould 10/143)

The report of the Director of Services stated that The Council, at considerable expense, resurfaced the entire length of this walkway approximately 18 months ago.

Litter is picked on a 10-14 day cycle and large accumulations of litter and rubbish are collected as and when required.

Due to the Government embargo on filling of staff vacancies, it is not possible to increase this frequency or provide a sweeping service at present.

8.7 **BIRD SPECIES SIGNAGE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That the interpretive signage concerning bird species in Mahon Estuary at the entrance to Joe McHugh Park, Mahon be corrected and that the extant images be lined up with the right bird titles.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 10/144)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Intrepretive Boards on the bird species at Mahon Estuary were donated to the City as part of the development of Joe Mc Hugh Park.

We are aware of the minor errors on two signs and have sought to correct these. Unfortunately it now appears this will involve replacing the boards as the existing print cannot be corrected.

Should resources permit, it is hoped to replace the boards during late Autumn/Winter.

8.8 **MCCARTHY MEMORIAL – MAXIMISE POTENTIAL OF THE SITE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘The McCarthy memorial on the Blackrock Road could be a wonderful amenity. However in its present state it is not. Would the Council investigate the possibility of maximizing the potential of this site.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. Cahill 10/149)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the McCarthy memorial is not in Council ownership and therefore not the responsibility of the council for management and maintenance.

Initial research will be undertaken to establish the present status of the memorial. These findings will be reported to Committee in due course for consideration.

8.9 **REPAIR DAMAGED BENCH – SOUTHERN ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council would replace or repair the damaged bench on Southern Road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. E. O’Halloran 10/151)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the bench on the Southern Road is unfortunately subject to wanton vandalism from time to time. Arrangements are in hand to replace the damaged lath within the next four weeks.

8.10 **MANAGEMENT AUDIT ON THE SAFETY OF PUBLIC PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘In recognising the significant expenditure and investment by Cork City Council in the development and maintenance of public parks and open spaces, that a safety and vandalism risk management audit be undertaken to determine what additional measures are required to enhance the safety of these spaces for the general public and to minimise episodes of anti-social behaviour.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 10/153)

The report of the Director of Services stated that safety, vandalism, and unsocial behaviour in public parks, walkways and open space areas will be considered under the Parks Strategy Review which is presently underway. A first draft of this review will be submitted to the relevant Council Committees for consideration in September early October.

8.11 **FENCING AND BOLLARDS – AT MURPHY’S FARM**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That City Council review the fencing and bollards at Murphy’s Farm in order to prevent access to joyriders to soccer pitches, thus preventing damage to playing fields.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 10/155)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the existing fences and bollards at Murphy's Farm are damaged from time to time by joyriders seeking access to the walkway and soccer pitches. These are repaired immediately to prevent further access by this group and to safeguard the pitches.

8.12 **MONITOR SEATING AREA ON THE NORTH MALL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'The seating on the North Mall facing the River Lee is a much appreciated amenity provided by Cork City Council but of late residents have seen an increase in the number of people consuming alcohol in the area and request that Cork City Council monitor the area and take whatever measures are necessary to put a stop to the drinking in this public area.'

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 10/159)

The report of the Director of Services stated that all amenity areas within City Centre including the North Mall are presently monitored by Parks Staff and the Gardai in regard to alcohol consumption in these areas. Appropriate measures are taken to address these issues in line with available resources.

8.13 **CLEAN UP OF GREEN AREA ON ABBEY STREET**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'That Cork City Council undertake a cleaning up of the green area on Abbey Street opposite Travers Street.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 10/161)

The report of the Director of Services stated that The Parks Department collect litter and rubbish from the above area including the maintenance of the planted area on a regular basis.

The area is vulnerable to dumping and littering and there is a responsibility on local residents to address this issue in association with the Council.

8.14 **GUS HEALY SWIMMING POOL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'That Cork City Council would seek expressions of interest from likely partners to redevelop the Gus Healy Swimming Pool.'

(Proposer: Cllr. L. McGonigle 10/176)

The report of the Director of Services stated that there is no available funding to proceed with this project.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. McGonigle seconded by Comhairleoir P. Gosch a vote was called for on the report of the Director of Services where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Kelleher, T. Tynan, C. Clancy, K. O'Flynn, T. Gould, J. O'Brien, M. O'Connell, T. Fitzgerald, T. Shannon, C. O'Leary, L. Kingston, S. Martin, M. Finn, F. Kerins, M. Shields, M. Ahern, H. Cremin, G. Gibbons.(18)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí D. Murphy, P. Gosch, D. Cahill, L. McGonigle, K. McCarthy, J. Corr, E. O'Halloran.(7)

An tArd-Mhéara declared the vote carried and the report of the Director of Services approved.

8.15 **BARRACK STREET BAND**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'That Cork City Council actively pursue the location of a building for use by the Barrack Street Band.'

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin, Cllr. D. O'Flynn 10/180)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Council will explore accommodation opportunities for Barrack Street Bank, including the financial implications of same. The findings will be reported to Committee for consideration in due course.

8.16 **SIGNS AT CEMETERIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'That signs be placed in all cemeteries so as to inform people to keep their dogs on leads when visiting their loved ones resting places, to prevent dogs fouling graves.'

(Proposer: Cllr. D. O'Flynn 10/183)

The report of the Director of Services stated that it is proposed to replace the content of the signage at the entrance to the Council's four cemeteries later this year. There will be a specific reference to the control of dogs within the cemeteries included in this signage, making specific reference to the relevant laws governing the control of dogs in public areas.

8.17 **MAINTENANCE WORK AT THE LOUGH**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘Following the retirement of the caretaker at the Lough – and mindful of the problems experienced there last year – that Cork City Council moves to ensure that a responsible person is put in place to carry out the regular and necessary maintenance work at the amenity.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 10/185)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Appropriate measures will be put in place to maintain the high standards of maintenance at The Lough in the event of the current caretaker taking the option of early retirement.

Unfortunately due to the Government embargo on the filling of staff vacancies, this will involve redeploying a member of staff from another Parks area with the obvious corresponding reduction in maintenance in that area.

8.18 **ORCHARD COURT AMENITY PARK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council replace the damaged seat in Orchard Court Amenity Park and also repair the damaged fencing.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 10/190)

The report of the Director of Services stated that confirm that the damaged fence has been repaired and the vandalised seat has been removed and will be replaced later this Autumn.

8.19 **CLEANING UP OF COUNCIL GREEN FIELD SITES AND PARKS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council investigate the concept of bringing in a contractor to service the cleaning up of dog fouling in Council green field sites and parks.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 10/182)

The report of the Director of Services stated that removal of dog faeces from amenity areas is the responsibility of the individual dog owners using these facilities. The City Council must be extremely careful about introducing a new service that would inevitably

give the impression that the council is taking responsibility for this task, thereby releasing dog owners of their duties and responsibility in this regard.

Furthermore, there is no provision in the current year's estimates to cover the cost of engaging a contractor for this service and given the current financial situation, it is extremely unlikely that any additional funds will be made available for the foreseeable future.

It is worth noting that the Council's Park Rangers, Community Wardens and Litter Wardens invest a considerable amount of time advising dog owners (that frequently use amenity areas) of their civic duty and responsibility regarding the removal and disposal of dog faeces.

The response from the majority of dog owners is very positive and it is planned to continue with this education policy going forward.

8.20 **ERADICATION OF KNOTWEED**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'That Cork City Council put in place a programme of eradication of knotweed within the city as it is very much on the increase and because of its invasive nature it is a real danger to natural floral and fauna.'

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 10/191)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Japanese Knotweed was introduced to Europe in the late 19th century as an ornamental plant in parks and gardens.

It has adapted extremely well to European climatic conditions and has now become extremely invasive in many cities and towns, motorway verges and river banks.

The plant is extremely vigorous and deep rooted and has no natural predator in Europe.

Control measures to date include herbicides, burning, flail-mowing and strimming. These measures have had very limited success to-date because of the vigorous nature of the species. In many situations these methods have increased the problem by the dispersal of small pieces of stem and root to adjoining sites.

The Olympic site in London (2012) was completely overgrown with this weed prior to commencement of works, the cost to date of eradication is Stg£75 million and this is estimated to rise to Stg£90 million.

The Council secured grant-aid of €20,000.00 in 2008 from the Heritage Council for a pilot project on the control of Japanese Knotweed based on research carried out in the UK, the outcome of this project is being monitored at present.

8.21 **MEASURES TO PREVENT DUMPING IN ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'That Cork City Council would clean up and put in place measures to prevent drinking parties in the vault/ tomb of the Lyon's family in St. Joseph's Cemetery. The tomb is the final resting place of Thomas Lyons who was the first Catholic Mayor of the reformed Cork Corporation in 1841, his bother Francis Lyons MP and his son Francis Lyons Jnr. who held the position of Mayor of Cork on three occasions. The tomb has become a dumping ground for cans and bottles and there are currently no known family members living in Cork today.'

(Proposer: Cllr. E. O'Halloran 10/199)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the Lyons family vault is secure and bolted and cannot be accessed by the public. A narrow window on the eastern side of the vault was recently vandalized which gave rise to litter, cans and other debris being deposited through the opening.

This rubbish has now been removed and the vault cleaned, the window has been repaired and secured.

8.22 **HEDGES ADJOINING THE GREEN AREAS IN LAKE LAWN, BALLINLOUGH**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 1st July 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'In order to curb anti-social behaviour, that the hedges adjoining the green areas in Lake Lawn, Ballinlough be cut back.'

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 10/203)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the lower branches of the Cypress trees at Lake Lawn are scheduled to be pruned late Summer early Autumn.

There is no evidence of anti-social behaviour in the area, however, the branches are now encroaching on the grass verge.

8.23 **WITHDRAWAL OF LIBRARIAN AT TERENCE MCSWINEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services dated 5th July, 2010 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'That this City Council deplores the recent announcement regarding the decision to withdraw a librarian at Terence McSwiney Community College. The decision will result in the closure of a very valuable service to teachers/ students who are working towards higher levels of literacy, numeracy and cultural development.'

(Proposer: Cllr. J. O'Brien 10/217)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the post of School Librarian was created at Terence Mac Swiney Community College under the Junior Certificate Special Programme (JCSP). The post is one of 11 such posts around the country, all of them funded by and employed by the Department of Education & Science. Since the post was created the library service in the school has received advice and support from the Council's Library Service, but the Council has no role in the management of the library in the school.

While I understand that a decision had been made by the Department of Education & Science to discontinue funding for the JCSP libraries, there are indications more recently that the Department is re-considering this decision.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence from the following:-

- Letter from Clonmel Borough Council dated 8th July 2010.
- Letter from Galway City Council dated 9th July 2010.
- Letter from Eddie Kiernan, Private Secretary, Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government dated 16th July 2010.
- Letter from Department of Transport dated 16th July 2010.
- Letter from Office of Public Works dated 20th July 2010.
- Letter from Cork County Council dated 28th July 2010.
- Letter from Corrigan Family dated August 2010.
- Letter from Mulcahy Family dated September 2010.

An tArdmhéara drew members attention to the letter from the Office of Public Works dated 20th July 2010 wherein it was agreed that a presentation would be made to a joint meeting scheduled for the end of the year, on progress with regard to the proposals set out in the draft Lee Flood Risk Management Plan.

10. **CONFERENCE/ SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

An Chomhairle noted the following summaries by Members of Conferences/Seminars attended:-

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES(ITEMS 11 & 12)

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. O'Leary, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Gould, a vote was called on whether to approve the attendance of Councillors listed at Agenda Items 11 & 12 at the various seminars listed and tabled on the night, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Kelleher, D. Murphy, C. Clancy, P. Gosch, K. O’Flynn, M. O’Connell, T. Fitzgerald, L. McGonigle, T. Shannon, J. Corr, L. Kingston, E. O’Halloran, S. Martin, M. Shields, M. Ahern, G. Gibbons. (16)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, T. Gould, J. O’Brien, D. Cahill, C. O’Leary, K. McCarthy, M. Finn, F. Kerins, H. Cremin. (9)

As the numbers voting in favour exceeded those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried and the attendance of the Comhairleoirí at the various seminars & conferences approved, as listed hereunder:-

11. **SEMINARS**

11.1 **HOUSING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2009**

Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn at the “Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009” training seminar, being held in the Glenroyal Hotel, Straffen Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, on the 16th – 18th July 2010.

11.2 **HEALTH & SAFETY, RISK ASSESSMENT AND INSURANCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn at the “Health & Safety, Risk Assessment and Insurance in Local Government” training seminar, held in the Maldron Hotel, Oranmore, Galway, on the 26th – 28th July 2010.

11.3 **THE NEED FOR URGENT LOCAL AUTHORITY AND HEALTH SERVICE REFORM**

Comhairleoirí L. McGonigle, E. O’Halloran & K. O’Flynn at the “Need for Urgent Local Authority and Health Service Reform” training seminar, held in the Maldron Hotel, Oranmore, Galway, on the 30th July – 1st August 2010.

11.4 **WASTE MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS; TYRES & WASTE TYRES; PROHIBITION OF WASTE DISPOSAL BY BURNING; OBLIGATIONS ON FARMERS; THE INSURANCE ISSUES**

Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn at the “Waste Management Regulations; Tyres & Waste Tyres; Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning; Obligations on Farmers; the Insurance Issues” training seminar, held in the Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway, on the 20th – 22nd August 2010.

11.5 **WATER CONSERVATION – THE IMPACT OF THE NEW EPA GUIDELINES ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS; ARE WE AT RISK?**

Comhairleoir K. O’Flynn at the “Water Conservation – The Impact of the New EPA Guidelines on Planning Applications; Are we at Risk?” training seminar, held in the Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo, on the 27th – 29th August 2010.

11.6 **THE INSURANCE SALESMAN'S PRESENTATION SKILLS – TRAINING SEMINAR**

Comhairleoir K. O'Flynn at the Insurance Salesman's Presentation Skills – Training Seminar, to be held in The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway City, on the 17th – 19th September 2010.

11.7 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS – PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY; THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES – TRAINING SEMINAR**

Comhairleoirí G. Gibbons & K. O'Flynn at the Planning Applications – Professional Indemnity; The Essential Guide for Public Representatives - Training Seminar, to be held in The Glenlo Abbey Hotel, Bushypark, Co. Galway, on the 24th – 26th September 2010.

11.8 **REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY REVIEW GROUP – TRAINING SEMINAR**

Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, L. McGonigle, G. Gibbons at the Report of the Local Government Efficiency Review Group – Training Seminar, to be held in Whites Hotel, Wexford Town, on the 1st – 3rd October 2010.

11.9 **LAMA AUTUMN SEMINAR – LOCAL GOVERNMENT – EFFICIENCY AND FINANCING**

Comhairleoirí L. Kingston, D. Murphy, T. Fitzgerald, T. Shannon, S. Martin at the LAMA Autumn Seminar – Local Government – Efficiency and Financing, to be held in Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel, Co. Kerry, on the 8th – 9th October 2010.

11.10 **ALTERNATIVE ENERGY; COMPETING WITH THE REST OF EUROPE**

Comhairleoirí C. Clancy & L. Kingston, at the Alternative Energy; Competing with the Rest of Europe seminar, to be held in The Glenroyal Hotel, Straffen Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, on the 22nd – 24th October 2010.

11.11 **CRIMINAL LAW (DEFENCE AND THE DWELLING) BILL 2010; INSURANCE ISSUES FOR THE HOME AND BUSINESS; ENFORCEMENT OF SOCIAL STANDARDS IN LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING – TRAINING SEMINAR**

Comhairleoir G. Gibbons, at the Criminal Law(defence and the dwelling) Bill 2010; Insurance Issues for the Home and Business; Enforcement of Social Standards in Local Authority Housing – Training Seminar, to be held in Maldron Hotel, Galway, Oranmore, Galway, on the 29th – 31st October 2010.

11.12 **ICSH FINANCE SEMINAR 2010 – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT**

Comhairleoirí C. Clancy & L. Kingston, at the ICSH Finance Seminar 2010 – Financial Management in a Changing Environment, to be held in Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel, Co. Kilkenny, on the 18th – 19th November 2010.

12. **CONFERENCES**

12.1 **PARNELL SUMMER SCHOOL 2010**

Comhairleoir S. Martin, at the Parnell Summer School 2010, held in the Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, on the 8th – 13th August 2010.

12.2 **HUMBERT SUMMER SCHOOL 2010**

Comhairleoir L. McGonigle, at the Humbert Summer School 2010, held in Killala and Castlebar, Co. Mayo, on the 19th – 22nd August 2010.

12.3 **97th ANNUAL AMAI CONFERENCE - “LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE FUTURE”**

Comhairleoirí C. Clancy, D. Murphy & M. Ahern at the 97th Annual AMAI Conference – Local Government for the Future, held in Inishowen, Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Inishowen, Co. Donegal on the 9th – 11th September 2010.

12.4 **ECAD MAYORS CONFERENCE**

Comhairleoir J. Corr at the 17th ECAD Mayors’ Conference to be held in Malta on 22nd September to 24th September, 2010.

12.5 **GETTING A GRIP 2010 CONFERENCE – BUILDING A SOCIAL RESPONSE**

Comhairleoirí C. Clancy & J. Kelleher, at the Getting a Grip 2010 Conference – “Building a Social Response”, to be held in The Europe Hotel and Resort, Killarney, Co. Kerry, on the 7th – 8th October 2010.

13. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle approved the referral of the following motions to the relevant committees:-

13.1 **GRILLS UNDER BRIDGES IN BLACKPOOL TO BE REPLACED**

‘In lieu of recent flooding in Blackpool, that present grills be replaced by stronger more effective grills under the two bridges entering Orchard Court.

That a reinforced wall be placed at the foot bridge to support the bank that has been eroded.

That further back from the main entrance bridge that mechanisms be put in place to slow down the river.

A regular cleaning process be made on the River on a monthly basis and in conjunction with Residents Reports.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 10/35)

Environment Functional Committee

13.2 STUDENT GRANTS – ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

‘That Cork City Council adopt the Electronic Funds Transfer system which is more reliable and effective in the dispensing of Student Grants.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 10/59)

Finance Functional Committee

13.3 TAXI USE OF PAUL’S AVENUE ON TO PAUL STREET

‘That Cork City Council look at allowing taxis use St. Paul’s Avenue on to Paul Street for the duration of the works on Cornmarket Street, Paul Street and Castle Street. We have to compensate for the above closure, to allow access to Paul Street Shopping Centre.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 10/233)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

13.4 DISH FOOTPATH ON EVERGREEN ROAD

‘That Cork City Council dish the footpath on Evergreen Road adjacent to Listowel Avenue.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 10/247)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

13.5 IMPROVE THE FAÇADE OF THE CORK CITY LIBRARY

‘That, considering the shabby nature of the Cork City Library exterior – in the context of a rejuvenated Grand Parade and its importance during the summer season – action will be taken by the City Council to improve the façade of this building, as well as erect some sort of Cork-themed material-screening on the former Grand Parade Hotel site and other derelict properties.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 10/249)

Recreation Amenity & Culture Functional Committee

13.6 **IMPROVE FEVER HOSPITAL STEPS/ LADYS' WELL**

‘That Cork City Council put in place a programme of work to maintain and upgrade the area of the Fever Hospital steps/ Ladys Well.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 10/250)

Recreation Amenity & Culture Functional Committee

13.7 **TENDER FOR ELECTRICITY**

‘Given the estimated saving to Cork City Council of approximately 1 million per year over the last 2 years in the tender for supplying electricity including public lighting to Cork City Council.

That Cork City Council would also include on a pilot bases some of its housing stock when it issues an invitation to tender for supplying electricity later this year.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Clancy 10/251)

Finance Functional Committee

13.8 **REOPENING OF CORK TO YOUGHAL RAILWAY**

‘That Cork City Council supports, and pushes for the reopening of the Cork to Youghal railway.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. McCarthy 10/253)

Planning & Development Functional Committee

13.9 **PARKING AT BOYNE CRESCENT, NORTH RING ROAD, MAYFIELD**

‘Bearing in mind the problems facing all residents in relation to car-parking in what is a very crowded and congested cul-de-sac, that part of the green area adjoining house numbers 19 to 30 Boyne Crescent, North Ring Road, Mayfield, be removed and replaced with tarmac.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kelleher 10/255)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

13.10 **RESTORATION OF FORMER CRAFT CENTRE**

‘That a new plan for the restoration and full usage of the former Craft Centre in the Butter Exchange at Shandon be drawn up, so that the entire area can fully realise its potential as a tourist attraction.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kelleher 10/256)

Corporate Policy Group

13.11 **AMEND STANDING ORDERS**

‘It is rightly accepted in society that discrimination of any form is no longer acceptable.

There is a particular responsibility on elected members at every level to ensure that discrimination does not occur at any level in our country. With this in mind I propose that one of the last forms of discrimination that occurs at local authority level be consigned to history where it belongs.

I propose that Cork City Council standing orders be amended to allow for an independent councillor to transfer his or her seat to a person of their choice as is the case with political parties.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. McCarthy 10/257)

The motion was moved by Comhairleoir J. O’Brien on behalf of Comhairleoir D. McCarthy and duly seconded by An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir M. O’Connell. It was noted that in accordance with Standing Order No. 28 the motion then stood adjourned without discussion to the next Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle to be held on 27th September 2010.

13.12 **ADDITIONAL FENCING IN ROSSBROOK ESTATE, MODEL FARM ROAD**

‘That additional palisade fencing be provided as previously stated in Rossbrook Estate, Model Farm Road to ensure the protection and safety of local residents and users of the amenity walkway.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 10/258)

Recreation Amenity & Culture Functional Committee

13.13 **EFFECTIVENESS OF CYCLE PATHS**

‘In follow up to my previous motion on the introduction of a bicycle leasing scheme in Cork, that Cork City Council would undertake a major review of the effectiveness of cycle paths and the needs of cyclists in Cork, so as to promote and encourage a modal shift from the car to the bike and that this review would also include engagement with the County Council as a significant number of car journeys into the city commence in the county areas immediately adjacent to the city boundary.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 10/259)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

13.14 **RESURFACE THE MARINA ROADWAY**

‘That Cork City Council would resurface the Marina roadway, given the poor condition it is in.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. McGonigle 10/260)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

13.15 **STATUS OF WILLOW LAWN RIVERSIDE WALK**

‘That Cork City Council get a report from the Director of Services on the completion status of the Willow Lawn riverside walk.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 10/261)

Recreation Amenity & Culture Functional Committee

13.16 **75th ANNIVERSARY OF CITY HALL OPENING**

‘That in 2011 Cork City Council celebrate the 75th anniversary of the opening of the current City Hall building.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 10/262)

Corporate Policy Group

13.17 **SMARTPHONE TOURISM APPLICATION**

‘That Cork City Council launch a new smartphone tourism application. The smartphone now used in Dublin and soon in many cities around the world offers user friendly tools such as smartphone apps are a great means of enabling visitors to maximise their experience of a destination. Such technology should be explored immediately and put in place before 1st January 2011.’

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Gibbons 10/263)

Corporate Policy Group

13.18 **HIGHFIELD AVENUE/ HIGHFIELD WEST, COLLEGE ROAD TO BE MADE A ONE-WAY SYSTEM**

‘That in the interest of the free movement of traffic and the health and safety of residents, pedestrians and other road users that a one-way system be implemented on the above roads, this measure would help alleviate the problems residents and other road users are experiencing whilst accommodating the needs of modern day traffic.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Shields 10/268)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

14. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

14.1 **WATER CHARGES**

‘That this council is opposed to the government’s proposed introduction of water charges for domestic users, and views them as an inequitable form of double taxation at a time when living standards have been eroded and many families are already struggling to make ends meet.’

(Proposer: Cllr. F. Kerins 10/264)

Following discussion Comhairleoir F. Kerins agreed to amend the wording of the motion to read:-

‘That this council is opposed to any future proposals for the introduction of water charges for domestic users, and views them as an inequitable form of double taxation at a time when living standards have been eroded and many families are already struggling to make ends meet.’

The amended motion was approved by An Chomhairle.

This concluded the business of the meeting

**ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH**