

BARDAS CHORCAI

CORK CORPORATION

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK COUNTY BOROUGH
COUNCIL HELD ON 22ND OCTOBER, 2001.**

- PRESENT:** An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir T. O'Driscoll in the chair.
- NORTH EAST:** Seanoir M. Quill. Comhairleoiri T. Brosnan, L. Burke, T.D., B. Kelleher, T.D. and J. Kelleher.
- NORTH CENTRAL:** Seanoir N. O'Flynn, T.D. Comhairleoiri K. Lynch, B. Allen, T.D. and D. Wallace.
- NORTH WEST:** Seanoir D. McCarthy. Comhairleoiri T. Falvey, C. Burke, M. O'Connell and J. O'Brien.
- SOUTH EAST:** Seanoir T. Shannon. Comhairleoiri D. Clune, T.D., J. Corr, J. O'Flynn, D. Counihan and J. Minihan.
- SOUTH CENTRAL:** Seanoir C. O'Connell. Comhairleoiri S. Martin, D. Cregan and D. Boyle.
- SOUTH WEST:** Seanoir J. Dennehy, T.D. Comhairleoiri M. Shields, M. Ahern, B. Bermingham and P.J. Hourican.
- ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. J. Gavin, City Manager & Town Clerk
Mr. M. Riordan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs
Mr. J. O'Donovan, Director of Services, Dev. & Planning
Mr. T. Fleming, Senior Engineer, Roads
Mr. D. Buggy, Director of Services, Special Projects
Ms. M. Loughheed, Director of Services, Housing & Community
Mr. G. Cummins, Administrative Officer, Housing
Mr. Jack Sheehan, Atkins McCarthy, Consultants
Mr. G. O'Sullivan, A/Senior Executive Officer, Corp. Affairs
Ms. N. Mulcahy, Administrative Officer, Corporate Affairs

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

1.1 VOTES OF SYMPATHY

An Chomhairle unanimously extended the following votes of sympathy:-

To the family of the late Matt Richmond.
To the family of the late Angeline O'Herlihy.
To the family of the late Paddy Driscoll.

1.2 **CIVIC RECEPTION**

On the proposal of An tArdmhéara, An Chomhairle unanimously agreed to host a civic reception in honour of Co-Operation Ireland on their proposed visit to Cork in 2002.

2. **MINUTES**

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held on 8th October, 2001 were considered and approved.

3. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Seanoir C. O'Connell proposed and Comhairleoir M. O'Connell seconded a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss report of the City Manager & Town Clerk dated 12th October, 2001 regarding Douglas Swimming Pool.

A vote was called where there appeared:-

FOR: Seanoir C. O'Connell. Comhairleoir M. O'Connell, J. O'Brien and D. Boyle – 4

AGAINST: An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir T. O'Driscoll. Seanoiri M. Quill, N. O'Flynn, T.D., D. McCarthy, T. Shannon and J. Dennehy, T.D. Comhairleoiri T. Brosnan, L. Burke, T.D., B. Kelleher, J. Kelleher, K. Lynch, B. Allen, T.D., D. Wallace, T. Falvey, C. Burke, D. Clune, T.D., J. Corr, D. Counihan, J. Minihan, S. Martin, D. Cregan, M. Shields, M. Ahern, B. Bermingham and P.J. Hourican – 25

As less than two thirds of the members present supported the proposal, An tArdmhéara declared the proposal defeated.

4. **QUESTION TIME**

4.1 **GREEN FIELD SITE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE TO DEERPARK**

In response to question submitted by Comhairleoir S. Martin, the following written reply was circulated which stated that in the Cork City Development Plan 1992 and Cork City Development Plan Review 1998, the land is shown as public open space in the Development Objective South Centre Figure 6.2 refers.

The site in question measures 1.83 acres. The site is currently laid out in open space and is enclosed on three sides by lines of trees.

A previous application for 9 dwellings was refused in 1998 and a current application for 3 no. detached and 6 no. semi-detached was received on the 21st September, 2001.

4.2 **CONTRACT DOCUMENTS FOR THE MATT TALBOT SWIMMING POOL**

In response to question submitted by Seanoir D. McCarthy, the following written reply was circulated which stated that the Department of Tourism, Sport & Recreation have approved a Preliminary Report in relation to the Matt Talbot Pool at Churchfield. Consultants have been appointed to prepare detailed design plans in relation to same.

The Department has confirmed that the lesser amount of £3m or 90% of the cost of developing wet facilities is available towards refurbishment costs.

Estimates for 2002 are being prepared at present and will establish Cork Corporation's contribution to the capital cost of the pool.

Detailed design plans can then be prepared including contract documents without delay.

4.3 **CORPORATION TENANTS AND CURRENT RENT SCHEME**

In response to question submitted by Comhairleoir M. Ahern, the following written reply was circulated which stated that in his report to Members dated May 31st, 2001, the Assistant City Manager addressed the above points as follows:-

- (a) Members should note that the Differential Rent Scheme is a public document and a copy will be given on request to any person requiring a copy of same.
- (b) It should be noted that as part of the service provided by the Rents Department, any tenant can, on request, have the calculation of their rent explained by a member of staff.
- (c) In practice, the details referred to at (a) and (b) above are currently available to any person on request.

This report was approved by the Borough Council at its meeting held on 11th June, 2001.

The position with regard to the requirements of this motion remains as set out in the report.

4.4 **WINDOW REPLACEMENT IN HOUSES IN DEANROCK ESTATE, TOGHER**

In response to question submitted by Seanoir J. Dennehy, T.D., the following written reply was circulated which stated that the Corporation is aware of the need for replacement windows in rented dwellings in the Deanrock Estate. Window replacement is normally undertaken as part of the Planned Maintenance Programme.

Replacement windows were not approved by the Department of the Environment & Local Government as part of the re-bricking programme undertaken by the Corporation in the estate. Requests by the Corporation to include this work for funding under the programme were refused by the Department.

A contract for window replacement in the estate was commenced in September 2001 and is scheduled for completion before the end of the year.

4.5 **DETAILS OF SITES UNDER THE DERELICT SITES ACT SINCE 1995**

In response to question submitted by Comhairleoir Bernard Allen, T.D., the following written reply was circulated which stated that attached was a list of all Derelict Sites acquired by Cork Corporation since 1st January 1995 to date. The other information requested as to the present status of each of the 98 Derelict Sites and details relating to the disposal of any of these sites and their redevelopment will require a further two weeks to produce due to the volume of work involved.

4.6 **“YIELD” SIGNS IN CAHERGAL LAWN/AVENUE**

In response to question submitted by Comhairleoir T. Brosnan, the following written reply was circulated which stated that “Yield” road markings and signs on poles have been erected at:

- (a) Cahergal Avenue, and
- (b) Junction of Cahergal Avenue and Cahergal Lawn

The statutory “Yield” road markings were provided at these locations in early summer and the poles with statutory signs were added the last week.

4.7 **COST OVERRUNS ON THE CORK MAIN DRAINAGE PROJECT**

In response to question submitted by Comhairleoir D. Boyle, the following written reply was circulated which stated that the original overall estimated cost of the Cork Main Drainage Scheme including the Treatment Plant in 1992

was £94.5 million. Subsequent to this estimate, approval was received from the Department of the Environment & Local Government to extend the scope of the works to include extra Schemes such as:-

- The Ballyvolane Drainage Scheme
- The Parkcourt Drainage Scheme
- The Railway Yard Culverting
- The Turners Cross Drainage Works
- The City Centre Drainage Scheme

The estimate for the Main Drainage Scheme, including for the above extra works, was then revised to a pre tender estimate of £120 million in 1996.

All the major Contracts are now underway with the exception of the city Centre Drainage Contract No. 2, which will commence shortly, and the Little Island Drainage Scheme, which will commence in 2002. The current estimate for completion of the Scheme is £214 million. The cost increase on the 1996 pre tender estimate reflects:-

- The time between estimates in 1996 and the receipt in tenders and commencement of various contracts in 1999, 2000 and 2001.
- The substantial increases in the construction sector at a time of remarkable buoyancy.
- Increased costs due to unforeseen ground conditions and underground services.
- Increase in land acquisition costs.
- Amendments to work programme and methods to reduce impact of major works on traffic, businesses and residents.

The Corporation is in a contractual situation with Contractors at present on the Schemes major contracts. It would not be appropriate to comment on the estimated outturn of any individual contract until such time as a final account is agreed with the Contractor.

Cork Main Drainage costs are monitored on a regular basis by the Corporation's Main Drainage team and the Department of the Environment & Local Government.

5. **CORK AREA STRATEGIC PLAN 2001 – 2005**

An Chomhairle considered the adoption of the Draft Final Report on the Cork Area Strategic Plan (deferred from Special Meeting of An Chomhairle held on 1st October, 2001) along with additional proposed amendments tabled by members since Special Meeting of 1st October, 2001.

In response to questions raised the City Manager stated the following:-

- Monard will be an infrastructure led development.
- The Plan envisages an integrated public transport system.

- The Plan does not have a Boundary Extension as part of its brief.
- It has been agreed that 4 members would be on the Implementation Monitoring Committee - Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor, Chairperson of Cork County Council, the chairpersons of the Planning SPC's in both Cork Corporation and Cork County Council..

The Manager then circulated the following statements, which he stated would be incorporated into the Plan in response to tabled amendments:-

1. Bishopstown C.I.T.

“The Plan recognises the centrality of the retention of the green belt immediately surrounding the City. However, given the need to address the serious traffic congestion in the Bishopstown area, and the wish of the C.I.T. to develop its facilities in accordance with its 20-year strategy, Cork County Council, as the Planning Authority for the area between the western boundary of the city and Ballincollig, will ensure that green belt policy for this area will allow both for the completion of the C.I.T. development and any recommendation for traffic relief measures, including improved access to the C.I.T., which may emerge from a traffic study which has been commissioned jointly by City and County”.

2. Light Rail on South Side of City

“It is proposed that both local authorities, in conjunction with Central Government, through the proposed CASP implementation and review body, would formally review the CASP strategy and, in particular, the public transport components of the CASP mid-way through the strategy implementation, to consider the progress and impacts of the public transport investment, and to make specific recommendations as to how any imbalances, arising in the provision of services on the south side or the north side of the city, can be corrected, including a review of the potential for light rail, particularly on the south and west of the City.”

Council agreed that the content of the material circulated with regard to Bishopstown/CIT and the Light Rail on South side of the City should be incorporated into the Plan.

The following amendment which was proposed by Seanoir N. O'Flynn T.D. and seconded by Comhairleoir B. Allen T.D. was defeated on a role call vote.

“The proposed new development/settlement of 5,380 high-density dwellings (population 13,070) for the Monard/Rathpeacon area be dispersed throughout the proposed Metropolitan area; chiefly around existing development centres, thereby preserving the overall integrity and functions of the Green Belt.”

FOR: Seanoiri N. O’Flynn, T.D. and T. Shannon. Comhairleoiri L. Burke, T.D., B. Kelleher, T.D., B. Allen, T.D., S. Martin, J. Minihan and D. Boyle – 8

AGAINST: An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir T. O’Driscoll. Seanoiri C. O’Connell and J. Dennehy, T.D. Comhairleoiri T. Brosnan, J. Kelleher, K. Lynch, D. Wallace, T. Falvey, C. Burke, J. O’Brien, J. Corr, J. O’Flynn, D. Cregan, M. Ahern, B. Bermingham and P.J. Hourican – 16

An tArdmheara declared the proposed amendment defeated.

In the matter of the integration of the public transport system and in particular with regard to the location of a central public transport hub a suitable wording will be incorporated into the plan to meet the members wishes, noting that further studies will be undertaken on this issue.

Further with regard to the reintroduction of the rail based service to Passage West/Monkstown the text will be amended to allow for this possibility.

In the matter of the reinstatement of the Cork/Midleton/Youghal rail line the text will be amended to reflect the members views on this issue.

The members agreed to have High Quality Rail Commuter Services include both Suburban and Light Rail the text will be amended to reflect the members wishes.

A proposal to include an objective for a Transport Modal Share for 2020 of Car 50% Bus 30% and Rail 10% was defeated on a roll call vote as follows

FOR: Seanoiri T. Shannon, C. O’Connell and J. Dennehy, T.D. Comhairleoiri J. Kelleher, K. Lynch, J. O’Flynn, D. Boyle and M. Ahern – 8

AGAINST: An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir T. O’Driscoll. Comhairleoiri T. Brosnan, B. Kelleher, T.D., B. Allen, T.D., D. Wallace, T. Falvey, C. Burke, J. Corr, J. Minihan, S. Martin, D. Cregan and P.J. Hourican - 12

An tArdmheara declared the proposed amendment defeated.

The members agreed that further extension of heavy or light rail will be considered within the timeframe of the plan. The text will be amended to reflect the members wishes.

The members agreed that the North Ring Road would be known as the North West link. The text will be amended to describe the extent of the road and reflect the wishes members.

The members agreed to include as an objective of the plan an increase in cycle use to 10% of all journeys by 2020 through the development of 50km of dedicated cycleways in Cork City on the following roll call vote.

FOR: Seanoiri T. Shannon, C. O'Connell and J. Dennehy, T.D.
Comhairleoiri J. Kelleher, K. Lynch, B. Allen, T.D., D. Wallace, C. Burke, J. Corr, J. O'Flynn, J. Minihan, D. Boyle and M. Ahern – 13

AGAINST: An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir T. O'Driscoll. Comhairleoiri T. Brosnan, B. Kelleher, T.D., T. Falvey, S. Martin, D. Cregan and P.J. Hourican
- 7

An tArdmhéara declared the proposed amendment carried.

It was agreed to include in the plan a suitable wording to reflect the members wishes to have the following safeguard introduced *"Despite this lack of statutory protection this plan should endeavor to ensure that new infrastructural development is not inappropriate"*.

It was agreed to delete the following wording in Chapter 11 Page 9 *"for the walkers and cyclist but it is too peripheral to play a strategic central role in serving the wider area"* and have the members wishes appropriately recognised in the plan.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J Corr, seconded by Seanoir J Dennehy
An Chomhairle agreed to adopt the Draft Final Report on the Cork Area Strategic Plan as amended.

A schedule of amendments to be circulated.

6. **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

6.1 **REPORT OF DR. D. O' CINNEIDE, TRAFFIC RESEARCH UNIT, U.C.C. – THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF CYCLING IN CORK CITY.**

An Chomhairle approved report of Dr. Donncha O'Cinneide, Traffic Research Unit, U.C.C. – "The Potential Role of Cycling in Cork City" as recommended by the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting held on 1st October, 2001.

6.2 **ROADS CORPORATE PLAN**

An Chomhairle noted report of Director of Services/City Engineer dated 27th September, 2001 regarding the Roads Corporate Plan as recommended by the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting held on 1st October, 2001.

6.3 **20 MILE PER HOUR ZONES IN HOUSING ESTATES.**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held on 1st October, 2001, An Chomhairle approved the Director of Services/City Engineer's Report dated 27th September, 2001, regarding the following Motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

"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. – Ref. 01/073)

The report stated that The Roads Traffic Act 1994 only allows the introduction of three 'normal' speed limits and two 'special' speed limits.

The normal speed limits are: 30 mph, 60 mph and 70 mph (motorway)
Special speed limits are: 40 mph and 50 mph

Speed limits of 20 mph cannot be introduced under current legislation.

There are 20 mph speed limit zones in the UK, however it has been reported that the police will only agree with their introduction when they are installed in conjunction with traffic calming measures.

7. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2001**

An Chomhairle approved the Financial statement for September 2001 as recommended by Corporate Policy Group at its meeting held on 15th October, 2001.

8. **DATE OF ESTIMATES MEETING – 26TH NOVEMBER, 2001**

An Chomhairle approved the holding of the Estimates Meeting on Monday, 26th November, 2001 as recommended by the Corporate Policy Group at its meeting held on 15th October, 2001.

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

9.1 **RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Development & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held on 15th October, 2001, An Chomhairle noted the report of the director of Service, Development & Planning dated 10th October, 2001, on the observations/submissions received in respect of the Record of Protected Structures.

The report stated that The Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1999 came into force on the 1st January 2000. It significantly increased the level of protection given to buildings listed for protection in the Local Authority's Development Plan. Under the terms of Section 38, transitional arrangements were set out for these buildings to be adopted as Protected Structures in the newly established Record of Protected Structures (the RPS).

816 structures are listed in the 1998 Cork Corporation Development Plan, all of which became protected structures in January 2000. Owners were notified within four months of the Act coming into force, and had a right to object to their building or buildings being included on the new RPS.

The Local Authority is required to consider any objection made (and can if requested extend the objector an opportunity to make their case in person, under the draft guidelines issued by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands).

After considering the objections, the elected members of the Local Authority must decide if the building in question should remain on the RPS or should be removed.

Owners must then be notified in writing within 14 days of the decision being made, citing the reasons for the decision. The building or part of a building listed in the Development Plan is subject to the provisions of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1999 until a decision is taken to delete it from the Record of Protected Structures.

Summary

The following table summarises the current stage of procedures in assessing objections:

Number of objections received within period for appeal as set out in legislation: (affecting 35 buildings or groups of buildings)	32
Number of owners and/or occupiers contacted by Conservation Officer:	32
Number of responses from owners/occupiers:	23
Number of properties inspected*:	20
Number of buildings inspected recommended to be retained on RPS:	17
Number of buildings inspected recommended to be removed from RPS:	3
Number of declarations sought (subsequent to visit by Conservation Officer):	5
Number of objections withdrawn (subsequent to issue of declaration):	1

*All objectors have been contacted by phone and if necessary in writing; not all responded and a number have not facilitated an inspection by the Conservation Officer.

Declarations

A declaration under Section 8 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1999 can be sought by any owner of a protected structure. It

sets out the kinds of works which would alter the character of the protected structure and which therefore require planning permission and those which do not.

While a declaration may be sought by any owner, it is the experience of the Conservation Officer that it is particularly important for owners who are wary or uncertain about the scope of the new legislation.

Most (though not all) of the objections are to the listing of the interiors of the buildings. The 1999 Act extends the protection to the entire curtilage of the protected structure. This does not mean that the same protection applies to all parts of the building. Instead, the owner is encouraged to seek a declaration which is specific to his or her property. The declaration in most cases makes clear that works affecting modern insertions or later extensions are not subject to protection insofar as they do not affect the historic or special character of the building. Furthermore, works that might affect the character can often be carried out in such a way (following DoELG conservation guidelines) that they will not require planning permission.

One owner has formally withdrawn their objection subsequent to the preparation of a declaration, and others have indicated verbally that they intend doing so. However, it is the experience of the Conservation Officer that many owners, once they understand the intention of the legislation, do not formally withdraw their objections, but neither do they actively pursue them.

Concluding steps

It is expected that the process of inspecting the buildings, consulting with owners and preparing reports (including the preparation of declarations where appropriate) will be finalised by the end of October 2001.

The elected members of Council must then decide how they intend to consider the objections received and not withdrawn, together with the recommendations of the Conservation Officer prior to formally adopting the Record of Protected Structures.

Suggested procedures will be submitted to Council in early November 2001.

9.2 CONSERVATION OF VICTORIAN RESIDENCES

In accordance with the recommendation of the Development & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held on 15th October, 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Development & Planning dated 10th October, 2001 on the following motion, which was referred to the Committee from An Chomhairle:-

“That Cork Corporation would give formal recognition to the historic importance of the Victorian residences that are a valuable part of Cork’s

architectural legacy, and put in place appropriate measures for their conservation.”

(Proposer: Seanoir M. Quill – 01/179)

The Report stated that a large number of the buildings listed in the 1998 Development Plan date from the mid to late nineteenth century. It is widely recognised that the city has a great wealth of high quality nineteenth century domestic architecture.

The commitment of Cork Corporation to protecting and enhancing this heritage is demonstrated by the number of conservation grant applications which have been approved and paid out for buildings of this era since its inception over the past three years.

While it is recognised that not all buildings deserving of protection are in fact protected, it is considered that the revision of the Record of Protected Structures should form part of the Development Plan review which will be commenced in early 2002.

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands has recently appointed consultants to complete the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for the city. The consultants are Cork-based and have already been in contact with the Planning Department in order to ensure that the Inventory will be as up to date and complete as possible.

The Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1999 foresees that the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands will recommend lists of buildings for protection. These lists will be based on the ratings in the National Inventory. Therefore, it is considered that a general revision of the Record of Protected Structures should await the completion of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for the city.

9.3 **PRESERVATION OF BUILDINGS**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Development & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held on 15th October, 2001, An Chomhairle considered the report of the Director of Services, Development & Planning dated 10th October, 2001 on the following motion, which was referred to the Committee from An Chomhairle:-

“That this Council include the following buildings and structures, as facilities worthy of preservation to be listed as a priority in the current City Development Plan”:-

- (a) Barrington’s Folly – Ballintemple
- (b) Brookfield House – College Road
- (c) Cittadella – Blackrock Road
- (d) Cork County Cricket Pavilion – The Mardyke

- (e) Custom House – Custom House Quay
- (f) Hall's Weighbridge Offices – Kennedy Quay
- (g) Huguenot Graveyard – Carey's Lane
- (h) John Morris Tyre Centre – Anglesea Street
- (i) Kieran's Shop – John Street Upper
- (j) Knocknanuss House – Blackpool"
- (k) Lindville – Ballintemple
- (l) Rochelle House School – Old Blackrock Road
- (m) Georgian Building – Hibernian Road, Rocksavage
- (n) Tellingannan – Monahan Road

(Proposer: Comhairleoir D. Boyle – 01/94)

The report stated that it is considered that it would be preferable to await the results of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage before considering the inclusion of these buildings on the Record of Protected Structures within the Development Plan review process which is due to formally commence in early 2002.

It should be noted that the Conservation Officer has in fact already been in contact with owners and occupiers of some of the structures and has visited others of those noted in the motion, as part of the preparatory work for the formal Development Plan review process.

The Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 1999 foresees that the Minister of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands will recommend lists of buildings for protection. These lists will be based on the ratings in the National Inventory. Therefore, it is considered that a general revision of the Record of Protected Structures, should await the completion of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for the city.

The Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands has recently appointed consultants to complete the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for the city. The consultants are Cork-based and have already been in

contact with the Planning Department in order to ensure that the Inventory will be as up to date and complete as possible.

A vote was called where there appeared:-

FOR: An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir T. O'Driscoll. Seanoir T. Shannon. Comhairleoiri T. Brosnan, B. Kelleher, T.D., D. Wallace, T. Falvey, J. Minihan, S. Martin, B. Bermingham and P.J. Hourican – 10

AGAINST: Seanoir C. O'Connell. Comhairleoiri J. Kelleher, K. Lynch, J. O'Brien, J. O'Flynn, D. Boyle and M. Ahern – 7

An tArdmhéara declared the report approved.

9.4 **SPECIAL DESIGNATION STATUS FOR COLLINS BARRACKS TO ST. LUKES TO ST. PATRICK'S HILL**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Development & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held on 15th October, 2001, An Chomhairle considered the report of the Director of Services, Development & Planning dated 10th October, 2001 on the following motion, which was referred to the Committee from An Chomhairle:-

“That Cork Corporation makes application to the Department of Environment for special designation status for the areas from Collins Barracks to St. Lukes to St. Patrick's Hill so that the area can be developed with a view to providing a significant amount of accommodation especially if all the older 3 / 4 storey houses can be properly developed.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir T. Brosnan– Ref. 01/273).

The report stated that the St. Luke's and surrounding area has a considerable number of exceptionally large 19th century houses. Many of which have considerable architectural merit. Many of them were sub-divided with poor quality rented accommodation in the 1960's. In recent years some have been re-occupied as single family houses but many are too large for conventional family use.

The City Docks Integrated Area Plan 1998 recognised that these houses are difficult to maintain and suffered from a poor quality surrounding environment. Financial incentives were sought under the Urban Renewal Scheme to assist these property owners, however they were not approved by Government.

Owners of protected structures within the area can avail of the Conservation Grant Scheme and some have already done so.

Issues of dereliction and poor maintenance of specific properties can be pursued under the Derelict Site Act. A review of possible actions under the Derelict Site Act will be carried out shortly.

In the longer term a local action plan which would review the use and condition of these houses and the surrounding environment would be desirable. This will be dependant on availability of resources.

An Chomhairle agreed to refer this item to the Housing & Community Strategic Policy Committee.

9.5 **RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LISTED BUILDINGS**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Development & Planning Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held on 15th October, 2001, An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Development & Planning dated 10th October, 2001 on the following motion, which was referred to the Committee from An Chomhairle:-

“That Cork Corporation would as a matter of policy provide financial assistance towards the renovation and maintenance of listed buildings and in this regard that St. Patrick’s Church, Lower Glanmire Road be considered for such assistance in 2002 due to the very urgent need for maintenance work to its exterior.”

(Proposer:- Comhairleoir T. Brosnan – 01/296)

The report stated that Cork Corporation administers the conservation grants scheme for protected structures, of which St. Patrick’s Church, Lr. Glanmire Rd. is a notable example.

The grants scheme can fund up to 50% of the costs of qualifying works to a maximum of £10,000, or up to 75% or £20,000 for buildings of exceptional importance.

The Conservation Officer has already been in contact with the parish authorities to inform them that Cork Corporation would be most supportive of an application under the scheme for conservation works to the Church because of its inherent architectural and townscape importance.

There is another scheme administered directly by the Department of the Environment for buildings of architectural importance which are accessible to the public by virtue of their use. Details of the scheme were passed on by the Conservation Officer to the relevant representatives of the church earlier in the summer prior to this year’s closing date. The present scheme runs until 2006.

10. **HOUSING & COMMUNITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

10.1 **INTRODUCTION OF POINTS SYSTEM**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Housing & Community Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held on 15th October, 2001, An Chomhairle considered the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community dated 11th October, 2001 on the following motion, which was referred to the Committee from An Chomhairle:-

“That Cork Corporation introduce a points system for allocation of houses and flats. Each person on the housing list should know where they rank on the list

and approximately how long they will be waiting to be accommodated.”

(Proposer: Seanoir T. Shannon – Ref. 01/246)

The report stated that at present all Cork Corporation housing applicants assessed as being in need of accommodation may specify a preference for any housing area in the City and indeed may specify the type of accommodation being sought. Applicants are not restricted in the number or location of their preference areas. Furthermore, applicants are allowed to change their preferred area of housing as often as they wish, thereby affording complete flexibility in relation to their housing situation.

Each applicant is given an indication of the waiting time for different types of accommodation in the different areas of the City and are free to discuss any aspect of their application with a housing officer and frequently do so. When applicants are nearing the top of the list for any preferred area, they will be informed of how many other applicants will be considered before them.

The system of allocation in force allows the most flexibility for applicants and also allows transfer applicants to be considered where a vacancy arises. It allows applicants to immediately change their area of preference when they become aware of an impending vacancy.

The introduction of a points system would take away the flexibility in that several lists – one for each of the 32 preference areas in the City, would need to be created and applicants could not be allowed to change their preference areas very often. Possibly just once every year.

Information received from other Local Authorities confirms that operating a points system is inflexible, time consuming and difficult to operate where transfer applicants are concerned. In fact it has been noted that some Local Authorities who operate such a system are considering dropping it in favour of a system similar to that operated by Cork Corporation.

Seanoir T. Shannon proposed and Comhairleoir T. Falvey seconded that this item be referred back to the Committee. A vote was called where there appeared:-

FOR: An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir T. O’Driscoll. Seanoir T. Shannon.
Comhairleoiri D. Wallace, T. Falvey, S. Martin, M. Ahern and B. Bermingham
– 7

AGAINST Seanoir C. O’Connell. Comhairleoiri J. Kelleher, K. Lynch, C. Burke, J. O’Brien, J. O’Flynn, J. Minihan and P.J. Hourican – 8

An tArdmhéara declared the proposal lost and An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community.

10.2 **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Minihan, seconded by Comhairleoir J. O'Brien, An Chomhairle agreed to refer the following motion and report of the Director of Services, Housing & Community, dated 11th October, 2001 back to the Housing & Community Services Strategic Policy Committee:-

“That this Council recognises that all residents in “Council Estates” are entitled to live in a peaceful and tranquil environment. That this Council recognises that 99% of residents in “Council Estates” contribute to such an environment. That this Council also recognises that a very small number of residents of “Council Estates” engage in Anti-Social Behaviour which seriously devalues the quality of life of their fellow residents and in many instances puts peoples lives and homes at risk.

That in the light of the above a forum be convened by Corporation Housing Officials, inviting Gardai, Council Representatives and Officers of Residents Associations to set down measures to stop Anti-Social Behaviour.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir M. Ahern – Ref. 01/287)

The report stated that the Housing Department has recently strengthened the task of dealing with cases of Anti-Social Behaviour and other tenancy breaches and will shortly be carrying out further improvements to the resources required to deal with this aspect of the management of our housing estates.

These improvements will provide the means for a more rapid response to problem cases as they are reported.

Due to the nature of the relationship between the Corporation and individual tenants, it may be prejudicial to future legal cases if Residents Associations and members become involved in the management of anti-social behaviour and breaches of tenancy.

The Housing Department has developed a close working relationship with the Gardai Siochana over the past number of years to such an extent that officers of the Gardai have given evidence in a number of cases which were prosecuted.

10.3 **EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL HOUSING APPLICANTS**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Housing & Community Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held on 15th October, 2001, An Chomhairle approved report of Director of Services, Housing & Community dated 11th October, 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

“That Cork Corporation in allocating houses and flats treat all applicants equally and that the present policy of positive discrimination towards members of the traveller community be ended.”

(Proposer: Seanoir T. Shannon – Ref. 01/245)

The report stated that Lettings of Corporation housing units are made in accordance with the Scheme of Letting Priorities. This Scheme (made under the Housing Act, 1988) was adopted by City Council and approved by the Department of the Environment & Local Government.

The letting of dwellings complies strictly with the Scheme and no discrimination towards any group, be it positive or negative, is considered when allocations are made.

If the method of prioritisation is to be altered, City Council must adopt a new Scheme of Letting Priorities which must then be approved by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government.

10.4 **PURCHASING OF PRIVATE HOUSING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Housing & Community Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held on 15th October, 2001, on the proposal of Comhairleoir J. O’Flynn, seconded by Comhairleoir P.J. Hourican, An Chomhairle approved the report of the Director of Services, Housing & Committee on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

“That Cork Corporation as a matter of courtesy consult with local residents before purchasing private housing for local authority use and also a ceiling be put on the amount of houses that can be purchased in any given street or estate.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir S. Martin – Ref. 01/254)

The report stated that the National Policy of Social Integration is set out in Circular N3/92 and the Corporation must have regard to this policy and must acquire part of its housing stock through the acquisition of houses in private estates.

It is found that it is not practical or prudent to consult with residents or residents representatives groups on individual purchases.

When the policy of such purchases commenced, the Housing Department did meet various Residents Associations who required clarification on elements of the policy and such clarification was provided.

As there are over 3,000 eligible applicants for housing, the introduction of a limit in the purchase of dwellings would hinder the Corporation in the performance of its functions.

10.5 **HOME IMPROVEMENT GRANTS**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Housing & Community Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held on 15th October, 2001, An Chomhairle approved report of Director of Services, Housing & Community dated 11th October, 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

“I am calling on the Minister to have home improvement grants put in place which should be means tested.”

(Proposer: Seanoir D. McCarthy – Ref. 01/260)

The report stated that the last scheme of house improvement grants was operated by the Department of the Environment & Local Government and terminated in the 1970's.

The Corporation had no input into the management of the Scheme.

It is a matter for the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to re-introduce such a Scheme in the future.

10.6 **LIMIT NUMBER OF CORPORATION HOUSES TO 20% IN PRIVATE ESTATES**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Housing & Community Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held on 15th October, 2001, An Chomhairle approved report of Director of Services, Housing & Community dated 11th October, 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

“That Cork Corporation in an effort to achieve proper integration of tenants would limit at 20% the number of houses that the Corporation would purchase in any private estate.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir D. Wallace – 01/202)

The report stated that the Corporation must have regard to the terms of Circular N3/92 in carrying out its housing functions. This Circular sets out the National Policy on Social Integration.

The Housing Department is sensitive to the concerns of residents in determining where houses will be purchased in private estates but empirical evidence shows that Cork Corporation tenants settle very well in private estates and that concerns of residents have in the main been unfounded.

It should be noted that over 3,000 applicants are eligible for Local Authority housing and the Corporation has a duty to provide for the needs of those applicants.

The introduction of a limit may prohibit the Corporation from the performance of its functions.

10.7 **HOUSE PURCHASE ON SOUTHSIDE OF CITY**

An Chomhairle approved report of Director of Services, Housing & Community dated 11th October, 2001 from its meeting held on 15th October, 2001 on the following motion which was referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:-

“That Cork Corporation would for the foreseeable future concentrate its house purchasing on the southside of the city in order to redress the present imbalance in the location of public housing.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir T. Brosnan – 01/212)

The report stated that the terms of Circular N3/92 provide for the National Policy on Social Integration and the Corporation has a duty to implement those terms.

In acquiring houses the Corporation is sensitive to the need to spread such acquisitions broadly across the City but must have regard to considerations such as availability, suitability, size and cost.

11. **ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE –
NOMINATION OF REPLACEMENT FOR COMHAIRLEOIR T.
O'DRISCOLL, ARDMHEARA**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. Burke, seconded by Comhairleoir J. O'Flynn, An Chomhairle approved the nomination of Comhairleoir P.J.

Hourican to replace An tArdmhéara Comhairleoir T. O'Driscoll on the Environment Strategic Policy Committee in accordance with Standing Orders.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence as circulated was noted.

13. **CONFERENCES**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance at the following Conferences:-

13.1 **SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Seanoir D. McCarthy and Comhairleoir B. Allen, T.D. at the Sports Development Conference to be held in the City West Hotel, Dublin on 2nd and 3rd November, 2001.

13.2 **RATTOO HERITAGE SOCIETY ENVIRONMENTAL**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoir B. Allen, T.D., at the Rattoo Heritage Society Environmental Conference held in the Lanterns Hotel, Glen/Tarbert Coast Road, Co. Kerry on 18th – 20th October, 2001.

13.3 **LAMA**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoiri T. Brosnan and D. Counihan at the LAMA Annual Conference to be held in Monaghan on 9th – 10th November, 2001.

13.4 **“IS THE FUTURE MY RESPONSIBILITY”**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoir T. Brosnan at the “Is the Future my Responsibility” Conference to be held at West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare on 7th – 9th November, 2001

13.5 **“PUBLIC OWNERSHIP –V- PRIVATISATION”**

An Chomhairle approved the attendance of Comhairleoiri K. Lynch, M. Ahern, M. O’Connell, B. Allen, B. Bermingham and J. Kelleher at the S.I.P.T.U. Conference “Public Ownership –v- Privatisation” to be held at the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork on 16th – 17th November, 2001.

14. **MOTIONS**

The following motions, due notice of which had been given, were referred to the next meeting of the appropriate Committee:-

14.1 **DOUBLE YELLOW LINES IN OLD BLACKROCK ROAD**

“That double yellow lines be extended back two or three car lengths outside Paddy the Farmers Bar, Old Blackrock Road, towards Thomond Square and that double yellow lines or a yellow box junction be put in place adjacent to

the Flower Pot and under the No Parking sign in Thomond square.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir S. Martin – Ref. 00/236)

- Roads Functional Committee

14.2 **RESURFACING OF BALTIMORE LAWN, DOUGLAS ROAD**

“That Cork Corporation would provide funds in the Estimates for 2001-2002 to ensure that Baltimore Lawn, Douglas Rd., is included in the estates resurfacing programme for next year.”

(Proposer:- Seanoir T. Shannon – 01/227)

- Roads Functional Committee

14.3 **REPAIR OF ROAD SURFACE AT SEAMUS QUIRKE PARK, OUR LADY OF LOURDES & CARRIGMORE PARK**

That immediate steps be taken to repair and make safe the road surface at Seamus Quirke Park, Our Lady of Lourdes Park and Carrigmore Park, Ballinlough and that they be added to the list of areas for resurfacing as speedily as possible.”

(Proposer:- Seanoir J. Dennehy – 01/276)

- Roads Functional Committee

14.4 **PREPARATION OF LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SOUTH PARISH**

“That Cork Corporation would prepare a local area development plan for the South Parish and consult with residents and relevant bodies and organisations in the parish in order to formulate an integrated plan for its future development. Such a study should:-

1. Include making the present community centre the local point of the area by a) extensive refurbishment of existing buildings (b) Redevelopment of buildings adjacent to existing centres.
2. Retention of families in the area.
3. Traffic reduction
4. Provision of play facilities
5. Reduction in apartment style accommodation

(Proposer:- Comhairleoir S. Martin – 01/282)

- Planning & Development Strategic Policy Committee

14.5 **LAUREL RIDGE ESTATE**

“That the wall at the back of Laurel Ridge Estate on the Harbour View Road side opposite the garage is falling down and will kill some children if it does.

(Proposer:- Seanoir D. McCarthy – 01/293)

- Environment Committee

14.6 **STANDARDS OF SAFETY AND PROTECTION ON HOUSE BUILDING SITES**

“That this Council notes increasingly poor standards of safety and protection on house building sites, and calls upon the government to initiate necessary legislation to impose stronger obligations upon housing developers.”

(Proposer:- Comhairleoir D. Boyle – 01/297)

- Planning & Development Strategic Policy Committee

14.7 **PROVISION OF SIGNAGE IN AMENITY AREAS**

“That Cork Corporation would provide visible signage in amenity areas and main walking routes informing the public that dog fouling is an offence under the Litter Act.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir D. Clune, T.D. – Ref. 01/305)

- Recreation Amenity & Culture Strategic Policy Committee

14.8 **CYCLE PARKING FACILITIES IN PATRICK STREET**

“That temporary cycle parking facilities erected at Patrick’s Street for European Car Free City Day, be made permanent.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir D. Boyle – Ref. 01/307)

- Roads Functional Committee

14.9 **PROVISION OF KERRY ROAD, MAYFIELD IN 2002 ROADWORKS**

“That Cork Corporation include Kerry Road, Mayfield in the 2002 Roadworks Programme.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir T. Brosnan – Ref. 01/308)

- Roads Functional Committee

14.10 **PROVISION OF FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES**

“That Family Resource Centres be provided for the residents of Leesdale & Curraheen Estates.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir M. Ahern- Ref. 01/309)
- Housing Functional Committee

14.11 **CUTTING OF TREES AND HEDGING BETWEEN BLARNEY ROAD AND HOLLYWOOD ESTATE**

“That Cork Corporation immediately arranges to have the trees and hedging between Blarney Road and Hollywood Estate cut down to a reasonable height as to allow light into the front row of houses in Hollywood Estate.”

(Proposer: Comhairleoir M. O’Connell – Ref. 01/311)
- Recreation Amenity & Culture Functional Committee

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

15.1 **CORK STRATEGIC RETAIL STUDY**

An Chomhairle noted report of Director of Services, Planning & Development dated 19th October, 2001 on the Cork Strategic Retail Study.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**ARDMHEARA
CATHAOIRLEACH**