



# Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

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## 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 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

### I LATHAIR

#### Comhairleoir Seosamh Ó Cearbhaill, Méara Chontae

**Comhairleoiri:** Uí Bhambaire, Ó Colmáin, Ó Coileáin S, Uí Chochláin G, Ó Foghlú, Uí Shúilleabháin M, Ó Coileáin, D, Ní Chróinín, Ó hArrahtáin, Ó Murchú OG, Uí Bhuachalla A, Daltún Ó Súilleabháin, Ní Charthaigh U, Mac Craith, De Faoite, Barra, Ó Finn, Ní Cheallacháin, Rasmussen, Sheppard, Mac Coitir, Mac Carthaigh N, Uí Bhriain, Ó Donnchú, Ó Floinn, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Muineacháin B, Ní Mhurchú T, Ó Sé SP, Críod, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Luasa, Uí Loinsigh, Ní Mhuineacháin G, Ó Haodha, Ó Madaoin, Ó Murchú G, Ó Sé T, Ní Heachthigheirn, Ó Buachalla S, Cocking, Ó Héighheartaigh, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó Maolchathaigh, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Seasnáin, Towse.

### PRESENT

#### Councillor Joe Carroll, County Mayor, presided.

**Councillor:** Bambury, Coleman, Collins J, Coughlan G, Foley, O'Sullivan M, Collins D, Cronin, Harrington, Murphy PG, Buckley A, Dalton O'Sullivan, McCarthy U, McGrath, White, Barry, Finn, O'Callaghan, Rasmussen, Sheppard, Cotter, McCarthy N, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Flynn, Doyle, Moynihan B, Murphy T, O'Shea JP, Creed, Looney, Lucey, Lynch, Moynihan G, Hayes, Madden, Murphy G, O'Shea T, Ahern, Buckley J, Cocking, Hegarty, Linehan Foley, Mulcahy, Quaide, Kelly, O'Donovan, Sexton, Towse.

Chief Executive, Divisional Managers, Director of Service, Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services.

### [a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/9-1

*Proposed by Cllr. Michael Hegarty*

*Seconded by Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy*

### RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

### [b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/9-1

**TO:** Michael O'Sullivan on the death of his brother Murt O'Sullivan.

**TO:** Janette Kenny on the death of her mother Breda Kenny.

**TO:** Mary Wilkinson on the death of her daughter Aileen Wilkinson.

**TO:** Elizabeth Foley on the death of her husband Connie Foly.

**TO:** Laura O’Sullivan Fenton on the death of her husband Garda Dave Fenton.

**[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**3. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:**

**3/9-1**

**Appointment of 10 Members to CASP**

Councillor Michael Hegarty proposed Councillors Úna McCarthy, Noel McCarthy, and Anthony Barry for positions on CASP, seconded by Councillor Marie O’Sullivan.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Úna McCarthy.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 2 is filled by Councillor Noel McCarthy.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 3 is filled by Councillor Anthony Barry.

Councillor Alan Coleman proposed Councillor Alan Coleman for a position on CASP, seconded by Councillor Finbarr Harrington.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 4 is filled by Councillor Alan Coleman.

Councillor Seamus McGrath proposed Councillors Pat Hayes, Gearóid Murphy, Seamus McGrath, Sheila O’Callaghan, Ann Marie Ahern, and Gillian Coughlan for positions on CASP, seconded by Councillor Dominic Finn.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 5 is filled by Councillor Pat Hayes.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 6 is filled by Councillor Gearóid Murphy.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 7 is filled by Councillor Seamus McGrath.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 8 is filled by Councillor Sheila O’Callaghan.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 9 is filled by Councillor Ann Marie Ahern.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 10 is filled by Councillor Gillian Coughlan.

**Appointment of Chair of Coastal, Marine & Flood Policy SPC.**

Councillor Seamus McGrath proposed Councillor Audrey Buckley for the Chair of the Coastal, Marine & Flood Policy SPC, seconded by Councillor Gearóid Murphy.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed the position is filled by Councillor Audrey Buckley.

**Appointment of 3 Members to Cork Sports Partnership**

Councillor Michael Hegarty proposed Councillor Sinead Sheppard for a position on Cork Sports Partnership, seconded by Councillor Noel McCarthy.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Sinead Sheppard.

Councillor Seamus McGrath proposed Councillor Gillian Coughlan for a position on Cork Sports Partnership, seconded by Councillor Gearóid Murphy.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 2 is filled by Councillor Gillian Coughlan.

Councillor Alan Coleman proposed Councillor Ann Bambury for a position on Cork Sports Partnership, seconded by Councillor Finbarr Harrington.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 3 is filled by Councillor Ann Bambury.

#### **Appointment of 1 Member to the Board of Leisureworld**

Councillor Seamus McGrath proposed Councillor Dominic Finn for the position on the Board of Leisureworld, seconded by Councillor Deirdre Kelly.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position is filled by Councillor Dominic Finn.

#### **4. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:**

4/9-1

##### **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BANDON/KINSALE:**

4(a)/9-1

*Grant of Right of Way and Wayleave at Coolfadda, Bandon, Co. Cork.*

**Situation:** Grant of Right of Way and Wayleave at Coolfadda, Bandon, Co. Cork.

**Consideration:** €1.00

##### **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KANTURK/MALLOW:**

4(b)/9-1

*Discharge of burden on folio at 1 Woodland View (Quilly Lane), Cork Road, Mallow, Co. Cork.*

**Situation:** Discharge of burden on folio at 1 Woodland View (Quilly Lane), Cork Road, Mallow, Co. Cork.

**Consideration:** €1.00

*Disposal of 10 Russell Place, Mallow, Co. Cork*

4(c)/9-1

**Situation:** 10 Russell Place, Mallow, Co. Cork.

**Consideration:** €145,000.00.

##### **MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF FERMOY**

4(d)9-1

*Disposal of Land at Bridgetown Upper, Killavullen, Mallow, Co. Cork*

**Situation:** Disposal of Land at Bridgetown Upper, Killavullen, Mallow, Co. Cork

**Area:** Land measuring (c.0.028 hectares/ 0.069 acres)

**Consideration:** €2,500

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CARRIGALINE:**

4(e)/9-1

*Disposal of Site No. 5, Estuary Business Park, Carrigaline, Co. Cork*

**Situation:** Disposal of Site No. 5, Estuary Business Park, Carrigaline, Co. Cork.

**Area:** Site measuring c. 0.449 hectares/1.1 acres as outlined on map attached.

**Consideration:** €220,000.00

4(f)/9-1

*Disposal of land at Myrtleville Crosshaven Carrigaline, Co. Cork*

**Situation:** Disposal of land at Myrtleville, Crosshaven, Co. Cork.

**Area:** c. 0.368 hectares as per the attached map.

**Consideration:** €406,000.00

4(g)/9-1

*Disposal of land at 13 Raffeen Village, Raffeen, Co. Cork*

**Situation:** Disposal of land at 13 Raffeen Village, Raffeen, Co. Cork outlined in red on the attached map.

**Consideration:** €1.00.

[e] **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES**

**5. CORPORATE POLICY GROUP**

5/9-1

Approval of attendance by Members at Conferences/Training on the Conference list for September/October 2024.

*Proposed by Cllr. Michael Hegarty*

*Seconded by Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan*

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

6/9-1

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BANDON KINSALE**

6(a)/9-1

**Consideration of Part 8 Chief Executives Report on Templemartin Burial Ground.**

*Proposed by Cllr. Gillian Coughlan*

*Seconded by Cllr. Ann Bambury*

6(b)/9-1

**Consideration of Part 8 Chief Executives Report on Kinsale Toilets.**

On the proposal of Cllr Gillian Coughlan, seconded by Cllr Ann Bambury this item was deferred.

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF EAST CORK**

6(c)/9-1

Consideration of Part 8 Chief Executives Report on Youghal Courthouse & Soup Kitchen.

*Proposed by Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley*

*Seconded by Cllr. Michael Hegarty*

**7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL:**

7(a)/9-1

Corporate Services Report for the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

*Members noted the Corporate Services Report.*

7(b)/9-1

Library Report for the period up 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

During the discussion members made the following points:

- The Library service offers extraordinary value for money.
- Library budget should be expanded to invest in new libraries.
- The new Macroom library has brought great energy to the town.
- The work on Carrigaline library is welcomed.

7(c)/9-1

Finance Report for the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

*Members noted the Finance Report.*

7(d)/9-1

Economic Development Report

During the discussion members made the following points:

- Bandon needs an economic overhaul.
- There is no further land in Charleville for future economic development.

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

**HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE**

8/9-1

Correspondence received 12/08/2024 from the HSE in response to the Council's letter dated 03/07/2024 in relation to Lyme Disease Awareness.

During the discussion members made the following points:

- The response was described as a cop out.

### **MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

9/9-1

Correspondence received 12/08/2024 from the Minister of Health in response to the Council's letter dated 03/07/2024 in relation to Breast Cancer Screening.

During the discussion members made the following points:

- Delighted to see it is being considered.

### **MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

10/9-1

Correspondence received 20/08/2024 from Minister of State with special responsibility for Communications and Circular Economy in response to Council's letter dated 30/05/2024 in relation to agricultural use of municipal wastewater sludge on farmland.

*Members noted the response.*

## **[h] NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **BREAK IN PLANNING CONTRIBUTIONS**

11/9-1

*Cllr. Bernard Moynihan proposed, seconded by Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan*

“That this council write to minister for housing to extend the break in planning contributions to owner occupiers who are developing derelict properties and availing of the grants.”

Members noted the response from Pádraig Barrett, Director of Services, Planning & Development, as follows:

#### **RESPONSE:**

#### **Development Contributions**

The Development Contribution Waiver Scheme introduced by the Department in 2023, is specific to new construction only and does not extend to development contributions levied in respect of existing vacant/derelict properties. The following extract from the Guidance Note for Local Authorities – Temporary Waiver in respect of Development Contributions July 2023 is relevant.

*Residential extensions or the refurbishment of existing vacant/derelict properties are not included under the waiver scheme. The measure is intended to help boost the delivery of housing supply, address cost and viability issues faced by the construction sector and incentivise the activation of new housing commencements.*

Owners of vacant or derelict properties have the opportunity to apply for Government assistance under the *Croí Cónaithe* scheme to bring these properties back into use for either permanent occupation or as a rental property. *It should also be noted that in the case of conventional houses in accordance with the Cork County Council Contribution Scheme 2004, the first 40 sq. metres and/or the first 60 sq. M metres of extensions to private dwellings are not subject to a contribution.*

## **Planning Application Fees**

Planning fees are set centrally by Government and Cork County Council therefore has no discretion with regard to same. Planning application fees were last set in 2001. The Planning Fees Review Report found that a significant reform of planning fees is required to provide a balanced, fair, and proportionate scale of charges to meet the current needs of the planning system and to realise the potential of the 2023 Planning Bill. It is anticipated that planning fees will be reviewed within the Planning Bill currently being considered by Government.

In the context of costs involved in preparing a planning application for alterations to a vacant or derelict property one of the smallest costs is the application fee of €34.00 paid to the relevant Local Authority.

### **During this discussion, the members made the following points:**

- There has been a huge uptake in the vacant property grant which is not exempt from fees.
- This is an incentive to promote sustainability.
- Will help alleviate the housing crisis.

*Members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to extend the break in planning contributions to owner occupiers who are developing derelict properties and availing of the grants.*

## **LICENSES FOR OUTDOOR ADVERTISING BOARDS/SIGNS**

12/9-1

*Cllr. Ger Curley proposed, seconded by Cllr. Danny Collins*

“Write to the department of housing and local government. Licensees for outdoor advertisement boards or signs to be reduced from €630 yearly fee to flat €50 fee for small businesses, restaurants, and cafes.”

### **During this discussion, the members made the following points:**

- This cost is an extra burden on businesses.
- Balance is needed regarding the amount of signage on footpaths,
- Businesses need support.
- On street signage can cause public liability issues.
- Advertising boards should compliment the heritage status of certain towns.

*Members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to seek a review on licensing for outdoor advertisement boards/signs.*

## **CIS & LIS SCHEMES**

13/9-1

“That the roads directorate would outline the individual spend and specific roads approved for the CIS & LIS Schemes in Cork County for 2024. The report should also outline the list of roads where applications have been made for future years.”

*At the agreement of the Members, it was agreed that this motion would be deferred to the next meeting of Full Council on 23/09/2024.*

## **VETERINARY MEDICINE SCHOOL**

14/9-1

*Cllr. Frank O'Flynn proposed, seconded by Cllr. Gearóid Murphy.*

“That Cork County Council calls on Mr. Patrick O'Donovan TD, the Minister for Further and Higher Education to support the application by the University of Limerick to immediately establish a new Veterinary Medicine School in Munster and the Mid-West in order to address the chronic shortage of college places for students wishing to study veterinary medicine in Ireland. This will alleviate the obvious dependence on Veterinary Courses in other countries for Irish students going forward. With major public health issues confronting the world today, Ireland needs to ensure that we have enough veterinary practitioners going forward and control over the education of its vital veterinary practitioners into the future, for the protection of its Food industry, Farming communities, Equine industry, and animal welfare across all species.”

**During this discussion, the members made the following points:**

- There is currently only one veterinary school in the country.
- Students are needing to go abroad to study.
- The age profile for vets has increased.
- The scarcity of vets is becoming an issue.

*Members agreed to write to the Minister for Further and Higher Education to support the application by the University of Limerick to immediately establish a new Veterinary Medicine School in Munster and the Mid-West in order to address the chronic shortage of college places for students wishing to study veterinary medicine in Ireland.*

## **CROÍ CÓNAITHE SCHEME**

15/9-1

*Cllr. Liam Madden proposed, seconded by Cllr. Michael Creed.*

“Croi Conaithe Scheme Vacant/ Derelict Properties update on same.

The amount of proposals received under scheme, approved, paid out and total year to date.

Ways this scheme may be improved changes in planning stage payments and legal process.”

Members noted the response from Seamus D Faoite, Senior Executive Officer, Housing, as follows:

**RESPONSE:**



The following are the current statistics for the Croí Cónaithe Grant Scheme as of 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024:

Croí Conaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant as of 30.08.24	
No. of Applications Received y.t.d in 2024	337
No. of Applications Approved y.t.d in 2024	175
No. of Applications at Initial Inspection or FI Stage in 2024	162
No. of Applications Received Cumulative	877
No. of Applications Approved Cumulative	592
No. of Grants Paid	45
No. of Apps with Solrs for charge	21
No. of Apps awaiting works to be completed	526
Amount Paid to Date	€2,238,811.42

It should be noted that grants can only be paid out when works have been completed by the applicant and signed off on by the local authority. As identified above, the major portion of approved grants are awaiting works to be completed and under the Scheme applicants have 13 months to complete.

A review of all aspects of the Scheme is currently being undertaken by the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage including the possible introduction of stage payments. As the grant

involves the issuing of state funds to individual property owners, there is a requirement to place a legal charge on the folio to protect the state's interest in the property. With regards planning matters, applicants should seek advice from the planning authority prior to submission of the grant particularly for applicants seeking the derelict top up.

**During this discussion, the members made the following points:**

- A more detailed breakdown of statistics is needed.
- Builders are shying away from the grant as they are waiting too long to be paid.
- A designated legal team is needed to process the grant.
- The 13-month timeline is causing issues.
- A quarterly report on the scheme would be beneficial.
- The team working on the grant scheme are excellent.
- Could staged payments be an option?
- Could the size of works requiring planning be increased?

**Chief Executive, Moira Murrell responded as follows:**

- The Croí Cónaithe is a really good scheme with huge take up.
- There is a lot of complexities with these applications.
- Whilst stage payments would be welcome it is a matter for the Department as they set out the terms of the scheme.
- There is an excellent legal team working on these applications.

*Members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and request that staged payments and increasing the size of development requiring planning permission be considered.*

## **JOINT CORK COUNTY COUNCIL/CORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE**

16/9-1

*Cllr. Úna McCarthy proposed, seconded by Cllr. Anthony Barry.*

“That Cork County Council would make contact with Cork City Council in order to reconvene the Joint Cork County Council/Cork City Council Committee. This committee, which was previously in place, served for successful collaboration on initiatives and projects relevant to transportation, greenways, roads, water, environment and other such projects that benefitted both the city and the county.”

Members noted the response from Loraine Lynch, Divisional Manager, as follows:

### **RESPONSE:**

The Cork City and County Joint Committee existed from the early 1970’s until the reform of Local Government in 2014 and it existed to address matters of joint interest to the two local authorities. Cork Area Strategic Plan 2001 – 2020 (CASP) is a non-statutory strategic planning document, prepared by Cork City Council and Cork County Council, which set out key goals for the Cork Metropolitan Area to provide a strategy for the significant enhancement in economic growth and to accommodate population growth in the region.

CASP Committees provide a forum to address issues of joint concern to the two local authorities. The CASP Policy Committee, which includes ten members of Cork County Council, provides an opportunity to inform members and address matters of joint interest to the two local authorities about the realisation of the CASP strategic objectives. The CASP Policy Committee works as a useful forum to address the interests / concerns that would be of mutual importance to the two local authorities. The matter can be kept under consideration.

### **During this discussion, the members made the following points:**

- The joint committee has a different role to CASP.
- CASP deals with broader policy issues and not day to day issues.

### **Chief Executive, Moira Murrell responded as follows:**

- Could look at including a day-to-day aspect in context of CASP.

## **MAJOR EMERGENCY PLAN**

17/9-1

*Cllr. Liam Quaide proposed, seconded by Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley.*

“That Cork County Council would publish an update of its Major Emergency Plan for the County since its December 2021 iteration, as well as its revised plan for East Cork in light of Storm Babet and lessons learned from the emergency response to that event”.

Members noted the response from Kevin Morey, Divisional Manager, as follows:

**RESPONSE:**

Cork County Council's emergency response structure for storm/flood events has three levels:

- Countywide Major Emergency Plan
- Countywide Flood Emergency Response Plan
- Local Flood Action Plans

**Major Emergency Plan**

The Major Emergency Plan (MEP) is updated on a yearly basis, this is provided for in the annual Major Emergency Management Work Programme, approved by Major Emergency Management Committee (MEMC). The structure of the plan is informed by the Department (DHLGH) Guidance Document - A Framework for Major Emergency Planning.

Cork County Council's current MEP is version 9.0, issued in June 2023.

It is proposed to issue Cork County Council's MEP Version 10.0 to capture internal structural changes, and other changes, after anticipated approval at the next MEMC meeting at the end of September 2024. MEP Version 10.0 will be made available on Cork County Council's website in a redacted format.

**Countywide Flood Emergency Response Plan**

Cork County Council's MEMC flooding sub-group have reviewed and revised the Countywide Flood Emergency Response Plan. This takes account of the Department (DHLGH) Guidance Document 11 - A Guide to Flood Emergencies issued in March 2024, and particular lessons learned from Storm Babet. Updated procedures for Cork County Council's Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) are incorporated in this revision.

An operational debrief was coordinated by Cork County Council involving each principal response agency following Storm Babet. This weather event was unprecedented, resulting in new impacts and affecting some locations which hadn't previously been impacted. While it was recognised that the interagency response led by Cork County Council was very effective both during Storm Babet and in

the days which followed, the debrief identified additional measures which could be introduced to better respond to events of this scale. Relevant amendments are incorporated in the revision of the Countywide Flood Emergency Response Plan.

It is anticipated that this revised plan will also be approved at the next MEMC meeting. This will then be rolled out through briefings and training for relevant staff and agencies. Following approval, arrangements will be made to publish those parts of the plan relevant to communities and businesses on the council website.

**Local Flood Action Plans**

In addition, the Local Action Plans (one for each Municipal Engineering Area) are currently under review and are being restructured and expanded to incorporate other flood-prone communities. The East Cork Flood Action Plan will include protocols for Middleton Town, Youghal Town and Environs. The Environs will include actions for Mogeely/Castlemartyr/Killeagh (single catchment) and will also consider Ladysbridge and Whitegate.

The revised East Cork Plan and individual settlement protocols will be finalised in the coming weeks. CCC will then arrange briefings to the MDs and local groups on the revised plans.

**During this discussion, the members made the following points:**

- The inter-agency response to Storm Babet was not perfect.
- There has been confusion due to mis information.
- The most recent iteration isn't publicly available.
- There is a need for a clear updated emergency response plan.
- There needs to be a bassline contact number in these emergencies.
- Communication needs to improve.
- Met Éireann need to be held more accountable.
- The level of response has improved immensely in recent times.

**Kevin Morey, Divisional Manager responded as follows:**

- The Major Emergency plan will be finalised later this month and uploaded on websites.
- The major emergency plan is the high-level plan.
- The Countywide Flood Emergency Response Plan is the general approach to flooding.
- The Local Flood Action Plans contain specific details for specific areas.
- The Local Flood Action Plans will be finalised shortly, and a briefing given at MD level.

**AGRI CLIMATE RURAL ENVIRONMENT SCHEME**

18/9-1

*Cllr. Finbarr Harrington proposed, seconded by Cllr. Nelius Cotter.*

“That this council would write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and ask that his department would address as a matter of urgency all outstanding payments to farmers from 2023 in relation to the Agri Climate Rural Environment Scheme [ACRES Scheme] and set out a clear timeframe for the 2024 ACRES Scheme payments”.

**During this discussion, the members made the following points:**

- Farmers are struggling due to late payments.
- Most Farmers have not been fully paid yet.
- Some Farmers have not received any payment.
- Farmers received an interim payment which the department then asked to be repaid.
- There are tax implications to these payments.
- The scheme has been problematic from the outset.

*Members agreed to write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and ask that his department would address as a matter of urgency all outstanding payments to farmers from 2023 in relation to the Agri Climate Rural Environment Scheme [ACRES Scheme] and set out a clear timeframe for the 2024 ACRES Scheme payments.*

**SOLAR FARMS/ENERGY STORAGE FACILITIES**

19/9-1

*Cllr. Peter O'Donoghue proposed, seconded by Cllr. Bernard Moynihan.*

“That this council would create very clear and concise planning requirements for solar farms, energy storage facilities and wind turbine farms which would ensure our county’s fertile agricultural land is preserved for food production, natural scenery and biodiverse landscape protected and that all current applications for such developments be put on hold until such planning requirements are in place.”

Members noted the response from Pádraig Barrett, Director of Services, Planning & Development:

**RESPONSE:**

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Cork County Council as the Planning Authority is statutorily obliged to determine planning applications that have been deemed valid within specified timelines. There is no provision within the legislation to pause the determination of a valid planning application.

All valid Renewable Energy Production and Energy Storage planning applications are assessed on their merits in the context of the land use zoning policies, objectives and guidance of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 and relevant Government Policies, Plans, and Guidelines in force at the time of determination of any such planning application.

**During this discussion, the members made the following points:**

- Farmers are being offered substantial amounts of money for their land for solar farms.
- Scenery would be destroyed by these solar farms.
- Battery storage technology is constantly changing.
- People are worried about devaluation of their houses.
- It is not legally possible to put planning applications on hold as suggested in the motion.
- There is a legal obligation to assess all applications within 8 weeks.
- The CDP can’t be changed with a motion like this.
- Updated guidelines for wind energy are needed.
- There has to be a set back distance from houses for these solar farms and wind turbines.
- Rooftop solar needs to be prioritised.
- Motion to be referred to the Planning & Development SPC.
- Clearer communication is needed.

**Chief Executive, Moira Murrell responded as follows:**

- Planning applications must be adjudicated on within a certain timeframe.
- Motion to be referred to the Planning & Development SPC.

*Members agreed to refer the motion to the Planning & Development SPC and write to the relevant Ministers to seek updated national guidelines for solar, wind and energy storage.*

**CORK AIRPORT SHUTTLE BUS**

20/9-1

***Cllr. Seamus McGrath proposed, seconded by Cllr. Gearóid Murphy***

“This Council calls on the National Transport Authority to support a direct shuttle bus service between Cork Airport and the City Centre. Efficient access to the City Centre is critical for passengers to make connections for onward travel. Also, that there would be extended hours for the bus service to/from Cork Airport.”

**During this discussion, the members made the following points:**

- Cork is the fastest growing airport in the country with an expected 3 million passengers this year.
- There needs to be a direct shuttle service with extended hours.
- This service should serve the bus and train stations.
- This service should have adequate baggage storage.

*Members agreed to write to the NTA to support a direct shuttle bus service between Cork Airport and the City Centre servicing both the bus and train station.*

**[i] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS  
RÚN CHOMHGHAIRIDIS**

**TO:** Passage West Gaa Club, Francis McEveney & organising committee of the girl's football blitz.

**TO:** Cork Senior & Intermediate Camogie teams on their All-Ireland wins.

**~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~**