

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF CORK CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 28th APRIL 2014.

- PRESENT** An tArd-Mhéara Comhairleoir C. Clancy in the Chair.
- NORTH EAST** Comhairleoirí J. Kelleher, T. Brosnan, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh.
- NORTH CENTRAL** Comhairleoirí M. Barry, P. Gosch, K. O’Flynn, T. Gould.
- NORTH WEST** Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, J. O’Callaghan.
- SOUTH EAST** Comhairleoirí D. Cahill, L. McGonigle, D. O’Flynn, T. Shannon, C. O’Leary, K. McCarthy.
- SOUTH CENTRAL** Comhairleoirí L. Kingston, E. O’Halloran, M. Finn, F. Kerins.
- SOUTH WEST** Comhairleoirí J. Buttimer, M. Shields, M. Ahern, B. Bermingham, H. Cremin, G. Gibbons.
- APOLOGIES** Comhairleoirí J. Corr, M. Finn.
- ALSO PRESENT** Mr. D. Buggy, Deputy City Manager.
Mr. T. Keating, Meetings Administrator, Corporate & External Affairs.
Ms. N. Mulcahy, Administrative Officer, Corporate & External Affairs.
Mr. J. O’Donovan, Director of Services, Environment & Recreation.
Mr. P. Ledwidge, Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development.
Mr. T. Duggan, City Architect, Architects.

An tArd-Mhéara recited the opening prayer.

1.1 **VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

A vote of sympathy was passed unanimously with An Chomhairle standing in silence to:-

- The McCarthy Family on the death of Jerry McCarthy.
- The Thompson Family on the death of Netta Thompson.
- The Bogue Family on the death of Tom Bogue.
- The Downey Family on the death of Mary Ann Downy.
- The Healy Family on the death of Dick Healy.
- The Towler Family on the death of Liam Towler.
- The O’Callaghan Family on the death of Michael O’Callaghan.
- The O’Sullivan Family on the death of Jimmy O’Sullivan.
- The O’Mahony Family on the death of Michael O’Mahony.
- The Deasy Family on the death of Eoin Deasy.

1.2 **VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

An Chomhairle extended a vote of congratulations to the following:-

- Pearse Celtic Soccer Club on winning the President's Cup.
- Mayfield United on winning the U19 Premier League.

1.3.1 **LORD MAYOR'S ITEMS**

An tArd-Mhéara informed An Chomhairle that she proposes to present 6 Civic Awards on the 7th May to the following persons:-

Mr. Eamon Ryan
Mr. Declan Kidney
Mr. Arthur Leahy
Ms. Mary Newman
Ms. Pamela O'Connor
Ms. Deirdre O'Reilly

1.4 **DEPUTY CITY MANAGERS ITEMS**

The Deputy City Manager had no issues to raise.

2. **MINUTES**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the minutes of the following:-

- Ordinary Meeting of An Chomhairle held on 14th April 2014.

3. **QUESTIONS**

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

3.1 **HOUSING ALLOCATION STATISTICS**

To ask the City Manager to provide in tabular form :

- I. The number of housing allocations excluding transfers in 2013?
- II. The number of allocations there were in 2013 to people/households on the homeless priority list.?
- III. The number of allocations to each household size from the housing list and the number of allocations to each household size from the homeless priority list in 2013?
- IV. The number of allocations to household who had been on the homeless list for less than 6 months, 6 months to 1 year, 1-3 years, 3-6 years, 7 years-10 years and 11 years+, and the same information for allocations excluding transfers from the housing list in 2013?
- V. The number of allocations to households from the homeless list where the head of household was in the 18-25 years age range, 26-35 age range, 36-45 age range, 46-

55 age range, 56-64 age range and 65+ age range, and the same information for allocations excluding transfers from the housing list in 2013?

- VI. The total number of allocations excluding transfers to local authority stock, to approved housing bodies and to RAS and other leasing schemes and the number of allocations from the homeless list for each category?

REPLY

There were 182 Housing Allocations in 2013 of which 46 were transfers. Excluding transfers, this figure is 136.

Please note the category of assessment as prescribed by the Social Housing Assessment (Summary) Regulations 2013 is 'Homeless, Institution, Emergency Accommodation or Hostel' – there were two allocations in 2013 of applicants still belonging to this category.

Please note that there is one social housing support waiting list.

Please see table below. These show the allocations for each household composition. Please note that there is one social housing support waiting list.

In 2013 from the category of 'Homeless, Institution, Emergency Accommodation or Hostel' - 1 allocation was in the range of 3-6 years and 1 allocation was in the range of 7-10 years.

In 2013 from the category of Homeless, Institution, Emergency Accommodation or Hostel' – 1 allocation main applicant was in the 26-35 year age range and 1 allocation of the main applicant was in the 35 – 38 year age range.

See 1. and 2. Above.

Allocations by Household Composition - 2013

1A = One Adult

1A1C = One Adult One Child

Etc.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

Month	1A	1A1C	1A2C	1A3C	1A4C	1A5C	2A	2A1C	2A2C	2A3C	2A4C	2A5C	Total
Jan	6	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	13
Feb	5	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	14
March	3	3	1	0	1	0	4	0	2	0	0	1	15
April	7	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	17
May	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	11
June	6	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	13
July	12	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	21
August	7	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	12
Sept	12	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	18
Oct	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	16
Nov	8	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	15
Dec	5	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	14
Total	90	32	16	2	2	0	7	5	11	8	5	1	179

Total number of new tenancies (excluding all transfers) in 2013 = 92

Total housed by RAS from homeless services

Category 18 – 25 years	-	3
Category 26-35 years	-	2
Category 36-45 years	-	3
Category 46-55 years	-	2
Category 56-64 years	-	3
Category 65+ years	-	0
Total 2013		13

3.2 **STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE**

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

To ask the Manager to give a detailed report to City Council on the present contract to maintain the Street Lights throughout the city, between Airtricity and City Council.

What does he expect of Airtricity under the conditions of this contract?

What is the monthly cost to City Council under this contract?

How long has it to run?

Apart from bulb replacement, what else does Airtricity do as part of this contract?

How many street lights are not working at present throughout the city?

In each case, what is the issue/fault, ie new bulb required, new lantern, metal fatigue etc?

What is the estimated outage time in each of these cases?

Is he happy at the present situation where so many public lights are not working for extended periods?

Is there additional capital funding available from Central Government to correct these problems?

Have City Council applied?

REPLY

Public Lighting Maintenance caters for a total inventory is 14,551 units, 6,256 of which are mounted on ESB network poles. Maintenance work is contracted and the current service provider is Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd. The current arrangement is for one year.

The service arrangements with Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd. provide for a fixed payment per month and periodic variable payments. The former covers a list of works to reflect anticipated faults including, among other measures, night time scouting patrols, re-lamping, traffic management designer duties, utilisation of the lighting asset database and specified fault repairs. The variable element covers additional works to respond to cable faults, vandalism, damage resulting from road traffic accidents, replacement of obsolete equipment and any improvements approved by

Council. The fixed payment per month is approx €50,000 with the variable payments made in accordance with a schedule of rates.

Given the relative high levels of lighting outage during recent weeks a Maintenance Review Meeting was arranged and the following listing was compiled by Airtricity Utility Solutions as of week-ending 11.04.2014:

Number of faults completed 01.04 – 11.04	75
Total Number of Lights	14,551
Total Number of Lights Out	357
• New lanterns required	153
• Faults still to be visited	89
• Cable fault	30
• ESB Networks Attendance Required	23
• Traffic Management/Access Issues	39
• Cable faults programmed for repair	23

Overall % of lights out: 2.53%

The normal number of outstanding faults would typically lie between 200 & 250 approximately. The high number of faults currently arises from a backlog since the start of the year, partly, as a result of the contractor diverting resources to repair damage due to severe weather and as a result of having to step back from working in proximity to ESB Networks.

The normal fault rectification time is 10 working days. Cable faults or faults requiring special/additional material may take longer as they have to be specifically approved by Cork City Council.

All faults excluding the 89 faults still to be visited (i.e.268) have been visited as part of routine maintenance within the 10 days. However because the fault could not be cleared by way of a lamp replacement or routine repairs the 268 faults, referred to above, were then classified as requiring additional works or approval to proceed.

Outage time of individual lanterns or lighting schemes is dependent on, but not limited to, the maintenance contractors work schedule and approval of renewal and replacement works on a monthly basis which has to comply with budgetary constraints. Faults reported to both Airtricity Call Centre and the Customer Service Requests are logged to our dedicated public lighting database. Based on the analysis of repair details submitted by Airtricity Utility Solutions, as compared to the logged faults on our data base, an accurate estimate of costs is produced each month.

Degraded brackets due to corrosion has been identified as an issue on various sub-urban roadways throughout the city. As an example, a new lighting design is in progress with a view to the replacement of brackets & lanterns on network poles on Pearse Road, Ballyphehene. It is envisaged that this renewal scheme incorporating energy savings in excess of 30% will be completed prior to the end of October this year.

The procurement of future maintenance and electrical services for street lighting is being progressed and related tenders were recently published with a closing date of 30 April 2014. It is anticipated that the tender competition will be completed in the coming months and a new service contract entered into. The energy supply cost associated with public lighting is determined separately on the basis of a national tender process.

There is no capital funding available for maintenance of public lighting.

3.3 **BALLINCOLLIG BY-PASS**

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

What is the relationship and system of interaction between the City Council and County Council regarding the management of traffic on the Ballincollig By-pass, how many vehicles per day use the western exits off the Ballincollig By-pass and enter Bishopstown, what is known of the end destination of these vehicles/journeys, how many use Uam Var Estate as a rat-run to CIT or the Model Farm Road, what measures can be put in place to prevent the western end of Bishopstown being used as a rat-run by commuters to CIT, CUH and Model Farm Road?

REPLY

The road in question forms part of the N40 National Road and is currently the subject of a demand management study by the National Roads Authority (NRA) The Authority recently made a presentation to the Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee on the progress of the study.

Trends in relation to the number and type of vehicles entering the city administrative area from the south west are available from the Cork City Council bi-annual traffic count stations at:

- Sarsfield Road (near ESB Depot)
- Bandon Road (north of roundabout with N40 South Ring Road);
- Waterfall Road (Borough Boundary);
- Curraheen Road (Curraheen Drive);
- Model Farm Road (McCarthy's/ Eden Hall);
- Carrigrohane Road (near Victoria cross)
- Lee Road (near Thomas Davis bridge)

An extract from the counts at the above locations is attached in graphical and tabular forms.

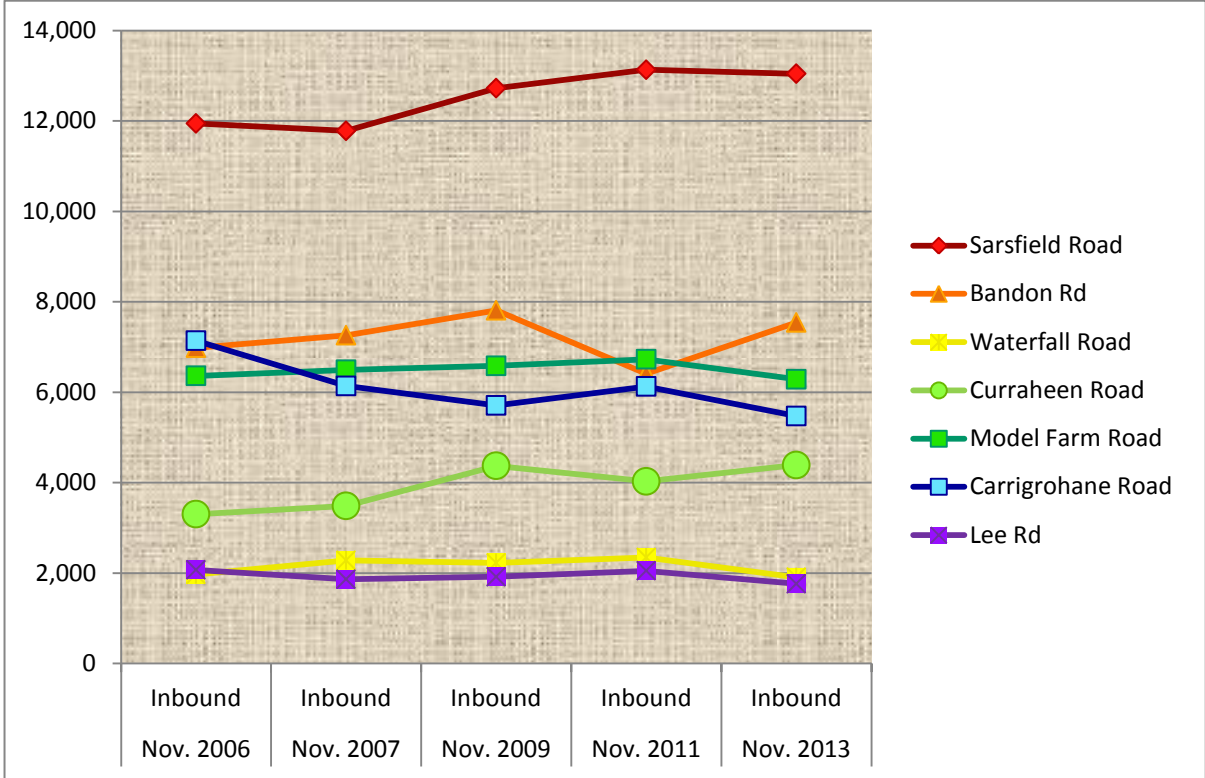
However, specifics such as, the end destination of these vehicles/journeys or how many use Uam Var Estate as a rat-run to CIT or the Model Farm Road are not recorded.

The western end of Bishopstown is part of the Cork City public road network and is available for all to use to access their destination. Physical measures can help to make certain roads unattractive. However, to bring about a reduction in traffic

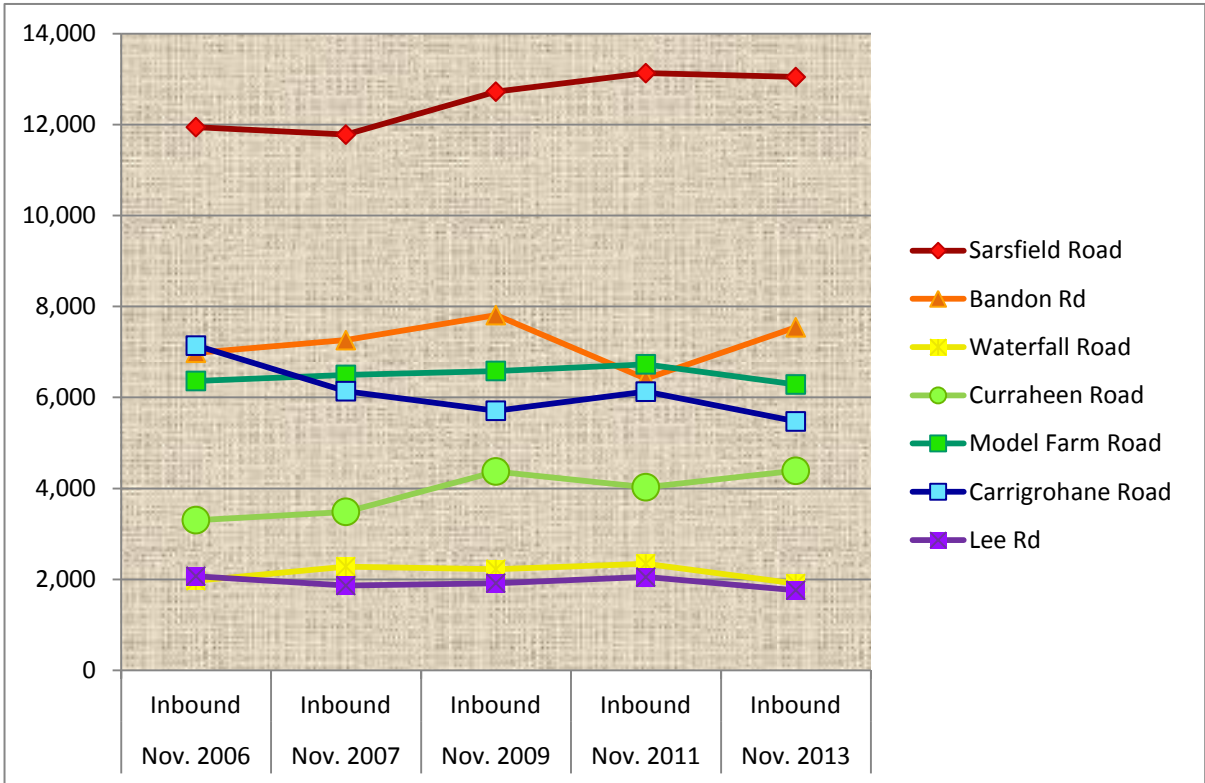
volumes, the encouragement and support of alternatives to the car is needed. These include improvements in public transport, park n rides and alterations to parking provision and pricing particularly for staff and students in major institutions in the area.

	Nov. 2006 Inbound	Nov. 2006 Outbound	Nov. 2007 Inbound	Nov. 2007 Outbound	Nov. 2009 Inbound	Nov. 2009 Outbound	Nov. 2011 Inbound	Nov. 2011 Outbound	Nov. 2013 Inbound	Nov. 2013 Outbound
Sarsfield Road	11,943	11,098	11,779	12,784	12,723	13,659	13,130	12,044	13,044	12,457
Bandon Rd	6,983	7,204	7,260	7,377	7,810	7,537	6,410	7,497	7,542	7,728
Waterfall Road	1,971	1,946	2,281	2,586	2,224	2,626	2,345	1,970	1,909	2,060
Curraheen Road	3,303	2,547	3,486	2,365	4,373	3,069	4,027	3,113	4,388	2,989
Model Farm Road	6,362	6,961	6,495	6,760	6,582	7,029	6,728	6,563	6,285	6,522
Carrigrohane Road	7,139	7,224	6,137	6,044	5,707	5,863	6,127	6,264	5,472	5,236
Lee Rd	2,071	1,251	1,863	1,274	1,917	1,522	2,051	1,641	1,762	1,355
Totals for 7 sites	39,772	38,231	39,301	39,190	41,336	41,305	40,818	39,092	40,402	38,347
Totals for all 24 counts in cordon area	153250	156865	158714	149875	154539	162313	164483	148777	164477. 8	162246

The Graph below shows how Traffic Volumes have fluctuated in the Outbound Direction over a 12 hour period during the day, mid-week during the survey periods specified.



Graph below shows how Traffic Volumes have fluctuated in the Inbound Direction over a 12 hour period during the day, mid-week during the survey periods specified.



3.4 **TAKE IN CHARGE MT. ST. JOSEPH'S DRIVE, CLOSE, HEIGHTS & AVENUE**

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

To ask the Manager to take in charge Mt. St. Joseph's Drive, Close, Heights & Avenue to address environment, housing, public health and public lighting issues for its tenants.

REPLY

Mount Saint Joseph's Avenue /Drive / Heights / and Close Nos. 19 to 30 were developed under Part VIII. However Mount Saint Joseph's Close Nos. 1 to 18 were constructed under Approved Planning Permission and are currently in the process of being Taken in Charge.

Surveys have been carried out on the various services and reports referred to the appropriate City Council Directorates. Works have been identified and a Schedule of Works prepared to bring the estate up to an acceptable standard to enable it to be Taken in Charge. However, as a result of current financial constraints funds are not available to Cork City Council to carry out these works.

3.5 **"SLOW DOWN" SIGN AT JUNCTION OF HALLDENE GROVE AND HALLDENE WAY, BISHOPSTOWN**

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

Could a "GO SLOW" sign be erected in a prominent place at this blind junction? It is extremely dangerous and a matter of health and safety for children playing and coming from Halldene Way to Halldene Grove?

REPLY

The Transportation Division advises that the need for appropriate signage at the junction of Halldene Grove and Halldene Way, Bishopstown will be assessed.

Any identified measure will be put forward for consideration to be included in the Roads Programme, subject to funding being available.

3.6 **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR IRISH WATER**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir S. Martin a written reply was circulated as outlined as above:-

Can the Manager confirm that from January 2014 the City Council will be working under a Service Level Agreement for Irish Water?

Any issues/complaints regarding water and drainage will have to be processed through the Irish Water call centre. There will be no direct contact between the public or public representatives and the City Council?

Can the Manager confirm that under the framework for Service Level Agreement, if the Agreement comes to an end the staff covered by the Agreement will become Irish Water employees?

REPLY

Cork City Council, in common with other local authorities, signed a Service Level agreement with Irish Water on 31st December 2013. The service level agreement is effective for a term of 12 years from 1st January 2014.

From Tuesday 29th April 2014 Irish Water's call centre will "go live" and will be responsible for processing all calls and queries from the public in relation to water and wastewater services. The call centre telephone number is 1890 278 278 and they will also have a dedicated team to deal with queries from public representatives. In the short term out of hours issues will be dealt with directly by Cork City Council. But the intention is that all interaction will be between Irish Water and its customers.

Section 19 of the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 provides for the transfer of staff from Local Authorities to Irish Water. The Service Level Agreement provides for implementation of this Section in the case where the Local Authority's obligation to provide Services is terminated.

3.7 **GLEN PHASE 11 HOUSING BUILD**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir M. O'Connell a written reply was circulated as outlined as above:-

Can the Manager tell me when does he expect the Glen Phase 11 Housing Build and can he confirm that it is coming in within budget.

REPLY

This project has over-run by 18 months or so but is now nearing substantial completion with an expected date of early May 2014 for handover and commencement of occupying by tenants. Payments made are substantially on Budget but contract claims are not yet decided.

3.8 **DRAFT RETAIL STRATEGY**

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

The Draft Retail Strategy was amended by Council on 22nd April, 2013 Item 7.1 to include a Neighbourhood Centre in Jacobs Island.

The Draft Retail Strategy on the Council Website does not reflect that motion.

Can the Manager confirm that this will be corrected immediately in order that the public will not be misinformed as happened in the recent Mahon LAP submission from the Department of Environment?

REPLY

It was proposed and agreed at the Cork City Council Planning and Development Strategic Policy Committee at meeting of 18th April 2013, that an extra neighbourhood centre be added at Jacobs Island, Mahon. Subsequently, the Draft Retail Strategy was amended by Council on 22nd April, 2013.

Jacob's Island is included as a Level 4 Neighbourhood Centre in Table 2 (on page 3) of the *Metropolitan Cork Joint Retail Strategy* (December 2013) document published on www.corkcitydevelopmentplan.ie.

3.9 FREEDOM OF THE CITY

The following question *submitted by Comhairleoir K. O'Flynn was deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle.*

Could the Manager please breakdown the cost of all Freedoms of the City since 2009 and the likely cost of the Freedom of the City in 2014?

3.10 MONITORING SYSTEMS IN THE HOMES OF THE TENANTS OF CORK CITY COUNCIL

The following question *submitted by Comhairleoir T. Gould was deferred to the next meeting of An Chomhairle.*

When will the monitoring systems be installed on the homes of the tenants of Cork City Council that are on the borders or that are affected by the construction work being carried out on the New Prison in The Glen and Rathmore Road? What date is the meeting with the residents being organised for?

3.11 ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE HOMES OF CITY COUNCIL TENANTS

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

Can the Manager inform the Council Members what funding has been secured for improving energy efficiency in the homes of City Council tenants? How and when will this programme be rolled out?

Will tenants living in a terrace of houses where some of these properties are purchased have the insulation programme carried out?

Will tenants who have been reporting this problem (dampness) in their properties consistently, be given priority to have this work carried out?

REPLY

1. The fabric upgrade program aims to ensure that all social houses have a high standard of attic insulation and where appropriate a high standard of cavity wall insulation. The project commenced in 2013 and 397 houses were upgraded that year at a cost of €1.033M.. In 2014, the DECLG has initially made € 910,394 available

for the installation of cavity wall and attic insulation, which would allow upgrade of a further 400 to 500 houses. The program is currently being rolled out in 2014 in the Glen Maintenance Depot area and in Ardculen Estate, Knocknaheeny.

2. Tenants living in private properties are not included in the scheme.
3. Due to the scale of the project it is not economically feasible, to select individual houses for the project. Hence individual properties with specific issues can not be given priority over other properties. In any case it is planned to complete the project by the end of 2016. Hence where properties have a dampness issue caused by poor insulation, and where there is cavity wall construction, they can expect to have the problem resolved by the end of 2016.

3.12 **PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON THE BLARNEY ROAD
ADJACENT TO THE STONERIDGE ESTATE**

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

Can the Manager tell me when the proposed pedestrian crossing on the Blarney Road adjacent to the Stoneridge Estate will go ahead? Will the Manger consider traffic-calming measures for the entrance to Stoneridge as currently vehicles come off the Blarney Road at speed in to the estate and residents are concerned about safety, particularly of children?

REPLY

The Transportation Division advises that there is a preliminary design for a scheme involving the provision of footpaths and a pedestrian crossing on Blarney Road, near Stoneridge Estate.

There is no funding available to bring the scheme to construction in 2014. However, the scheme will be progressed through a Section 38 of the 1994 Road Traffic Act process so that if, Low Cost safety funding becomes available in 2015, the scheme can be delivered.

3.13 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITORS MANAGEMENT LETTER**

In response to the following question submitted by Comhairleoir C. O'Leary a written reply was circulated as outlined as above:-

Could the Manager supply and outline the details which the Local Government Auditor sends annually to the City Manager following the conclusion of the annual audit and including Auditors Management Letter for the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013?

REPLY

The Local Government Audit Service provides independent oversight through the Local Government Auditor.

The annual audit results in the auditor giving his audit opinion (which has always been unqualified for the Council) which is published as part of the Audited Annual Financial Statement. The Auditor also issues a detailed Audit Report to the members in which he highlights areas of concern. This report is also given to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and is publicly available on the Council's website. The LGA's report is considered by the CPG, the Finance Functional Committee, and the Audit Committee and by the full Council.

In undertaking the annual audit of accounts it is normal practice for the Local Government Auditor to consult with the City Manager. This engagement, in common with practice in the private sector, includes an annual management letter which forms part of the regular cycle of communication which is crucial to the effectiveness of the audit process and the ongoing improvement in financial performance. The correspondence does not form part of the annual audit report and it is not prepared or issued for circulation but for ongoing engagement and communication between the parties.

3.14 **FENCING AT TIFFANY DOWNS AND BRAMPTON COURT**

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

Can the City Manager outline the plans to remove and replace the felled trees and fencing at Tiffany Downs and Brampton Court adjacent to the South Ring Road?

REPLY

A large amount of leylandii trees were damaged and removed following recent storms. A meeting is to be arranged between local councillors, residents, the NRA and relevant Council Departments to address concerns regarding sound screening from the flyover, perimeter boundary treatment and planting scheme for the estates.

4. **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2013**

4.1 An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the Draft Annual Report 2013.

5. **CORPORATE POLICY GROUP – 22ND APRIL 2014**

An Chomhairle considered the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group from its meeting held on the 22nd April 2014.

5.1 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31ST MARCH 2014**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the Financial Statement to 31st March 2014.

5.2 An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the following motion;-

UNESCO BEIJING DECLARATION ON BUILDING LEARNING CITIES

‘That Cork City Council would consider the adoption of the UNESCO Beijing Declaration on Building Learning Cities.’

6. **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 22nd APRIL 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Planning & Development Functional Committee from its meeting held on the 22nd April 2014.

6.1 **HOUSING ESTATES**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development dated 16th April 2014 on Housing Estates from 1st January 2014 to 31st March 2014.

6.2 **PLANNING STATISTICS**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development dated 16th April 2014 on the number of planning applications determined and deferred from 1st January 2014 to 31st March 2014.

6.3 **ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development dated 16th April 2014 on Planning Enforcement Statistics for period 1st January 2014 to 31st March 2014.

6.4 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE WAIVERS FOR 2012/13**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the report of the Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development dated 16th April 2014 on the Economic Development Initiative Waivers granted in 2012/13.

6.5 **REPORT ON THE NAMING OF NEW STREETS IN CORK CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the amended report of the Director of Services, Strategic Planning & Economic Development dated 16th April 2014 on the naming of new streets in Cork City as recommended by the Planning & Development Functional Committee and further approved that the report as amended be referred back to the Roads & Transportation Functional Committee and then come back to the Planning & Development Functional Committee for further consideration.

6.6 MOTIONS

6.6.1 VACANT SPACE PROJECT

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 16th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council would develop a Vacant Space Project that would try to make use of vacant buildings in key locations in a way that can add value to the City Centre and stimulate local businesses and employment, and City Council would consider appointing a Vacant Space Officer who would work alongside all the stakeholders in the City to develop a strategy to bring these spaces back into use.’

(Proposer: Cllr M. O’Connell 13/356)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the table below shows current vacancy rates in selected retail streets at ground floor level. It measures the percentage of units vacant and the percentage of street frontage. The survey is part of an ongoing project and the streets will be resurveyed in June and August 2014. The data will also be recalibrated to allow comparison with previous surveys.

Street	length (m)	April 2014				
		Vacant (m)	% Vacant	Units	Vacant	%Vacant
St. Patrick's St.	1,000	105	10.5	93	15	16.1
Grand Parade	600	66	11.0	55	8	14.6
Oliver Plunkett St.	1,020	54	5.3	119	8	6.7
Paul St.	170	5	2.9	17	1	5.9
Princes St.	380	18	4.7	49	3	6.1
Marlborough St.	360	19	5.3	34	5	14.7
Academy St.	120	15	12.5	12	2	14.3
French Church St.	240	43	17.9	23	3	13.0
Castle St.	140	29	20.7	24	5	20.8
North Main St.	600	64	10.7	74	10	13.5
South Main St.	640	52	8.1	37	10	27.0
Washington St.	860	59	6.9	75	12	16.0

Castle Street, French Church Street, Academy Street are the streets with the greatest percentage of frontage vacancy, whereas South Main Street, Castle Street and St. Patrick's Street have the greatest percentage of units vacant.

The City Council operates a number of schemes to promote the attractiveness of the City Centre:

- *Historic Spine and City Centre Quays Architectural Conservation Area Grant Scheme* – this grant scheme with a budget of €45,000 incentivises investment in repairs to the building envelope (e.g. roofs and windows) in the City Centre. Ten projects were supported in 2013, with four of these relating to non-residential buildings;
- *Historic Spine and City Centre Quays Painting Grant Scheme* – This grant scheme with a budget of €15,000 aims to incentivise the painting of buildings to improve the appearance and character of the target area. The 2013 Painting Grant Scheme alone helped to improve the appearance of almost 30 buildings in the North Main Street, Shandon Street, Gerald Griffin Street & Great William O' Brien Street as well as other areas of the City Centre;
- The *Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme* (on behalf of the Minister of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht). Grant offers have been made to more than 25 buildings in Cork, of which six were to non-residential / mixed use buildings in the City Centre.

Additional positive impacts are proposed in relation to the following:

- A fund of €250k has been allocated to deliver projects “on the ground” in the City Centre area in 2014 that stem from the City Centre Strategy recommendations. The package of measures is currently being formulated in conjunction with stakeholders in the City Centre. Any investment will seek to have a tangible benefit on the vitality of the City Centre;
- A proposal has been submitted to the Minister under the “*Public Area Enhancement Scheme*” that aims to benefit Saint Patrick's Street and the Historic Spine, including a “Tourist Postcards” project to place attractive images of places to visit in Cork in the shop windows of vacant units on the street.
- The “*Living City Initiative*” aims to provide tax incentives to encourage investment in historic (pre-1915) buildings in the centre of Cork City. The envisaged timescale for introducing this scheme would mean that it would be introduced by the end of 2014 and be in place for a 5 year period.

The City Council also operates under the provisions of the *Derelict Sites Act 1990* (i.e. the Derelict Sites Register and process) and, the provisions of the *Planning and Development Acts 2000-2013* (e.g. in relation to the endangerment of buildings on the Record of Protected Structures) to require works to improve vacant, deteriorating and endangered buildings.

Following adoption of the City Centre Strategy, further consideration will be given in 2014 to developing a *City Centre Action Plan* that will aim to prioritise / seek funding for actions to regenerate the various character areas of the City Centre. This might include:

- The development of additional packages of measures to incentivise occupation of vacant retail and upper floors in the City Centre retail area in 2014, in partnership

with the Local Enterprise Office, the Finance Department and Corporate Affairs, following on from the work completed by as part of; and

- The commencement of a strategy aimed at breathing new life into the Historic Spine, including Barrack Street, North and South Main Streets and Shandon Street.

It is within this context that the vacant space project must be considered. Contact will be made with projects being undertaken in other cities and a report will be brought back to the committee in October 2014. It may not be possible to appoint a fulltime Vacant Space Officer but the intention is that the functions of such a post will continue to be carried out in relation to this important issue.

6.6.2 **REGISTER OF DEVELOPMENTS GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION BUT NOT COMMENCED**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 16th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council would maintain a register of developments granted planning permission but not commenced and include same as part of the schedule of publicly available information.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 14/025)

The report of the Director of Services stated that as my report to the last Functional Committee stated

All decisions on planning applications are available publicly on the planning website (www.corkcity.ie/services/strategicplanningeconomicdevelopment/viewplanningapplicationsplanninglistsandmaps/planninglists/). It is not possible, given current staffing resources, to maintain the list requested. If information is required regarding a particular site, then the information will be compiled. After the planning decision, developments are monitored for commencement and payment of development contributions.

At present, I regret that current staff resource levels do not allow any further commitment to be made. It is anticipated that the current Development Management information technology platform *iPlan* will be replaced with *Odyssey* by early 2015. When this is being put in place, I will request that the functionality to this category of information is integrated into the system as a routine operation.

6.6.3 **HERITAGE INFORMATION PANELS AT FORMER ST PAUL’S CHURCH**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 16th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘To have heritage information panels installed on the wall of the graveyard of the former St Paul’s Church on Paul Street.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 14/113)

The report of the Director of Services stated that this proposal is accepted. The City Archaeologist and the Conservation Officer will survey the site, select a suitable location for the panel and draft appropriate content.

6.6.4 **TASK FORCE TO TACKLE DERELICTION IN THE BLACKPOOL AND SHANDON STREET AREAS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 16th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council would organise a Task Force to tackle dereliction in the Blackpool and Shandon Street areas to help encourage businesses to set up locally. If Blackpool and Shandon Street areas are to thrive then a plan or vision needs to be put in place

The Task Force would need to be comprised of key decision makers from each department from within Cork City Council and a representative from the Business Association that could develop a framework to facilitate business start ups.

The Task Force would initiate similar to the rate schemes in the past where new businesses would pay reduced scale rates over a number of years to help establish them.

The Task Force would be key to make these areas focal points once again by identifying suitable companies to locate within these areas.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Gould 14/130)

And on the proposal of Comhairleoir T. Gould, seconded by Comhairleoir C. O’Leary, An Chomhairle further agreed to approve the motion.

The report of the Director of Services stated that The City Council, along with a number of other organisations, has been instrumental in a “Northside for Business” initiative for the last 18 months. This initiative is overseen by a Steering Group comprising representatives of Cork City Council, Cork City Local Enterprise Office (formerly Cork City Enterprise Board), Cork Chamber and northside businesses, HSE, Cork City Partnership, Department of Social Protection and others.

“Northside for Business” is focused on promoting enterprise and employment in the area, with a particular focus on small and medium enterprises. Several practical actions have been implemented and these will continue. A business showcase and conference were held in Neptune stadium and a Northside for Christmas initiative was implemented. Three Northside business networks have recently been established and Northside for Business forums will be held throughout the year. Several businesses from Blackpool also participated in a Retail Development Programme which was funded by the Cork City Enterprise Board. Another retail programme is to begin next month and local businesses are again being invited to participate.

Blackpool has suffered structural decline over a protracted period for a variety of reasons and the Directorate has responded to this proactively. In the last 5 years the following have been undertaken:

- It prepared and adopted the *Blackpool Village Area Action Plan 2010* that proposed a series of actions to improve the area, including actions to tackle dereliction;
- It designated the Blackpool Architectural Conservation Area in 2009, which includes the area from Thomas Davis Street, Great William O'Brien Street and Gerald Griffin Street;
- In response to the condition of buildings in the area the Architectural Conservation Area Grant Scheme area has included Blackpool between 2011 and 2014. This resulted in buildings being upgraded in the area each year: 2011 (The Lido, 71 Watercourse Road); 2012 (three buildings); and 2013 (one building);
- The Lido building (71 Watercourse Road) was acquired by the City Council and was painted in partnership with Dulux paints in 2011. A long term future for the building is currently being negotiated. The City Council has also acquired 6A / 7 John Redmond Street recently.
- Since 2010 twenty-three buildings have been investigated and considered under the provisions of the *Derelict Sites Act 1991*.

Shandon also suffers from dereliction but to a lesser degree. In the last 10 years the following have been undertaken to improve the Shandon area:

- A *Shandon Area Action Plan 2002*, which resulted in significant improvements to the area, including the upgrading of Shandon Street;
- It designated the Shandon Architectural Conservation Area in 2009, which includes the Shandon Street area and streets to the east and west;
- In response to the condition of buildings in the area the Architectural Conservation Area Grant Scheme area has included Shandon between 2012 and 2014. This resulted in buildings being upgraded in the area each year, including: 2012 (four buildings); and 2013 (seven buildings). In addition 61 Shandon benefitted from a Structures at Risk Fund grant in 2012;
- 5 / 6 Shandon Street, which are owned by the City Council, were painted in 2013 by the City Council in partnership with Dulux;
- Since 2010 approximately fifteen buildings have been investigated and considered under the provisions of the *Derelict Sites Act 1991*.

The painting grant scheme subject area has also included Blackpool and Shandon in 2011-2014. The proposed City Living Initiative, when introduced, would also provide tax incentives to encourage investment in the building stock in the target areas.

The priority for action in 2014 is to begin to tackle the City Centre and its complex challenges. However, it is acknowledged that the Shandon and Blackpool areas require targeted intervention, including tackling dereliction as a symptom of decline. The creation of a Blackpool and Shandon Derelict Sites Task force is considered inappropriate as dereliction needs to be considered on a city-wide basis in order to provide an objective basis for prioritising action. Achieving real change would require a regeneration approach that combines significant staff and monetary resources with a carrot and stick approach based upon an adopted strategy for the areas.

It is proposed that a “*State of the Historic Spine*” Report be prepared that would present the findings of a comprehensive analysis of the condition of the spine based upon a survey and analysis of the sites and buildings in the area. This report will define which buildings / sites on the corridor are vacant, unsightly, endangered, derelict and in need of redevelopment. This report would provide a basis for prioritising action on the spine

and could then be considered in the context of competing priorities in relation to delivering the City Centre Strategy which is the priority in 2014. The report would be brought to Council before the end of 2014 following completion of the survey and analysis work. Work on priority areas on the historic spine could commence in 2015 if this is a corporate priority.

7. **ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE – 22nd APRIL 2014**

An Chomhairle noted the minutes of the Environment & Recreation Functional Committee, from its meeting held on the 22nd April 2014.

7.1 **COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE GRANT SCHEME 2014**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the report of the Director of Services on the 2014 Community Maintenance Grant Scheme.

7.2 **FULL TIME ROTA FOR CLEANING OF PATRICK'S HILL**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 13th February 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Patrick’s Hill be included for a full time Rota for sweeping and general cleaning maintenance due to the fact that Patrick’s Hill is a well known tourist spot that is used continuously’

(Proposer: Cllr. K O’ Flynn 13/344)

The report of the Director of Services stated that St. Patrick’s Hill from its junction with MacCurtain Street to its junction with Wellington Road is manually swept daily from Mondays to Fridays. St. Patrick’s Hill from its junction with Wellington Road to its junction with Audley Place is monitored and cleaned at least once a week. It is not possible to increase the present cleaning arrangements in light of the available staffing resources.

7.3 **CLEAN UP OF MCCARTHY’S MONUMENT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 13th February 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That this Council work with the owner of the site of McCarthy’s Monument on Blackrock Road to clean it up’

(Proposer: Cllr K. McCarthy 13/359)

The report of the Director of Services stated that contact will be made with the owner of the site to establish if the City Council can assist in a clean up of the monument.

7.4 **FUNDING FOR A NEW MUGA IN BALLINLOUGH DOUGLAS POOL PARK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 13th February 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That the Parks Department apply for funding from the Sports Council of the Department of Sport for a new MUGA in Ballinlough Douglas Pool park. A successful application was recently made for one in Douglas Park by Cork County Council.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. McCarthy 14/001)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council was successful in its recent application ‘under the Sport Nation Initiative (Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport/IPB) to develop a ski slope of the Glen Resource Centre. It will shortly submit an application under the 2014 Sports Capital Grant Scheme to carry out necessary upgrade works to it’s sports hall at Tramore Road. Provision of a MUGA at the Ballinlough site will be considered should further funding opportunities arise.

7.5 **TIDY DISTRICT COMPETITION**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 13th February 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council introduces a tidy district competition, allowing resident association group and community groups to come together and encourage tidiness in their locality.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O ‘Flynn 14/021)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council did operate a Tidy District’s Competition until recent years, but in general, the Competition attracted the same entries each year, with only a limited number of award winners. The Council’s Community Maintenance Grant Scheme introduced in the past few years proved to be a far more effective measure to encourage residents/community groups to enhance their areas, with 46 groups last year being allocated a total of €8,000 in grant aid towards provision of equipment, enhancement works etc., in their estates.

7.6 **DOG PARK IN CORK CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

"That Cork City Council would seek to provide a 'dog park 'in Cork City, for dogs to exercise and play off-leash in a controlled environment under the supervision of their owners. Dog parks, promote responsible pet ownership and the enforcement of dog-control laws; give dogs a place to exercise safely, thus reducing barking and other problem behaviours."

(Proposer: Cllr. L. McGonigle 14/032)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a Dog Park is a park for dogs to exercise and play off leash in a controlled environment. They are suitable in large parkland settings ideally with Park Rangers being able to monitor them on a regular basis. The City Council will examine the possibility of providing such a park at Tramore Valley Park, other parks being too small and not suitable for further subdivision into separate dog parks.

7.7 **RECEPTACLES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE CITY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council would consider placing receptacles at various locations around the City for people to discard unwanted and illegal drugs safely. This would compliment the programme already in place where receptacles are already in public toilets to collect used needles that can then be destroyed safely.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. O’Connell 14/037)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a special Cork City Joint Policing Committee meeting dealing with heroin abuse in Cork City was held on the 18th November 2013. The Health Services Executive representatives at the meeting outlined details of the needle exchange programme that is in place. It was also outlined at the meeting that it is hoped to increase the number of pharmacies taking part in this scheme. It is unclear where additional needle disposal points could be installed and what beneficial effect could be achieved. However regular review of the situation will be maintained and if evidence of benefit of disposal points becomes available, the matter can be reconsidered.

7.8 **ADOPT A ROAD SCHEME**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘To request that the Council formulate a policy to facilitate companies/commercial businesses who wish to contribute towards the upkeep and maintenance of a particular road/ area in terms of litter picking, landscaping and so on. This concept has previously been recommended to as the "Adopt a Road Scheme ", whereby a business would commit to maintaining a specified area in return for public acknowledgement / advertising of their contribution. A list of businesses/companies should be posted on the City Council web site.’

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Gibbons 14/042)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the proposal in the motion is being considered in the review of the existing Litter Management Plan which is taking place at present.

7.9 **SUMMER PILOT PROJECT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council begin to plan to roll out the successful summer school pilot project that happened last summer across the City, with each ward getting a summer school whereby local Clubs/Associations are asked for their support.

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Gibbons 14/043)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the City Council’s Recreation & Sport staff last year co-ordinated a very successful Teen Project in the Ballyphehane/Togher area, working successfully with various community and sporting organisations in the area to provide a very varied programme of activities for teens during the last week in June. The key element in the project was the willingness of local groups/clubs to work together and provide volunteers and facilities for the project.

The Ballyphehane/Togher Teen project is again being held this year in the first week of June with work progressing on provision of a similar project in the Mahon area as well. A review of the projects will be undertaken with a view to further roll out next year if successful.

7.10 **PRUNE TREES AT SKEHARD ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That the trees along the Skehard Road be pruned as they have grown to an unacceptable height and are a safety concern especially during inclement weather.’

(Proposer: Cllr T. Shannon 14/045)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the trees on Skehard Road are currently being surveyed with pruning works to be carried out by the end of Summer.

7.11 **PURCHASE OF LANDBANK AT BISHOPSTOWN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL PARK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council would request NAMA to consider disposing all or part of the landbank held in Bishopstwon (area of land between the Curraheen Road, Hawkes Road and the Bishopstwon Road) for the development of a local community park.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 13/410).

The report of the Director of Services stated that Murphy's Farm Park in Bishopstown is a medium sized park serving the needs of the greater Bishopstown/Curraheen area incorporating walkways, riverway, playing pitches, informal recreation areas and a pitch and putt course. The priority of the Council is further upgrading of this amenity as resources permit in the next few years.

The site in question in the ownership of NAMA is zoned residential with a consequential asset value, reflecting its future potential. Murphy's Farm is located less than 1km from this site.

7.12 **FLUORIDATION OF THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'That fluoridation of the public water supply cease with immediate effect on public health grounds and that public servants who carry our fluoridation be held personally accountable for the consequent damage to public health of continued fluoridation.'

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 13/163)

The report of the Director of Services stated that since the 1st January 2014, the fluoridation of water is a matter for both Irish Water and the Health Service Executive. It is understood that an international group of consultants is to be appointed by the Government to examine the use of fluoride in the public water supply. The appointment of the consultants and their report should be awaited.

7.13 **ANTI DOG FOULING SIGNS**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'That anti dog fouling signs be erected along Church Road, in Blackrock, where the problem is quiet acute.'

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Shannon 14/046)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a number of "no dog fouling" signs will be erected along Church Road, Blackrock in the near future.

7.14 **TREE PRUNING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

'That Cork City Council would arrange to have the trees between Berlingford Drive and Clontarf Estate be pruned. These trees that serve as a boundary between these two estates in Blackrock have grown very high and pose a public safety issue for local residents.'

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Shannon 14/055)

The report of the Director of Services stated that these trees are on the current list of tree works to be done.

7.15 **EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF SPORT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council would apply for European capital of sport.’

(Proposer: Cllr. K. O’Flynn 14/059)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the European Capital of Sport is an award from ACES (European Capital of Sports Association) since 2001. The criteria for award require a population of 500,000 in the City or the City to be the capital of an EU state. As such, it is not possible to satisfy the award criteria.

7.16 **CLEANING OF DRAINS IN BALLYVOLANE PARK AND PLAYGROUND**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council would:

(a) arrange to drain the Park in Ballyvolane in order to channel the excess water as at present there is so much water coming over the 3 ft wall (approx) that it is seeping under the foundations of the houses adjacent.

(b) that the drains in the playground would cleaned out and freed up and maintained.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Gosch 14/061)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a review of the existing drainage within Meelick Park will be undertaken shortly. The drains in the park were cleaned in the past six weeks and are on a maintenance schedule.

7.17 **PUBLIC GREEN AT TIFFANY DOWNS, BRAMPTON COURT**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council would initiate meaningful discussion and dialogue with the residents of Tiffany Downs, Brampton Court and local councillors to identify and implement effective strategies and remedies to secure a permanent boundary wall and fencing of the public green, ensure adequate visual and sound screening to the adjacent flyover and Ring Road, and develop an appropriate planting scheme for the estate. It is also recognised that any response requires inter-Directorate working and cooperation as well as possible engagement with the NRA.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 14/076)

The report of the Director of Services stated that a large number of leylandii trees at Tiffany Downs/Brampton Court were damaged and removed during the recent storms.

A meeting will be arranged with residents/local councillors, NRA and any relevant Council Departments to address concerns outlined in the motion.

7.18 **DOG FOULING**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That as dog fouling has now reached crisis levels throughout Cork City, Cork City Council proceed to amend current Bye Laws to classify failure on part of dog owners to clean up after their dogs as Anti Social Behaviour and at the same time undertake a major sustained public education programme via schools and new media’

(Proposer: Cllr T. Brosnan 13/109)

The report of the Director of Services stated it is an offence under section 22 of the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2009 for a person in charge of a dog not to remove dog faeces from a public place. The on the spot fine is €150 with a maximum court fine of €3,000.

Cork City Council has issued a copy of its responsible dog ownership publication to each holder of a current dog licence, each Community Association and each Residents Association. Copies of this publication will be issued to all primary and second level schools within Cork City Council’s administrative area.

Cork City Council will continue to provide “no dog fouling signs” in areas of the city and continue to provide specific bags for the removal of dog faeces to holders of current dog licences within its administrative area. Cork City Council will continue to include the requirement to remove dog faeces in its anti litter advertising programme within the reduced budget figure provided in 2013.

7.19 **RAILINGS ALONG THE WALLS AT WANDESFORD QUAY BE REPLACED WITH STONEMWORK**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That the railings along the walls at Wandesford Quay be replaced with stonework as a first measure to alleviate flooding along the Quay and in Sharman Crawford Street.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M Finn 14/048)

The report of the Director of Services stated that Wandesford Quay and especially the junction with Sharman Crawford Street are low lying areas which, in common other parts of the City, are subject to flooding from the Lee. The OPW currently have a project underway to address tidal and fluvial flooding in the City. This project, designated The Lower Lee Flood Relief Scheme, will be engaging in public consultation on preferred proposals for works in late July of this year. These proposals will include Wandesford Quay. It is not therefore intended to carry out any works in advance of finalisation of OPW indicative scheme.

7.20 **REMOVE THE DERELICT BUILDINGS HOUSING PUBLIC TOILETS ON MERCHANTS QUAY**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council remove the derelict buildings housing public toilets on Merchants Quay.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 14/100)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the demolition of the disused toilet blocks on Merchants Quay is included in the scope of the public realm upgrade works currently being carried out on Parnell Place. Demolition and pavement reinstatement is programmed for late May.

7.21 **REPAIR THE PALISADE FENCING IN SOUTHRIDGE, MAYFIELD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That Cork City Council repair the palisade fencing in Southridge, Mayfield, which was damaged when a tree fell on it during the recent storms. It's currently in a very dangerous condition and in the interest of public safety this matter needs to be addressed urgently.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 14/101)

The report of the Director of Services stated this fencing was repaired in recent weeks.

7.22 **INSPECTION OF SEWAGE SYSTEM AT CASTLEVIEW TERRACE, LOWER GLANMIRE ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘Bearing in mind the problems being caused for some residents, that the sewage system at Castleview Terrace, Lower Glanmire Road, be inspected and, if necessary rectified.

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kelleher T. Brosnan, T. Tynan, J. Kavanagh 14/105)

The report of the Director of Services stated that the drainage system at Castleview Terrace, Lower Glanmire Road, is a private common drain serving all the houses and connecting to the public sewer on Lower Glanmire Road via the steps between them. As this is a private common drain and is causing no nuisance in a public area, the City Council/Irish Water has no input to the resolution of maintenance issues. It is a matter for the residents served by the common drain to arrange for inspection and necessary

remedial work. If issues of public nuisance arise the Water Services Authority may have to intervene to compel works to be carried out.

7.23 **UPGRADE OF PUMPING STATION AT GREENHILLS ESTATE, SOUTH DOUGLAS ROAD**

An Chomhairle considered and approved the report of the Director of Services, Planning & Development dated the 17th April 2014 on the following motion which was referred to Committee by An Chomhairle:-

‘That the pumping station situated in Greenhills Estate, South Douglas Road, be upgraded to increase the capacity of the pumps, to enable them to efficiently pump the foul and sewerage water to the main drain on the South Douglas Road. At present the pump capacity is not sufficient to do this job, and consequently flooding and seeping sewerage water on the road surface is frequently occurring at this location.

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Shannon 14/118)

The report of the Director of Services stated that arising from the extended period of wet weather experienced in January, February and into March, the level of infiltration and impact of diverted flow from springs on the combined sewer system in Greenhills Estate became evident. The level of flow exceeded the capacity of the existing pump. The solution however, is not to increase the pump capacity and cause difficulties further downstream within the drainage network, but to identify and divert, as far as possible, the groundwater inflows. Work on preparing a scheme in this regard has commenced.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

An Chomhairle noted the following correspondence:-

- Letter dated the 8th April 2014 from the Department of Finance regarding Local Property Tax.
- Letter dated the 10th April 2014 from the Department of Justice & Equality regarding Ms. Magaretta D’Arcy.
- Letter dated the 11th April 2014 from Department of Finance regarding the Single Parent Child Carer Credit.
- Letter from Margery Downs thanking Council for the expression of Sympathy on her late husband’s passing.
- Letter dated the 17th April 2014 from the National Roads Authority regarding Election posters and signage on MMaRC network.

10. **CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS SUMMARIES**

An Chomhairle noted Summaries by Members of Conferences/Seminars attended.

Cllr. E. O’Halloran – MABS and the Insolvency Services of Ireland – Rosscarbery, Co. Cork – 11/13 April 2014.

11. **CONFERENCES/ SEMINARS**

On the proposal of Comhairleoir C. O’Leary, seconded by Comhairleoir F. Kerins, a vote was called on whether to approve the attendance of Councillors at Seminars and Conferences at items No. 10 & 11 where there appeared as follows:-

A vote was called for where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí C. Clancy, T. Fitzgerald, L. McGonigle, T. Shannon, L. Kingston, J. Buttimer, M. Shields, M. Ahern, B. Bermingham. (9)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, M. Barry, T. Gould, M. Nugent, D. Cahill, C. O’Leary, K. McCarthy, M. Finn, F. Kerins, H. Cremin. (10)

As the numbers voting against were greater than those voting for, An tÁrd-Mhéara declared the vote defeated and the attendance of Councillors at the various seminars and conferences not approved.

12. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle approved the referral to the relevant Committee of the following motions, due notice of which has been given:-

12.1 **INSTALL DOG FOUL BINS NEAR MAJOR PARKS**

‘That as part of its crackdown on dog fouling, Cork City Council installs dog foul bins near major parks etc to provide dog walkers with appropriate infrastructure and remove the excuse of no receptacles being in place.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M Finn 14/116)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

12.2 **UPGRADE TRAFFIC ISLANDS**

‘That Cork City Council would take immediate action to upgrade the traffic islands at the following locations where they are quite dilapidated and a danger to motorists particularly at night.’

1. Skehard Road by Skehard Lawn.
2. Boreenmanna Road at Rockboro

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Shannon 14/121)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.3 **CLEANUP OF POSTMAN’S WALK, DOUGLAS**

‘That the Postman’s Walk between Douglas Hall Lawn and the Well Road be cleaned up and the vegetation cut back.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Shannon 14/122)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

12.4 **FORUM OF CITY CENTRE RESIDENTS**

‘That a 'Forum of City Centre Residents' be established - comprising the appropriate City Council directorates, the Gardai and other agencies - to address issues of concern among residents of the the city centre (including those in the Middle Parish, the South Parish and the inner city) to include: chronic parking problems; anti-social behaviour and noise disturbance; delivery to premises at unsociable hours; re-configuration of streetscapes and associated problems; the need to make certain streets one-way (or to reverse existing one-way flows). Such a motion is vital if we are serious about attracting people to come and live in the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr Mick Finn 14/126)

Corporate Policy Group

12.5 **SPEED RAMP AT IONA GREEN**

‘That Cork City Council put in place a speed ramp at the lower entrance to Iona Green in the interest of public safety.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 14/139)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.6 **GATES TO BE ERECTED OUTSIDE 136 – 148 COMERAGH PARK**

‘For gates to be erected outside 136 – 148 Comeragh Park, to ensure security for tenants.’

(Proposer: K. O’Flynn 14/142)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

12.7 **ELECTRIC GATES AT DISTILLERY COURT**

‘That Cork City Council would erect electric gates operational by remote control at Distillery Court and that each resident in Distillery Court be issued 2 remote controls to operate gates’

(Proposer: K. O’Flynn 14/144)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

12.8 **WOULD REINSTATE THE WHITE LINE AT THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT THE WESTERN END OF CLASHDUV ROAD**

‘That City Council would reinstate the white line at the traffic lights at the western end of Clashduv Road which was resurfaced in the past twelve months. Traffic is now stopping at the end of the resurfaced section approx 20 feet from the traffic lights because there is no white line there and if the first car is turning right onto Glasheen Road there is not enough room for traffic to turn left if the green arrow is showing. This is causing damage to the kerb and traffic is also backed up the Clashduv Road regularly.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/163)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.9 **YELLOW HATCH BOX WOULD BE PUT IN PLACE ON THE SKEHARD ROAD**

‘That a yellow hatch box would be put in place on the Skehard Road at the entrance to Clover Lawn to allow the residents to exit and enter in safety as this entrance is continuously blocked by traffic.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. O’Flynn 14/165)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.10 **FORMER PERMANENT TSB BANK**

‘That Cork City Council would give consideration for the future, the former Permanent TSB Bank be utilised as a Central Tourist Office.’

It has the size, scope and is equipped to deal with the general public.

Its strategic location directly opposite City Hall and adjacent to the Park and Ride could be a great benefit to the city.’

(Proposer: Cllr. L. Kingston 14/166)

Tourism Arts & Culture Functional Committee

12.11 **RESURFACE FAIRHILL DRIVE AND UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATE REPAIRS TO FAIRFIELD ROAD**

‘I would appreciate if Cork City Council would resurface Fairhill Drive and undertake immediate repairs to Fairfield Road from the entrance from Na Piarasaigh GAA pavilion as there are many potholes and the road is in need of repair.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/167)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.12 **ROAD RESURFACING PROGRAMME**

‘That Cork City Council include Rathpeacon Road in the road resurfacing programme.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Fitzgerald 14/168)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.13 **GREEN AREA BE REMOVED ACROSS FROM HOUSE NO'S 29 / 30 RAVENSDALE ROAD**

‘That part of the green area be removed across from house No's 29 / 30 Ravensdale Road so the residents can park in safety.’

(Proposer: Cllr. D. O’Flynn 14/169)

Environment & Recreation Functional Committee

12.14 **YELLOW BOX AT THE EXIT OF KNIGHTS COURT, OLD YOUGHAL ROAD**

‘That Cork City Council put in place a Yellow Box at the exit of Knights Court housing estate on Old Youghal Road in order to enhance the safety of residential traffic to and from the estate on to the very busy Old Youghal Road.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Kavanagh 14/170)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.15 **REFUND FOR FLOOD BARRIERS**

‘That the small number of privately owned houses that had to purchase their own flood barriers in Blackpool as a result of the recent flooding be refunded on the outlay.’

(Proposer: Cllr. P. Gosch 14/174)

Environment & Recreation Strategic Policy Committee

12.16 **RESURFACING WORKS AT BONAVENTURE PLACE, GREENMOUNT**

‘That necessary resurfacing works be carried out on Bonaventure Place, Greenmount.’

(Proposer: E. O’Halloran 14/185)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.17 **REDUCE NUMBER OF COMMITTEES**

‘That in order to improve the efficiency of the City Council, the number of committees be reduced after May 23rd, with some committees, for example, The Docklands

Development Committee and The Planning Committee, being amalgamated.’

(Proposer: J. Kelleher 14/186)

Corporate Policy Group

12.18 **ADD MCCURTAIN VILLAS TO THE RESURFACING PROGRAMME FOR 2014**

‘That City Council would investigate the condition of the road surface in McCurtains Villas and include this area in the resurfacing programme for 2014.’

(Proposer: Cllr. H. Cremin 14/188)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.19 **BANTRY PARK ROAD, FAIRHILL**

‘In relation to Bantry Park Road, Fairhill, Cork City Council will:
Install traffic-calming measures.

Install a footpath around the perimeter of O'Leary's Field to ensure the safety of local residents, particularly children.’

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 14/189)

Roads & Transportation Functional Committee

12.20 **REPORT ON THE CHAPEL FIELD ESTATE**

That Cork City Council Housing Department present a report on the Chapel Field Estate outlining what work has been done recently in relation to the drainage system in the estate including what issues have been identified & any necessary work required, a copy of the drainage plans to be made available to the Residents Committee.

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 14/191)

Housing & Community Functional Committee

12.21 **REVERSE DECISION NOT TO PROVIDE ANY FUNDING FOR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN CORK CITY FOR 2014**

That Cork City Council would reverse it's decision not to provide any funding for traffic calming measures in Cork City for 2014. Following a serious accident on Innishannon Road, Fairhill highlights again the urgent need for the provision of traffic calming measures where the residents and the community require.

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Gould 14/192)

Finance Functional Committee

13. **MOTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered the following motions:-

DIRECTLY ELECTED LORD MAYOR FOR CORK CITY

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the following motion:-

- 13.1 ‘That Cork City Council write to the Minister for Local Government Mr Phil Hogan T.D. and, request the same opportunity that Dublin has given in councillors voting for a directly elected Lord Mayor for Cork City, and that the people of Cork City should be given the opportunity to take part in a local plebiscite.’

(Proposer: Cllr. G. Gibbons 14/148)

14. **MOTIONS DEFERRED FROM MEETING OF THE 24TH MARCH 2014**

14.1 **END THE FLUORIDATION OF DRINKING WATER**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council ends the fluoridation of drinking water to Cork City and calls on the Irish Government to end the practice of artificial fluoridating drinking water supplies because of scientific evidence of its dangers. As citizens of Europe the Irish people must have the same standard of care as our European neighbours. Currently water fluoridation does not meet the minimum standards as required of the ‘precautionary principle’ enshrined in the treaty of Europe. It is imperative that this practice ceases.’

(Proposer: Cllr. C. O’Leary 14/103)

A vote was called for where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, M. Barry, T. Gould, M. Nugent C. O’Leary, M. Finn, F. Kerins, H. Cremin. (8)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí C. Clancy, D. Cahill, L. McGonigle, K. McCarthy, L. Kingston, J. Buttimer, M. Ahern. (7)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí T. Fitzgerald, T. Shannon.

As the numbers voting in favour the motion were greater than those voting against the motion, An tÁrd-Mhéara declared the vote carried and the motion approved.

14.2 **REDUCE THE PROPERTY TAX BY 15%**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council call on the Tánaiste Eamonn Gilmore to ensure that he gets the necessary Cabinet approval and funding that would allow this Council to reduce the property tax by 15% as he has recently spoken about.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Shannon 14/117)

14.3 **INTEGRATED APPROACH TO MEETING THE RESIDENTIAL, OCCUPATIONAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY**

An Chomhairle agreed to refer the following motion to the Planning & Development Strategic Planning Committee

‘That Cork City Council would engage with the HSE and providers of service for adults with a disability to ensure an integrated approach to meeting the residential, occupational and social needs of people with a disability with equal access to community setting and resources, and that this is reflected in the City Development Plan.’

(Proposer: Cllr. J. Buttimer 14/125)

14.4 **EDUCATE TOGETHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council supports the campaign for the establishment of an Educate Together Secondary School in Cork City.’

(Proposer: Cllr. E. O’Halloran 14/128)

14.5 **GOVERNMENT GATEWAY SCHEME**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council will not participate in the Government's 'Gateway Scheme' for local authorities’.

(Proposer: Cllr. M. Nugent 14/129)

A vote was called for where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, M. Barry, T. Gould, T. Fitzgerald, M. Nugent, D. Cahill, C. O’Leary, K. McCarthy, M. Finn, F. Kerins, M. Ahern, H. Cremin. (12)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí C. Clancy, L. McGonigle, L. Kingston, J. Buttimer. (4)

As the numbers voting in favour of the motion were greater than those voting against the motion, An tÁrd-Mhéara declared the vote carried and the motion approved.

14.6 **LOWERING OF THE VOTING AGE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

An Chomhairle considered the following motion:-

‘That Cork City Council supports recommendations by the Constitutional Convention calling for:

The lowering of the voting age for Presidential elections to 16-years-of-age;

The introduction of votes in the Presidential election for citizens in the North of Ireland & for the Irish Diaspora.’

(Proposer: Cllr M. Nugent 14/131)

A vote was called for where there appeared as follows:-

FOR: Comhairleoirí T. Gould, M. Nugent, C. O’Leary, L. Kingston, M. Finn, F. Kerins, H. Cremin. (7)

AGAINST: Comhairleoirí M. Barry, D. Cahill, L. McGonigle, J. Buttimer, M. Ahern. (5)

ABSTAIN: Comhairleoirí T. Tynan, C.Clancy, T. Fitzgerald, K. McCarthy. (4)

As the numbers voting in favour the motion were greater than those voting against the motion, An tÁrd-Mhéara declared the vote carried and the motion approved.

15. **MOTIONS DEFERRED FROM MEETING OF THE 14TH APRIL 2014**

15.1 **INCOME TAX CODE AMENDED**

An Chomhairle considered and unanimously approved the following motions:-

‘That the Income Tax code be amended so that Irish Income Tax is charged based on Citizenship rather than residence / domicile as the current system facilitates super rich fat cats who want all the benefits of Irish citizenship but who pay their Income Tax elsewhere.’

(Proposer: Cllr. T. Brosnan 14/150)

This concluded the business of the meeting

AN tARD-MHÉARA
CATHAOIRLEACH