



# 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 Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### I LATHAIR

#### Comhairleoir, Seosamh Ó Cearbhaill, Mhéara Chontae

**Comhairleoiri:** Uí Bhambaire, Ó Coileáin S, Uí Chochláin G, Ó Foghlú, Uí Shúilleabháin M, Ó Coileáin, D, Ní Chróinín, Ó hArrahtáin, Ó Murchú PG, Uí Bhuachalla A, Daltún Ó Súilleabháin, Ó Fathaigh Ní Charthaigh U, Mac Craith, De Faoite, Barra, Mac Iorlla, Ó Finn, Ní Cheallacháin, Rasmussen, Sheppard, Mac Coitir, Mac Carthaigh N, Uí Bhriain, Ó Donnchú, Ó Floinn, Ó Laoghaire, Ó Dubhghaill, Ní Mhurchú T, Ó Sé T, Ó Sé SP, Ó Cochláin M, 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, Quaide, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Seasnáin, Towse.

### PRESENT

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

**Councillor:** Bambury, Collins J, Coughlan G, Foley, O'Sullivan M, Collins D, Cronin, Harrington, Murphy PG, Buckley A, Dalton O'Sullivan, Fahy, McCarthy U, McGrath, White, Barry, Curley, Finn, O'Callaghan, Rasmussen, Sheppard, Cotter, McCarthy N, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Flynn, O'Leary, Doyle, Murphy T, O'Shea JP, Coughlan M, 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, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

#### [a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/10-2

*Proposed by Cllr. Michael Hegarty  
Seconded by Cllr. Seamus McGrath*

### RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

#### [b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/10-2

**TO:** Rose Twomey on the passing of her husband Michael Twomey.

**TO:** Eileen Drislane on the passing of her mother Dolores Drislane.

#### [c] STATUTORY BUSINESS

### 3. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

#### SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:

3/10-2

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF FERMOY**

3(a)/10-2

***Grant of Wayleave at Fior Uisce, Brigown, Mitchelstown***

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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

**Situation:** Grant of Easement and Disposal of substation at Fior Uisce, Brigown, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork.

**From Whom Acquired:** Registered to Cork County Council since 1949.

**To Whom It Is Proposed to Grant:** ESB Networks.

**Consideration:** €1.00

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KANTURK MALLOW**

3(b)/10-2

***Lease of Kilshannig Church, Newberry, Mallow***

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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

**Situation:** Lease of Kilshannig Church and adjoining Right of Way to the public road, Newberry, Mallow, Co. Cork

**Area:** 0.03433 hectares/ 0.0848 acres

**To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose:** Kilshannig Community Hub

**Term:** 2 years

**Consideration:** €1 per annum

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MACROOM**

3(c)/10-2

***Disposal of 2 Lock Up Units, Duggans Lane, Macroom***

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 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

**Situation:** Disposal of 2 Lock Up Units, Duggans Lane, Macroom

**Area:** As per file plan CK154607F (whole folio)

**From whom acquired:** Unknown – predated council records

**To whom it is proposed to dispose:** Briery Gap Cultural Centre Ltd

**Consideration:** €5 per annum

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

4/10-2

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

4(a)/10-2

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

*Members noted the Corporate Services Report.*

4(b)/10-2

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

*Members noted the Library Report.*

4(c)/10-2

Economic Development Report for the period up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

*Members noted the Economic Development Report.*

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

**MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE**

5/10-2

Correspondence received 09/10/2024 from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in response to the Council's letter dated 01/10/2024 in relation to Part V properties.

*Members noted the correspondence from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.*

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

- Disappointed that Part V properties won't be included in the tenant purchase scheme.
- The tenants should be given the option to purchase.

*Members agreed to write back to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to tenants of Part V properties should be given the option to purchase the property under the tenant purchase scheme.*

[h] **NOTICES OF MOTION  
FOGRAÍ RÚN**

**SUBTERRANEAN INFRASTRUCTURE**

6/10-2

“That Cork County Council, would write to Eir, requesting a review of all subterranean infrastructure in the entire county, particularly in relation to Utility cover aprons on footpaths and roads.”

*At the agreement of the Members, it was agreed that this motion would be deferred to the next meeting of Full Council on 11/11/2024.*

**BATHING WATER TESTING**

7/10-2

*Cllr Isobel Towse proposed, seconded by Cllr Sinead Sheppard*

“That this council will test bathing waters weekly following a “do not swim” notice, and fortnightly all year round in areas that had a red flag raised at least twice during the bathing season.”

Members noted the response from Niall Healy, Divisional Manager, as follows:

**Response:**

The Bathing Water Regulations 2008 provide for standards of water quality for bathing purposes, and to protect public health prescribe a monitoring regime for Local Authorities.

The monitoring season, as designated under these Bathing Water Regulations runs from June 1st to September 15th. Thirty locations in County Cork are currently monitored under the bathing waters programme and are sampled at a minimum 5 times during the season and up to 7 times at higher risk locations. The sampling schedule including frequency is agreed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in advance each year. Under the regulations, monitoring of water quality at designated bathing sites is not required outside of the specified period.

Of these thirty monitored beaches:

- Fourteen are designated bathing waters under the Bathing Water Regulations, of which eleven are Blue Flag Award Beaches.
- Fifteen are Green Coast Award Beaches.
- Three are monitored as candidates for consideration as a designated beach or Green Coast Award.

The quality classifications for Bathing water are “Excellent”, “Good” or “Sufficient” and “Poor”. Classification is a function of the monitoring results obtained over a four-year rolling period.

The regulations provide for three types of public information notices in the event of water quality impairment:

1. **Prior Warning Notices** – issued when there is a risk of the water being polluted, for example after heavy rain.
2. **Advice Against Bathing Notice**– issued when there are higher than normal levels of bacteria, or when an incident has been reported in the catchment.
3. **Bathing Prohibition Notice** – issued when there is an identified risk to health from swimming.

The “Prior Warning” and “Advice Against Bathing” are advisory only, the “Bathing Prohibition” instructs people not to swim. In all these scenarios physical notices are placed at the beaches, both on notice boards and elsewhere as appropriate. If the beach has lifeguards present, they will, in the case of a Bathing Prohibition Notice, also raise their red flag.

Note of the 30 beaches currently monitored only 13 have lifeguards in place during the bathing water season, mainly all the blue flag award beaches. Note also that lifeguards may raise Red Flags for several other reasons when the water is not safe, e.g. currents, algae blooms etc.

Where a noncompliance is detected, the beach is sampled over the following consecutive days until the notice/prohibition can be lifted. In 2024, two beaches were subject to notices during the bathing water season:

- Prohibition at The Warren 16/07/2024.
- Advisory (Precautionary notice) on Warren 13/08/2024 (precautionary only, subsequent monitoring detected no bacteria)
- Advisory at Owenahincha 13/08/2024.

The following is a breakdown of the notices raised across all beaches over the past 4 years.

	<b>Prohibition Notices</b>	<b>Advisory Notices</b>	<b>Prior Warning</b>
<b>2021</b>	5	2	0
<b>2022</b>	1	3	11
<b>2023</b>	0	2	13
<b>2024</b>	1	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>

Sampling and testing of beaches across the county is undertaken by the environment directorate as part of the wider programme of testing public and private drinking water and wastewater systems, as well as sampling and testing general water quality in rivers and lakes across the county. Work programmes are scheduled at the start of the year and are resourced and organised so as to allow the assignment of the optimum number of sampling and analytical resources to the bathing water programme during the designated statutory season i.e. from June to September each year. Outside of that season, sampling and analytical resources are fully utilised in meeting statutory and service obligations across the other monitoring programmes.

Resources are not currently available to undertake sampling and testing at beaches beyond that currently delivered during the statutory bathing water season and agreed with the EPA.

It is acknowledged that there has been a significant growth in out of season/all year-round swimming in recent years. In this regard, it should be noted that a National Bathing Water Expert Group (BWEG) has been convened by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) and is considering measures to improve monitoring and management of bathing water quality during the out-of-season period. The work of this group is ongoing, and we will revert to the Members with any recommendations or changes to requirements that may arise.

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

- Water testing is of critical importance.
- Need clarity on whether e-coli is coming from humans or animals.
- Need to discuss an increased testing schedule with the EPA.
- Referring to the Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity SPC would be the best solution.

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

- We currently have 11 Blue Flag beaches which we hope to expand on.
- Cork County Council takes the lead from the EPA.
- Can be discussed at the Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity SPC.

*Members agreed to refer the motion to the Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity SPC.*

**MEETING WITH GARDA COMMISSIONER DREW HARRIS**

**8/10-2**

***Cllr Seamus McGrath proposed, seconded by Cllr Ger Curley***

“This Council invites Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to a special meeting of Cork County Council to discuss the blatantly inadequate number of Gardai serving in the Cork area.”

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

- The Southern Region received 10 out of 108 graduates which is unacceptable.
- There is not enough Gardaí, with many stations not able to open.
- There is an increase in anti-social behaviour.
- This issue needs to be looked at a national policy level.
- The optics of extra Gardaí on the street has a positive impact.
- Many crimes are not being reported.
- Rural Ireland is suffering due to lack of Gardaí.
- We are below the European average for policing.
- Portugal’s policing system is one which should be considered.
- The centralised call centre is not working.
- Community policing is essential.
- Systemic issues need to be addressed.

*Members agreed to invite Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to a special meeting of Cork County Council to discuss the blatantly inadequate number of Gardai serving in the Cork area.*

**READY TO BUILD SITES SCHEME**

9/10-2

*Cllr Caroline Cronin proposed, seconded by Cllr John Paul O’Shea*

“That Cork County Council provide an update on the current status of the Ready to Build Sites Scheme, including progress on the eight sites identified in council ownership and any further developments in engagement with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).”

Members noted the response from Niall Healy, Divisional Manager, as follows:

**Response:**

“The Ready to Build Scheme was announced by Government in September 2022 under the “Housing For All” initiative as another pathway to Home ownership.

It provides for local authorities to make serviced sites in towns and villages available to potential individual purchasers (self-builders). These sites will be available at a discount on the market value of the site. They will be sold for the building of a property for occupation as the principal private residence of the purchaser.

Cork County Council has a strong history in the development of such serviced sites throughout the county, under previous Affordable Housing initiatives, have a number of sites still available. It has been decided that it is these are the sites that will be considered initially for their suitability for development and to be marketed under the current Ready to Build Scheme. These sites are as follows:

<b>Number of Sites</b>	<b>Site Location</b>	<b>Ownership</b>

4	Cullen (North Cork)	Cork County Council
6	Ballydesmond (North Cork)	Cork County Council
Subject to appraisal	Liscarroll	Respond
Subject to appraisal	Kiskeam	Cork County Council
Subject to appraisal	Stag Park Estate, Mitchelstown	Cork County Council
Subject to appraisal	Knocknagree	Cork County Council / HA & Private

All of the above sites, while originally developed as serviced sites, are now subject to infrastructure capacity issues and or planning policy constraints. Discussions are ongoing with all relevant stakeholders including Irish Water around these issues.

A stage 1 application is being prepared for the master planning of a Land Aggregation Scheme site in Knocknagree, Co Cork. This masterplan will include the delivery of social housing in the first phase with the inclusion of some serviced sites in the second phase.

The Council remains committed to the concept of delivering ready to build sites in the county and is continuing to investigate and identify suitable opportunities in this regard.”

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

- There is a huge need for service sites.
- Serviced sites an option here to keep our towns and villages vibrant.
- Disappointed with the response received as the sites in the response cannot be progressed due to ongoing Uisce Éireann issues.
- Sites should be identified in areas which can be serviced.
- Can we aim to identify one site in each of North, West, and South Cork in areas with enough water and wastewater capacity.

**Chief Executive Moira Murrell and Divisional Manager Kevin Morey responded as follows:**

- Service Sites are one part in a wider delivery of housing.
- More lands need to be acquired.
- An ongoing positive working arrangement with Uisce Éireann is critical.
- Alignment of our County Development Plan with Uisce Eireann’s plan is vital.
- Sites in North Cork were identified when they were thought to be serviceable.

*Members agreed to request that the Executive aim to identify one site in each of North, West, and South Cork in areas with enough water and wastewater capacity.*

**[j] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS  
RÚN CHOMHGHAIRDIS**

10/10-2

**TO:** Imokilly GAA on winning the 2024 Cork Senior Hurling Championship

**TO:** Carrigaline GAA on winning the 2024 Cork Senior A Football Championship

**TO:** Ballygarvan GAA on winning the 2024 South East Junior A Football Championship

**TO:** Tracton GAA on winning the 2024 South East Junior A Hurling Championship

**TO:** Goleen GAA on winning the 2024 West Cork Junior B Football Championship

**TO:** Castlemartyr GAA on winning the 2024 East Cork Junior A Football Championship

**TO:** Whites Cross GAA on winning the 2024 Seandún Junior C Football Championship

**TO:** Erins Own Ladies Football team on winning the Junior Ladies County Final

**TO:** Killavullen GAA on winning the 2024 Avondhu Junior A Hurling Championship

**TO:** Goleen GAA on winning the 2024 South West Junior B Football Championship

**TO:** Crosshaven Camogie Club on winning the U14s Championship

**TO:** Donagh Ó'Máinín, Caoimhe, Clodagh & Tommy Ó'Mulláin on competing and winning Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals in the ITFU European Open Championship

**TO:** Francis McEveney & The Halloween Display Committee Passage West for organising a successful "Halloween of Hell" fundraising even in aid of Marymount

**TO:** Youghal For All Committee on their recent "Spooktacular" weekend in Youghal

**TO:** Bunscoil na Toirbithe Mitchelstown on winning the Sciath na Scoil

**TO:** St Fanahans Camogie on winning the 2024 Junior B Championship

**TO:** Mallow Municipal District Office for a very successful Halloween walk

**[l] ANY OTHER BUSINESS  
AON GHNÓ EILE**

**SCOLIOSIS**

11/10-2

*Cllr Gillian Coughlan proposed, seconded by Gearóid Murphy*

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

- There is a lack of specialists in this area.

*Members agreed to write to the HSE to highlight the issue.*

**POWER UP GRANT**

12/10-2

*Cllr John Paul O'Shea proposed, seconded by Cllr Danny Collins*



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

- Members asked could an email be circulated with information on the Power Up Grant.

13/10-2

**ELECTRIC SKYLINE**

*Cllr Dominic Finn proposed, seconded by Cllr Patrick Mulcahy*

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

- There is frustration at the number of lights currently out.
- Many areas are without working lights for months.
- There has been issues with reporting on the portal.
- Better collaboration is needed between the contractor and ESB Networks.

Divisional Manager Nial Healy responded as follows:

- Electric Skyline has committed to have the majority of the backlog cleared by Christmas.
- There are often more complex issues which require work from ESB Networks.

*Members agreed to write to Electric Skyline to convey their frustrations with the ongoing issues of faulty lights.*

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