



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork and by Microsoft Teams on Monday 13th May 2024.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir Sean Ó hÉalaithe, Leas Mhéara

Comhairleoiri: Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú C, Ó Suilleabháin Sean, Uí Shuilleabháin M, Ó Coileáin D, Ó Murchú PG, Ní Chróinín, Heinhold, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Ní Charthaigh U, Uí Bhuachalla, De Faoite, Daltún-Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Ó Conbhuhair Sean, Ó Conchubair Alan, MacCarthaigh N, Ó Flionn, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, Dawson, De Róiste, Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé Sean Pól, Críod, Uí Muineacháin G, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Cochláin M, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó Haodha Padraig, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Ó Cionaithe, Ó Madaoin, Ó Sé Tony, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní Heachthigheirn, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh Susan, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaioich, Ó Haodha Pól.

PRESENT

Councillor John Healy, Deputy Mayor, presided.

Councillor: Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy K, O'Sullivan J, O'Sullivan M, Collins D, Murphy PG, Cronin, Heinhold, McGrath, D'Alton, McCarthy U, Buckley A, White, Dalton O'Sullivan, O'Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O'Connor S, O'Connor A, McCarthy N, O'Flynn, O'Brien, O'Leary, Dawson, Roche, Moynihan B, Doyle, O'Shea JP, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kenny, Madden, O'Shea Tony, Linehan-Foley, Healy, Hegarty M, Ahern, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul

Chief Executive, A/Director of Services Corporate Services, Director of Services Roads and Transportation, A/Director of Finance, Administrative Officer Corporate Services

Mayor Frank O'Flynn took the chair at 12.43

[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/5-1

Proposed by Cllr. Michael Hegarty

Seconded by Cllr. John Paul O'Shea

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 19th April be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

2/5-1

Proposed by Cllr. John Paul O'Shea

Seconded by Cllr. Kevin Murphy

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd April be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

3/5-1

TO: Tania Banotti the death of her mother Mary Banotti

[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:

4/5-1

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COBH:

Disposal of land at Carrignafey, Cobh, Co. Cork

4(a)/5-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 3rd May 2024.

Situation: Disposal of land at Carrignafey, Cobh, Co. Cork

Area: Area measuring c. 7.2 sq metres as outlined on map attached.

Consideration: €1,000.00.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MACROOM:

Lease of former Fire Station, Millstreet, Co. Cork

4(b)/5-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 3rd May 2024.

Situation: Lease of Former Fire Station, Millstreet, Co. Cork

Area: 0.0333 hectares/ 0.0822 acres

Consideration: €1,000 per annum

Grant of Right of Way at Clonteadmore, Coachford, Co. Cork

4(c)/5-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 3rd May 2024.

Situation: Grant of Right of Way at Clonteadmore, Coachford, Co. Cork

Area: Linear distance of 30m and an area of 188m.sq

Consideration: €500

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KANTURK/MALLOW:

Disposal of Sites at Buttevant Industrial Park, Buttevant, Co. Cork

4(d)/5-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 3rd May 2024.

Situation: Disposal of 2 no. sites at Buttevant Industrial Estate, Buttevant, Co. Cork.

Area: c. 0.295 hectares as per the attached map.

Consideration: €60,000.00

CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 179A OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED.

5/5-1

RESOLUTION UNDER SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF FERMOY:

Members resolved to approve Part 8 Chief Executive's report to develop a new 18 space carpark, along with associated works including entrance works, landscaping works, installation of fencing, installation high level barrier and provision of signage at Ballard Forest, Kilworth. Co Cork.

Proposed by Cllr. Declan Hurley

Seconded by Cllr. John Paul O'Shea

DRAFT SOUTH COAST DESIGNATED MARITIME AREA PLAN.

6/5-1

Department Briefing from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications on the Draft South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan.

Policy Context:

- Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) key enabler of Ireland's decarbonisation
- National Marine Planning Framework, 2021
- Maritime Area Planning Act, 2021
- ORE Plan Led-Regime, 2023
- Draft South Coast DMAP, 2024

South Coast DMAP Proposal:

- DMAP Proposal July 2023 - Study Area
- To identify Maritime areas for Fixed Offshore Wind
 - 900 MW Project for development by 2030
 - Post 2030 development areas
- Refinement on foot of:
 - Public Engagement: Aug-Oct 23
 - Environmental & Technical Analysis
 - SEA and AA

Draft South Coast DMAP ORE:

- Draft SC DMAP – proposes 4 Maritime Areas for future ORE
- DMAP Policy Objectives for sustainable ORE development:
 - Marine environment and biodiversity protection
 - Coexistence of ORE with other maritime activities
- Policy objectives are in addition to existing policy and statutory obligations, and project level EIA and AA

Maritime Area A: Tonn Nua:

- 900 MW Project by ORESS 2.1 Winner
- Deployment target by 2030
- 313 km²
- c.65% space for 900 MW project
- Distance to shore: 12.2 km
- Mean water depth 57 m
- Average wind speed at 150 m height 10.4 m/s

Maritime Areas B-D:

- Post 2030 Deployments
 - Deeper water;
 - Constrained supply chain
- Maritime Area B: *Lí Ban*
 - 486 km²
 - Distance to shore: 29 km
 - Mean water depth 71 m
- Maritime Area C: *Manannán*
 - 342 km²
 - Distance to shore: 27 km
 - Mean water depth 69 m
- Maritime Area D: *Danu*
 - 304 km²
 - Distance to shore: 27 km
 - Mean water depth 67 m

ORESS 2.1 900 MW Estimated Economic Impact:

- €940mn GVA and 10,400 FTE years in IE
- €620mn GVA and 6,900 FTE years in South Coast
- South Coast capture >65% economic benefits

DMAP 5GW Pipeline Estimated Economic Impact:

- €4.4bn GVA and 49,000 FTE years in IE
- €2.9bn GVA and 32,200 FTE years in South Coast
- South Coast captures >65% economic benefits

Next Steps:

- May – June: Statutory 6 Week Statutory Public Consultation in person events across Cork, Waterford & Wexford
- Public in person events:
- Cork: 4 events on 16 May & 6 June
- Waterford: 5 events on 15 May & 30 May & 5 June
- Wexford: 4 events on 22 & 28 May
- Full list of events at gov.ie/southcoastdmap
- Q2 2024: Update Draft DMAP & finalise SEA & AA processes
- 2024: Oireachtas Approval Sought for Draft DMAP, contingent on consultation outcome and post consultation DMAP amendments

During this discussion, Members made the following points:

- Said there is potential for this sector and there needs to be urgency in getting this delivered as quickly as possible
- Asked if these are the only sites off the Cork coast?
- Said the cross departmental approach to this is positive
- Said the consultation process in this is also very positive
- Said the distance from shore from the developments is very concerning
- Said floating technology is important and it is important to keep pushing these areas offshore
- Members asked about the ownership of electricity and what the State is going to do with it
- Asked if the concerns of the fishing industry have been addressed?
- Said public consultation will be key

Mark Willis from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications responded as follows:

- Said these are the identified areas but there will be more DMAPs
- The next DMAP is likely to be floating offshore wind, likely to be off the West Coast of Ireland
- Said greater resources will be necessary to meet longer term climate objectives
- The plan is specifically focused on the maritime area, environmental concerns have been central in the plan
- Said this plan does not allow developers to deviate from existing statutory processes
- Said the ownership of electricity is bound by European regulations
- The grid infrastructure will be owned by Eirgrid who are 100% State owned
- Said the DMAPs will be done by the State, not developers
- There is a governance structure for the DMAP
- Said the main objective is to decarbonise the Irish Economy
- Said engagement with the fishing industry has been central to the plan
- There are policies in place to allow fishing to take place.

FUNDING FOR ROADS IN CORK COUNTY

7/5-1

Mr. Niall Healy, Director of Roads and Transportation presented to Members on the meeting held with Minister Jack Chambers seeking additional Funding for Roads in Cork County.

National Road Network Cork:

- 50km Motorway.
- 207 km of National Primary road.
- 261 km of National Secondary road.

National Road Network – Key Priorities:

- TII allocation - €83.6m (2023) to €61.8m (2024) – a reduction of €21.8m or 26%.
- Pavement Protection and Renewal (€50m - €60m investment required in coming years)
 - N72 North Cork – circa 40km of pavement renewal urgently needed.
 - N71 West Cork – circa 25 km pavement renewal urgently needed.
- Safety Improvement Schemes
 - N20 – Multiple Locations - Ballybeg Bends, Mourneabbey.
 - N22 – Ovens to Coolcour (including Crookstown).
 - N25 – Carrigtwohill to Midleton.
 - Pedestrian crossing upgrades – including Clonakilty, Innishannon, Buttevant.

Regional & Local Roads:

- Cork County is receiving the 2nd lowest allocation per km for maintenance.
- If Cork County were to receive funding at the highest county rate this would equate to an extra € 22.2M per annum.
- If Cork County were to receive funding at the average county rate this would equate to an extra € 5.4M per annum.

2023 RI & RM Programme on Regional & Local Roads:

- 2.6% of Roads Improved (RI) – 38 Year Cycle.
- 3.4% of Roads Surface Dressed (RM) – 29 Year Cycle.
- The above % need to be in the order of 5% (20 Year Cycle) to maintain roads in their current condition.
- Our Network will continue to deteriorate unless we achieve a 20 year cycle.
- Extreme weather events (Rainfall/Snow/Ice) have taken an unprecedented toll on Cork roads.
- In the last 6 months, 40% more rainfall than average has been experienced in Cork.
- The County's varied topography and underlying ground conditions also contribute to road surface degradation.

Storm Babet – October 2023:

Estimated damage – repair/reconstruction/remedial measures - estimated costs:

- National Roads - €16m.
- Regional & Local Roads (incl structures) - €50m-€55m.

Cork County Council developed an initial works programme for priority R&RL road repairs:

Tranche No	Estimate	For Completion
1	€ 6,000,000	Q1 2024
2	€ 8,000,000	Q2/Q3 2024
3	€ 6,000,000	Q3/Q4 2024
4	€ 6,000,000	Q1 2025
Total	€ 26,000,000	

- €13m of Severe Weather funding was allocated by DOT for 2024.
- Circa €12m of Works is either procured/awarded or at the point of being procured/awarded.
- Circa €6.8m of Emergency roadworks has been completed to date.
- A detailed programme of priority work estimated at circa €20m has been submitted to DOT.
- A further €13m of funding is urgently required to complete the current priority programme of works.

M28 Cork to Ringaskiddy:

- A 12.5km landmark project linking Cork to Ringaskiddy – extremely complex.
- Delivery of the project is critical to enabling Port of Cork to move all its operations to new port facilities at Ringaskiddy:
 - Estimated €42m of funding required for 2024.
 - Allocated €17.6m.
 - Circa €16m of this has already been spent year to date.
- Substantial funding shortfall – a huge concern as:
 - CPO land compensation payments are due to be paid.
 - Monies are owed to site clearance contractors and project consultants.
 - Substantial monies are payable to ESB Networks for diversion of HV pylons and associated infrastructure.
- Circa €23m of additional funding is required in order to maintain momentum – otherwise the project will stall.

Additional Funding for N72 Mallow Relief Road:

- Essential project to unlock housing lands, public transport node.
- A minimum of €1.1m is required in 2024 to complete Phase 3 (Design and EIAR) – this would enable the project to proceed to planning stage.
- Only €300k was allocated in 2024 – a resultant €800k shortfall.

Funding for N25 Carrigtwohill to Midleton & Youghal:

Carrigtwohill to Midleton included in current NDP (yet not funded in 2022, 2023 or 2024).

- TEN-T Road – key strategic corridor.
- N25 key to leveraging housing lands and wider economic development as per County Development Plan.
- IDA strategic landbank.
- Major upgrade required – 40k+ vehicles per day – 3 no. road fatalities in recent months.

N25 Midleton to Youghal

- Bypasses of Castlemartyr and Killeagh urgently required.

Other Matters:

Timing of funding allocations:

The early notification of grant allocations greatly enhances the efficiency and effectiveness in maintaining momentum on project delivery.

Community Involvement Schemes:

For 2024/2025:

Sum requested = €2,269,185.65 (46 schemes).

Sum allocated = €1,695,600 (75% of the amount sought).

For 2022/2023:

The 2022 allocation = €2,072,400 (we claimed and received €1,853,848 in 2022).

The €218,552 balance did not roll in to 2023, despite it being a 2 year programme.

During this discussion, Members made the following points:

- Said they are disappointed that the Department said there is no fairer way to distribute funding for roads allocations
- Said the methodology used for the allocation of funds is convoluted
- Members said the system that is being used for allocations is not credible and this issue is going back to the AIRO report in 2019
- Said too much pressure is being put on the resources of local authorities and not enough coming from Central Government
- Said they hope the Minister will review the situation
- Members said it is disappointing that the Bantry Relief Road was not discussed during the meeting
- Said there are roads in the County that are at end of life
- Said it is concerning that Local Authorities might potentially have to fund their own roads in the future
- Members said they were disappointed that the R624 was not discussed during the delegation with the Minister
- Said there is no point in doing upgrades on the N25 until the issues with the R264 are resolved
- Said it is frustrating that the Department says funding is not an issue for shovel ready projects but Cork County Council was only allocated €2.5 million to cover 79 projects
- Said it is important to note that walkways and greenways are a separate part of the transport system, a coherent approach is needed

Members agreed to write to Minister Jack Chambers to ask for an update on the issues raised by the Members during their meeting.

The Mayor said it was a positive and constructive meeting. He said the Members highlighted the need for extra funding during their meeting with the Minister. Mayor O'Flynn said people want their roads looked after.

The Chief Executive said there is a lack of lateral thinking from civil servants and politicians on policies. She said the Department had funding but did not choose to spend it on the roads that Cork County Council made cases for.

[d] FINANCIAL BUSINESS

UNAUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Members noted the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement of Cork County Council for year ended 31st December 2023.

Proposed by Cllr. Michael Looney

Seconded by Cllr. Michael Hegarty

RATES REPORT:

Members noted Rates Report – Schedule of Uncollected Rates 2023.

**[e] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES
TUAIRISCÍ AGUS MOLTAÍ Ó CHOISTÍ**

WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

“That the members of Full Council would request Uisce Éireann to attend Development Committee on a quarterly basis to update the members on Water Services matters”.

Proposed by Cllr. Declan Hurley, Seconded by Cllr. Joe Carroll

During this discussion, Members made the following points:

- Said communication and interaction between Elected Members and Uisce Éireann is an ongoing issue
- Said issues on the ground are not being dealt with
- Said waste and water infrastructure is outdated
- Members said they want Uisce Éireann to attend development meetings every quarter to discuss issues
- Said the current system Uisce Éireann have in place in relation to clinics is not working
- Said the existing communication issues with Uisce Éireann will get worst when Cork County Council moves fully away from Uisce Éireann
- Members said they were previously promised improved communication from Uisce Éireann and this has not happened

The Mayor said taking the control of water out of the remit of local authorities was a mistake.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting that representatives from Uisce Éireann attend development meetings of Cork County Council on a regular basis.

11/5-1

COBH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

“That this Council write to Minister Eamonn Ryan and the other Cork based Ministers outlining our concerns regarding the serious issues around the provision of onshore facilities to progress offshore wind energy. Unless this issue is immediately dealt with the potential impact for the harbour area would be extremely serious.”

Proposed by Cllr. Anthony Barry, Seconded by Cllr. Marcia D’Alton

During this discussion, Members made the following points:

- Said the economy needs to be decarbonised
- Members said there are a lot of moving parts that need to come together
- Said the entire Blue Energy project is at risk
- Said this energy should not be exported and it should be used to drive the Cork economy
- Said €120 million is required to develop part of the Cork site
- Members said this development must be delivered urgently
- Said landslide development is critical
- Said there is no joined up thinking and something has to happen
- Members said jobs could be lost if these issues are not progressed

Members agreed to write to Minister Eamonn Ryan and the other Cork based Ministers outlining their concerns regarding the serious issues around the provision of onshore facilities to progress offshore wind energy

12/5-1

HERITAGE GRANT SCHEME 2024

Members resolved to approve the Cork County Heritage Grant Scheme 2024 which was considered by the Corporate Policy Group at its meeting on the 7th May, 2024.

Proposed by Cllr. Audrey Buckley

Seconded by Cllr. John Paul O’Shea

**[f] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF OFFICERS
TUAIRISCÍ AGUS MOLTAÍ Ó OIFIGH**

13/5-1

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL:

13(a)/5-1

Corporate Services Report for the period up to 31st March 2024.

Members noted the Corporate Services Quarterly Report.

13(b)/5-1

Library Report for the period up to 31st March 2024.

Members noted the Library Quarterly Report.

13(c)/5-1

Finance Report for the period up to 31st March 2024.

Members noted the Finance Report.

**[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS
COMHFHREAGRAS Ó RANNA RIALTAS**

HSE

14/5-1

Correspondence received 05/04/2024 from the HSE in response to the Council's letter dated 11/09/23 in light of findings from the Your Opinion Counts HSE staff survey.

Members deferred this item to the next meeting of Full Council on 27/05/24.

[h] NOTICES OF MOTION

INSHORE FISHING INDUSTRY

15/5-1

Cllr. Caroline Cronin proposed, seconded by Cllr. Karen Coakley

“ Asking Cork County Council to please support the Inshore Fishing Industry. The inshore fishing sector is at an all time low, from a combination of factors including the impacts of COVID 19, Brexit, the war in Ukraine, adverse weather conditions and recent developments in the pollock fishery. Urging this council to write to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, to seek immediate financial assistance for those effected”.

During this discussion, Members made the following points:

- Members said they are urging Cork County Council to write to the Minister to seek financial assistance for the Inshore Fishing Industry
- Said a ban on pollock is unnecessary
- Said the Inshore Fishing Industry has been badly hit by the Covid 19 Pandemic and Brexit
- Said a quota for tuna is vital
- Members said the livelihoods of inshore fishermen is under threat
- Said inshore fishermen have had no income since November 2023
- Said inshore fishermen are now facing significant price drops for their catch
- Said the price of lobster is falling, going from €30 per kilo last month to €16 per kilo
- Members said green tourism will be affected if inshore fishermen are not given financial assistance
- Said quota allocation is not being divided fairly

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries to seek immediate financial assistance for those effected.

EXTENSION OF TIME:

As the time was now 1.15pm, an extension of time was agreed.

Proposed by Cllr. Karen Coakley

Seconded by Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley

STAFF EMBARGO – MACAULY DAY CARE CENTRE

16/5-1

“Cllr. John Healy calls on the HSE to lift the staff embargo at the Macauly Day Care Centre in Midleton”.

Members agreed to withdraw this motion.

HOUSING GRANT SCHEMES

17/5-1

Proposed by Cllr. Ben Dalton O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. John Paul O’Shea

“To write to the Minister for Housing, the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Older People, calling for the upper grant limits across the three housing grant schemes for older people and people with disabilities to be increased.”

During this discussion, Members made the following points:

- Said the purchase power of housing for older people and people with disabilities is very different to how it was today

- Said purchasing power has diminished
- Members said they believe this is already being actively considered but an update is needed from the Minister now

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Older People to ask that the upper grant limits across the three housing grant schemes for older people and people with disabilities to be increased.

BREAST CANCER SCREENING

18/5-1

Proposed by Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern, seconded by Cllr. John Paul O'Shea

“Following recent studies, it is shown that Breast Cancer screening should start at aged 40. Currently in Ireland, public screening starts at age 50. Can we write to the Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly to seek a review and implementation of lowering public screening for breast cancer to age 40”.

During this discussion, Members made the following points:

- Said there are 3,452 female diagnoses and 30 male diagnoses of breast cancer annually in Ireland
- Said Breast Check is only available to women between the age of 50 and 69
- Said women are only eligible for Breast Check screening if they have a family history of breast cancer
- Said cancers associated with a screening programme are more likely to have a positive prognosis
- Members said they previously brought a similar motion to Council and got a stark response from the HSE
- Said this matter was also discussed at the HSE Forum recently and got a good response
- Said it is good to see the HSE are taking this matter into consideration
- Members said they would like to see the Breast Check service the wider West Cork area, not just Bantry town

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Health to seek a review and implementation of lowering public screening for breast cancer to age 40.

WAIVER SCHEME FOR PLANNING CONTRIBUTIONS

19/5-1

“That Cork County Council call on Mr Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing & Mr Michael McGrath TD Minister for Finance to extend the waiver scheme for planning contributions to include works that bring derelict and vacant buildings back into use”.

Proposed by Mayor Frank O'Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Murphy

During this discussion, Members made the following points:

- Said towns and villages are blighted by derelict and vacant buildings

- Said it is important to bring life back into towns and villages and get derelict sites up and running
- Said people want to bring derelict and vacant buildings back into use
- Members said these buildings need to be refurbished and showcased
- Said it is important to remember the impact of renovation on a town or village
- Said the correct services need to be in place to support renovation, e.g. car parks

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage & the Minister for Finance to extend the waiver scheme for planning contributions to include works that bring derelict and vacant buildings back into use.

FUNDING FOR N.L.N CENTRES

20/5-1

“I am calling on this council to support my motion that we write to the Minister of Higher Education requesting the adequate funding be given to N.L.N Centres in Bantry and throughout the country so the management can run the centres in a proper manner.”

Members agreed to withdraw this motion.

ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICALS

21/5-1

Proposed by Cllr. Marcia D’Alton, seconded by Cllr. John Paul O’Shea

“As endocrine disrupting chemicals are present in so many aspects of daily life, they are consequently present in municipal wastewater and subsequently in municipal wastewater sludge. Aware as we are of the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals on humans and on the environment and also that 95% of municipal wastewater sludge in Ireland is used in agriculture, this Council asks

1. the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to enact Regulations enabled under Section 51 of the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended) to control the addition of endocrine disrupting chemicals to agricultural land arising from the agricultural use of municipal wastewater sludge
2. and, whilst waiting for the requested Regulations, the Environment Section of Cork County Council to require both sludges and receiving soils to be analysed as required by the Code of Good Practice for the Use of Biosolids in Agriculture with all analyses recorded in the Council’s Sewage Sludge Register System.”

Members noted the response from Louis Duffy, Director of Services, Environment, Emergency Services, Climate Change and Rural Broadband as follows:

RESPONSE:

1.
 - i. The proposal to request that the Minister would enact regulations is noted and certainly has merit, given the impact such chemicals can have. Examination of the behaviour of such

chemicals in sludges and on lands would be required along with a study of the pathways to the animal and human food chain before making any detailed submission to the Minister, but a request for the enactment of Regulations would put an onus on the Department to carry out the necessary studies. Furthermore, test methods for analysis would need to be agreed and service providers for the testing identified. It should be noted that the use of concentration limits in sludges would introduce an extra cost to industry and to agriculture for the required tests.

- ii. Examination of the Code of Good Practice for Use of Biosolids in Agriculture and S.I. No. 148/1998: WASTE MANAGEMENT (USE OF SEWAGE SLUDGE IN AGRICULTURE) REGULATIONS, 1998 shows that there is no reference therein to endocrine disruptors.
2. The Environment Directorate of Cork County Council does require both sludges and receiving soils to be analysed as required by the Code of Good Practice for the Use of Biosolids in Agriculture. It is not current practice to record the results of the tests on the Sludge Register. The Software for creating and publishing the Sludge Register is currently being updated and consideration will be given to including the analysis results in it. It should be noted however that such consideration must also include a privacy risk assessment under GDPR legislation.

During this discussion, Members made the following points:

- Said EDCs are natural or artificial chemical compounds that affect the proper functioning of the endocrine system in humans and animals
- Said a chemical disruption of the endocrine system contributes to a wide range of adverse health effects
- Said there are nearly 85,000 man-made chemicals in the world, many of whom people come into contact with on a daily basis
- Members said only about 1% of these have been studied for safety
- Said it is estimated that 1,000 or more may be endocrine-disrupting
- Said BPA is used in the lining of food tins while Phthalates are used to make plastics flexible
- Said Phthalates are used in soaps, shampoos, hair sprays, perfumes and crayons
- Said many of these products used in daily life get washed into our sewers, resulting in endocrine disruptors being detected in wastewater and surface waters throughout the world
- Said people do not think about sewage sludge as the focus is always on the quality of drinking water and on the treatment of wastewater
- Members said we forget that sludge is the by product of all water cleaning
- Said an additional concern in Ireland is that almost all sludge from wastewater treatment is spread on agricultural land
- Said many other EU Member States have set limit values for persistent substances, including endocrine disruptors, additional to the metals specified in the Sewage Sludge Directive
- Said Ireland's use of biosolids in agriculture is significantly higher than many of these Member States

Members agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to enact Regulations enabled under Section 51 of the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended) to control the addition of endocrine disrupting chemicals to agricultural land arising from the agricultural use of municipal wastewater sludge.

SUPPORT FOR EARLY INTERVENTION DIAGNOSIS

22/5-1

Proposed by Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson

“That this Council call on the Minister of State at the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (Disability) to provide support for early intervention diagnosis and early years education for our children under the age of 3”.

During this discussion, Members made the following points:

- Said these interventions are essential to assess a child’s development and pick up on where their skills might be lacking
- Said it is vital that these supports are extended to include children who are under 3 years of age
- Said the government are neglecting children who may be non verbal or struggle with mobility and require access to extra supports
- Said is it heart breaking for parents to watch their children struggle and not have access to the services they require
- Members said this is an issue that is coming up on a lot on the doorstep
- Said the need for intervention for young children seems to be increasing
- Said this issue is having a profound impact on families

Members agreed to write to the Minister of State at the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (Disability), and the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to provide a suite of services for early intervention diagnosis and early years education for our children under the age of 3.

[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

23/5-1

TO: Skibbereen Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann on winning the All-Ireland Scór Sinsear Music Group competition.

TO: The U19 Boys Team in St. Peter’s Community School on winning the FAI Cork Senior Schools Cup and being crowned Munster Champions and All Ireland Champions.

TO: Sophie Healy Thow on winning the Global Citizen Prize for her work in food, nutrition and agriculture

TO: Seamus Sexton on winning a Bronze medal in European Bowling

TO: James O’Donovan on winning a Gold medal in European Bowling

[i] ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CIVIC RECEPTION

24/5-1

The Mayor advised Members that a Civic Reception will take place immediately after Full Council in Vertigo to honour the Cork Camogie Team , Stephen O’Leary , Jake O’Brien, Mark O’ Mahony, East

Cork GAA Board, Doneraile First Responders, Fermoy Musical Society, ICA , O' Donovan Rossa, Conor Shanahan & Fermoy Concert Band.

FULL COUNCIL MEETING 27TH MAY 2024

25/5-1

The Mayor advised Members that statutory business only will be dealt with at this meeting and there will be no notices of motion on the agenda.

GAA COVERAGE

26/5-1

Members said they were appalled by the lack of television coverage for the Cork and Limerick game on May 11th 2024. Members said it is very disrespectful of the GAA especially to elderly people who were unable to attend the match in person.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Communications, Minister for Sport and Media and to An Taoiseach regarding the lack of GAA coverage for this match.

SEWERAGE SYSTEM CROSSBARRY

27/5-1

Members said there is a shortfall of 25% for this sewerage system. Members said €3.3 million has been approved for this project but a shortfall remains. They said the people of Crossbarry need an urgent update on this.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to seek an update on this project.

~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~