



**Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 27 May 2024 in the Council Chamber
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

Members Present: Councillor D. Fitzpatrick (Cathaoirleach), Councillors V. Behan, A. Breen, A. Breslin, F. Brett, B. Caldwell B. Clear, M. Coleman, A. Connolly, N. Connolly, P Curran, I. Cussen, B Dooley, S. Doyle, K. Duffy, T. Durkan, A. Farrelly , A. Feeney, P. Hamilton, R. Heather, N. Heavey, I. Keatley, C. Kelly, N. Killeen, M. Leigh, V. Liston, P. McEvoy, S. Moore, J. Neville, N. Ó Cearúil, T. O'Dwyer, C Pender, R. Power, E. Sammon, B. Weld, P Ward, and B. Wyse.

Online: Councillors F. McLoughlin Healy and P. O'Dwyer.

Apologies: Councillor B Quinn.

Also Present: Ms. S. Kavanagh (Chief Executive) Ms. A. Aspell, Ms. M. Higgins, A Dunney and Mr. E. Ryan (Directors of Service) Ms. C. Barrett, (A/Director of Service), Ms. E. Hanlon Head of Finance, Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.
Dr Moling Ryan (Chairperson, Audit Committee)

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the May meeting of the Council. He advised the members that this meeting was being live streamed to the Council's YouTube channel, as a pilot meeting, to learn from the experience and inform future webcasting. He asked the Meeting Administrator to read out a notice advising the members that they, in line with Standing Orders, did not have privilege. Everyone was asked not to use their mobile phones in the chamber or watch the proceedings on



devices, in order to prevent audio feedback. A notice was also being displayed advising the public that recording of the meeting was prohibited, and live streaming was taking place. All were advised that the meeting would not be recorded.

01/0524

Declaration of Interests

The Cathaoirleach sought from the members any declarations of conflicts of interest or pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. There were no declarations.

02/0524

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 29 April 2024 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor A Feeney, seconded by Councillor B Caldwell and agreed by the members present that the draft minutes of monthly meeting held on 29 April 2024 be adopted. The progress report was noted.

03/0524

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

04/0524

Audit Committee Annual Report 2023

The members noted the Audit Committee Annual Report 2023, previously circulated to the members.

Dr Moling Ryan (Chairperson, Audit Committee) informed the members that the Committee comprised councillors Moore, Killeen and Curran, and other non-elected members. He advised that the Committee's overarching focus is risk and governance, and that where issues were identified they had been addressed.



Councillors Moore and Killeen thanked Dr Ryan for his work and professionalism. There were no questions on the annual report.

Resolved It was agreed by the members that the Audit Committee Annual Report 2023 be noted.

05/0524

2023 Draft Annual Report

The members considered for adoption the 2023 Draft Annual Report, including the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023 progress report and the Corporate Plan progress report for 2023.

The Meetings Administrator advised the members present that a copy of the Annual Report had been circulated earlier to the members following the meeting of Corporate Policy Group, given the length of the Report. The Council had to publish their annual report by 30 June.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by the members present that the Annual Report be adopted.

06/0524

Speed Limit Review 2023

The members considered the Speed Limit Review 2023.

Ms Barrett informed the meeting that following the proposed changes in legislation a committee had been set up by the Department to look at how the speed limits could be implemented. The Chairman of the review was the Donegal County Council Chief Executive.

Progress is already being made in relation to legislation and guidelines on priority actions (default speed limits) relating to: - 30km/h (Urban Areas) - 60km/h (Rural Local Roads) - 80km/h (National Secondary Roads). These are being progressed through necessary legislation and supporting Statutory Guidelines. The legislation became law on 17 April 2024 (Act Number 10 of 2024). Variations to the Default Speed Limits will



be permitted by way of local authority Bye laws in accordance with the published Guidelines for Managing Speed Limits.

It was proposed to adopt the default speed limits by mid-2025. This was an ambitious and challenging target, and would require reassigning staff, and could impact delivery on other programmes. It was proposed to start with rural roads.

A group had been set up chaired by Senior Engineer D Hodgins to deliver this. The Council would be kept updated on progress.

Members welcomed the report and asked the following:

What were the budget implications?

What was the status of Jakes Law?

Were previous members submissions being used in the review?

Could information from electronic speed signs be used to feed into reviews?

What constitutes an urban area?

Would technology to detect speeding vehicles be used, and how will this be enforced?

Ms Barrett advised that Jakes Law would come in by default. This should happen in the first tranche.

A significant budgetary issue would be costs arising for new signage, as part of implementing new speed limits, but that a letter related to this had already issued to the Department.

An Garda Síochána and the Department would consider the use of speed detection technology but nationally a major awareness campaign would be needed where limits are being reduced, in order to change driver culture. This would also require media campaigns by the RSA, TFI etc.

The Urban Area would be defined by the old UDC/Town Council boundaries.

Ms Barrett advised she would look if data from electronic speed signs could be used.

Member's submissions and feedback was used and would be considered in implementing changes and members would be kept informed.

Maps would be provided as part of the review also.

The report was noted.



07/0524

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach advised that he had been informed of the following bereavements
Deirdre McMahon, Former Staff Member

James O'Sullivan, father of Louise O'Sullivan, Motor Tax

And asked the members to observe a moments silence.

A moments silence was observed.

08/0524

Gnó an Cathaoirleach/Cathaoirleach's Business

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had a very busy month.

He thanked the councillors for their support and cooperation during his year in office.

He thanked the councillors who were not standing for re-election Councillors B Weld, I Cussen, F McLoughlin Healy, M Coleman, V Liston, C Galvin and A Connolly.

He thanked former Councillors P Ryan, V P Martin, M Wall, C Kenny and M.Stafford

He wished all those standing in the upcoming election well. He thanked Councillor Tracey O' Dwyer as Leas Cathaoirleach, for her support and assistance.

Councillors Weld, Cussen, Coleman, Liston and A Connolly thanked their colleagues and staff for their cooperation and work during their terms of office. They also thanked the electorate for electing them, and their families for their patience and support in carrying out their roles as representatives.

Councillor Mc Loughlin Healy thanked the electorate who voted for her, welcomed the streaming of the meeting but complained about the length of time it took to introduce it.



Ms Kavanagh thanked the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach, and all councillors for their work, and positive contributions to the County and wished those who were not standing for re-election all the best in their retirement.

She wished those seeking re-election, and all candidates, the best of luck.

09/0524

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed the following were received

A response from Minister of State with special responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy, Ossian Smyth T.D on CCTV guidelines.

Resolutions were received from:

Clare County Council on HSE Services

Fingal County Council on Proliferation Fossil Fuel

Wicklow County Council on Full Time Road Safety Officer

Monaghan County Council on Centralised purchasing of school Books

Circulars:

LG 06-2024 2 May 2024 Re: Increase to elected members' annual remuneration effective 1 January 2024 and 1 June 2024

The report was noted.

10/0524

Conferences and Training

The meetings administrator advised that there were no conference or training events listed.

11/0524

Local Elections 2024

Mr Eoghan Ryan gave an update on preparations for the Local Elections.

90 candidates had declared for the 2024 Local Elections, and the Notice of Poll setting out candidates was published on 20 May, 2024.

The Register of Electors had grown to 165,371 as at 12.00 noon on 20 May, an



increase of 10% on the 2019 figures. He noted however more applications would be processed up to May 27, those being all received up to the deadline of May 20. To this point over 20,000 applications had been processed since start of 2024. He advised that Polling Cards had been given to An Post for over 162,000 electors in mid-May, but that if people don't receive a Polling card, but are Registered, they can present to vote but must bring valid ID. He also advised that all Polling Cards for the remaining applicants (the Balancing List to the Register) would issue after May 27. He advised members that the public can use checktheregister.ie to check if they are registered, and to locate their polling station. Social media messaging around Polling Card delivery had been published, in order to manage expectations/contacts. He advised that if a person cannot find themselves on the Register now or on the day of the Poll they should call 045 980 201. Posters to this effect were given to each Polling Station and dedicated staff assigned from 7am -10pm on June 7 to take calls. He outlined the instructions given to candidates in their nomination letters and advised that the election was taking place alongside the European Elections. Eithne Coughlan was the Returning Officer and responsible for the Poll, Polling stations and operations at Polling Stations. Following the close of Poll, ballots would be transported to the Curragh where they would be checked and handed over to the council team during Saturday June 8. The taking of the tally would be facilitated at the Curragh. Following verification at the Curragh, the local election ballot papers would be transported to Punchestown Racecourse to the 4 count centres set up by the council. He gave details of the sequence of the counts and advised that each candidate was entitled to nominate one agent. Members of the public would be welcome to attend the count, without a pass. He reiterated poster requirements on Polling Day: that posters could not be erected within 50m of a Polling Place, and that all posters must be removed by midnight on 14 June. He thanked the staff of the Register of Electors team for the huge work and effort put in by them to get the register up to date. He wished all candidates well in the upcoming election. The report was noted



12/0524

Text Alert Scheme to Combat Misuse of Accessible Parking Bays

The following motion in the names of Councillors Peggy O'Dwyer and Carmel Kelly was considered by the members.

That Kildare County Council introduce a text alert scheme to combat the misuse of accessible parking bays.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor P O'Dwyer

A report from Ms C Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that parking bye-laws are in operation in 12 towns in County Kildare. A maximum stay period operates for all parking bays covered by the relevant bye-laws including accessible parking bays which are referred to as disabled parking bays in both the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations 1997 and in the parking bye-laws. Traffic wardens employed by our pay parking contractor monitor compliance with the bye-laws to ensure that the bays are not occupied for longer than permitted and that disabled person permits are on display where appropriate. Outside of the parking bye-laws areas, Kildare County Council traffic wardens ensure compliance with parking regulations. The implementation of a text alert scheme will require careful consideration and assessment to determine the potential costs and benefits of such a scheme as there is already a contractor in place carrying out enforcement on a daily basis in the locations where bye-laws apply and a separate regime in place outside of these towns. In 2023, 204 fines were issued for illegal parking in respect of disabled person parking bays. If there are specific locations where there is non-compliance. the Transport Department will increase monitoring and will act on requests sent to the Parking Section. The Transport Department are examining the impact of road space reassignment from public realm works, construction of cycle lanes and other infrastructural changes which has impacted on the operation of such parking spaces. The provision of accessible parking bays, age friendly parking bays and similar measures are being considered in the context of future parking bye-law reviews where appropriate.



Councillor Kelly advised that this motion came about as a result of misuse of accessible parking spaces and the increase in threat of physical and verbal abuse by those illegally using these spaces, directed at those who bring it to their attention. She advised that a lot of the misuse was happening in the evening. She asked that this be kept on the Progress Report and stated that accessibility was not a luxury but a necessity.

Councillor Cussen supported the motion and expressed her disappointment with the response.

Ms Barrett advised that if such a scheme were introduced then when the text was sent that the public would expect to see a response. She would follow this up with the local authority using it to see how the scheme worked, particularly the out of hours aspect, noting that implementation may have budgetary implications.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillors Kelly, seconded by Councillor O'Dwyer and agreed by members that the report be noted

13/0524

Awareness Campaign around Fireblight

The following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Connolly was considered by the members.

Go scríobhfadh an Chomhairle seo chuig an tAire Talmhaíochta ag fiafraí de feachtas feasachta a chruthú do Chill Dara faoi Erwinia Amylovora, ar a dtugtar Dúchan Tine go coitianta, agus chun riachtanais Bhunús Éireann/De Bhunadh na hÉireann don Sceach Gheal a athbhunú i bplandáil fálda sceach STAAT agus moill a chur ar ghníomhartha plandála go dtí go líonfar an bhearna éileamh-soláthair, agus chun allmhairí de chuid STAAT a chur ar fionraí. Plandaí sceach gheal mar gheall ar an mbaol a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann maidir le galair a allmhairiú.”

That this council write to the Minister for Agriculture asking him to create an awareness campaign for Kildare around Erwinia Amylovora, also known as Fireblight, and to reinstate the Irish Provenance/Irish Origin requirements for Hawthorn in ACRES hedgerow planting and delay planting actions until the demand-supply gap is filled,



and to suspend imports of Hawthorn plants due to the potential risk of importing disease.”

The motion was proposed by Councillor N Connolly and seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick.

A report was received from Mr E Ryan, Director of Services, Corporate, People and Cultural Services that this was a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Connolly outlined the potential devastation to Irish hedgerows and fruit trees if Fireblight took hold in the county. The key to stopping the spread was early detection and the banning of imports of hawthorne. He gave details of the number of outbreaks so far and advised that infected plants needed to be incinerated or buried to contain the spread. He asked the members to support his motion.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor N Connolly seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by members that a letter be sent to the Minister for Agriculture asking him to create an awareness campaign for Kildare around Erwinia Amylovora, also known as Fireblight, and to reinstate the Irish Provenance/Irish Origin requirements for Hawthorn in ACRES hedgerow planting and delay planting actions until the demand-supply gap is filled, and to suspend imports of Hawthorn plants due to the potential risk of importing disease.

14/0524

Road Safety Strategies

The following motion in the names of Councillor Kevin Duffy was considered by the members.

That the Council allocate a Garda Liaison and establish a monthly meeting focused on road safety, traffic incident statistics, monitoring and reporting and implementation of traffic calming strategies to improve/create safer communities.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Duffy and seconded by Councillor A Connolly.



A report from Ms C Barrett, A/Director of Service, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces and Ms Marian Higgins Director of Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that Local Community Safety Partnerships will replace the current structure of Joint Policing Committees, and An Garda Síochána will of course be a key stakeholder in these future structures.

Pilots are ongoing in Waterford, Longford and the Dublin's North Inner City Local Electoral Area and will run until 30 June 2024, having been extended from their original two-year pilot period.

It is then planned that learnings from the pilots will be taken into account in the national roll out of similar partnerships in communities across the country.

In addition, as the members will be aware, a letter has issued to the RSA on foot of a motion passed at last month's Full Council meeting, seeking data on road collisions, which is also relevant in terms of data/statistics, as referenced.

When the evaluation report and the national roll out of Local Community Safety Partnerships occurs it will be clearer how matters such as that sought in the motion will be resourced and structured.

In addition, any related response from the RSA, will also be shared with members upon receipt.

Councillor Duffy informed the meeting that this was a complex issue. Earlier the council had been informed of the revised speed limits but now we needed to put in the physical barriers in place to reduce speed. He asked that this be referred to the incoming Transportation SPC for consideration.

Ms Barrett advised that new structures were coming in to replace JPCs and that part of their remit was to focus on road safety. Speed limits was one of the measures under consideration, as per earlier discussion in the Meeting. Members had requested traffic calming measures be put in place over the term of the council. With the increase in



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Active Travel measures it would be worth looking at this and she advised she would look at the matter in the context of issues raised.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by members that the report be noted.

The meeting concluded.