

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2010

- PRESENT** An t-Ardmhéara Comhairleoir D. Murphy in the Chair.
- NORTH EAST** Comhairleoirí J. Kelleher, T. Brosnan, T. Tynan.
- NORTH CENTRAL** Comhairleoirí M. Barry, C. Clancy, P. Gosch, K. O' Flynn, T. Gould.
- NORTH WEST** Comhairleoirí D. McCarthy, M. O' Connell, T. Fitzgerald.
- SOUTH EAST** Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. McGonigle, D. O' Flynn, T. Shannon, C. O' Leary, K. McCarthy, J. Corr.
- SOUTH CENTRAL** Comhairleoirí L. Kingston, E. O'Halloran, S. Martin, F. Kerins.
- SOUTH WEST** Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, M. Shields, M.Ahern, B.Bermingham, H. Cremin, G. Gibbons.
- APOLOGIES** Comhairleoir M. Finn.
- ALSO PRESENT** Mr. J. Gavin, City Manager.
Mr. K. Terry, Director of Services, Planning & Development & City Engineer.
Mr. G. O'Beirne, Director of Services, Environment.
Mr. D. Joyce, Senior Executive Officer, Roads & Transportation.
Mr. P. Moynihan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs.
Ms. J. Gazely, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs.

An t-Ardmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Corr, a vote was called for on the suspension of standing orders where they appeared as follows:

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Kelleher, D. Murphy, C. Clancy, P. Gosch, K. O'Flynn, M. O'Connell, T. Fitzgerald, D. Cahill, D. O'Flynn, T. Shannon, K. McCarthy, J. Corr, L. Kingston, E. O'Halloran, S. Martin, J. Buttimer, M. Shields, M. Ahern, G. Gibbons. (19)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, M. Barry, C. O'Leary, H. Cremin. (4)

An tArd-Mhéara declared the vote carried and standing orders suspended to consider the business set out in the Agenda for meeting of 8th February 2010.

2. **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

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

- The Daly Family on the death of Kevin Daly.
- The Mac Giolla Family on the death of Tomás Mac Giolla.
- The Lotty Family on the death of Margaret Peg Lotty.
- The Harvey Family on the death of Leonard Harvey.
- The White Family on the death of Frank White.

3. **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

An Chomhairle extended a vote of congratulations to the following:-

- Ballyphehane Boxing Club on the opening of the new club in Ballyphehane Community Centre.
- Blue Demons & Team Montenotte on reaching the basketball Cup Finals in Dublin.
- Mr. William Walsh, winner of a Gold Medal at the World Bird Show in Portugal.

4. **CIVIC RECEPTION**

An Chomhairle approved the holding of a Civic Reception for former Lord Mayors of Cork City Council.

5. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Corr, An Chomhairle unanimously agreed that items 10 & 11 (Disposals) of the agenda be dealt with immediately.

6. **DISPOSALS DEFERRED FROM MEETING HELD ON 25TH JANUARY, 2010**

Members considered the report of the City Manager dated 7th January, 2010 in relation to the following property disposals;

PROPERTY DISPOSAL

1. On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir D. O'Flynn, disposal of property at No. 9, Parklawn, Parklands, Cork to Karen Corcoran c/o Daly Derham Donnelly, Solicitors, No. 1 Washington Street, Cork by way of exchange for property at No. 96 Kilmore Road Lower, Knocknaheeny, Cork was unanimously approved.

7. **AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPERTY DISPOSALS**

An Chomhairle considered the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community dated 4th February 2010, and:-

(a) On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Shields, seconded by Comhairleoir K. O'Flynn, An Chomhairle approved the disposal of units Nos. 29 and 30 Ard na Rí, Banduff, Cork to Affordable Housing applicants under the Affordable Housing Scheme.

(b) On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Corr, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the disposal of units Nos. 29 and 72 Coppingers Acre, Cork to Affordable Housing applicants under the Affordable Housing Scheme.

8. **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

An tArd-Mhéara advised An Chomhairle that the next meeting of Cork City Council will be held on Monday 22nd February, 2010 at 3.00 p.m. and Functional Meetings will take place on Monday 1st March, 2010.

9. **MINUTES**

The minutes of Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held on 25th January 2010, were considered and approved.

10. **QUESTIONS**

10.1 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS**

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

- (a) How many planning applications granted by Cork City Council Planning Department in 2007/8/9 were appealed to An Bord Pleanala.
- (b) How many appeals had Cork City Councils decisions overturned e.g. refused.
- (c) How many appeals had Cork City Councils decision upheld e.g. granted but with new conditions attached.
- (d) How many planning applications refused by Cork City Council Planning Department in 2007/8/9 were appealed to An Bord Pleanala.
- (e) How many appeals had Cork City Councils decision overturned e.g. granted.
- (f) How many were granted permission with new conditions attached.

a),b) & c) Applications **granted** by Cork City Council which were appealed to An Bord Pleanala:

2007:	61	of which 13 were overturned and 48 were upheld
2008:	86	of which 18 were overturned and 68 were upheld
2009:	34	of which 6 were overturned and 28 were upheld

d),e) & f) Applications *refused* by Cork City Council which were appealed to An Bord Pleanála:

2007: 39 of which 14 were overturned and 25 were upheld
2008: 32 of which 5 were overturned and 27 were upheld
2009: 16 of which 3 were overturned and 13 were upheld

10.2 **CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR CLAMPING AND TOWING**

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

When was the contract for Clamping and Towing up for renewal?
How much did the service cost Council in (1) 2006 (11) 2007 (111) 2008 (IV) 2009?
Has the Council the right to change the list of offences that get you towed and clamped?

The towing and clamping contract with APCOA was renewed on the 1st January 2009. The contract period is three years.

The tender price for the previous tender (prior to 1st January 2009), was approximately €1.3 million per year. The new contract had adjustments to towing periods, and as a result of the competitive tendering system, the cost in 2009 was €1,000,900.

Cork City Council has three available means of parking enforcement:

- Tow-away
- Clamping
- Fixed charge penalty notices (FCPN's or parking fines)

These enforcement means can be used for any of the parking offences listed in the Cork City Parking Bye-Laws and the National Parking Regulations. The actual use of any enforcement mechanism is determined by policy, e.g. at present it is Cork City Council's policy not to tow-away vehicles for disc parking offences.

10.3 **FAIRFIELD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

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

Can the Manager tell me has the grant of 195,000 for the Fairfield Improvement Project from the dormant account fund been drawn down and can he outline how the money was spent?

The grant for enhancement works at the Fairfield is €195k, of which €58500 has been drawn down to date, further recoument to be sought in the next week or so. Works to date include construction of a new perimeter walkway with enhanced entrances, with additional pathways and perimeter plinth wall works to be completed in the next few months.

10.4 SPORTING FACILITIES

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

Can the Manager please inform the Members what sporting facilities the City Council operates, directly and indirectly? What range of sports is catered for? How much revenue is raised? (i.e. pitch rental). How much expenditure is spent on upkeep of facilities? What is the average rent on a playing pitch? What are the plans in the next 12 months to add to these facilities?

The City Council provides the following sports facilities:

3 Swimming/Leisure Centres,

Gyms/Aerobics studios

An 18 hole Golf Course at Mahon

All Weather Pitches – Bishopstown, Churchfield and Glen Resource Centre

Basketball Courts- Clashduv and Kilmore Road

Tennis Courts – Clashduv and Glen Resource Centre

Sports Halls-Knocknaheeny and Tramore Road

Grass Pitches

Skate Park, Mardyke

Pitch and Putt

High Ropes and Zip Wire Courses Glen Resource Centre

Multi User Games Areas in parks

Athletics Track- contribute to CIT track

Changing Pavilions Murphys Farm and Coffeys Field Togher

Climbing Wall- Glen Resource centre

Contributes to Mayfield Sports Complex annually

Range of Sports catered for

Field sports such as football ,hurling, soccer and rugby, indoor sports, basketball, golf, pitch and putt , swimming, athletics etc

How much revenue is raised(ie pitch rental)

Pitches are leased/licensed to clubs at a nominal charge, as clubs are responsible for maintenance.

Expenditure on upkeep

As stated above, clubs using grass pitches are responsible for maintenance of same. In relation to the Golf Course , the nett operating cost is €284k approx, with the Gus Healy Pool costing €270k per annum. Leisureworld maintain the Bishopstown facility, with Glen Resource Centre Ltd being responsible for upkeep of the Resource Centre. Maintenance on other facilities varies from year to year but is generally very modest.

Plans in the next 12 months

The Council plans to develop 2 All Weather pitches at Togher, and a number of playing pitches at Inchigaggin.

10.5 **LONELY PLANET GUIDE**

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

With regard to recent recommendations by the World renowned “Lonely Planet Guide”, highlighting Cork City, the Manager has in the past stated that a specific body will not be steering the marketing/branding of Cork City for 2010 and that Fáilte Ireland have been given the task of exploiting our city’s award. Is there at least a written plan of marketing by Fáilte Ireland in this regard and if so can the Members view it? If no plan is written, would the Manager request Fáilte Ireland to give a presentation to Council outlining their strategy. 2010 will pass quickly and our city’s chance to capitalize will pass also.

The organisation charged with promoting the tourism industry overseas is Tourism Ireland. In a letter to the Lord Mayor some time back Tourism Ireland confirmed that they were including the Lonely Planet coverage in their marketing and promotions.

Fáilte Ireland have also confirmed that they are also, in their promotional material, using the Lonely Planet accolade.

I will seek up-to-date details from Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland.

10.6 **PLANNING PROCESS WHEN APPLICATIONS ARE MADE FOR FLOOD PLANES**

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

To ask the City Manager, in light of the recent flooding throughout the city, if the appropriate experts (i.e. Hydrographers) will now be consulted during the planning process when applications are made for flood planes?

Issues concerning flooding have always been addressed by our engineering staff when considering significant planning applications in the city. The Department of the Environment issued Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities in November 2009. The Planning Directorate is currently considering the contents of the Guidelines with a view to their implementation into development management practice in Cork City.

10.7 **DEVELOPMENT CHARGES**

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

Could you please supply me with the following information in relation to:

1. The total amount the local authority has collected from developers in development charges each year for the past five years.

2. The total amount developers have agreed to pay the local authority each year for the past five years.
3. The total amount that remains uncollected to date.
4. To state the amount of property given by developers in lieu of money owed and to provide details of same.
5. To provide a detailed list of debtors who owe money to the local authority for non-payment of development charges.
6. To provide details of any enforcement actions which have been taken by or on behalf of the local authority.

1. The total amount of receipts for development contributions for the last five years are as follows:

1	€11.0m
2	€17.3m
3	€1.3m
4	€12.3m
5	€ 4.07m

2. Development contributions are levied in accordance with the General Development Contribution Scheme and the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme. Cork City Council does not enter into agreements with developers with regards the amount of contributions to be paid.

3. The amount estimated for collection at the end of 2009 is €2.46m.

4. The General Development Contribution Scheme and the Supplementary Development Contribution Scheme does not provide for property to be paid in lieu of monies owed. No property has been accepted in lieu of monies owed for development contributions.

1. As previously stated in a Council Question dated 27th April 2009, in accordance with the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003 the information requested cannot be made available as this legislation prohibits the disclosure of personal sensitive information in relation to living individuals & prohibits the disclosure of commercially sensitive financial information.

1. The legal mechanism available to Cork City Council for non payment of development contributions is to take Simple Contract Debt proceedings. Such proceedings have been initiated for outstanding development contributions in a total of 45 cases in the period 2008/2009.

10.8 **FLOOD DAMAGE TO THE CORK MUSEUM**

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

Can the Manager please comment on the flood damage to the Cork Museum and when does he expect the Museum to re-open.

Extensive damage was caused to the Museum in the recent floods. In the old section, timber parquet flooring was damaged whilst in the new building all the mosaic flooring

has been compromised, plasterwork of walls and plinths damaged etc. There was no damage to the artefacts.

Following a period of investigative works and extensive drying out, works have commenced on relocating exhibits. Work associated with reinstating the damaged finishes in both the old and new sections of the Museum are due to commence shortly, with completion expected in late April.

10.9 **NATIONAL TREE WEEK**

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

Bearing in mind that National Tree Week is approaching, will the Manager give a general outline of what is planned, including Tree Planting, Educational Projects and Special Events?

National Tree Week is being held between 7th- 13th March this year. In cooperation with the Zoology Department, UCC, the Council is arranging planting of native Irish tree species along the Mardyke Walk during the week. A tree exhibition is also being organized by the Council at the Lord Mayors Pavilion, Fitzgeralds Park, for the week, which will be open to schools and public.

10.10 **VACANT AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS**

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

Could the Manager outline how many vacant affordable housing units are in the possession of Cork City Council, the location of same and the number of current applicants for these units, and how many people have taken up the shared-ownership option?

Cork City Council currently has 104 vacant units at the following locations:

Ard na Ri, Banduff,
Ard Sionnach, Shanakiel,
Kilbrack Lawn, Skehard Road,
Coppinger's Acre, Bantry Park Road,
Glentrasna Avenue, The Glen
Hollyhill Heights, Hollyhill

A further disposal of 50 units under the Social Housing Leasing Programme is imminent. This will leave 54 units to be disposed of under the terms of the Affordable Housing Initiative.

At 31st December, 2009 Cork City Council had 1,256 affordable housing applicants.

In relation to the shared ownership scheme, Cork City Council, in 2009 received 14 applications and approved 14 applications. There were 4 shared ownership loans completed in 2009

10.11 **PURCHASING AND LEASING OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**

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

With respect to the purchasing and leasing of residential properties by Cork City Council in 2007, 2008 & 2009, can the City Manager provide details regarding:

The number of residential units purchased in the time period.

The type and nature of these properties (eg town house, semi-detached, apartment etc)

The average purchase price of these properties.

The number of residential properties leased in the given time period.

The type and nature of these properties (eg town house, semi-detached, apartment etc)

The average lease cost per annum and the average length of contracted lease.

In response to items (i) to (iii) above, the details are as set out hereunder :

2007

Units Purchased:	138
Type:	13 x Apartments 1 x 2 Bed Bungalow 6 x 3 Bed Bungalow 1 x 4 Bed Bungalow 11 x 2 Bed House 97 x 3 Bed House 9 x 4 Bed House
Average Cost:	€311,774

2008

Units Purchased:	71
Type:	7 x Apartments 1 x 1 Bed Bungalow 3 x 2 Bed House 56 x 3 Bed House 4 x 4 Bed House
Average Cost:	€295,335

2009

Units Purchased:	47
Type:	10 x Apartments 1 x 2 Bed Bungalow 2 x 3 Bed Bungalow 2 x 2 Bed House 32 x 3 Bed House
Average Cost:	€243,789

In response to items (iv) – (vi) above, excluding units leased under the Rental Assistance Scheme, please note that although negotiations took place with various Developers, Cork City Council Housing & Community Directorate have not entered into any leasing arrangements in respect of residential units, under the New Long Term Leasing Initiative, introduced by the Department of Environment & Local Government in 2009.

However, in response to a Press Notice in November 2009 Expressions of Interest in respect of Long Term Leasing have been received from individual house owners in respect of 57 residential properties within Cork City. At present these submissions are being assessed in order to ascertain their suitability to meet our housing needs.

10.12 **FIRM(S) MAINTAINING THE PUBLIC LIGHTING IN THE CITY**

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

Can the Manager please publish the service level which Council and the public can expect from the new firm(s) now maintaining the public lighting in the city. Can he please confirm the names of those firms. For the benefit of Council and the public can he please confirm the relevant contact numbers to which faults can be reported.

The maintenance of the City Councils Public Lighting assets is undertaken primarily by Airtricity Utility Solutions, AUS who have taken over the ESB Contracts lighting maintenance business in Ireland. The detail with respect to service levels are the subject of negotiation between Cork City Council and AUS at present. The service levels will be incorporated into a new contract agreement that must also take account of all the issues including public liability, insurance, certification and auditing of work procedures on live networks.

Airtricity Utility Solutions also operate a Public Lighting Call centre on 1850 372 772 whereby members of the public can report lights that are Out of Order or faults occurring in the Munster area, including Cork City, directly to the contractor. The Airtricity facility is provided through the Abtran Call Centre with opening hours of 8:00am to 8:00pm from Monday to Saturday.

Please check the number of the pole and the street name on which the light is located before calling it in.

Customers may also e-mail in faults to traffic@corkcity.ie including street name and pole number in the e-mail.

ESB Networks operate a CallSave 1850 372 999 number for emergencies/electricity interruptions or to report emergency situations such as fallen power lines etc. ESB Networks will not respond to non-emergency fault reports such as public lights out or foliage blocking public lights.

10.13 **PERMANENT TSB BRANCH ON CLASHDUV ROAD**

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

Can the Manager inform Council about the status of the site of the Permanent TSB branch on Clashduv Road in Togher. This site was leased to the TSB (then Cork Savings Bank) in 1982. Does the Council currently retain an interest in this site and if so, what is the rent paid by TSB bank?

The site in question was sold outright to Cork Savings Bank (TSB) by way of Transfer dated 14th September 1981. Cork City Council does not retain an interest in the site.

11. **ADDRESSING FLOODING RISKING– LEE CFRAMS – CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

An Chomhairle noted the report of the City Manager dated 4th February, 2010 on Addressing Flooding Risk.

12. **FLOODING IN CORK 19TH NOVEMBER, 2009.**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the City Manager dated 4th February, 2010 on Flooding in Cork 19th November 2009. An Chomhairle agreed that the Lord Mayor would extend an invitation to the ESB to attend the next meeting of the Environmental Functional Committee.

13. **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT – 30 KILOMETRE SPEED LIMIT**

An Chomhairle considered the report of the City Manager dated 4th February, 2010 on Traffic Management – 30 Kilometre speed limit and unanimously agreed to refer this item to the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

14. **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 25th JANUARY 2010**

14.1 **RENNES FAIR 2010**

An Chomhairle considered the recommendation of the Planning & Development Functional Committee held on 25th January, 2010.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. O’Leary, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Barry, a vote was called for on the approval of the Lord Mayor and 3 members of An Chomhairle to travel to the Rennes Fair 2010 where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Kelleher, D. Murphy, C. Clancy, P. Gosch, K. O’Flynn, M. O’Connell, T. Fitzgerald, D. O’Flynn, T. Shannon, J. Corr, L. Kingston, E. O’Halloran, S. Martin, J. Buttimer, M. Shields, M. Ahern, B. Bermingham, G. Gibbons. (18)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, M. Barry, T. Gould, D. Cahill, C. O’Leary, F. Kerins, H. Cremin. (7)

Abstained: - K. McCarthy (1)

An tArd-Mhéara declared the vote carried and the travel of the Lord Mayor and three members of An Chomhairle to the Rennes Fair 2010 approved.

14.2 **CORK – FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL**

An Chomhairle approved the request from Alliance Francaise for financial assistance of €2,500 to support the screening of a cine-concert of the Breton film L’homme du Large which has strong links with Rennes and further approved that an invitation be extended to the Deputy Mayor of Rennes in charge of Cultural activities to Cork for the screening of this cine-concert.

14.3 **HOUSING ESTATES**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated 20th January, 2010 on Housing Estates to December, 2009.

14.4 **PLANNING STATISTICS**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated 20th January, 2010 on the number of planning applications determined & deferred from 1st January to 31st December, 2009.

14.5 **ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated 20th January, 2010 on Planning Enforcement Statistics for period 1st January to 31st December, 2009.

14.6 **DERELICT SITES ACT**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated 20th January, 2010 on the operation of the Derelict Sites Act.

14.7 **DERELICT SITE ON BALLINLOUGH ROAD**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated 20th January 2010 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council would take immediate action to declare the site on the Ballinlough Road, formally know as MelMacs Video Shop declared derelict, and take possession of the site where upon it could be cleaned up and transferred to the local primary school.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Shannon 09/431)

The report of the Director of Services, Planning and Development and City Engineer stated that the site will be inspected shortly and if it is found to be derelict under the Derelict Sites Act provisions appropriate action can then be taken. The powers under the Act include putting the site on the Derelict Sites Register and imposing a levy on the owners, requiring appropriate remedial works to be carried out or acquiring the site.

15. **ENVIRONMENT FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 25th JANUARY 2010**

15.1 **WATER, SANITARY AND OTHER SCHEMES**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Environment dated 19th January 2010 on Water, Sanitary and other Schemes for the year to 31st December 2009.

15.2 **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Environment dated 21st January 2010 on Environmental Matters for the year to the 31st December 2009.

15.3 **FULL TIME SWEEPER FOR MOUNT FARRAN**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Environment dated 11th January 2010 on the following motions which were referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council bring back a full time sweeper to its work schedule in Mount Farran, Farranclareary and Glen Avenue.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 09/193)

FULL TIME SWEEPER IN THE GLEN

‘That a full time sweeper be deployed to the Glen in the following areas: Comeragh Park, Avoca Crescent, Coolamber Drive, Imall Court, Errigal Heights, Mourne Avenue, Arderin Way and Mangerton Close.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 09/195)

The report of the Director of Services, Environment stated that the indication of a temporary manual sweeper who was assigned to the Mount Farran area was not replaced when his contract came up for renewal in line with the policy of non replacement of staff and that it would not possible to provide a manual sweeper for the areas mentioned in the motions. These areas are swept once a week by suction sweeper which is the norm for suburban areas.

15.4 **TEXT WARNING SYSTEM FOR POTENTIAL FLOODING**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Environment on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council would establish an opt-in text warning system for potential flooding and that it would be offered to residents living in identifiable flood risk areas.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 10/01)

The report of the Director of Services, Environment stated that currently the City Council operates a limited flood alert system, geared primarily, at advising on tidal flooding, which, most regularly impacts on the Centre Island commercial areas. The alert is advised through the media and business representative groups.

The November 09 flood which was caused by river overflow and had little tidal input highlighted need for review of flood alert procedures.

The Lee Catchment Flood Management Plan, due shortly from the Lee CFRAMS project, is expected to recommend development of a flood forecasting and warning system by the OPW, in conjunction with Cork City and County Councils and other appropriate bodies. Methods of delivery of alerts including opt-in text can be considered as part of this process.

15.5 **NEW FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM**

An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Environment on the following motion which was referred to committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council would in conjunction with relevant stakeholders e.g. the ESB, MET Éireann and others, seek to develop a new flood warning system which would give greater predictive accuracy and would develop a new graduated warning system that could be tailored for localized areas.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 10/02)

The report of the Director of Services, Environment stated that the City Council operates a limited flood alert system, geared primarily, at advising on tidal flooding, which, most regularly impacts on the Centre Island commercial areas. The alert is advised through the media and business representative groups.

The November 09 flood which was caused by river overflow and had little tidal input highlighted need for review of flood alert procedures.

The Lee Catchment Flood Management Plan, due shortly from the Lee CFRAMS project, is expected to recommend development of a flood forecasting and warning system by the OPW, in conjunction with Cork City and County Councils and other appropriate bodies including ESB, Met Éireann.

16. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 25th JANUARY 2010**

16.1 **PLANNING REGULATIONS**

An Chomhairle approved the recommendation of the Corporate Policy Group on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council advise householders via the Council Newsletter of the current Planning regulations around the erection of Solar panels on or in the environs of private residences.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 09/425)

The Corporate Policy Group agreed that this advice in relation to the erection of Solar Panels should be contained in the City News to be produced in 2010.

16.2 **RE-DISCOVER CORK INITIATIVE**

An Chomhairle noted the recommendation of the Corporate Policy Group on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That the Cork City Council support the up and coming Re-Discover Cork Initiative which is being led by the Cork Tourism Learning Network made up of 47 small tourism Cork organisers. They are looking for a suitable venue, namely the Millennium Hall. This would be a great initiative to showcase Cork to its citizens especially in light of the Lonely Planet Accolade.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 10/04)

The Corporate Policy Group noted that the Millennium Hall will be made available for the Re-Discover Initiative.

The Corporate Policy Group also recommended that the City Manager review arrangements for the promotion and marketing of the City to see whether the City Council itself or in conjunction with the County Council might do direct economic marketing of the region within the CASP structure.

17. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted the correspondence from the following; -

- Letter from Limerick County Council dated 3rd February 2010, regarding resolution on the establishment of a Shannon River Basin Authority.
- Letter from Mr. Martin McAleese dated 1st February 2010, regarding vote of congratulations.
- Letter from Office of the Taoiseach dated 29th January 2010, acknowledging receipt of correspondence from the Meetings Administrator, Cork City Council

- Letter from the Office of Public Works dated 26th January 2010, regarding the Lee Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Plan.
- Letter from Galway County Council dated 28th January 2010, regarding resolution to initiate an alliance of all Local Authorities to lobby the Minister for Transport for additional funding to properly address the condition of our roads.
- Letter from Killarney Town Council dated 15th January 2010, regarding notice of motion.

18. **CONFERENCE/ SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

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

- Cllr. M.O’Connell –*Flood Management and Local Government*
- 5/6 February 2010 – Co.Clare
- Cllr. S.Martin – *Media 2010 training & Communications*
- 5/6 February 2010 - Dungarvan
- Cllr. S.Martin –*AMAI Spring Seminar*
- 12/13 February 2010 – Sligo
- Cllr. M. Shields –*Planning Seminar For Councillors*
- 29/30 January 2010 – Limerick
- Cllr. L.Kingston–*Flood Management and Local Government*
- 5/6 February 2010 – Co.Clare

19. **CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. O’Leary, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, a vote was called for on the approval of attendance of Councillors listed at the various seminars and conferences below, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Kelleher, D. Murphy, C. Clancy, P. Gosch, K. O’Flynn, D. McCarthy, M. O’Connell, T. Fitzgerald, L. McGonigle, D. O’Flynn, T. Shannon, J. Corr, L. Kingston, E. O’Halloran, S. Martin, J. Buttimer, M. Shields, M. Ahern, B. Bermingham, G. Gibbons.(20)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí T. Gould, D. Cahill, C. O’Leary, K. McCarthy, F. Kerins, H. Cremin. (6)

Abstained: M. Barry (1)

An tArd-Mhéara declared the vote carried and the attendance of the Councillors at the various seminars and conferences approved as listed hereunder;

19.1 **PLANNING SEMINAR FOR COUNCILLORS**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoir M. Shields at the Planning Seminar for Councillors, held in the Patrick Punch Hotel, Limerick on the 29th – 30th of January 2010.

19.2 **FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoirí E. O'Halloran, B. Bermingham and L. McGonigle at the "Flood Management and Local Government" training seminar, held in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare, on the 5th – 6th of February 2010.

19.3 **AMAI SPRING SEMINAR**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoir D. O'Flynn and Comhairleoir D. McCarthy at the AMAI Spring Seminar, being held in the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo, on the 12th – 13th of February 2010.

19.4 **CHANGE MANAGEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoirí J. Corr, P. Gosch & D. O'Flynn at the Change Management in Local Government seminar, being held in the Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo, on the 19th – 21st of February 2010.

19.5 **MANAGING STRESS AND PROMOTING POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoir M. O'Connell at the Managing Stress and Promoting Positive Mental Health Seminar, being held in the Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway City on 16th – 18th February, 2010.

19.6 **THE COUNCILLOR, COMMUNICATIONS & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoirí L. Kingston & C. Clancy at the Councillor, Communications & Local Development Seminar, being held in the Day's Hotel, 1 Merchant's Quay, Waterford on 26th – 28th February, 2010.

19.7 **PUBLIC LIABILITY, HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoirí L. Kingston & C. Clancy at the Public Liability, Health and Safety Issues in Local Government Seminar, being held in the Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford on 5th – 6th March, 2010.

20. **CONFERENCES**

20.1 **IRISH YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE CONFERENCE 2010**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald at the Irish Youth Justice Service Conference 2010 “Young People and Crime – Where to Now”, being held in Dublin Castle, Dublin, on the 25th of February 2010

20.2 **ATLANTIC CONFERENCE 2010**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoir D. O’Flynn at the Atlantic Conference 2010, being held in McFadden House, Patrick Street, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, on the 25th February 2010.

20.3 **21ST COLMCILLE WINTER SCHOOL 2010**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoirí D. O’Flynn, M. Shields & M.Ahern, C. Clancy, L. Kingston at the 21st Colmcille Winter School 2010, being held in Colmcille Heritage Centre, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, on the 26th – 28th February 2010.

20.4 **ACCC ANNUAL CONFERENCE “REBUILDING CONFIDENCE IN URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITIES”**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, J. Kelleher at the ACCC Annual Conference “Rebuilding Confidence in Urban and Rural Communities”, being held in Ballykisteen Hotel, Limerick Junction, Co. Tipperary on the 4th – 5th March, 2010.

20.5 **CLIMATE CHANGE: IMPACTS AND STRATEGIES, GOING FORWARD**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoir M. O’Connell at the Climate Change: Impacts and Strategies, Going Forward Conference, being held in Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on the 26th – 28th March 2010.

21. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle referred the following motions to the relevant committees:-

21.1 **PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT THE TOP OF CATHEDRAL ROAD**

‘That a pedestrian crossing be installed at the top of Cathedral Road near the Church of the Ascension to ensure safety for the entire community.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 09/227)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

21.2 **MOURNE AVENUE – TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**

‘That traffic calming measures be introduced in Mourne Avenue to slow down the increased traffic in the area.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’ Flynn 09/240)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

21.3 **REVIEW OF ROADS RESURFACING PROGRAMME**

‘That there be a complete review of the Roads Resurfacing Programme in light of the recent bad weather.’

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Gibbons 10/21)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

21.4 **CONDITION OF ROADS**

‘That Cork City Council Roads Department carry out an immediate survey of the condition of the roads following the severe weather, quantifying what needs to be done.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 10/27)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

21.5 **JUNCTION AT PEARSE ROAD & KINSALE ROAD**

‘That Cork City Council carry out a survey with a view to making safer the Pearse Road, Tory Top Road and Kinsale Road Junction. This junction has become increasingly more dangerous since the development of additional retail in the area.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin 10/28)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

21.6 **TRAFFIC CALMING AT HILLSIDE LAWN**

‘That Cork City Council install traffic calming measures at the junction of Hillside Lawn and Earlwood Estate adjacent to 70, 71 and 72 Earlwood Estate on the Corner.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. Martin & Cllr. M. Shields 10/29)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

21.7 **TOURIST & COMMERCIAL MARKETING**

‘That Council should set up a committee to oversee the wide variety of marketing and funds that it supports separately. Tourist and commercial marketing is vital to the commerce of the City. An oversight Committee would be of great benefit to the Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Gosch, Cllr. D. Cahill, Cllr. L. McGonigle, Cllr. J. Corr, Cllr. E. O’Halloran 10/33)

Corporate Policy Group

21.8 **HOUSING MAINTENANCE SCHEME**

‘That Cork City Council introduces a necessary housing maintenance scheme, similar to continental Europe.

Where a Council tenant who has requested repair work to be carried out can have repairs made via a private contractor/ tradesman and claim payment back through rent or directly from Council if the work is not carried out by City Council after three weeks of complaint being lodged.

Thus reducing the timescale of necessary works to be carried out.

Conditions of Contract as follows:

- A tenant must submit three identical tenders of works to be carried out for approval, which given by City engineer, prior to work being carried out (similar to the Housing Aid for Older People grant operated by the Council).
- All individuals or companies tendering must be tax compliant and meet all local and national approval in standards and codes.
- Council would have to make approval within three days of the application.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan, Cllr. K. O’Flynn, Cllr. T. Fitzgerald, Cllr. T. Shannon, Cllr. S. Martin, Cllr. M. Shields 10/36)

Housing & Community Strategic Policy Committee

21.9 **DERELICT SITES**

‘That the City Council consider implementing appropriate and set measures with regard to enforcing upon derelict site owners the need to secure their site and to stop derelict sites from becoming urban landscape eyesores. For example that windows must be boarded up in a certain way, that proper hoarding be erected that blends into the immediate surroundings and that derelict sites be secured according to set measures.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 10/37)

Planning & Development Strategic Policy Committee

21.10 **“WOOD OF LIFE” BE EXHIBITED IN OTHER LIBRARIES**

‘That the exhibition the “Wood of Life”, an environmental awareness project, which was displayed in Bishopstown Library, be exhibited in other City Council libraries. In addition that local schools be actively engaged with to come and view the exhibition.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy & Cllr. M. Shields 10/38)

Recreation Amenity & Culture Functional Committee

21.11 **AMEND LEGISLATION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

‘That Cork City Council, acknowledging the plight of mortgage holders in affordable housing units who for various reasons including break-up of marriage or partnerships find themselves making repayments on their own as well as clawback payments to remove names from contracts, request Central Government to amend legislation in this area to assist beleaguered home owners.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 10/40)

Housing & Community Strategic Policy Committee

21.12 **FOOTPATH REPAIRS IN PALACEANNE LAWN**

‘That Cork City Council would undertake to carry out footpath repairs in Palaceanne Lawn as a matter of urgency. While I accept that full footpath renewals cannot be carried out due to budgetary constrain, remedial works should be done to make the area safe.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. McGonigle 10/46)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

21.13 **LOWER SPEED LIMITS IN SELECTED AREAS**

‘That Cork City Council introduce lower speed limits in selected areas to judge their effectiveness as opposed to speed ramps which are costly to the city and limited and only suitable to specific roads due to necessary use of the emergency services.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Kingston 10/47)

Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

21.14 **VOLVO OCEAN RACE**

‘That Cork City Council put forward a feasibility proposal for the inclusion of Cork to be a port of call for the next Volvo Ocean Race. To maximise the recent positive publicity that Cork has received in the Lonely Planets Guide.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Kingston 10/48)

Recreation Amenity & Culture Functional Committee

21.15 **ESTATE ROADS RESURFACING PROGRAMME**

‘That Cork City Council would undertake a survey of Westgate Road and Central Avenue in Bishopstown and include them in the Estate Roads Resurfacing Programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 10/49)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

21.16 **RTE VANBURGH QUARTET**

‘That Cork City Council calls on the RTE Authority to rescind its threatened withdrawal of funding of the RTE Vanburgh Quartet and would commit to maintaining this ensemble in Cork.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 10/50)

Recreation Amenity & Culture Functional Committee

21.17 **BOUNDARIES OF TOGHER/ MAHON RAPID AREA**

‘That this Council calls for the boundaries of the Togher/ Mahon RAPID area to be determined on the basis of a new audit by the City Monitoring Group, to take into account the effects of economic recession, including increased unemployment, since 2008, and that areas of local authority housing on the Southside be allowed access to RAPID funding irrespective of their District Electoral Division.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 10/52)

Corporate Policy Group

22. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered the following motions due notice of which has been given:-

22.1 **IRELAND & U.K. NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ASSOCIATION**

An Chomhairle agreed that the following motion be referred to the Corporate Policy Group.

‘Bearing in mind the ongoing debate on Nuclear Power, and the proximity of many British and European Nuclear Power Stations to Ireland, that Cork City Council would become an affiliate member of ‘The Ireland and U.K. Nuclear Free Local Authorities Association’, whose secretariat is based in Manchester.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kelleher 10/32)

22.2 **RE-NEGOTIATION OF DEAL BETWEEN GOVERNMENT & SHELL GROUP ON CORRIB GAS PROJECT**

An Chomhairle agreed to defer the following motion to the next meeting of An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council, in light of current economic difficulties, supports calls for a renegotiation of the deal between the Irish Government and the Shell-led group on the Corrib Gas Project with a view to proper compensation (for local people affected by the logistics of the project and for the public purse) for the disposal of such a valuable natural resource, and that the council extends its support to those genuine people who continue to feel injustice as a result of the ongoing difficulties associated with construction.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 10/39)

22.3 **RADON GAS CONCENTRATIONS IN THE CITY**

An Chomhairle approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council request the Radiological Protection Institute to provide Council with a detailed map of the City Council area showing the Radon Gas concentrations so that members of the public can take the necessary measures to ensure maximum protection for themselves and their families. Knowing the dangers of Radon gas it is not acceptable for this Local Authority to adopt a passive approach to this problem.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 10/41)

22.4 **REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

An Chomhairle agreed to defer the following motion to the next of An Chomhairle.

‘That Cork City Council calls on the Department of Education to review the extent to which bleak and depressing writers and literature occupy such a prominent place in both Irish and English in Secondary School curriculum.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 10/42)

22.5 **WAIVERS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS**

An Chomhairle approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council calls on the ESB to give waivers to customers who have been victims of recent flooding.’

(Proposer: Cllr. E. O’Halloran 10/51)

An Chomhairle agreed that letters would also be issued to electricity suppliers on a humanitarian basis.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH**