

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Council
held at 2.00pm
Monday 18 December 2017
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

Members Present: Councillor M Miley Jnr (Mayor), Councillors M Aspell, A Breen, F Brett, A Breslin, K Byrne, B Caldwell, D Callaghan, I Cussen, M Dalton, S Doyle, T Durkan, D Fitzpatrick, B Hillis, I Keatley, C Kelly, P Kennedy, A Larkin, M Lynch, M McCabe, P McEvoy, J McGinley, F McLoughlin Healy, S Moore, T Murray, J Neville, N O’Cearúil, S O’Neill, J Pender, R Power, S Power, T Redmond, D Scully, M Stafford, M Wall, P Ward, B Weld and B Young

Apologies: Councillor M Coleman and R Cronin

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Messrs J Boland, T McDonnell, P Minnock, N Morrissey and Ms S Kavanagh (Directors of Services), Ms E Hanlon (Head of Finance), Ms M Mclvor (Meetings Administrator), Ms K Keane (Meetings Secretary) and other officials

01/1217

Vote of Sympathy

The Mayor welcomed the members to the meeting and extended his sympathy to the families of the late:

Mr Paddy Mockler, former Station Officer, Newbridge Fire Station.

Mr Albert Kyles, brother of Oliver Kyles, Celbridge Library, and brother-in-law of Catriona Kyles, Naas Library.

Mrs Bridget (Brid) Bauress, mother of Henry Bauress.

The Mayor also remembered deceased members, Willie Crowley and Willie Callaghan whose anniversaries are at this time.

A minute's silence was observed.

02/1217

Adoption of minutes

The council considered the minutes of the special meeting of 20 November 2017 – Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023.

The council considered the minutes of the budgetary meeting of 20 November 2017.

The Meetings Administrator requested the members' approval to an amendment on page 4 under Division B - Road Transportation and Safety that the last line of paragraph 2 be amended from "will not form part of the 2019 budget" to "will not form part of the 2020 budget". Members agreed.

The council considered the minutes of 27 November 2017 – presentation on the National Suicide Awareness Initiative – Mojo Campaign.

The council considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of 27 November 2017, together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley seconded by Councillor Kennedy and agreed by all members present that the minutes of the special meeting of 20 November 2017 – Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023, the minutes of the budgetary meeting of 20 November 2017 with amendment as outlined and agreed, the minutes of the meeting of 27 November 2017 – presentation on the National Suicide Awareness Initiative – Mojo Campaign and the monthly meeting of 27 November 2017, be adopted and the progress report noted.

03/1217

To note Chief Executives monthly management report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

Councillor Young enquired with regard to the recently received Ministerial Direction on the Leixlip Local Area Plan. Mr Minnock, Director of Service stated the Direction had only been received last

Friday and the executive are reflecting on what is contained in it and the members will be updated as soon as this has been completed.

Resolved that the Chief Executives monthly management report be noted.

04/1217

To consider draft Homeless Action Plan for the Mid-East Region 2018-2020

The members considered the draft Homeless Action Plan for the Mid-East Region 2018-2020.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by all members present that the draft Homeless Action Plan for the Mid-East Region 2018-2020 be adopted.

05/1217

To consider Circular LG 07/2017 and LG 08/2017 - Expenses and allowances of Local Authority Members.

The Meetings Administrator advised the members these circulars had been circulated to them for noting and confirmed that following discussion with the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government, a further circular is imminent which will be circulated when received.

Resolved with the agreement of all members that circulars LG 07/2017 and LG 08/2017 be noted.

06/1217

Gnó and Mhéara/Mayors Business

The Mayor confirmed he had attended the Pride of Place awards in Donegal noting Barrettstown had won a Special Award which was a fantastic achievement especially given they are 98% self funded.

The Mayor confirmed he had attended a number of ceremonies around the county for the turning on of Christmas lights and had also attended a Tidy Towns Presentation in Athy with Mr J Boland,

Director of Service/Athy District Manager.

The Mayor stated that confirmation had been received regarding the Digital Tech Hub for Kildare and that funding of €2 million had been sanctioned in this regard. He complimented the Chief Executive, the management and staff and Ms J McNabb, Head of Enterprise and her staff for this fantastic achievement which is great news for the county. The Chief Executive joined with the Mayor in congratulating all those involved in securing this hub which will be a huge boost to the county. He stated a gap has been identified in the technology sector and that having Maynooth University as a partner had been key to its success of the application. He further stated the presence of Maynooth University in the county town will be hugely beneficial and provide great opportunities for start-ups/graduate programmes, technology research and development programmes and will also be valuable in attracting foreign direct investment. The Chief Executive thanked Maynooth University, Kildare Chamber of Commerce, the KWETB, the management team and staff in Kildare County Council and Ms McNabb and her staff in the LEO office for their work on securing this facility for Kildare. He stated that construction would start mid-year 2018 and be finished by Quarter 1 2019.

07/1217

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed one item of correspondence, a referral from Carlow County Council, had been received and circulated to the members.

08/1217

Comhdhálacha agus Traenáil/Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to the report dated 14 December 2017 circulated to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kennedy seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by all members present that having regard to Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 53(2) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, retrospective approval is

granted for the attendance of Councillor Neville at the AILG November training in the Dunboyne Castle Hotel, Co Meath on 18 November.

09/1217

Briefing note on the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

The Meetings Administrator advised the members this report had been circulated previously and the item was for noting. Mr Minnock, Director of Service stated the closing date for submissions for the Strategy was the 26 January 2018 and reiterated that the members are entitled to make their own submission also.

10/1217

To receive a presentation from Kildare Sports Partnership.

Mr Syl Merrins and Mr Eddie Hennessy from Kildare Sports Partnership (KSP) thanked the Mayor for the invitation to make a presentation to the members. Mr Merrins began by giving a background to the organisation from its inception in 2001 to when it came under the umbrella of Kildare County Council in 2010. He stated that the aim of KSP is to increase participation in sport and physical activity in Kildare, especially amongst specific target groups. These target groups range from the youngest to the oldest and facilitate all abilities. He showed a short promotional video explaining the work of KSP. Mr Merrins went through the strategic plan consultation process and highlighted some statistics for Kildare. He explained that KSP is overseen by a board of directors chaired by Mr Ray Darcy who is very pro-active within the role and acknowledged the huge support they receive from the Chief Executive, the management and the members of Kildare County Council.

By way of example, Mr Merrins outlined the projects that had been delivered in the Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District from 2017 LPT funding as follows: the Community Coaching Programme, the Mojo Programme, Health Promotion Workshops, Get Kildare Walking Programme, Buntús Start Preschool Activity Programme, Parkrun CastletownSupport and the Schools Programme and expressed his deep appreciation to the members of the municipal district for their support.

Mr Merrins advised that one of the crucial areas to be addressed in Kildare is the major deficit in the provision of facilities. This is a big issue in the south of the county, and for example in Naas,

there is currently a need for 10 extra full size soccer pitches, 3 extra full size GAA pitches and 3 extra full size rugby pitches.

Mr Merrins concluded by thanking the executive and the members for their support over the years. Mayor Miley thanked Mr Merrins and Mr Hennessy and their entire team for the work they do and wished them continued success in this regard.

Councillor McEvoy suggested that KSP could attach relevant information to the information issuing from the Roads Department in respect of Parking Bye-Laws for Clane and Kilcock, and work with the Roads Department in this regard. Councillor Cussen put forward the idea of a dog-walking challenge to reward good dog owners. Councillor Moore made reference to facility development and the need for sports specific indoor facilities. Councillor McLoughlin Healy thanked Mr Merrins and his team for the return on investment especially for children as with increasing levels of obesity, the work they were doing in the youth sector in providing equal access was hugely important. Councillor Wall acknowledged all the great work of KSP and welcomed the recent grant award of €63,000 for the Athy Sport Hub which was great news for Athy but also for the county of Kildare. He also confirmed that the Athy Municipal District is creating a Sports Grant fund using LPT funds and stated there is an issue with the lack of provision for sporting facilities in the town development plans. Councillor Keatley expressed his thanks to KSP especially around the work they do with clubs on capacity building. He noted that a lot of clubs are not successful in grant applications but only find out why they were unsuccessful after the event. Supporting these clubs in applying for funding is an extremely important body of work that KSP do. Councillor Larkin concurred with all the previous speakers and complimented the work of the Kildare Sports Partnership for catering for people of all ages, gender and ability and also noted that the need for facilities is an ongoing issue for all parts of the county citing the example of Liffey Celtics, a ladies soccer team from his own area, who are currently All Ireland Champions but who have no home ground.

Councillor Ó'Cearúil expressed his thanks to KSP for the work that they do and asked regarding the provision of a swimming pool in North Kildare, specifically Maynooth as the matter has not progressed. Councillor Doyle complimented KSP on their work also and suggested more synergy with the commercial sector in running events citing the example of the Thoroughbred Programme which is run on a commercial basis and has been so successful in Kildare Town and suggested this model be further considered in other areas of the county.

The Chief Executive joined with the elected members in expressing his thanks to all the staff working in KSP stating the launch of the strategy had given a very good sense of all the work being done. He also commended the members for their ongoing support in this area and thanked the Board and the Sports Council for their involvement also. The Mayor echoed the Chief Executives sentiments and wished KSP continued success in the future.

Tairisceana Reatha (Feidhmeanna na Comhairle Contae)

Current Motions (Kildare County Council Functions)

11/1217

Invitation to Mr Joe McGuinness, Director of Housing, Louth County Council to make a presentation to members

The following motion in the name of Councillor Moore was considered:

That the council invite Mr Joe McGuinness, Director of Housing, Louth County Council to make a presentation to members on their success in returning 29 houses, secured by CPO from private ownership in a derelict state that are now in productive use by tenants after being fully repaired and site landscaped.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor O'Neill.

Report: A report from Mr T McDonnell, Director of Service Housing and Corporate Services stated Louth County Council has had some success in addressing the issue of vacant and derelict homes in private ownership. Louth County Council decided to acquire the housing by the Compulsory Purchase Order process. Once acquired, the council refurbished them. This solution to dereliction and anti-social behaviour in a housing estate also made more homes available for people on the Council's housing list. On foot of the initiative, some property owners in the community have renovated and rented out properties that were vacant up to now.

Separate to the CPO process, the Buy-& Renew Scheme Aims to support Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies to Purchase and Renew Housing Units. The use of the Buy & Renew Scheme is subject to the suitability of the property for social housing, the condition of the property and the cost of remediation. The scheme funds local authorities and AHBs (the latter using the

'Capital Assistance Scheme for priority housing categories) to purchase and renew housing units in need of remediation, and make them available for social housing use.

In relation to the motion, the Director of Services for Housing, Louth County Council will forward a presentation, which can be made available at the next meeting of the Housing SPC, should the members agree.

Finally, in the context of Social Housing Delivery, the issue of acquisition of land, sites and properties utilising the CPO process is under consideration, and may be pursued in 2018

Councillor Moore welcomed the positive report citing Clonakilty as an example of a town that has used the CPO process on derelict buildings to great effect which in turn has been instrumental in their success in tidy towns competitions. Councillor Moore also noted the name and shame approach used by the Environment Section under Derelict Sites legislation has not worked. Councillor Redmond enquired about the 9 units in Corran Ard, Athy and whether these had been purchased via the CPO process. Councillor Wall referred to a previous Government initiative by the then Minister for Housing, Ms Jan O'Sullivan whereby 10 derelict houses were purchased in Athy with a very successful outcome stating that we already have the expertise in this area. Councillor O'Neill stated she was encouraged by the report and referred to the website vacanthomes.ie noting there may be some work done in this area already. Councillor Cussen supported the motion stating we should be putting pressure on other stakeholders, such as Iarnrod Eireann, to utilise their vacant properties. Councillor McEvoy noted the difference between the vacant sites legislation and derelict sites legislation and Councillor Stafford asked for clarity around CPO and purchasing under the Derelict Sites Act which requires that the property is put back in a fit state for environmental reason but that the valuation put on the property would be significantly less than market value.

Mr McDonnell confirmed he had received the presentation from Mr McGuinness and would circulate it to all the members. He confirmed the 9 units purchased in Corran Ard, Athy were acquisitions which had been made by agreement. With regard to the initiative referred to by Councillor Wall, the Department looked at this but proceeded with the Buy and Renew Scheme and the Repair and Lease Scheme and confirmed the uptake on these have been very poor. Mr McDonnell also pointed out the houses in Louth that had been subject to CPO were houses that the council had originally sold that had run into dereliction.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore seconded by Councillor O'Neill and agreed by all members present that the presentation made by Mr Joe McGuinness, Director of Housing, Louth County Council be circulated to the members.

12/1217

To adopt a policy prohibiting residential housing estates in excess of 100 units and to ask developers with large sites to plan development on a phased basis

The following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle was considered:

That the council adopts a policy prohibiting residential housing estates in excess of 100 units and that developers with large sites, that can accommodate more than 100 units, be asked to plan development on a phased basis in the interest of developing sustainable communities.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor S Power.

Report: A report from Mr P Minnock, Director of Service, Planning and Strategic Development stated planning applications for 100 residential units or more are deemed strategic housing developments and are now submitted to An Bord Pleanála in accordance with the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016.

Prior to the submission of a planning application for a significant development, the preparation of a master plan may be a precondition. In other cases it may be requested and in any event, an application should comply with the requirements of the County Development Plan and relevant Local Area Plan.

Kildare County Council assesses all planning applications for residential development in accordance with the policies of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations and with the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023, specifically Chapter 4 of the plan. There is no provision in the County Development Plan 2017-2023 to limit the size of a development once the applicant adheres to the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of the council on appropriately zoned land, and in accordance with national and regional policy. It is likely in the larger towns of Kildare that a proportion of schemes will consist of 100 or more units.

The creation of sustainable communities is enshrined in the Development Plan with the requirement for a range of facilities and services to cater for all, such as schools, care centres, cultural spaces and good public transport links, all within walking distance of each other, together with quality living spaces, amenity areas and green infrastructure. In large schemes, the Council requires as part of a planning application that such schemes be phased in line with the pace and location of the development and the provision of services.

Councillor Doyle noted the report stating that stronger communities come from smaller estates and reiterated her concern around abdicating the councils planning function to An Bord Pleanála for housing estates in excess of 100 units and noting there is nothing in the report prohibiting us from doing what her motion sought. Councillor Cussen asked if the council could deviate from the Planning & Residential Tenancy Regulations and suggested the matter be referred to the relevant SPC for consideration. Councillor Young disagreed with the motion stating the tendency would be a patchwork of smaller estates which would not deliver sustainable communities and just lead to suburbanisation. Councillor McEvoy stated the council should ensure that design standard objectives take account of smaller elements of overall development and by taking this approach, we would not be in contravention of the relevant regulations. He proposed the item be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC. Councillor Ó'Cearúil supported Councillor McEvoy's proposal that the matter be referred to the SPC and Councillor Doyle agreed to the item being referred to the SPC for further consideration.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor S Power that the motion be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC for further consideration.

13/1217

Schedule to clear drains and ditches

The following motion in the name of Councillor Kelly was considered:

That the council confirm that they have a schedule in place to clear drains and ditches as a matter of priority to lessen the problem of flooding for the rest of the duration of winter 2017/2018.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Ó'Cearúil.

Report: A report from Mr L Dunne Senior Executive Officer, Water and Environment Services stated the Drainage Channel Maintenance Programme is a multi-annual programme, with

ecological surveys usually covering a 3 year period. Each January, we decide which watercourses will be included in the programme for the following summer window of July, August and September. This window is controlled by Inland Fisheries Ireland and is the only time we are allowed to use machines to remove silt from rivers and drains without a derogation from them (which is very difficult to get). We are only allowed to use machines to remove suspended silt and debris, cannot touch the bed or banks of the river and must have carried out an ecological survey of the watercourse identifying mitigation measures, prior to working.

Outside of this window, we can clean watercourses by hand. However the health and safety requirements for this work mean that we are generally restricted to smaller drains/streams.

We generally carry out tree cutting in advance of river cleaning, to allow access. This can only be done between the months of September to February, due to NPWS restrictions and the Wildlife Act 1976 (and amendments) and is dependent on access to lands being granted by the relevant landowners. The programme is funded from the revenue budget. The programme for 2018 will be finalised in January 2018 once access from landowners and approvals from Fisheries are in place.

Issues such as funding and refusal of access either from the landowner or Fisheries (as in the case of the crayfish plague on the Barrow this summer) can result in changes to the programme. However the list of rivers and drains requiring cleaning exceeds the amount we can cover annually so there is always another watercourse that we can relocate to should we encounter any difficulties with access and that in general, those causing flooding to properties are prioritised.

Councillor Kelly thanked Mr Dunne for the detailed report but noted there was no mention of drains in it which was her main issue of concern referring to the recent status yellow rainfall and that much of the problem had been caused by blocked road drains. Councillor Moore supported the motion noting the report did not refer to water gullies either. Mr N Morrissey, Director of Services Roads, Transportation and Public Safety stated the council does have an ongoing maintenance programme of clearing gullies and drains in each of the five Municipal Districts and the members comments would be passed on.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Ó'Cearúil that the report be noted.

14/1217

To explore options for partnerships with operators of private parking sites

The following motion in the name of Councillors McEvoy, Kennedy, Larkin, McCabe and Murray was considered:

That the council explore options for partnerships with operators of private parking sites to implement the same parking bye-laws that apply to the appropriate public areas.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Larkin.

Report: A report from Ms E Wright Senior Executive Officer Roads, Roads Transportation and Public Safety stated Pay Parking Bye Laws apply to public roads and off-street car parks under the control/management of Kildare County Council. With regard to private car parks, the Vehicle Clamping Act 2015 and Vehicle Clamping and Signage Regulations 2017 were legislated to address parking-related issues arising in such car parks. The Clamping Regulations are overseen by the National Transportation Authority who are the regulatory body for private clamping car park operators.

Councillor McEvoy noted the relevant legislation but stated there is an appetite for partnership with the local authority with a view to establishing one set of rules encouraging a sense of understanding and coherence and whether it was something the Transport Safety and Emergency Services SPC could consider. Mr Morrissey, Director of Service, stated the motion was well merited but that there was an obvious difficulty for the council to take on the leasing of additional car-parks but agreed the item could be referred to the SPC for further consideration. Councillor McEvoy asked whether leasing was required or could the council effect bye-laws that would not be under our control. Councillor Cussen enquired if the issue could be raised with the NTA at the meeting with the municipal districts due to take place in January 2018. Mr Morrissey confirmed the NTA have no role in the operation of car-parks but there was nothing stopping the members making any suggestions at the meeting with them.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Larkin and agreed by all members present that this motion be referred to the Transport and Public Safety SPC for policy consideration.

15/1217

Protocol for the taking of minutes of any non-statutory council meeting

The following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy was considered:

That the council outline its protocol in relation to the taking of minutes at any non-statutory council meeting including but not limiting the report to; where there is a meeting of group leaders and one or more members of the executive is in attendance; where there is a meeting of any committee or sub-committee of the council and one or more executives are in attendance.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Cussen.

Report: A report from Ms M Mclvor, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services stated the protocol in relation to minutes is set down in Standing Orders. Standing Orders do not apply to non-statutory (in-committee) meetings, and therefore there is no requirement to minute these meetings.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked if it was implied from this response that minutes are never taken at non-statutory meetings and asked when or how the council decides to take/not to take minutes. Ms Mclvor confirmed there is no requirement to take minutes at non-statutory meetings and it would be a matter for the individual committee to agree. Councillor McLoughlin Healy enquired regarding meetings that are not statutory but where monies are being discussed and what the council considers being best practise in this regard. Ms Mclvor stated statutory meetings of the council are the only meetings where decisions can be made on the allocation of monies and these are all serviced by Members Services. Informal meetings or in-committee meetings can be requested either by the members or the executive in order to discuss an issue which is at a preliminary stage. Informal or in-committee meetings are not serviced by Members Services.

The Mayor stated some group leader meetings are minuted and these minutes are circulated to the group leaders. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked could these minutes be circulated to all members with the Mayor confirming the minutes are circulated to the group leaders and it was open to the non-aligned members to form a group. Councillor Pender stated there is no requirement for them to create a group and asked if the minutes could be distributed to both the group leaders and the non-aligned members. The Mayor re-iterated the point that it was open to the non-aligned members to form a group.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Cussen that the report be noted.

16/1217

To identify all areas at flood risk in the county and outline what plans are in place to seek budgets to permanently rectify flooding at certain locations

The following motion in the name of Councillor Lynch was considered:

That the council identifies all areas at flood risk in the county and outlines what plans are in place to seek budgets to permanently rectify continuous flooding at these locations e.g. Kilbelin/Newbridge Industrial Estate, Langton Road and the Naas/Newbridge Road.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lynch and seconded by Councillor Cussen.

Report: A report from Ms E Wright Senior Executive Officer Roads, Transportation and Public Safety stated the Roads and Environment Directorates have scheduled a joint meeting to take place in January 2018 to review recent flooding events in the county. In addition, engagement with Transport Infrastructure Ireland is underway with regard to flooding on the M4, and an assessment report is under preparation. The Major Emergency Management Committee is currently drafting a Flooding Sub Plan to deal the co-ordination of responses from the relevant Kildare County Council Departments and other key stakeholders.

Councillor Lynch thanked Ms. Wright for the report and asked about the areas outside of CFRAMS which are subject to ongoing flooding issues. Mr. Boland, Director of Services, confirmed that the Flood Alleviation Unit, based in the Environment Section, deals with catchment related problems while the Roads Department generally deal with surface issues. He stated that the CFRAMS final Flood Risk Management Plans will be sent to the local authorities for adoption in the New Year. He confirmed that it is hoped to deal with Langton Road surface water issue in early 2018. On a general note he also emphasised the importance of both elected members and communities sharing local information in order to inform the design processes of proposed schemes. Councillor Pender referred to the recent flooding in Newbridge and enquired with regard to Contract 2A and 2B. She also suggested that the letter of comfort issued by Kildare County Council is being ignored by insurance providers. Councillor Cussen also referred to the flooding on the 22 November stating her view that no works had taken place in the interim and noting the data for

Hazelhatch had still not been gathered. She also expressed her concern that the Ardclough site (for social housing) had advanced to Stage 1 approval by the Department prior to the members having sight of the flood data. Councillor McLoughlin Healy thanked the Director for the speedy response to the recent flooding that occurred at Dara Park and asked that the council ensures that any Consultants engaged for the purposes of providing reports on flooding should not be re-engaged if they have carried out work on the original assessment. In relation to Contracts 2A and 2B, Mr. Boland confirmed that the schemes are progressing well with the CPO having being confirmed for the former. When completed, Contract 2A will deal with capacity issues within the sewerage network in Newbridge. Contract 2B will facilitate the future or expansion of Naas (Monread), Sallins and Clane also in terms of augmenting the sewerage network capacity. Mr. Boland stated that it was incorrect to say that no works had taken place since the flooding event on the 22 November as there had been a lot of interaction between the Roads and Environment Department particularly in terms of infrastructural planning. He hoped to have positive feedback in relation to Hazelhatch shortly as discussions were ongoing with the OPW. Specifically in relation to Councillor McLoughlin Healy's comments, he confirmed that the issues which occurred in Dara Park were outside the scope of the original contract and, in any event, he had full confidence in the company that carried out the works and noted this company had also been engaged in a number of other flood related projects. Again, on a general note he listed all of the main projects which had been carried out in the last 10 years or so and confirmed that, in all cases, these had stood up well to recent flooding events.

The Mayor took the opportunity to express his deep appreciation to all the staff that had worked tirelessly during the flooding event on the 22 November and after.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Lynch, seconded by Councillor Cussen that the report be noted.

The meeting concluded.