



## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

### *Ordinary Meeting*

*3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018, Council Chamber*

#### **Presiding**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tom Kelly

#### **Councillors Present:**

Councillors Joe Bonner, Sinead Burke, Eugene Cassidy, Francis Deane, Seán Drew, Edward Fennessy, Eimear Ferguson, Brian Fitzgerald, Enda Flynn, Wayne Forde, Joe Fox, Noel French, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Trevor Golden, Johnny Guirke, Wayne Harding, Jim Holloway, Suzanne Jamal, Sharon Keogan, Nick Killian, Caroline Lynch, Stephen McKee, Ronan McKenna, Paddy Meade, Maria Murphy, Gerry O' Connor, Claire O'Driscoll, Maria O' Kane, Damien O' Reilly, Darren O'Rourke, Bryan Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Seán Smith, Alan Tobin, Sharon Tolan, Gillian Toole.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Pdraig Fitzsimons

#### **Officials in attendance:**

**Chief Executive:** Jackie Maguire

**Directors of Service:** Des Foley, Fiona Lawless, Barry Lynch, Kevin Stewart

**Meetings' Administrator:** Olive Falsey

**Senior Executive Officers:** Robert Collins, Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan

**Finance Staff:** Paul Timoney, Financial Accountant, Sheila Harkin, Management Accountant, Ailie Dempsey, Executive Accountant, Ger Soady, Administrative Officer

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018.**

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Ronan McKenna** and seconded by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**.



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### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Planning meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018. (see below)**

The minutes of the Special Planning meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**.

## **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

No matters arising.

It was agreed to bring forward item 5.1.1: To fill the casual vacancy (1 No.), following the death of Councillor Joe Reilly, in the Membership of Meath County Council, in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Edward Fennessy was proposed to fill the casual vacancy by **Councillor Sinéad Burke**, and seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**. As no other proposals were put forward, the Cathaoirleach deemed the casual vacancy to be filled and invited **Councillor Fennessy** to take his seat. **Councillor Fennessy** acknowledged the work and commitment of the late Councillor Joe Reilly and thanked his party colleagues, the staff of the Council and his political opponents for their support. The party Whips extended a warm welcome to **Councillor Fennessy** and wished him well in the future.

## **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Frank Carberry, former Navan Town Councillor.
- Barbara Smyth, Transportation Department, on the death of her brother Felix Smyth.
- Karen Bennett, Finance Department, on the death of her mother Maureen Bennett.
- Family of the late Paddy O' Rourke, former employee.
- Jerome Lambe, former employee, on the death of his father Denis Lambe.
- Sandra Williams, Dunboyne Library Caretaker, on the death of her brother John (Seán) McCrory.
- Willie Fay, Water Services, on the death of his mother Mary Fay.
- Mairead White, Planning Department, on the death of her father Jack White.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All involved in organising the following events:
  - All Ireland Fleadh in Drogheda
  - Royal Meath Show, Trim
  - Salmon of Knowledge Festival, Trim
  - India Celebration in Farmleigh,
  - Ashbourne Baseball club on hosting the European Baseball Championships



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- John Cowley celebration in Solstice
- Trim Cycling Club on bringing Race Around Ireland to Trim - It was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch**, seconded by **Councillor Eimear Ferguson**, to recognise Trim Cycling Club with a civic reception.
- Meath Disability Network (Back in 5 campaign)
- Meath Rehab Care Group on their Rehab Care's got talent event.
- Council staff involved in the management of the beach over the summer months.
- Kells Handball Club on their success in the World Championships - It was proposed by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**, seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, to recognise Kells Handball Club with a civic reception.
- Adrian McNally, the first person from Meath to reach the summit of Mount Everest.
- All involved in the launch of Connaught Grove development in Athboy.
- Meath Ladies Football team on reaching the All Ireland Intermediate final.
- Natalya Coyle, modern pentathlon athlete, on reaching the rank of 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world.

#### **4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

No disposals

#### **5 Statutory Business**

##### **5.1 Corporate Services**

5.1.1 To fill the casual vacancy (1 No.), following the death of Councillor Joe Reilly, in the Membership of Meath County Council, in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. (see above)

5.1.2 To consider the nomination of a candidate for election to the Office of President of Ireland.

The Cathaoirleach began the process by seeking the agreement of the Councillors to nominate a candidate for election to the Office of President of Ireland. It was agreed to proceed with the nomination following a 'show of hands' vote (23 in favour)

Mr. Gavin Duffy was proposed by **Councillor Nick Killian** and seconded by **Councillor Sharon Keogan**.

Mr. Seán Gallagher was proposed by **Councillor Wayne Harding** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**.



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Ms. Joan Freeman was proposed by **Councillor Joe Bonner** and seconded by **Councillor Gillian Toole**.

Des Foley, Director of Services, outlined that the nomination of a candidate for election to the Office of President was a reserved function of the Council in accordance with S.16 of the Presidential Elections Act 1993. It was noted that a roll call vote would be taken and that the matter of the nomination would be determined by a simple majority of the Councillors present and voting.

It was outlined that if, following the vote, one candidate exceeds a majority of the number of Councillors present and voting, that the candidate will be nominated. If no candidate exceeds a majority of the number of Councillors present and voting, the candidate with the least number of votes will be eliminated, and a second vote will be taken between the two remaining candidates.

A roll call vote was taken with the following result:

Councillor	Gavin Duffy	Seán Gallagher	Joan Freeman	Abstain	Absent
Cllr. Joseph Bonner			√		
Cllr. Sinead Burke				√	
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	√				
Cllr. Francis Deane	√				
Cllr. Sean Drew		√			
Cllr. Edward Fennessy				√	
Cllr. Eimear Ferguson				√	
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	√				
Cllr. Pdraig Fitzsimons					√
Cllr. Enda Flynn	√				
Cllr. Wayne Forde	√				
Cllr. Joe Fox				√	
Cllr. Noel French				√	
Cllr. Michael Gallagher				√	
Cllr. David Gilroy	√				



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Cllr. Trevor Golden	√				
Cllr. Johnny Guirke				√	
Cllr. Wayne Harding		√			
Cllr. James Holloway	√				
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal				√	
Cllr. Tom Kelly	√				
Cllr. Sharon Keogan	√				
Cllr. Nick Killian	√				
Cllr. Caroline Lynch				√	
Cllr. Stephen McKee					√
Cllr. Ronan McKenna		√			
Cllr. Paddy Meade	√				
Cllr. Maria Murphy	√				
Cllr. Gerry O' Connor	√				
Cllr. Claire O' Driscoll		√			
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly		√			
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke				√	
Cllr. Bryan Reilly		√			
Cllr. Sarah Reilly				√	
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	√				
Cllr. Ruairc, Maria Uí					√
Cllr. Sean Smith		√			
Cllr. Alan Tobin	√				
Cllr. Sharon Tolan	√				
Cllr. Gillian Toole			√		



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Result: Gavin Duffy – 17, Seán Gallagher – 7, Joan Freeman - 2, Abstain 11, Absent – 3

As Gavin Duffy exceeded the majority of the votes of those present and voting, he was deemed nominated by the Council.

### **5.2 Finance**

5.2.1 To consider the report of the Chief Executive prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) Regulations 2014, for the purpose of resolving as follows:

- a. Vary the basic rate and set a local adjustment factor that will apply for a period of one year from the next Local Property Tax liability date, or
- b. Not vary the basic rate. (separate attachment)

Fiona Lawless, Head of Finance, made the presentation to Councillors, which included information on:

- Legislation, Regulations and Circulars re Budget 2019
- The background and process re the L.P.T Adjustment Factor
- Estimation of Income & Expenditure Schedule 1
- Financial Position of Meath County Council Schedule 2
- LPT Adjustment Factor and financial effect of the varied rate:
  - Impact of change in LPT on a liable person.
  - Impact on LPT revenue 2019.
  - Potential impact on the service delivery plans of the Local Authority
  - Results of public consultation process.
  - Gap in preliminary estimates.
  - Impact of a 15% variation in the basic rate of LPT
- It was noted that the Minister and Revenue must be informed of the decision of the Council in relation to the LPT by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Following the presentation, the Chief Executive advised that S20 Finance Local Property Tax Act 2012 allows members to vary the basic rate by a maximum of + / - 15% and that it was her recommendation to the Councillors to vary the basic rate of Local Property Tax by +15%.

It was noted that any reduction in L.P.T would have an effect on all services and that any increase in LPT would have a positive impact on all services.

Councillors raised a number of issues regarding the information presented and responses were provided by the Head of Finance, the Chief Executive.

Following a lengthy debate on the matter, the Council resolved 'not to vary the basic rate' following a roll call vote as follows:



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Councillor	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Cllr. Joseph Bonner	√			
Cllr. Sinead Burke		√		
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	√			
Cllr. Francis Deane	√			
Cllr. Sean Drew	√			
Cllr. Edward Fennessy		√		
Cllr. Eimear Ferguson		√		
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	√			
Cllr. Pdraig Fitzsimons				√
Cllr. Enda Flynn	√			
Cllr. Wayne Forde	√			
Cllr. Joe Fox	√			
Cllr. Noel French	√			
Cllr. Michael Gallagher		√		
Cllr. David Gilroy	√			
Cllr. Trevor Golden	√			
Cllr. Johnny Guirke		√		
Cllr. Wayne Harding	√			
Cllr. James Holloway	√			
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal	√			
Cllr. Tom Kelly	√			
Cllr. Sharon Keogan	√			
Cllr. Nick Killian	√			
Cllr. Caroline Lynch		√		



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Cllr. Stephen McKee				√
Cllr. Ronan McKenna	√			
Cllr. Paddy Meade	√			
Cllr. Maria Murphy	√			
Cllr. Gerry O' Connor	√			
Cllr. Claire O' Driscoll	√			
Cllr. Damien O' Reilly	√			
Cllr. Darren O' Rourke		√		
Cllr. Bryan Reilly	√			
Cllr. Sarah Reilly	√			
Cllr. Tommy Reilly	√			
Cllr. Ruairc, Maria Uí				√
Cllr. Sean Smith	√			
Cllr. Alan Tobin	√			
Cllr. Sharon Tolan	√			
Cllr. Gillian Toole	√			

**Result:** For: 30, Against: 7, Absent: 3

The Chief Executive advised the Councillors in regard to the dates of the Municipal District budget meetings.

- 5.2.2 To receive an update on the Management Accounts of Meath County Council in respect of the half year to June 2018.

Received and noted on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

- 5.2.3 To approve the raising of a loan of €2,500,000 from the Housing Finance Agency to provide finance for approved Rebuilding Ireland Housing Loan applications, as authorised by the Housing Acts 1966-1992 as amended.





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Approved on the proposal of **Councillor Tommy Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

### 5.3 Environment

- 5.3.1 To receive a report in respect of the launch of the Flood Risk Management Plans and to resolve to adopt or otherwise the said plans.

The report was noted by the Councillors.

- 5.3.2 To receive a report on the preparation of the draft County of Meath (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2018 and to resolve if thought fit to adopt same.

Councillors were advised that the item would be deferred to the October meeting.

## 6 Reports

### 6.1 Chief Executive's Report

**Councillors sought clarification on a number of matters in the Chief Executive's report. The main issues raised and discussed included:**

#### **Housing:**

- Concern noted in regard to the growing housing list, the homelessness figures and social housing provision.
- The increase in funding for remedial works at Alverno Court was welcomed.
- New housing developments at Connaught Grove, Athboy and Trim were welcomed.

#### **Environment:**

- Concern noted in regard to the infrastructure at Staleen Plant and the timeframe for completion of new pipeline.

#### **Planning:**

- A lengthy discussion took place on the Issues facing Meath in regard to the National Planning Framework. It was noted that the draft working document (RSEs) had been rejected by the Councillors who are members of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly. **Councillor Brian Fitzgerald** proposed that the full Council would formally support the stand taken by the members of EMRA. The proposal was seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**. The proposal to hold a special meeting was discussed, but it was



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agreed to wait for the revised draft of the document due to be published in the coming weeks.

### **Community:**

- Grant support for digital learning centres in libraries was welcomed but absence of libraries in some areas of the county was noted.

Responses were provided on the issues raised by the Chief Executive and management team.

### **6.2 Report from the Corporate Policy Group**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Corporate Policy Group reviewed the agenda for the full Council meeting and received information on the particulars of some items. The CPG also noted the report and recommendations from the Transportation SPC meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July.

### **6.3 Report from the Protocol Committee**

- The Meetings Administrator advised that a draft wording for inclusion in Standing Orders in regard to social media use by Councillors was circulated for consideration by the Protocol Committee.
- A list of conferences relevant to the business of the Council was approved.
- The Meetings Administrator advised that a discussion on the content of motions took place at the meeting.

Following questions in regard to the exclusion of some motions from the agenda, the Meetings Administrator explained that, in the case of a disallowed motion, the Councillor in question may appeal to the Cathaoirleach to have the motion included on the agenda.

## **7 Correspondence**

### **7.1 Notification of Local Adjustment Factor to Revenue.**

Noted by the Councillors.

### **7.2 Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government re. Extension to fertiliser-spreading period.**

Noted by the Councillors.

### **7.3 Correspondence from Department of Health in response to Notice of Motion 9.9 adopted at the May 2018 meeting of the full Council re. freestyle libra sensor.**



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Noted by the Councillors.

**7.4 Correspondence from TII in response to Notice of Motion 9.7 adopted at the June 2018 meeting of the full Council re. N52 Ardee Bypass.**

Noted by the Councillors. Councillor Michael Gallagher noted his dissatisfaction with the response.

**7.5 Correspondence from Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment in response to Notice of Motion 9.5 adopted at the May 2018 meeting of the full Council re. plastics.**

Noted by the Councillors.

**7.6 Circular FPS05/2018 - Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Urban Regeneration and Development Fund – Call for Proposals.**

Noted by the Councillors. Des Foley, Director of Services provided an overview of the process in regard to 7.6 and 7.7 and responded to the queries put forward by the Councillors.

**7.7 Department of Rural and Community Development re. Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.**

**7.8 Circular 35/2018 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2019-2024.**

Noted by the Councillors.

**7.9 Circular PL 04/2018 – Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government re. Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2018.**

Noted by the Councillors.

## **8 Notice of Question**

**8.1 Submitted by Councillor Francis Deane**

*“With regard to the Tenant Purchase Scheme 2016, how many Meath County Council tenants have availed of this scheme in 2016 and in 2017?”*

**Response**

56 eligible applications were received under the Tenant Purchase Scheme (Part 3 – Housing Act 2014) during 2016/2017, with eleven sales completed during the same period (all sales completed in 2017).



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Noted by the Councillors.

### 8.2 Submitted by Councillor Darren O'Rourke

*"To ask the Chief Executive how much has been paid in Housing Assistance Payment in Co. Meath since its commencement here on 2nd November 2015; and for a breakdown of same by quarter and by Municipal District / Ceist a chur ar an bPríomhfheidhmeannach an méid a íocadh ar Íocaíocht Cúnaimh Tithíochta i gContae na Mí ó chuireadh tús leis anseo ar an 2 Samhain 2015 agus briseadh siar ar an méid de réir ceathrú bliana agus bardais."*

#### Response

Payments in respect to the Housing Assistance Payment are made via the HAP Shared Service Centre (Limerick City & County Council).

Accordingly, the data pertaining to same is not readily available in the format requested.

However, it has been confirmed that the total payments made to landlords in respect to Meath HAP tenancies from its introduction to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 is €20,116,492.30.

Noted by the Councillors.

### 8.3 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

*"Does Meath County Council have a protocol in place for Councillors to attend pre-tenancy meetings before housing is allocated. If so, can a copy of same be provided to County Councillors / An bhfuil prótacal ag Comhairle Contae na Mí mar gheall ar chomhairloeirí ag freastal ar chruinnithe réamh-thionóntachta sula chuirtear tithíocht ar fáil. Má tá an féidir cóip a chur ar fáil do na Comhairleoirí."*

#### Response

Meath County Council does not have a formal written protocol in place governing attendance by advocates at either housing assessment or pre-tenancy meetings. However, housing applicants who have consented to same, are entitled to be accompanied by an advocate/third party, which could include elected members, at any housing assessment that takes place, as part of the allocation process. Advocates can be both informal e.g. family members or formal in nature e.g. from organisations with a specific advocacy role like Inclusion Ireland.

Noted by the Councillors.

## 9 Notice of Motion

### 9.1 Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly



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*“I call on Meath County Council, to begin the process of a County Development Plan variation to permit the installation of wooden cabins in back gardens of family homes. This is due to the deepening housing crisis and will assist young people to live and save that are out priced of the housing and rental market due to the increasing prices and lack of housing supply nationally.”*

### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

The Draft Meath County Development Plan (2019-2025) process is currently paused pending the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies. It is acknowledged that a number of variations are required to the current Plan to deal with specific issues. The principle considerations for commencing Variations are whether they are strategic, necessary, urgent and of county wide importance such as to justify making a special case.

While the current CDP does not contain a specific provision on the issue of temporary housing as set out in the motion, it is open to any person to make a planning application for a temporary structure. Any application made will be considered on its merits in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, and will have regard to relevant provisions of the development plan. A proposal would also be required to meet all standards relating to building regulations, garden space, sanitary facilities, traffic and parking, overlooking, etc. and 3<sup>rd</sup> parties would have rights to make observations on any application.

While the intention of the motion is understood in the context of the current housing difficulties, it is not considered that making a general provision in the CDP to allow temporary structures in back gardens offers a sustainable solution to the problem. It could instead lead to haphazard and unsuitable development and would not be consistent with proper planning and sustainable development.

The Executive, therefore, is not supportive of a proposal to vary the CDP to include this provision. It is open to Councillors or any person, by way of formal submission, to put forward a proposal on this issue in the context of the plan review which, it is anticipated, will recommence early next year.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Damien O’ Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**.

Following a lengthy debate on the motion, it was agreed to refer it to the Planning Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

### **9.2 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew**

*“To call on the Council to undertake a survey of all graveyards in County Meath vested in the ownership of Meath County Council, and that a report is brought back to this Council identifying those graveyards where issues are arising in the following areas.*

- 1. Public access to the graveyard is impossible or problematic where access is dependent on rights of way through third party lands.*
- 2. Damaged or dangerous boundary walls/ruins that require remedial repair works to make them safe.”*



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### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

In 2012, Meath County Council completed a comprehensive study of all 231 Burial Grounds in the County including the 120 which are vested in the Council and the remaining 111 vested in the charge of Church Bodies such as St. Finian's Diocesan Trust or the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland.

Of the 120, a total of 17 are classified as open, 40 closed and 63 dormant (where plots are only available where existing family members are interred)

The study identified contact persons for all burial grounds. In many cases, the local clergy are the contact persons as well as a small number of Caretakers for the Council vested burial grounds.

Details of the study were entered in the Burial Grounds register, including details in respect of access and in most cases where issues arise over access or damaged boundary walls, same are brought to the attention by the contact persons or local community groups who play a key role in maintaining burial grounds including those vested in the Council, and with financial support often being allocated to such groups under Community and other Grants Schemes.

Where complaints are received in respect of damages to walls etc. in the Council vested burial grounds, these are investigated by the Council and often by the Heritage, Conservation or Archaeology Officers where the burial ground itself or structures therein are protected or are of local or National importance, and subject to funding, a programme of measures are drawn up to address the defects and to ensure the safety of those visiting the burial grounds.

In 2013, the Council produced a Community Group guidance document to guide communities who propose to carry out works in Burial Grounds and outlining inter alia health and safety steps to be taken and consents to be obtained where heritage or archaeology issues are present. Groups intending to carry out works in these historical burial grounds are now required to attend a workshop organised by the Heritage Officer. The guidance document is applicable to works in all burial grounds and it is pointed out that advice and assistance is often given by the aforementioned officers to groups involved in burial groups which are not vested in the Council.

Where access issues arise through third party lands to Council vested burial grounds, these are discussed with the relevant landowners and in the vast majority of cases compromises are reached to ensure unhindered access. Similarly, the Council from time to time engages with landowners in respect of rights of way issues to burial grounds not vested in the Council.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Ronan McKenna**. The motion was noted based on the supporting information provided.

### **9.3 Submitted by Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tom Kelly**

*I call on the Council to initiate a tree planting scheme for the Council and each of municipal districts in association with other state agencies and volunteers groups for the coming tree planting season."*

**Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**



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In response to a previous notice of motion in respect of tree planting at schools, the Council in March of this year commenced an initiative whereby all schools in the County were offered a tree per student as part of an educational programme that recognises the contribution that trees make in enhancing biodiversity and in mitigating climate change.

To date, 65 primary and secondary schools are participating in the initiative and as part of the first phase have been provided with two rowan trees and associated equipment. The second phase to commence in the Winter 2018/Spring 2019 will see a sapling per student provided to each participating school, to be planted in the school grounds or beside the children's home.

The schools initiative is being undertaken in association with the Tree Council of Ireland and SEED a national network of educational centres in Primary and Post Primary environmental education, specialising in all aspects of organic school gardening, and a short film was produced entitled 'How to Plant a Tree' featuring Ashbourne Community School and distributed to each participating school.

Meath County Council takes part in Tree Week which is held each year in the first week of March and provides saplings to interested community groups. Funding is also provided to various community groups under Local Agenda 21 for projects involving tree planting.

It is pointed out that the Council's Draft Climate Action Strategy which recently came off public display contains a number of objectives and strategies designed to inspire and promote community action in energy projects including tree planting. The Council through its own actions will strongly support such objectives and strategies.

The motion was proposed by the **Cathaoirleach Councillor Tom Kelly** and seconded by **Councillor Noel French**. The motion was adopted subject to the supporting information provided.

### **9.4 Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin**

*"To call on Meath County Council and the Fire Service to do their utmost to prevent the setting and lighting of illegal bonfires this Halloween and that reminders are sent to businesses with their rates bill reminding them not to leave flammable, and when burnt, toxic waste in areas easily accessible by the public"*

#### **Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.**

The setting and lighting of illegal bonfires at Halloween forms an integral part of a very extensive media campaign initiated by Meath Fire Service each year and including during National Fire Safety Week which in 2018 is to be held from the 1<sup>st</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Messages are posted on various social media platforms in advance of Halloween, highlighting the fire safety message and calling on the public to report the stock piling of waste for burning as part of this seasonal activity. Information leaflets are distributed through various mechanisms highlighting the serious safety risks and damage to the environment associated with this illegal activity, and often involving substances of a toxic nature. Press releases are issued containing a series of tips designed to ensure that Halloween is enjoyed without injury or damage to property.

Last year there was an interview in Ashbourne Fire Station on Halloween Fire Safety for Meath daily TV.



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In addition to the safety and environmental risks associated with these illegal bonfires, the Council spends considerable amounts of money in both removing stockpiled material and the burned remains from bonfire sites, which are often located in densely populated estates. Every effort is made to communicate the fire safety message as widely as possible, including through businesses such as tyre operators to ensure their sites are secured and not to leave flammable or toxic waste in areas accessible by the public.

Following a debate on the matter, the motion, proposed by **Councillor Alan Tobin** and seconded by **Councillor Suzanne Jamal** was adopted.

### **9.5 Submitted by Councillor Wayne Forde (deferred from June meeting)**

*"Can I call on the Executive to write a letter to Minister for Health Simon Harris and the Government Party Ministers in Meath regarding receiving an update as to when the new Regional Hospital for the North East will be built in Navan and can they confirm that they have the funding for this project."*

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Wayne Forde** and seconded by **Councillor Trevor Golden** was adopted.

### **9.6 Submitted Councillor Sarah Reilly**

*"To ask the Minister for Environment, pursuant to Regulation (EU) 1143/2014, to prioritise the preparation of an action plan to prevent the introduction and spread of Invasive Alien Species in Ireland and to ask the Minister to appropriately fund said plan."*

The above motion was withdrawn by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

### **9.7 Submitted by the Independent Technical Group**

*"We call on Meath County Council to write to Minister for Finance, Pascal Donohue, requesting the Government to block and withdraw from any plans for Irish financial institutions to sell mortgages to vulture funds."*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Francis Deane** and seconded by **Councillor Nick Killian** was adopted.

The motion was adopted, following a lengthy debate on the matter.

**Due to time constraints, the Cathaoirleach proposed to conclude the business of the meeting and defer the rest of the agenda to the October meeting.**

**Councillor Gillian Toole** requested that her objection to the proposal would be noted, and outlined her dissatisfaction with the length of the meeting.

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**





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### 9.8 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole

*"Meath County Council calls upon Minister Shane Ross to take responsibility for the immediate improvement in fare structure, customer service & service reliability of Bus Éireann to its customers in Meath."*

### 9.9 Submitted by Councillor Gillian Toole

*"Meath County Council calls on the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána to introduce a system of uniform Garda vetting i.e. that one Garda vetting applies to all activities undertaken by a person in an organisation/ group/ club etc."*

### 9.10 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch

*"This Council calls on Minister Halligan to intervene to resolve the annual difficulties occurring with the school transport scheme because the criteria about concessionary ticket allocation is not fit for purpose / Éilíonn an Chomhairle ar an Aire Halligan gníomh a dhéanamh chun na deacrachtaí bliantúla a bhaineann leis an gcóras iompar scoile, toisc nach bhfuil na critéir a bhaineann le ticéidí lamháltais a chur ar fáil cuí, a réitiú."*

### 9.11 Submitted by Sinn Féin Councillors

*This Council is deeply concerned about the imminent threat of closure of up to 390 Post Offices throughout the country and the threat to the long-term future of the remaining 690 Post Offices, and calls on Government to:*

- 1. Enact 'Private Members Dáil Motion of the 11th November, 2016.'*
- 2. Postpone the closure of Post Offices while the Kiwi Post Bank model for the Irish Post Office network is developed./ Éilíonn an Chomhairle seo ar an Rialtas*
  - 1. An Rún Príobháideach na mBall Dála den 11 Samhain 2016 a chur chun feidhme*
  - 2. Dúnadh na hOifigí Poist a chur ar athló go dtí go bhforbrófar an múnla Kiwi Post Bank do ghréasán na nOifigí Poist Éireannach."*

### 9.12 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

*"That Meath Co. Council calls on the Dept. of Justice and the Minister for Justice to reform the Irish Legal system as was suggested by the Troika when they arrived in Ireland / Éilíonn Comhairle Contae na Mí ar an Roinn agus an Aire Cirt athchóiriú a dhéanamh ar chóras dlíthúil na hÉireann de réir mar a dúirt an Troikea nuair a tháinig siad go hÉirinn."*

## 10 Schedule of Chief Executive & Approved Orders (For information only)



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

**10.1 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders - Transportation**

**10.2 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Environment**

**10.3 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Housing**

**10.4 Schedule of Chief Executive's Orders – Community**

**11 Any Other Business**