

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENT	Ardmhéara Comhairleoir J. Kavanagh.
NORTH EAST	Comhairleoirí K. O’Flynn, J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, G. Keohane.
NORTH WEST	Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan.
SOUTH EAST	Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M. R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Forde.
SOUTH CENTRAL	Comhairleoirí M. Finn, D. Boyle, S. Martin, S. O’Callaghan, P. Dineen, F. Kerins.
SOUTH WEST	Comhairleoirí F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, H. Cremin.
ALSO PRESENT	Ms. A. Doherty, Chief Executive. Mr. B. Geaney, Assistant Chief Executive. Mr. P. Moynihan, Director of Services, Corporate Affairs & International Relations. Mr. G. O’Beirne, Director of Services, Infrastructure Development. Mr. F. Reidy, Director of Services, Strategic & Economic Development. Mr. D. Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations. Ms. A. Rodgers, Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking. Mr. T. Keating, Interim Director of Services, Housing. Mr. J. Hallahan, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect. Ms. A. Murnane, Meetings Administrator. Ms. C. Currid, A/Administrative Officer, Corporate Affairs & International Relations.

An tArdmhéara recited the opening prayer.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Shannon, An Chomhairle agreed to suspend Standing Orders to adopt Cork City Council Supplementary Standing Orders Regulating the Proceedings of the Council in Holding Remote Meetings, to allow the meeting to proceed remotely in accordance with S.I. No. 445 of 2020.

1. **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

1.1 **WREATH LAYING AT ST. FINBARRS CEMETERY**

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle that wreaths were laid on Sunday 1st November 2020 at the graves of Terence MacSwiney and Joe Murphy in St. Finbarr's Cemetery, to commemorate the centenary of their deaths on hunger strike in 1920.

1.2 **LORD MAYOR'S SCHOOL VISITS**

An tArdmhéara advised An Chomhairle that on 23rd October 2020 he made a live broadcast to the city's 119 primary and secondary schools as part of a reimagined Lord Mayor's school visits.

He further advised that, as part of the ongoing Commemorative Programme each school will be presented with a tree in February 2021 as a symbol of hope and growth for the future.

2. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ITEMS**

2.1 **DELIVERY OFFICE FOR CORK CITY DOCKLANDS**

The Chief Executive briefed An Chomhairle on Cork City Council's partnership with the Land Development Agency and confirmed the establishment of a new Delivery Office for Cork City Docklands.

3. **MINUTES**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. Kelleher, seconded by Comhairleoir K. Collins, An Chomhairle considered and approved the minutes of:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held, 12th October 2020.

4. **QUESTION TIME**

4.1 **EVENTS CENTRE**

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

Given that CE's items have not been reached on the last two council meeting agendas, can the CE give an up-to-date date report on the proposed Event Centre, during Question Time, as requested before the summer?

REPLY

BAM, Live Nation Gaiety (LNG) and Cork City Council are continuing to meet on the Cork Events Centre and all parties including the Government of Ireland recently re-affirmed their commitment to deliver this project

At present in light of Covid 19, roadmaps aren't in place for the reopening of the global live entertainment industry. Despite this uncertainty, the parties continue to progress the project.

All parties are intent on bringing the funding agreement (which dictates the terms on which government support is granted) to as close a point as possible to where it can be signed off once revenue streams are restored in the events industry.

Ann Doherty,
Chief Executive.

4.2 **REPORT INTO SAFETY OF 5G**

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

In light of the passing of my motion 21.1 at Ordinary Meeting – Monday, 13th January, 2020

Motion

'I am asking Cork City Council to conduct a detailed report into the safety of 5G. People are extremely worried and voicing their concerns about the harmful effects of radiation. Concerns must be addressed as there could be implications for the public. I call on this Council to support a report and alleviate the concerns of the public of this city.'

Can the CE tell me what steps have been taken to carry out this detailed report?

Huge 5G masts are being erected/installed right across the city without any consultation with the residents of these areas and it is imperative that this report is carried out.

REPLY

The City Council has no function in evaluating the safety of 5G. It is the role of national and international experts and certifying bodies, who have the skills and expertise to evaluate such technologies before they are licensed for use.

Information has been published on 5G by **ICNIRP** (<https://www.icnirp.org/en/frequencies/radiofrequency/index.html>), the **UK Government** (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/5g-technologies-radio-waves-and-health/5g-technologies-radio-waves-and-health>) and **OFCOM** (https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/190005/emf-test-summary.pdf)

The European Commission on 3rd June, 2020, published a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on 5G on their website under the "Digital Single Market" heading. The FAQ includes 14 frequently asked questions about 5G. They address the

technology (5), benefits (4) and electromagnetic fields (5). (<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/faq/5g-faq>)

In response to the statement that the Council is not consulting with the residents in relation to erection/installation of masts across the City, the licensing process for this overground electronic communications infrastructure and any associated physical infrastructure' i.e. a streetwork solution is set out in Section 254 (1) (ee) of the Planning and Development Act.

The Government's National Broadband Plan is a framework for the provision of high speed broadband through a combination of commercial and state investment. Companies apply and are approved as registered providers for the communications industry and this is authorised by ComReg to provide electronic communications networks and services.

This authorisation from ComReg allows registered companies to apply for licences for over ground electronic communications infrastructure.

Registered providers work closely with mobile operators to identify locations known as 'blackspots' for mobile and wireless broadband. It is on this basis that licence applications for streetwork solutions are made. These proposed sites/locations are areas where coverage for mobile phones and data devices is required.

In considering a licence under Section 254 for such infrastructure the Planning Authority in consultation with the Roads Operations Division of the Council must have regard to four considerations as prescribed by the Act:

- (a) the proper planning and sustainable development of the area,
- (b) any relevant provisions of the development plan, or a local area plan,
- (c) the number and location of existing appliances, apparatuses or structures on, under, over or along the public road, and,
- (d) the convenience and safety of road users including pedestrians.

Unlike a planning application, there is no requirement for the applicant to put up a site notice to place an ad in the newspaper. Moreover, the Section 254 licensing process does not provide for the consideration of third-party submissions as part of the decision-making process.

Members of the public can appeal the decision to issue a licence to An Bord Pleanála, who request a fee for such service.

Adrienne Rodgers,
Director of Services,
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

4.3 **DALY'S BRIDGE**

The following question submitted by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy was deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 14th December 2020.

To ask the CE for the most recent update on progress associated with the re-opening of Daly's Bridge?

4.4 **SOLAR PANELS TO POWER RECHARGING OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE FLEET**

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

Can Cork City Council move to solar panels to power the recharging of its electric vehicle fleet?

REPLY

Cork City Council will look into this further and assess if it is a viable option. Resources and budget dependent, we will assess the availability and capability of current technology to utilise PV panels to charge our EV fleet.

David Joyce,
Director of Services,
Roads & Environment Operations.

4.5 **DANGEROUS STRUCTURES**

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

To ask the CE the number and locations of dangerous structures in the City Centre that the Council's emergency services have been called to in the year to date?

REPLY

When Cork City Fire Brigade responds to a Dangerous Structure call this can cover a variety of situations. They include damage to Buildings due to severe weather, signage and structural damage. Below is a list of Dangerous structure calls attended by the Brigade in the City Centre year to date with an explanatory comment.

February	Q Park Carrolls Quay	Dangerous sign
March	Washington Street	structural
June	Lower Glanmire Road	structural
July	Tuckey Street	structural
September	Oliver Plunkett Street	structural
October	Georges Quay	Structural (following storm)
	St Patrick's Street	Signage (following storm)
	Lower Glanmire Road	Structural
	South Main Street	Loose Slates

Adrienne Rodgers,
Director of Services,
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

4.6 **MARKET GARDENS, TOGHER ROAD**

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

Can the CE inform the Council has Market Gardens on Togher Rd. being taken in charge and, if not, can the CE give the specific reasons why this hasn't happened to date.

REPLY

Market Gardens on Togher Road is a City Council estate which was developed privately and purchased outright by Cork City Council.

The final task is to resolve any formal statutory processes and re-distribute the appropriate responsibilities to the relevant stakeholders, which is normally predicated on standards of completion and proof of same.

Housing has money allocated under the Loan funding for this process. Works are on-going and expected to be completed in 2021.

Tadhg Keating,
Interim Director of Services,
Housing.

4.7 **DERELICTION IN CITY CENTRE**

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

Can the CE outline the City Council's strategy in dealing with dereliction in the city centre and if a safety audit of buildings is to take place?

REPLY

Cork City Council has a broad, cross-functional approach to addressing dereliction and building safety in Cork City.

The Fire and Building Control Department has well established inspection practices and procedures in dealing with Dangerous Structures under the Local Government Sanitary Services Act 1964. Inspections and investigations are carried out as a result of specific complaints from the Gardaí, emergency services, other Cork City Council Departments and the general public.

The department is committed to treating any report of a Dangerous Structure as a priority issue and will promptly investigate any report. Under the Local Government Sanitary Services Act 1964 we cannot insist works beyond making safe and removing the danger to public safety. It is important to note, ultimately, responsibility for dangerous structures and places rests with private property owners.

A revised Derelict Sites policy was adopted by Council in late 2019 and it is aimed at ensuring a targeted and streamlined approach to addressing dereliction in the city. Sites are inspected and there is an engagement process with owners of sites following which appropriate action is taken under the Derelict Sites Act 1990. As part of current practice, the Derelict Sites team works in consultation with the Fire and Building Control team. This practice is under continuous review but is subject to the application of the processes set out by law.

The reasons for dereliction can be complex, often making it difficult to identify and engage with site owners. However, a number of sites have been prioritised and the Derelict Sites team will strive to actively engage with the owners involved in an effort to reduce and ultimately remove dereliction.

Adrienne Rodgers,
Director of Services,
Community, Culture & Placemaking.

Fearghal Reidy,
Director of Services,
Strategic & Economic Development.

4.8 **VOIDS IN HOUSING**

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

To ask the Chief Executive the reasons for a 23% increase in the number of voids in housing (April–September 2020, 430–527 voids).

REPLY

There was a significant number of new builds and purchased schemes added to stock during this time period, the majority of which have now been allocated. A further 15 units in the Phase 3 area of the CNWQR Project were vacated as tenants moved in to new homes in Phase 2A.

Tadhg Keating,
Interim Director of Services,
Housing.

4.9 **COKE ZERO BIKE STATIONS ON NORTHSIDE**

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

To ask the CE

What are the plans to roll out an extension of the Coke Zero bike stations on the northside of the city?

REPLY

The Public Bike Scheme is managed by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and currently comprises of 32 public bikes stations with approx. 330 bikes in circulation. There are a total of 8 stations are on the north side of the City and these are located at Popes Quay , Camden Quay , Coburg Street , Lower Glanmire Road, Penrose Quay and Kent Station . The Public Bike Scheme has been very successful in Cork since its introduction in 2016 and it currently has over 14,000 subscribers. In response to Council requests, the National Transport Authority (NTA) has confirmed that it will be extending the scheme. A key requirement for the siting of new stations is the relative proximity to adjoining stations so that if a user arrives at a station to collect a bike and the rack is empty or to return a bike and the rack is full that an alternate station is available with approx. 300m. With this in mind, the planned extension provides for new stations at big trip attractor locations at UCC, CUH and CIT. In all 11 new stations are to be provided at College Road/UCC, Mardyke Walk, Dennehy's Cross, County Hall, Wilton Road, Melbourne Road and Model Farm Road. The Authority is currently making arrangements for the installation of the new stations as well as a number of advertising boards which are normally used to help part defray the operational costs of such schemes. The Authority has also confirmed that it is undertaking an audit of existing facilities with a view to addressing any maintenance issues. Members will be kept apprised of progress in relation to the planned extension.

Gerry O'Beirne,
Director of Services,
Infrastructure Development.

5. STATUTORY ITEMS

5.1 DISPOSALS

An Chomhairle considered the reports of the Chief Executive dated, 29th October 2020 on the following property disposals:-

- (a) Disposal by way of lease of property situated at No. 13, North Main Street, Cork to Cork Volunteer Centre CLG, c/o Noonan Linehan Carroll Coffey Solicitors, No. 54, North Main Street, Cork subject to an annual rent of €10,000.00.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Fitzgerald, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

- (b) Disposal of the freehold interest in property situated and known as "The Store", Angel Lane, Grattan Street, Cork to Searchwell Ltd, c/o JRAP O'Meara Solicitors, 89/90 South Mall, Cork for the sum of €10,000.00 plus costs of €1,500.00 plus VAT.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. Kelleher, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

- (c) Disposal of the freehold interest in a plot of ground known as Site No. 2 Tuairin Glas, Greenfields, Ballincollig, Cork to Patrick & Annemarie Power c/o O' Mahony Farrelly O'Callaghan Solicitors, Wolfe Tone Square, Bantry, Co. Cork for the sum of €185,000.00.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Canty, seconded by Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

- (d) Disposal of the freehold interest in property situated and known as "Rosario", (also known as Plot B18) No. 8, Colmcille Avenue, Mayfield, Cork to Roger Johansen c/o Diarmaid Ó Catháin Solicitor, 30, South Terrace, Cork for the sum of €68.82 plus costs of €550.00 plus VAT.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Maher, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin, An Chomhairle approved the disposal.

5.2 **PROPOSED UPGRADING OF HALF MOON LANE AND THE JUNCTION OF HALF MOON LANE WITH SOUTH DOUGLAS ROAD TO PROVIDE A SAFE PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE ACCESS TO TRAMORE VALLEY PARK**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir M.R. Desmond, in accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed Upgrading of Half Moon Lane and the junction of Half Moon Lane with South Douglas Road to provide a safe pedestrian and cycle access to Tramore Valley Park and the Report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment, Operations Directorate thereon as required under Section 179 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) dated 5th November 2020.

5.3 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT OLD MALLOW ROAD, BLACKPOOL, CORK**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. Collins, seconded by Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, in accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed residential development at Old Mallow Road, Blackpool, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive thereon as required under Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated 5th November 2020.

5.4 **PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT COMMONS ROAD, BLACKPOOL, CORK**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir J. Sheehan, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Boylan, in accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, An Chomhairle considered and approved the proposed residential development at Commons Road, Blackpool, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive thereon as required under Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated 5th November 2020.

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT BISHOPSTOWN ROAD, BISHOPSTOWN, CORK

In accordance with Section 179(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, An Chomhairle considered the proposed residential development at Bishopstown Road, Bishopstown, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive thereon as required under Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated, 5th November 2020.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir K. McCarthy, seconded by Comhairleoir M. Finn, a vote was called for to defer consideration of the proposed residential development at Bishopstown Road, Bishopstown, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive thereon as required under Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated, 5th November 2020 to the next meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 14th December 2020, where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, K. McCarthy, M. Finn, S. O'Callaghan, G. Kelleher. (5)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, D. Forde, D. Boyle, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, T. Moloney, H. Cremin. (24)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting against the deferral were greater than those voting for, An tArdmhéara declared the vote and the proposal to defer consideration to the next meeting of An Chomhairle defeated.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir D. Canty, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Dennehy a vote was called for on the proposed residential development at Bishopstown Road, Bishopstown, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive thereon as required under Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated, 5th November 2020 where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh, O. Moran, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. Sheehan, K. Collins, D. Boylan, D. Cahill, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, T. Shannon, D. Forde, D. Boyle, P. Dineen, F. Kerins, F. Dennehy, D. Canty, C. Finn, C. Kelleher, T. Moloney, H. Cremin. (24)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí K. O'Flynn, K. McCarthy, M. Finn, S. O'Callaghan, G. Kelleher. (5)

ABSTAIN: (0)

As those voting in favour were greater than those voting against, An tArdmhéara declared the vote carried and the proposed residential development at Bishopstown Road, Bishopstown, in the City of Cork and the report of the Chief Executive thereon as required under Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) dated, 5th November 2020 approved.

6. **ITEMS DEFERRED FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING OF AN CHOMHAIRLE HELD 12th OCTOBER 2020**

6.1 **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 21st SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 21st September 2020.

6.2 **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 5th OCTOBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 5th October 2020.

6.2.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31st AUGUST 2020**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M.R. Desmond, seconded by Comhairleoir G. Kelleher, An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 31st August 2020.

6.3 **PARTY WHIPS – 28th SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 28th September 2020.

6.3.1 **STREET OR PLACE NAME FOR FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

A Chomhairle considered the following motion and agreed, on recommendation from Party Whips to refer it to the Operations (Roads & Environment Directorate) via the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee:-

‘Given that the 175th anniversary of the visit of Frederick Douglass to Cork is on October 11th, that Cork City Council will investigate marking the occasion by naming a street or place for Frederick Douglass.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 20/253)

6.4 **ENVIRONMENT, WATER & AMENITY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 21st SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Environment, Water & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 21st September 2020.

6.4.1 **MOTIONS**

6.4.1.1 **POLICY TO SUPPLY SKIP BAGS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th September 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council Litter Department implement a policy with existing companies that supply skipo bags to shops and all local suppliers. Names and addresses should be taken when sold to the public so that if illegal dumping of these bags take place the person or persons can be identified’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. Collins 20/175)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council litter department has investigated the matter and found that over the past 3 years the number of complaints has been low.

Year	No of Skippo Bag complaints
2020	1
2019	7
2018	8

The majority of these complaints have been resolved within a number of days by the Litter Wardens by advising the skipo bag owners to dispose of bags correctly and to hold onto receipts for proper disposal. Cork City Council will discuss further with the waste contractors to examine if bags sold by them can be tracked and traced.

6.4.1.2 **INSTALL CCTV IN ALL CEMETERIES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th September 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council install CCTV in all cemeteries in the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 19/451)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council has installed CCTV cameras at selected locations in four of its cemeteries to deter various activities that were happening on a consistent basis after dusk.

The Council has a total of 13 cemeteries and at present there is no need or requirement to extend the CCTV service to the remaining 9 cemeteries.

The behaviour of those visiting the cemeteries both during the day and after dusk is continuously monitored and appropriate measures will be taken should it be necessary to deter certain activities.

6.4.1.3 **CHECKS FOR PROOF OF REFUSE DISPOSAL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th September 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘In light of the level of illegal dumping across the city and the passing of new laws in relation to households having to prove they are disposing of their rubbish legally, Cork City Council should now put in place a management system to carry out checks across the city. Proof of refuse collections in all areas possibly starting where illegal dumping is most prevalent can be done by reassigning staff, employing new staff or a suitable alternative being put in place by Cork City Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 20/206)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council’s Environment section has been actively carrying out work under the Waste Presentation Bye-laws since May 2019. Areas of the city where illegal dumping is most prevalent have been a main focus of these investigations.

Since May 2019 information has been sought from approximately 500 properties, 90 door to door inspections have been carried out and 40 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued.

6.4.1.4 **PILOT PROJECT FOR DOG WALKING AREA**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th September 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That City Council would consider putting in place a pilot project for a dog walking area (without a leash) in one of our parks that would be big enough to facilitate this. Tramore Valley and the loop at the eastern end of the walkway at Ballincollig park have been suggested by several constituents for this pilot project.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 20/211)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council will explore the feasibility of providing a designated area for a dog walking area to establish if this can be accommodated within one of its existing parks without compromising other uses and activities.

Issues to be considered in the provision of a dog run are the size of area required, suitable fencing, segregation of large and small dogs, supervision, cleaning and maintenance, capital and revenue costs.

The findings from this exercise will be reported back to this committee for consideration.

6.4.1.5 **JAPANESE KNOTWEED ACROSS THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th September 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That City Council give an updated report on the measures taken in relation to the tackling of the ongoing issues with Japanese knotweed across the City specifically the walkways at Model Farm Rd./Carrigrohane Rd. and Mardyke/North Mall.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 20/212)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council carried out an Invasive Flora Study of the City in 2016.

The study identified the areas infested with Japanese Knotweed and the approximate area covered at each location.

Locations were prioritised for treatment in the context of their proximity to amenities, water courses and residential properties. The only effective eradication treatment is the application of Glyphosate during August/September. This is the fourth year of the programme and the results to-date are very satisfactory.

Model Farm Rd/Carrigrohane Rd and Mardyke/North Mall are receiving their fourth treatment and this should see the complete eradication of the plant at these locations this year.

6.4.1.6 **WASTE COLLECTION HOURS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations, dated 11th September 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council take all necessary steps to ensure that, outside of Cork city centre, waste collections are only permitted to take place between 6.00 am and 9.00 pm on weekdays and between 8.00 am and 8.00 pm at weekends and on bank holidays.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 20/265)

The report of the Director of Services stated that all authorised waste collectors are obligated to work within the conditions of their permit which are issued by the NWCPO (National Waste Collection Permit Office) based in Offaly. Cork City Council’s Waste Enforcement section carryout roadside inspections of vehicles as well as responding to individual complaints and ensure that collectors are operating within the terms of the conditions attached to their permit’s conditions.

6.5 **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND TOURISM STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 21st SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the International Relations & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 21st September 2020.

6.5.1 **CORK CITY COUNCIL'S EU ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic and Economic Development, on Cork City Council's EU activities and projects.

6.5.2 **CURRENT ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE TOURISM SECTOR IN CORK**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Strategic and Economic Development, on current activities to support the tourism sector in Cork in light of the COVID 19 emergency.

6.6 **COMMUNITY, CULTURE & PLACEMAKING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 21st SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Community, Culture & Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee from its meeting held, 21st September 2020.

6.6.1 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

6.6.1.1 **WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking dated 7th September, 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council introduce water bottle filling stations on the city centre island and in our public parks and walks ways.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 19/421)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Irish Water is in the process of developing a policy in relation to drinking water points in public areas and are in discussions with the Regulator as to how they should be progressed.

Cork City Council's Parks department has successfully applied to the Healthy Ireland Fund which will provide 50% grant funding towards the installation of 5 no drinking water fountains in our Parks and this is being progressed.

Cork City Council's Environmental Awareness Office has been making progress in the fight against single use water bottles with a number of initiatives:

- Cork City Council's Waste Prevention Grant Scheme (2020) has granted funding of €1,000 to a secondary school towards the installation of water bottle refill

stations in the school in order to eliminate single use plastics. Promotion of the project is anticipated to create greater uptake from schools for the 2021 scheme.

- Elimination of single use plastics from Cork City Marathon – the 2019 event had a refill finish line where filtered water in reusable tumblers was provided at the finish line. The 2020 event was due to convert one of the main water stations on the course from single use water bottles to water-filled Oohos (seaweed-based compostable pouches that can be eaten or discarded to biodegrade within 4-6 days).
- Other events such as Carnival of Science and SeaFest sought to eliminate single use plastics through the introduction of water refill stations and the banning of sale of plastic water bottles by vendors.
- The City Council’s Environmental Awareness Office received funding from the EPA’s Local Authority Prevention Network in 2018 to promote Refill.ie at a local level in order to increase the number of Refill.ie members in Cork City and increase the awareness of Refill.ie amongst the general public. The project was delivered by Cork City Council in partnership with Refill.ie and Cork Environmental Forum. Over the three month period, approximately 50 premises were visited and 28 premises signed up for the Refill.ie scheme. All of these businesses were issued with stickers to be displayed on their premises. In addition, each of the premises was added to the Refill.ie Tap Map. At present, there are over 60 premises in Cork City signed up to Refill.ie which means that they provide tap water refills to the general public free of charge.

In terms of public water bottle refill stations, Cork City Council is beginning with installation of five water bottle refill stations in a number of Cork City Parks this year. Depending on the information collected regarding installation, location, use, cost, maintenance, etc. the installation of further units elsewhere in the City will be considered.

6.6.1.2 **PLACING OF SIGNS BY COMMUNITY GROUPS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking dated 21st September, 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council will support the placing of signs by community groups and local initiatives, such as the ‘Beasts of the Bride’, highlighting the importance of nature and biodiversity in the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. O. Moran 20/234)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council will support the placing of appropriate signs at suitable locations by community groups and local initiatives, highlighting the importance of nature and biodiversity in our city. Signage and locations to be approved by City Council.

6.6.1.3 **GREEN SPACE IN HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking dated 7th September 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That this Council continues to insist on the importance of appropriate amounts of green space to be included with each housing development in its administrative area.’

(Proposer: Cllrs. D. Boyle and C. Finn 20/238)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the provision of appropriate and adequate open space is an important component of any housing development. This is reflected in the current City Development Plan, as well as various National Planning Guidelines, which contain quantitative and qualitative requirements for the provision of public and private open space in residential developments. These are applied to each planning application and Part 8 proposal for housing development in the City. The development plan process will consider and reflect these important requirements in the new city development plan.

6.6.1.4 **VIRTUAL PLATFORM FOR ARTISTS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking dated 7th September 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That with the postponement this year of several significant city festivals, this Council facilitate and where possible resource greater virtual platforms for artists particularly musicians.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. Finn 20/243)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council Arts Office hosted a webinar in July 2020 that delivered practical guidance including technical tips for virtual production for music-based and other artistic events. A CPD programme is in development that will include support for collaborative artistic production for online and blended platforms with the support of the Creative Ireland Jobs Stimulus Package.

6.6.1.5 **SUPPORT CORK (CORK RECOVERS) FESTIVAL**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking dated 7th September 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘Given the cancellation of the October Jazz Festival, that Cork City Council initiates moves to have a Support Cork (Cork Recovers) festival instead to support business in the city and provide a welcome social outlet for people.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Finn 20/280)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Cork City Council Arts and Events Office has been engaging in recovery planning within the context of ongoing restrictions to public gatherings and in a manner compliant with public health advice. Events that are planned to take place in Autumn/Winter include Culture Night 2020 on 18th September which will include a blended programme of online and Covid-compliant real-life events across 60+ venues. We are currently in the process of procuring services to deliver a distributed approach to the annual Glow Christmas Festival.

As well as Cork City Council led events there are a wide variety of independent events planned that have been supported by Cork City Council. All will be adapted to take account of Covid-19. These include:

- Cork Folk Festival: 1st – 4th October
- Indie Film and Music Festival: 4th – 11th October
- Cork International Short Story Competition: 6th – 10th October
- Cork Pride: 19th – 25th October
- Cork Film Festival 5th – 15th November
- Evening Echo Shalom Park Ceremony, 18th December.

Further to the reopening of some cultural venues in Summer such as the Crawford Art Gallery, Triskel Christchurch and St. Peter's, the coming months will see the reopening of more cultural venues including The Everyman.

6.6.1.6 **EXTEND OPENING HOURS IN CORK CITY LIBRARY**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the report of the Director of Services, Community, Culture & Placemaking dated 16th September 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘That Cork City Council investigate extending opening hours of public spaces such as Cork City library for the use of students as study spaces should the need arise due to social distancing measures in third level institutes in Cork City.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 20/301)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Library has a long tradition of providing study spaces for both second level and third level students, it is a much sought after space for study in the city.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and adhering to best practice following public health guidelines, social distancing measures are also part of Cork City Library study provision facilities similar to those within the third level institutions.

Currently the capacity for students studying in the City Library is 16. The maximum stay for study is 120 minutes and masks must be worn during the stay. Staff take contact tracing details from those using the space. Providing these 16 spaces is now a much more staff intensive process than pre-Covid.

To extend the opening hours would require;

1. the recruitment of additional staff
2. the provision of additional security.

While the ethos of Cork City Libraries is and always has been to support students, including third level and life-long learners, the addition of 16 study spaces would have minimal impact on increasing the study opportunities for students within the city while incurring a significant cost to Cork City Council.

6.6.2 **ARTS OFFICE REPORTS**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the Arts Office reports for June and August, 2020.

6.7 **NORTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 28th September 2020.

6.8 **NORTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the North East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 28th September 2020.

6.9 **SOUTH CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South Central Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 28th September 2020.

6.10 **SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South West Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 28th September 2020.

6.10.1 **JUNCTION OF TOGHER ROAD, CLASHDUV ROAD & VICARS ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Infrastructure Development Directorate dated 28th September, 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee by An Chomhairle:

‘Now that the new housing estate is completed on the Deanrock site, the junction at Togher Road, Clashdub Road and Vicars Road needs to be addressed immediately. Councillors were told that full and detailed plans will be put in place for the whole of Togher Road on completion of these houses. A filter light turning right from Clashdub Road onto Togher Road needs to be done as a matter of priority. Cllr. Henry Cremin has also requested that a pedestrian crossing/zebra crossing be placed close to the bus stops allowing people to cross safely at this point accessing the housing est., credit union etc.’

(Proposers: Cllr. T. Moloney, Cllr. H. Cremin 20/204)

The report of the Director of Services stated that works to Deanrock Junction are set to begin in mid-October. These will include new traffic lighting to provide additional safety for right turning traffic. As funding is limited, works are confined to works at the junction.

6.11 **SOUTH EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 28th SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the South East Local Area Committee from its meeting held, 28th September 2020.

6.12 **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 7th SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance and Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 7th September 2020.

6.13 **FINANCE & ESTIMATES COMMITTEE – 5th OCTOBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Finance and Estimates Committee from its meeting held, 5th October 2020.

6.13.1 **FINANCE RELATED REPORTS**

6.13.1.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO END OF AUGUST 2020**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Moloney, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Dennehy, An Chomhairle considered and approved the financial statements to end of August 2020.

6.14 **CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE – 14th SEPTEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Climate Action Committee from its meeting held, 14th September 2020.

6.15 **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted correspondence as follows:-

- Letter to the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport dated 24th June 2020.
- Letter from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport dated 10th September 2020.
- Letter from Kildare County Council dated 10th September 2020.
- Letter from Sligo County Council dated 14th September 2020.
- Letter to the Board of the HSE dated 17th September 2020.
- Letter from the Board of the HSE dated 23rd September 2020.
- Letter from Kerry County Council dated 24th September 2020.

6.16 **CONFERENCE/SEMINAR SUMMARIES**

None Received.

6.17 **CONFERENCES/SEMINARS**

None Received.

6.18 **TRAINING**

None Received.

6.19 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

An Chomhairle noted the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for August 2020.

6.20 **MOTIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES**

An Chomhairle noted the motions on Appendix 1 that have been referred to the relevant Committees as determined by the Meetings Administrator, due notice of which has been given.

6.21 **MOTIONS**

6.21.1 **PENSION ENTITLEMENT TO SUPERVISORS ON COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council, calls on the Government to deliver on a 2008 Labour Court ruling to provide pension entitlement to supervisors on Community Employment schemes in the state. The Governments inaction on the 2008 decision is totally undermining the Labour Court and causing undue hardship to supervisors that made no alternative arrangements on foot of this historical Court decision.'

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Moloney 20/255)

6.21.2 **FUNDING FOR STATUES OF TOMÁS MACCURTAIN, TERENCE MACSWINEY AND MICHAEL COLLINS ON PATRICK STREET**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

'That Cork City Council call upon the Government, in particular the Taoiseach, the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, to provide national funding for the erection of monuments and statues of Tomás Mac Curtain, Terence MacSwiney and Michael Collins on Patrick Street and its environs to commemorate Cork's contribution to the struggle for Irish independence and to the establishment of an independent Irish State. The

monuments and statues should be of a similar size and design as the monument and statute of Father Matthew, which is currently on Patrick Street.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 20/323)

An Chomhairle further considered the following motion listed at item 20.2.1 of the agenda:-

FUNDING FOR MONUMENTS OF TOMÁS MACCURTAIN, TERENCE MACSWINEY AND MICHAEL COLLINS

‘That Cork City Council call upon the Government, in particular the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, to provide national funding for the erection of monuments and statues of Tomás MacCurtain, Terence MacSwiney and Michael Collins on Patrick Street to commemorate Cork’s contribution to the struggle for Irish independence and to the establishment of an independent Irish State. The monuments and statues should be of a similar size and design as the monument and statute of Father Matthew, which is currently on Patrick Street.’

(Proposer: Cllr. S. O’Callaghan 20/223)

An tArdmhéara proposed and An Chomhairle agreed, given the similarities between both motions, they would be considered together.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. O’Callaghan, seconded by Comhairleoir T. Moloney, a vote was called for on the approval of the motions where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí J. Kavanagh, M. Nugent, D. Boylan, D. Forde, M. Finn, S. O’Callaghan, F. Kerins, G. Kelleher, T. Moloney, H. Cremin. (10)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí J. Maher, T. Tynan, O. Moran, G. Keohane, T. Fitzgerald, J. Sheehan, L. Bogue, M.R. Desmond, K. McCarthy, T. Shannon, D. Boyle, S. Martin, F. Dennehy, C. Finn. (14)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoir C. Kelleher (1)

As those voting against the motions were greater than those voting for, An tArdmhéara declared the vote and the motions defeated.

6.21.3 **ENGAGEMENT WITH TAXI REPRESENTATIVES**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the following motion:-

‘Cork City Council calls on the government to have meaningful engagement with taxi driver representatives and introduce the necessary reforms to give taxi drivers a break and to keep our taxis on the road. These would include a pause on the issuing of new licences until normal levels of economic activity return, reform of the Taxi Advisory Committee, continued access to bus lanes and a temporary two-year

extension to the rule that requires taxis to be less than ten years old. Taxis provide an essential service in our transport network, many people with disabilities rely on taxis daily and taxi drivers should be recognised by this government for the contribution they make.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 20/349)

7. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 2nd NOVEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held, 2nd November 2020.

7.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 30th SEPTEMBER 2020**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir S. Martin, seconded by Comhairleoir C. Kelleher, An Chomhairle considered and noted the Financial Statement to 30th September 2020.

8. **SPECIAL MEETING OF PARTY WHIPS – 2nd NOVEMBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Special Party Whips from its meeting held, 2nd November 2020.

ITEM 2 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion took place regarding unallocated ward funds due to Covid 19.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Shannon, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Dennehy the possibility of carrying forward unallocated ward funds to 2021 was considered.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. Bogue, seconded by Comhairleoir D. Cahill, the possibility of combining ward Councillors’ unallocated ward funds and giving the relevant Local Area Committee discretion on how the combined funds would be spent was considered.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir M. Nugent, seconded by Comhairleoir S. Martin the possibility of extending the ward fund deadline to the end of November was considered.

Following debate, An Chomhairle agreed to extend the ward fund deadline to the end of November and review thereafter.

9. **PARTY WHIPS – 27th OCTOBER 2020**

An Chomhairle considered and noted the minutes of the Party Whips from its meeting held, 27th October 2020.

10.3.3 **CHOICE BASED LETTING SCHEME – EQUAL STATUS ACTS, 2000**

An Chomhairle considered the report of the Interim Director of Services, Housing dated 14th October, 2020 on the following motion referred to the Committee:-

‘Noting a lack of compliance on the part of Cork City Council with the Equal Status Acts, 2000 – 2015, that Cork City Councillors order the Executive of Cork City Council to engage in a review of the CBL scheme to achieve Equality Proofing within 3 months and to implement any recommendations which may follow this review within 6 months of their pronouncement.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Bogue 20/254)

The report of the Interim Director of Services advised that as this matter is the subject of a legal review it is not appropriate to comment at this time.

On the proposal of Comhairleoir L. Bogue, An Chomhairle agreed to refer the motion back to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

SUSPENSION OF THE MEETING

An Chomhairle agreed to suspend the meeting at this point due to the late hour.

With exception to item 10.3.3, which was referred back to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee, and item 20.2.1 which was considered with item 6.21.2 earlier in the meeting, all other agenda items between item 10 and item 27.5 were deferred to an additional Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle to be held, 30th November 2020.

This concluded the business of the meeting

ARDMHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH