

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK COUNTY BOROUGH  
COUNCIL HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2001**

**PRESENT:** Deputy Lord Mayor, Comhairleoir B. Bermingham in the Chair.

**NORTH EAST:** Seanoir M. Quill, Comhairleoirí T. Brosnan, L. Burke T.D. and J. Kelleher

**NORTH CENTRAL:** Comhairleoirí K. Lynch, B. Allen T.D., and D. Wallace

**NORTH WEST:** Seanoir D. McCarthy, Comhairleoirí T. Falvey, C. Burke, M. O'Connell and J. O'Brien

**SOUTH EAST:** Seanoir T. Shannon, Comhairleoirí D. Clune T.D., J. Corr, D. Counihan and J. Minihan.

**SOUTH CENTRAL:** Seanoir C. O'Connell, Comhairleoirí S. Martin, T. O'Driscoll and D. Cregan and D. Boyle.

**SOUTH WEST:** Comhairleoirí M. Shields and M. Ahern.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr J. Gavin, City Manager & Town Clerk  
Mr M. Riordan, Assistant City Manager (Eng.)  
Mr J. Moynihan, A/Assistant City Manager (Housing)  
Ms. B. Dillon-Hall, Assistant Town Clerk  
Mr G. O'Sullivan, Admin. Officer, Town Clerk's Dept.

Apologies received from:- Seanoir J. Dennehy.

Deputy Lord Mayor recited the opening prayer.

**1.1 VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

A vote of sympathy was unanimously extended to the family of the late Denis McCarthy, former porter at City Hall.

**1.2 MASS AT ST. FINBARRE'S CATHEDRAL**

Deputy Lord Mayor advised An Chomhairle that robes would be available at St. Finbarre's Cathedral before 9.30 am Mass on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2001.

## 2. **MINUTES**

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2000 were considered and approved.

### 1. **QUESTION TIME**

#### 1.1 **COST OF ESTATE RESURFACING**

In response to question submitted by Comhairleoir Ml. Ahern, the following written report was circulated which stated that a limited programme of resurfacing was carried out in 1996 (28,000 sq.m) including such locations as Arfallen Road, Cornmarket St., Perrot Avenue, Murmount Crescent/Park, Union Quay, etc. The cost per square metre for this work averaged at £5.30 . The cubic measure cost of surfacing material was £ 198 per cubic metre.

No work has yet been tendered for 2001. However the average rate for the estate resurfacing programme in 2000 was £11.45 per square metre . The cubic metre cost of equivalent material used in 1996 was £212 per cubic metre.

#### **The variation in overall costs arises from a number of factors**

- (i) Contract prices have increased considerably since 1996.
- (ii) Also reflected is the fact that it was possible on locations chosen in 1996 to use thinner layers of surfacing with considerably less preparatory or ancillary works. The higher level of additional work in 2000 arose in particular because necessity for reinstatement of utility trenches prior to overlay.

In 2000 the Estate surfacing programme was divided into two contracts (North and South). Separate tenders were sought for both contracts. The successful tenderers were:

Northside : - Readymix (South West) Ltd

Southside : - Road Maintenance Services Ltd.

#### 1.2 **BOX JUNCTION ON HIGH STREET**

In response to question submitted by Comhairleoir S. Martin, the following written reply was circulated which stated that the provision of a yellow box on High Street, near the entry/exit to Railway Place was discussed with the Gardaí, who indicated their approval to provision of same. The works are scheduled for provision in the 2001 Road Painting Programme and will be implemented as soon as possible.

1.3 **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES FOR KENT ROAD, BALLYPHEHANE**

In response to question submitted by Comhairleoir T. O'Driscoll, the following written reply was circulated which stated that the placement of traffic calming road humps and associated works agreed in 2000 is scheduled to be carried out in mid April with completion by the end of the month.

3.4 **PARKING REGULATIONS AT AUDLEY PLACE, ST. PATRICK'S HILL**

In response to question submitted by Comhairleoir T. Brosnan, the following written reply was circulated which stated that in an effort to advance the consultation process with the residents regarding the drafting of parking schedules for the introduction of disc parking at Audley Place, St. Patrick's Hill, a number of individual residents were contacted. There is no established Residents Association for this area, and one particular resident agreed to contact all the residents in the area, with a view to arranging a meeting where as many residents as possible, or representatives acting on their behalf, would meet with Traffic Section of Cork Corporation to discuss the implications of introducing the Parking Regulations in their area, and the issue regarding Residents Permits, duration of parking, visitors, etc. The residents in question have not advanced this process, and no further meetings have yet taken place. Contact with the resident in question has been renewed, and they have been requested to assist us in arranging an appropriate consultation process with all or as many as possible of the residents in this area. When an adequate consultation has been completed, a recommendation on the parking controls will be prepared for Council approval, before any controls are implemented on site.

3.5 **TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS**

In response to question submitted by Comhairleoir D. Boyle, the following written report was circulated which stated that the Cork City Development Plan Review 1998 (para. 4.35) states that "a number of Tree Preservation Orders have been made with respect to trees on private lands and conditions are usually attached to permissions for redevelopment requiring existing trees to be preserved. Only a minority of trees in the city are listed at present but the list will be extended as part of the Urban Forest Strategy. The existing Tree Preservation Orders are in the following locations:

- Irish Distillers, North Mall
- Westboro, Middle Glanmire Road
- Lakeview, Castle Road
- Belgrave Square, Wellington Road
- Roseville, Old Youghal Road
- Rockmahon, Castle Road
- Brookfield Village, College Road
- Deerpark, Greenmount
- Ardnalee, Middle Glanmire Road"

This will be reviewed in light of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act, 2000 when enacted and subject to the provision of resources.

3.6 **PROVIDE BATHROOMS FOR ELDERLY TENANTS OF CORPORATION HOUSES**

In response to question submitted by Comhairleoir B. Allen T.D., the following written report was circulated which stated that a programme was undertaken 10 years ago to eliminate all outside toilets by provision of indoor toilets.

The red brick building programme is almost completed with only 29 remaining to be done. If the Deputy is aware of any other houses remaining to have indoor bathroom facilities provided perhaps he would contact the Housing Department.

2. **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

2.1 **M.R.F.**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Environment Committee from its meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2001 (deferred from meeting of An Chomhairle held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2001), An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager dated 15<sup>th</sup> February on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

" That Cork Corporation actively pursue the purchase of a green field site for the installation of an M.R.F facility and to apply for planning for above facility in the normal manner to relevant planning authority."

(Proposer: Comhairleoir S. Martin & Seanoir T. Shannon - Ref. 00/381)

The report stated that An Chomhairle had made a decision in relation to the proposed M.R.F. at its meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2001. The Assistant City Manager undertook to bring before An Chomhairle a report evaluating the present position arising from An Chomhairle's decision and pending receipt of that report it would be premature to proceed as requested in the motion.

City Manager advised An Chomhairle that a comprehensive report is currently in preparation which will address legal, financial and logistical issues and other issues needing resolution and it would be premature to say whether it will involve another site.

3. **ARTS GRANTS 2001**

An Chomhairle considered the recommendations of the Arts Sub-Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001 on the allocation of Arts Grants for 2001, together with the report of the Assistant Town Clerk thereon dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2001. Comhairleoir B. Allen T.D. proposed and Seanoir D. McCarthy seconded, that the recommendations be referred to a meeting of Committee of Whole Council for consideration in the first instance. A vote was called on this proposal where there appeared:-

FOR:- Seanoir D. McCarthy, Comhairleoirí L. Burke T.D., B. Allen T.D., D. Wallace, T. Falvey, D. Clune T.D., J. Corr, D. Cregan, M. Shields and B. Bermingham – 10

AGAINST:- Seanoirí M. Quill, T. Shannon, C. O’Connell, Comhairleoirí J. Kelleher, C. Burke, M. O’Connell, J. O’Brien, D. Counihan, J. Minihan, S. Martin, T. O’Driscoll, D.Boyle and M. Ahern - 13

Deputy Lord Mayor declared the proposal defeated.

An Chomhairle agreed on the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Wallace, seconded by Seanoir D. McCarthy that in future years the Arts Committee recommendations on Arts Grants would be submitted in the first instance to a meeting of Committee of Whole Council.

Following discussion, Seanoir D. McCarthy proposed, and Comhairleoir D. Wallace seconded that a grant of £500 be paid to Scoil Iosagain. Comhairleoir M. O’Connell proposed, and Comhairleoir J. O’Brien seconded, that the proposed grant to Mr D. McCarthy be increased to £500 and that the following grants also be allocated:-

£300 to Cantairí Na Piarsaigh  
£200 to Farranree Community Library  
£200 to Gurranabraher Youth Development

Following further discussions, both proposers agreed to withdraw their proposals on condition that they would be considered again by An Chomhairle in the event that expenditure on St. Patrick’s Day Parade is not incurred during this year.

Comhairleoir K. Lynch then proposed, and Comhairleoir T. Brosnan seconded, that the recommendations of the Arts Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001 be approved and An Chomhairle unanimously approved this proposal. An Chomhairle also acknowledged the contribution of former Arts Officer, Mr Mark Mulqueen to the work of the Arts Committee.

## **6. ROADS TRANSPORTATION & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **6.1 MONTHLY ROADWORKS PROGRAMME**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads, Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle noted the report of the Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the progress of ongoing Roadworks Programme for month ended February 2001.

## 6.2 **DRAFT 2001 ROADWORKS PROGRAMME**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads, Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001, and the draft Roadworks Programme 2001.

On the proposal of Seanoir M. Quill, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Minihan, An Chomhairle also approved the following motion:

“Acknowledging that significant inroads have been made in the upgrading of our urban and suburban roads that Cork Corporation would now acknowledge that a substantial amount of upgrading is still outstanding and accordingly would seek additional funding from Central Government on a three year basis to enable the Corporation to bring the totality of our Road and Footpath infrastructure up to an acceptable standard”.

## 6.3 **CITY CENTRE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT TRIAL PROJECT**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2000, An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 regarding City Centre Traffic Management Trial Project. The report stated at the February meeting of the Roads, Transportation and Safety Committee a report was presented regarding the proposed reintroduction of two way traffic from Christy Ring Bridge to Custom House Street.

This report details the public consultation process as required under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

A notice was published in the press on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2001 and submissions/observations were to be received by the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2001.

Notification of the project was also sent to the Garda Síochána and the National Roads Authority, in accordance with the Act, both having confirmed that they have no objections to the Project.

Details of the project were also issued directly to the following bodies.

- Bus Éireann
- Cork Main Drainage Office
- Patrick Street Project Office
- Cork City Challenge
- Bord Gáis Lavitt's Quay
- Residents and Businesses of Lavitt's Quay

A series of consultation meetings was held with representatives of the following bodies.

- ◆ Bus Eireann
- ◆ Garda Siochána
- ◆ Cork City Challenge
- ◆ Cork Business Association
- ◆ Merchants Quay Shopping Centre
- ◆ Roches Stores
- ◆ Dunnes Stores
- ◆ Jury's Inn
- ◆ Reliance Bearings Limited ,Anderson's Quay
- ◆ Cork Corporation Capital Projects Office (Main Drainage and Patrick's Street )
- ◆ Cork Corporation Roads Maintenance and Design Sections.

A total of three written submissions/observations were received within the prescribed period and details are set out in the next page.

1. **Cork City Challenge**  
No objections to the proposal.
2. **Reliance Bearings Limited, Anderson's Quay**  
Parking /Loading Issues on Anderson's Quay  
In relation to this submission it is proposed to renew the double yellow lines between Reliance Bearings premises and Clontarf Street and to extend them to Anderson's Street junction.
3. **Bus Eireann**  
Bus Eireann expressed their reservations about the project because of its:-  
(a) potential affect on the capacity of the road network .The following issues were raised in their submission: Retention of bus stop on Lavitt's Quay for No.2 and No.3 bus.  
  
It is proposed to relocate this bus stop to Merchant's Quay and this is acceptable to Bus Eireann.  
  
(b) The retention of the exclusive right turn facility from Lavitt's Quay to St. Patrick's Street is welcomed.  
  
(c) Provision of a priority right hand turn from Merchant's Quay onto Parnell Place is requested. The main reason is to access the no. 2 bus stop at the rear of the bus station on Parnell Place.  
The provision of a priority right turn here would involve the relocation and re-arrangement of the traffic signals at this junction. This would be detrimental to the carrying capacity of the local traffic network, and as well as causing overall delays to general traffic, it would increase delays to the very large number of buses coming over Brian Boru Bridge.  
It is proposed to allow a right turn on a trial basis with the existing junction arrangement. Bus Eireann will be informed that only city buses can use the right turn and all other services will have to use existing routes or turn right at Clontarf Street. This will lessen any impact the right turn might have.

It can be seen from the above that a comprehensive consultation took place of the proposed two way scheme along Lavitt's Quay, Merchant's Quay and Anderson's Quay. No major objections were received and accordingly, it is proposed to proceed with the project as previously outlined.

#### 6.4 **BLACKPOOL BY-PASS SCHEME**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the following:-

- Blackpool By-Pass from the Commons Road (Roundabout at Dunnes Stores) to the Christy Ring Bridge to be known as the –

##### ***NORTH CITY LINK ROAD BÓTHAR CEANGAIL TUAISCEART NA CATHRACH***

An Chomhairle then considered the following motion together with the recommendations of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee that the bridge at Blackpool be known as the Blackpool Overpass, and proposal from Seanoir Quill that the bridge be named in honour of a Cork woman;

"That the new Blackpool Flyover be called after our two former Lord Mayors, Terence MacSweeney and Tomas McCurtain. That it be called the "Mac Sweeney/McCurtain Flyover."

(Proposer: Comhairleoir J. O'Brien – Ref. 00/332)

An Chomhairle unanimously agreed to refer these proposals to the Party Whips for further consideration and recommendation. An Chomhairle also approved the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee to recommend to the next meeting of the Party Whips, that the Link Road from Pophams Road to Redforge Road be known as:-

##### ***BROS. DELANEY ROAD BÓTHAR NA NDEARTHÁIREACHA Ó DUBHSHLÁINE***

#### 6.5 **RESURFACE FOOTPATHS ON MOUNT PLEASANT AVENUE**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

"That the footpaths in Mount Pleasant Avenue be resurfaced with a view to having them included in the Programme for Repair and Replacement."

(Proposer: Comhairleoir S. Martin – Ref. 00/186)



The report stated that local repair and renewal of any bad sections of footpaths in Mount Pleasant Avenue will be considered in our 2001 Roads Programme.

#### 6.6 **WOODHILL PARK AND TIVOIL ESTATE**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

"That Cork Corporation include Woodhill Park and Tivoli Estate in the 2001 resurfacing programme as the road surfaces at the entrances to both parks are in very poor and possibly dangerous states of repair."

(Proposer: Comhairleoir – T. Brosnan – Ref. 00/390)

The report stated that Woodhill Park and Tivoli Estate were reviewed during the preparation of the Road Resurfacing Programme. However because of the level of funding available a prioritisation between competing demands had to be carried out. It will be considered under next year's Surfacing Programme.

#### 6.7 **HARBOUR VIEW ROAD**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

"The road is sinking on Harbour View Road near the garage and it is causing flooding."

(Proposer: Seanoir D. McCarthy – Ref. 01/001)

The report stated that on inspection of the area of Harbour View Road adjacent to the Petrol Filling Station, it was found that a number of reinstatements had settled. Leakage from a sewer which was flowing to a road gully was also evident. No sign of flooding was observed. Repair of defective reinstatements will be carried out in the near future.

#### 6.8 **LOUGH ROAD**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

"That measures be put in place to prevent the serious flooding that is frequently occurring on Lough Road."

(Proposer: Comhairleoir T. O'Driscoll – Ref. 01/009)

The report stated that this motion relates to ponding on the Lough Road adjacent to the Lough. Cleaning of gullies in the area has been carried out. The area however will be kept under review to ascertain whether further measures may be required.

#### 6.9 **STRAWBERRY HILL, SHANAKIEL**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

"That the road in Strawberry Hill, Shanakiel would be resurfaced urgently."

(Proposer: Seanoir D. McCarthy – Ref. 01/002)

The report stated that Strawberry Hill is included in the Resurfacing Programme for 2001. Work will be completed before the end of September.

#### 6.10 **GREEN MAN CROSSING AT CLASHDUV ROAD**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

"That a green man crossing be put in place on Clashduv Road adjacent to Clashduv Park and the large housing developments parallel and perpendicular to the Park. There are a large number of children living in this area without any means of traversing this very busy road."

(Proposer: Comhairleoiri S. Martin and M. Shields – Ref. 01/013)

The report stated that currently there is an existing pedestrian crossing on Clashduv Road near the entrance to Riverview Estate, a short distance west of the Park.

There is also a pedestrian facility in the traffic signals on Clashduv Road at the junction with Togher Road, which again is a short distance east of the Clashduv Park.

The area will be examined on site and surveys will be carried out to ascertain the need for an additional crossing at this location, or the relocation of an existing crossing.

6.11 **RESURFACE AVONMORE PARK**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

"That Cork Corporation resurface Avonmore Park in 2001"

(Proposer: Comhairleoir T. Brosnan – Ref. 01/015)

The report stated that approximately half of Avonmore Park has been included in the 2001 Resurfacing Programme. It is hoped work will be complete by mid Summer.

6.12 **GREEN MAN CROSSING AT PALACE ANNE LAWN**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

"That a Green Man crossing be put in place by McCarthy Shop/Palace Anne Lawn, South Douglas Road."

(Proposer: Seanoir T. Shannon and Comhairleoir S. Martin – Ref. 01/020)

The report stated that traffic and pedestrian surveys will be carried out in this area to investigate the demand for a safe pedestrian crossing at this location, following which a report will be prepared for Council consideration.

6.13 **HARTLANDS ROAD**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads Transportation & Safety Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

"That Cork Corporation would as a matter of policy include Hartlands Road in its review of areas affected by disc parking in view of the fact that cars are now parking there in order to avoid the disc parking zone in the vicinity of U.C.C."

(Proposer: Comhairleoir T. O'Driscoll – Ref. 01/028)

The report stated that the area in question, including parts of Glasheen Road etc. will be considered for the inclusion in the further extension of parking controls "in the vicinity of U.C.C." which negatively impact on the surrounding residential areas.

Currently work is in progress, on site, to introduce disc parking control into the areas where appropriate parking schedules have been agreed with the residents and approved by Council, i.e. Evergreen Road area.

Consultation with residents, gardaí, etc. are currently in hand for additional areas within the agreed extended disc parking zone for which new Parking Bye-Laws must be agreed to allow for the introduction of the appropriate controls. These areas include Orchard Road, Western Road, Mardyke, etc.

A further extension of disc parking control zone is also currently being examined for the introduction of appropriate controls in areas currently experiencing the negative effects of commuter parking in residential areas. When proposals are ready for the areas listed above, a further report will be prepared for Council's approval.

7. **HOUSING COMMITTEE**

7.1 **MONTHLY REPORT**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Housing Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the Monthly Report of the Assistant City Manager for the month of February.

## 7.2 **PRIVATE RENTED DWELLINGS REGULATIONS**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Housing Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 in relation to the Private Rented Dwellings Regulations.

The report stated that As previously requested by Members I report hereunder on the provisions and implementation of the Regulations governing Private Rented Dwellings.

**The Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 1993** lay down the basic requirement that a house (or apartment) should be:

- maintained in "a proper state of structural repair".
- Set down specific requirements for safety, hygiene, health and comfort of tenants.

These Regulations provide very important safeguards for tenants, and also an important service for landlords with regard to the physical structure of their buildings.

Cork Corporation employs two full time Building Inspectors who carry out regular inspections of private rented dwellings. They also investigate specific complaints of breach of the regulations. In the case of a breach of the regulations an Improvement Notice will issue giving sixty days or some other agreed period for the completion of specified work.

In the year 2000, 738 premises were inspected and Improvement Notices issued in respect of 514 premises (70%). In general, our Inspectors report a high level of co-operation from landlords, and compliance with Improvement Notices is running at approx. 90%.

The Building Inspection team works closely with the Chief Fire Officer, Housing Assessment Officers and other staff towards the goal of making all private rented housing within the City fully compliant with standards.

The **Housing (Rent Book) Regulations 1993** requires landlords to provide tenants with a rent book or equivalent document containing specific information about the tenancy and the tenant's rights. In general, it is found that there is less awareness of the requirements of these regulations than of the Standards Regulations. It is intended this year to distribute information on the legal requirements to landlords and letting agencies. Cork Corporation investigates complaints and issue warnings where appropriate.

The **Housing (Registration of Rented Houses) Regulations 1996** requires the Housing Authority to set up and maintain a Register of Private Rented Dwellings to be available to the public.

Landlords are required to register their properties with the local Housing Authority not later than one month after the date of first letting, and thereafter renew registration annually. The registration fee is £40.00, and is designated as a means of financing the whole private rented dwellings regulations package.

The register has three purposes:

- It allows members of the public to check whether or not a house is a private rented dwelling.
- It provides information on the dimension of, and trends in, the private rented sector.
- It facilitates the implementation of the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations and Housing (Rent Book) Regulations.

2,010 private rented houses have been registered with Cork Corporation since the commencement of the Regulations on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1996. The size of the private residential sector is estimated at some 6,000 units in Cork City, which means that roughly one third of the private rented stock has at some time been registered. Cork Corporation has now committed extra resources to this section, in order to achieve its goals of:

- Incorporating the entire private rented sector in the Register.
- Bringing the Register to the state required to facilitate future legislative plans for the sector.
- Adhering to the principle of self-finance by ensuring continued renewal of registration.

**Legal Aspects:** For some years loopholes in the 1996 Regulations made it impossible to successfully prosecute for non-registration. This defect has been remedied by the Housing (Registration of Rented Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2000. The penalties laid down in the parent legislation, the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992, for breach of any of the three sets of Regulations are a fine of up to £1,000.00 on summary conviction and £100.00 for each continuing day of offence. Cases will now be prepared for prosecution.

Cork Corporation recognises the value of the contribution of the private rented sector in accommodating persons who may otherwise require local authority housing. Therefore, our work in this area must proceed in a spirit of partnership with the Sector and the Corporation will, as mentioned in the Housing Options Policy Document, be consulting with the Private Rented Sector at various times during the lifetime of the current Action Plan for Social and Affordable Housing in Cork.

**The Commission on the Private Residential Sector** was charged by the government with the task of making recommendations with a view to increasing investment in, and the supply of, residential accommodation for renting, including the removal of any identified constraints to the development of the sector. It reported in June 2000, and the government has already announced plans to enact legislation covering the major recommendations, with

- the establishment of a Private Residential Tenancies Board (PRTB) to deal with disputes between landlord and tenants.
- the replacement of the present registration system by registration with the PRTB.

Local Authorities will retain their roles under the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations and Housing (Rent Books) Regulations, and the resource issues involved must therefore be examined in that context. A two-year time scale is envisaged, though it is aimed to have the PRTB in operation on an ad-hoc basis as to disputes from Autumn 2001. A comprehensive work programme comprising targets and objectives will be internally prepared by the Private Rented Dwellings Section of the Housing Department to take account of this.

### 7.3 **CURRAGH ROAD, TURNERS CROSS**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Housing Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

“That this Corporation demolish property at Curragh Road, Turners Cross and bring into being an acceptable Housing/Community Centre development.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir D. Boyle – Ref. 01/007)

The report stated that members will be aware that the site at Curragh Road, Turners Cross has for a considerable time been designated as a site for the development of housing. The existing structures on the site will be demolished as part of a re-development scheme.

An interest has now been expressed in developing the site as a community-based voluntary housing scheme and the Corporation has indicated its support for such a proposal. I will be advising Members of progress in this regard in due course.

### 7.4 **AUDIT TO BE CARRIED OUT ON PARKING FACILITY**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Housing Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

“Re: Parking at Ard Bhaile and Glenamoy Lawn:

That an audit will be carried out to establish the amount of parking needed in connection with the existing development and with future refurbishment, so that adequate provision can be made to accommodate the entirety of parking that will be necessary.”

(Proposer: Seanoir M. Quill – Ref. 01/010)

The report stated that the City Architect has arranged several meetings with residents of the area to discuss their requirements vis-a-vis parking. Following these meetings a number of options are now being considered. When this assessment has been completed proposals will be brought to the attention of Members.

7.5 **INFILL HOUSING ON LAND ADJOINING AVONMORE PARK**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Housing Committee from its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of the Assistant City Manager dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

“That in-fill housing be provided on the land adjoining house number 18 Avonmore Park, Mayfield and that the walk-way between Avonmore Park and Mount Brosna be closed.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir J. Kelleher – Ref. 01/014)

The report stated that City Architect has been requested to survey the land in question and to examine the feasibility of developing an infill housing scheme. It may be possible to incorporate the closure of the walk-way between Avonmore Park and Mount Brosna as part of such a scheme. I will advise Members in due course as to the outcome of this survey.

8. **DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

8.1 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY SECTORAL MEMBERS OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**

An Chomhairle noted the decision of the Development and Planning Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2001 and An Chomhairle agreed to adopt a policy to annually circulate ‘Declaration of Interests’ forms to Members of An Chomhairle for updating and completion, such forms to be issued on 1<sup>st</sup> September each year.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence as circulated was noted.

10. **CONFERENCES**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance at the following Conferences:-



10.1 **STREETSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoir Michael O’Connell and Seanoir Con O’Connell at the Streetscape Architecture Conference on in Kilkenny Castle on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2001.

10.2 **NATIONAL PLANNING CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Seanoirí Dave McCarthy, C. O’Connell and Comhairleoirí M. O’Connell and T. Falvey at the 2001 National Planning Conference on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2001 in the Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny.

10.3 **MUSEUMS AND COMMUNITY CONFERENCE**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Seanadoir Denis Cregan at Museums and Community Conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2001 in Newcastle, Co.Down.

10.4 **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Seanoir C. O’Connell, Comhairleoirí Tom O’Driscoll and M. O’Connell at Regional Development Conference in Limerick

11. **MOTIONS**

**MOTIONS ON SERVICE CHARGES**

Comhairleoir M. O’Connell proposed and Seanoir C.O’Connell seconded that the following motion on the Agenda be dealt with by An Chomhairle:-

11.11 **SERVICE CHARGES**

That this Council agree that the legal representation of Cork Corporation indicate immediately to the Cork District Court that they wish to have the convictions for the dumping of rubbish by members of householders against Service Charges on the steps of the City Hall not to be enforced, and no further summons be issued subject to discussions to be held in an attempt to resolve the present impasse. These discussions to be held as a matter of urgency between Representatives of Management, Householders against Service Charges, and Public Representatives.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir Ml. O’Connell & Seanoir C. O’Connell – 01/072)

City Manager addressed the meeting and gave details of the District Court Order and advised that it would not be appropriate for the Corporation to make representation to the Court as requested in the motion as the Court is applying the law in relation to litter.

Deputy Lord Mayor then advised that the motion could either be referred to Committee or put to a vote. The proposer and seconder asked for a vote and Comhairleoir J. O'Brien requested that the vote would also include the following motion:-

#### 11.15 **IMPOSITION OF SERVICE CHARGES**

This Council calls on the City Manager to cease all legal proceedings against people who are protesting against the imposition of service charges.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir J. O'Brien – 01/080)

A vote was then called on both motions where there appeared:-

FOR:- Seanoir C.O'Connell, Comhairleoirí M. O'Connell, J. O'Brien and M. Ahern – 4

AGAINST:- Seanoir T. Shannon, Comhairleoirí T. Brosnan, D. Wallace, J. Corr, D. Counihan, J. Minihan, S. Martin and B. Bermingham. - 8

Deputy Lord Mayor declared the motions defeated.

#### 11.1 **RESURFACE PROSPERITY SQUARE**

That Prosperity Square be included in next years Road Resurfacing Programme”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir S. Martin – Ref. 00/204)

- **Roads Transportation & Safety Committee**

#### 11.2 **RESURFACE LAKE LAWN, WELL ROAD**

That Cork Corporation would provide funds in the Estimates 2000/2001 to enable resurfacing work be carried out in Lake Lawn, Well Road. I wish a complete footpath renewal programme be carried out in Lake Lawn at the same time.”

(Proposer: Seanoir T. Shannon – Ref. 00/312)

- **Roads Transportation & Safety Committee**

11.3 **YELLOW LINES ADJACENT TO LANSDOWNE COURT**

That yellow lines be painted adjacent to Lansdowne Court in order to eliminate indiscriminate parking in the area which is a serious inconvenience to the residents of the Lansdowne Court.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir B. Allen T.D. – 01/048)  
- **Roads Transportation & Safety Committee**

11.4 **WINDOW REFURBISHMENT FOR THE GLEN & MAYFIELD AREA**

That this Council calls on the Housing Manager to outline in detail the window refurbishment programme for the Glen & Mayfield in 2001 and to ask the Manager to confirm if the programme has been cut back due to the shortage of funds being allocated in the Estimates for 2001.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir T. Brosnan – 01/049)  
- **Housing Committee**

11.5 **REMOVE VAT FROM SPORTS EQUIPMENT**

I am calling on the Minister to remove VAT on all Sports Equipment.

(Proposer: Seanoir D. McCarthy – 01/061)  
- **Finance & General Purposes Committee**

11.6 **STOP SIGN AT JUNCTION OF EDWARD WALSH ROAD**

That a “Stop sign” be provided at the junction of Edward Walsh Road with Togher Road. A fatality happened there previously and there is likely to be a reoccurrence if no action is taken.”

(Proposer: Seanoir J. Dennehy T.D. – 01/062)  
- **Roads Transportation & Safety Committee**

11.7 **UPGRADE OF LIGHTING ON VALENTINE VILLAS**

That the lighting on Valentine Villas near the Lough be upgraded.

(Proposer: Comhairleoir T. O’Driscoll – 01/063)  
- **Roads Transportation & Safety Committee**

11.8 **DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TOGHER AREA**

That a Development Plan be prepared for the Togher area.

(Proposers:- Comhairleoir Ml Ahern – 01/064)

- **Development & Planning – Strategic Policy Committee**

11.9 **APPOINTMENT OF SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR**

That a sports co-ordinator be appointed for each of the Wards in the city to encourage participation in sports.

(Proposers: Comhairleoir Ml. Ahern & Seanoir D. McCarthy – 01/065)

- **Recreation, Amenity & Culture – Strategic Policy Committee**

11.10 **TO CURB THE PRACTICE OF “STAGE PAYMENTS” BY BUILDERS**

That Cork Corporation expresses its concern at the continuing practice of ‘stage payments’ being imposed on house purchasers by builders in Cork city and that it further calls on the leaders of the political parties represented in Dail Eireann to between them agree legislation which will outlaw this outrageous practice.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir T. Brosnan – 01/070)

- **Housing Committee**

11.12 **20 MILE PER HOUR ZONES IN HOUSING ESTATES**

That Cork Corporation would consider the introduction of 20 mile per hour zones in our housing estates enforced by digital cameras to dissuade drivers from using rat-runs through residential areas and to protect children playing in the estates from injuries.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir B. Allen T.D. – 01/073)

- **Roads Transportation & Safety Committee – Strategic Policy Committee**

11.13 **REMOVAL OF WALL AT ROSELAWN, POULADUFF ROAD**

That this Council agree that the wall which protrudes on to the road at Roselawn, Pouladuff Road be removed since it constitutes a traffic hazard and is an incentive for illegal dumping.

(Proposer: Seanoir C. O’Connell – 01/076)

- **Roads Transportation & Safety Committee**

11.14 **PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL**

That this Council express its concern on proposed changes to the Local Government Bill, currently before the Oireachtas, that would restrict the rights of citizens to contest elections for Mayor or Chairs of Councils and may persist with the inherently undemocratic dual mandate membership of the Oireachtas and local authorities.

(Proposer: Comhairleoir D. Boyle – 01/077)

- **Finance & General Purposes Committee**

11.16 **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

This council calls on the Minister for the Environment to continue to support the concept of local democracy by allowing the responsibility for waste management to reside with democratically elected local authorities not with unaccountable officials.

(Proposer: Comhairleoir J. O'Brien – 01/081)

- **Environment Committee**

**J. GAVIN**  
**BAINISTEOIR NA CATHRACH AGUS CLEIREACH AN BHAILE**

12 Márta, 2001