**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 13th March 2017 in the Council Chamber at 11.00a.m.**

Councillor F. Curtin, Cathaoirleach Presiding

Present: Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, P. Brady, N. Connell, J.P. Feeley, E. Greenan, C. Kelly, P. McDonald, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly, S. P. O’Reilly, P. Smith, S. Smith, V. Smith.

In Attendance: T. Ryan, Chief Executive

 E. Doyle, Director of Service

 D. Maguire, Head of Finance

 J. McLoughlin, Director of Service

 P. Connaughton, A/Director of Service

 E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

**1(a)To confirm Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 13th February 2017. Miontuairiscĺ cruinnithe 13 Feabra 2017 a dhearbhu.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor S. Smith

 Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

 And

 Resolved:

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 13th February 2017 be hereby approved”.

Councillor P. McVitty asked who is responsible for checking the minutes of meetings as he was of the opinion that what was in the minutes was not what happened at the February meeting.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service advised that responsibility for vetting draft minutes prior to circulation to Council lie with him. He informed the members that the minutes record the decision made and may also provide a good outline of the debate that preceded them. He stated that the minutes are not designed to provide an exhaustive record of everything that was discussed. He stated that Councillors had the opportunity to amend the minutes to reflect any matter which was discussed when the draft is circulated for adoption.

**(b) To note minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9 February 2017.**

Noted.

 It was noted by Councillor J.P. Feeley and agreed that Dowra be included in the hierarchy of towns covered by the settlement strategy which was omitted from the minutes. Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service agreed that this be amended.

**2. To note Chief Executive’s Orders.**

Noted.

**3. To note Chief Executive’s monthly report.**

Noted.

 **4. To approve Roadworks Programme 2017.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly noted that the Local Improvement Scheme was not included as a heading in the Roadworks Programme 2017 and was of the opinion that the scheme was null and void and had been put together without full consultation with the members. Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that there was discretionary funding allocated by Minister Shane Ross for the LIS projects but it is not included in the Programme. Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that he was advised by the Department that Municipal Districts have the power to decide for themselves as to whether an allocation is made for LIS or not and this did not happen. Councillor P. O’Reilly asked his fellow members not to stand in the way of people in their local areas.

 Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service stated that the programme presented by the executive does not include the LIS and advised the members that if money is taken from the discretionary budget it will further reduce our local and regional road spend.

 Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that the role of the executive is to advise the members and the advice given is that there is insufficient monies available to currently upgrade Local Improvement Schemes. Mr. Ryan stated that the allocation from the Department is not even adequate to maintain the public roads. He stated that the decision on discretionary funding is not made by the executive and it is now up to the members to decide on how they want it spent. Mr. Ryan stated that Cavan County Council being the plenary Council has to make a decision on the roads programme. Mr. Ryan stated that if the programme is not adopted it could leave the Council in a position where it may not be able to spend the money by the end of the year.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the Council do not have sufficient monies to upgrade the existing road network and a separate allocation is required for the LIS. Councillor Feeley called on his colleagues in Government to make a decision that supports rural communities and provide extra funding to address these needs.

 Councillor E. Greenen called for extra funding to be made available for LIS and noted that over four years it will cost just under €1million of public funding to upgrade these lanes if taken from discretionary funds.

 Councillor C. Kelly stated that it was with regret that he could not support his party in voting for the Roads Programme 2017. He stated that currently there is a situation where a main road in Kingscourt is totally impassible and no Local Authority could stand over the condition of the road.

 Councillor P. McVitty noted that €315,000 is a small amount out of €18million and this amount should be put towards local improvement schemes

 It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley and seconded by Councillor P. Brady that the roadworks programme 2017 be adopted as presented.

 It was proposed by Councillor P. O’Reilly and seconded by Councillor W. Bennett that the Roadworks Programme 2017 be adopted with 15% from the discretionary budget being put towards the Local Improvement Scheme.

 A vote was taken by show of hands on Councillor O’Reilly’s proposal and this was defeated by 11 votes to 7.

 A vote was taken by show of hands on Councillor Feeley’s proposal with 10 voting for, 7 against and one abstained.

 The roads programme 2017 as presented was hereby approved.

 It was proposed by Councillor C. Kelly and seconded by Councillor W. Bennett that a letter be sent to applicants currently on the list for LIS from the executive explaining that there are insufficient monies to upgrade laneways for 2017.

It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley and seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly that the meeting be adjourned for five minutes.

 In the absence of the Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach for the remainder of the meeting due to Council business, the meeting was chaired by leas-cathaoirleach Paddy McDonald and Mr. Eoin Doyle deputising for the Chief Executive.

 **5. To discuss Cavan County Council’s submission to the pre-draft consultation stage on the National Planning Framework Ireland 2040.**

Mr. Nicholas O’Kane, Senior Planner stated that the National Planning Framework is a coherent vision for Ireland in the period up to 2040. He stated that it will inform future policies, government investment priorities and government capital spending. He noted that the National Planning Framework is likely to focus on the East and South of the Country and it is vitally important that Cavan’s strategic aspirations are put forward. He stated that submissions initially had to be made by 12 noon on Thursday 16th March but this has now been extended to the end of the month. He encouraged the members to make individual submissions. He stated that the key themes for Cavan were - role within the region, economic growth, investment, placemaking and green/sustainability.

The members complimented Councillors S. Smith and P. Smith who represent Cavan County Council on the Northern and Western Regional Assembly for making a submission and seeking an extension until the end of March for submissions. Councillor P. Smith expressed his disappointment with the submission made by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly stating that out of a seventy page document Cavan was only mentioned four times.

Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that there are two Cathedrals in County Cavan. Councillor Feeley proposed that Cavan Institute be upgraded and included in the new amalgamation structure at the highest possible level. He stated that the IDA has to bring industry to sub regions within regions and therefore exclude major urban centres for industry. He stated that the submission should include and support development of well designed houses in rural areas. Councillor Feeley stated that the submission should also call for a proper planning system in relation to forestry.

Councillor P. O’Reilly asked that issues in relation to the landbank in Virginia be addressed in order to have a site ready for industry.

Councillor E. Greenan suggested putting statistics in relation to IDA visits to Cavan in the submission as sometimes statistics speak louder than words.

Mr. Nicholas O’Kane stated that all proposals by the members would be taken into consideration when submitting the submission. He noted that over forty businesses had been contacted and asked to make a submission. He noted that the Chief Executive had notified Cavan Institute asking them to make a submission.

 **6. To note report on Protected Disclosures – 2015 and 2016.**

Noted.

**7. To approve the Cavan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Annual Report 2016 under Section 128B of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

 Seconded by Councillor E. Greenan

 And

 Resolved:

“that Cavan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Annual Report 2016 under Section 128B of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 be hereby approved”.

Councillor P. O’Reilly enquired into the procedure for calling a meeting of the Local Community Development Committee. Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service advised that the Local Community Development Committee is a committee established by the Council and which under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 is independent in the performance of its function. The Committee has its own standing orders and these require a request in writing from two thirds of the members for such a meeting.

Councillor P. O’Reilly advised of the difficulty in arranging same.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service commented that it was his understanding that the Chief Officer had provided Councillor P. O’Reilly with the names and contact numbers of all committee members.

Councillor P. O’Reilly expressed concern at a recent decision of the Local Community Development Committee.

**8. To note 3 year Capital Programme 2017-2019.**

Noted.

**9. Brexit Conference.**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that Louth County Council had set up a group with Councillors from each party and the Executive to work together on the area of Brexit. He asked that the executive and members of Cavan do the same.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that he would make contact with Louth County Council and come back to the members. Mr. Doyle noted that a conference will be held possibly in early May in Enniskillen, which will include elected members from north and south of the border to discuss the issue of Brexit and all members are encouraged to attend.

**10. To approve attendance of members at the following:-**

**(a) Celtic Conferences “The Finance Act 2016” to be held in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty from the 24th to 26th March 2017.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

 And

 Resolved:

 “that the attendance of Councillor P. O’Reilly at Celtic Conferences “The Finance Act 2016” to be held in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty from the 24th to 26th March 2017.

be hereby approved”.

**(b) Dundalk Chamber of Commerce Cross Border Tourism Conference to be held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 5th April.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

 And

 Resolved:

 “that the attendance of Councillor S. O’Reilly at the Dundalk Chamber of Commerce Cross Border Tourism Conference to be held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 5th April be hereby approved”.

 **(c) AILG Conference to be held in the West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare on 6th and 7th April, 2017.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

 And

 Resolved:

 “that the attendance of Councillors M. Argue, C. Brady, W. Bennett, P. Smith, V. Smith, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, J.P. Feeley, S. O’Reilly, P. Brady, S.P. O’Reilly, S. Smith, C. Kelly and F. Curtin at the AILG Conference to be held in the West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare on 6th and 7th April be hereby approved”.

**13(a) To note reply from Irish Water regarding Ballinagh Wastewater Plant.**

Noted. Councillor W. Bennett welcomed the reply.

**(b) To note reply from Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government regarding the request that income eligibility thresholds for social housing support be increased.**

Noted. Councillor S. Smith expressed his disappointment with the reply. Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council write again to the Minister for Housing and the housing section asking that they meet with a delegation from Cavan County Council in relation to the matter. This was seconded by Councillor C. Kelly.

 **Vote of Sympathy:**

* The O’Reilly Family, Kingscourt on the sudden death of Mr. Martin O’Reilly in the USA.
* The Farrelly Family, Kilnaleck on the death of Mr. Don Farrelly former staff member of Cavan County Council.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Ballyjamesduff Musical Society on their production of Hall of Fame Frolics which celebrated 65 years this year.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service informed the members that following a CPG meeting it was agreed to set up a Protocol Committee along with the Standing Orders Committee. Mr. Doyle advised that the Corporate Policy Group have recommended that two members from each party sit on the Protocol Committee and asked the party whips to give the two names to Elaine McGinn, Meetings Administrator by close of business on Wednesday 15th March so that the item could be placed on the April agenda for approval.

 Correspondence had been received from Ballybay Clones Municipal District in relation to North South Interconnector. It was proposed by Councillor C. Kelly and seconded by Councillor S. O’Reilly that Cavan County Council write to Ballybay Clones Municipal District fully supporting their motion.

**Citizens Information Board**

 Councillor S. Smith called on Cavan County Council to write to the Minister for Social Protection asking him to issue direction under Section 9 of the Citizens Information Act 2007 not to abandon local citizen information centres and replace them with regional companies. Councillor Smith noted that the citizens information office in Cavan is providing a marvelous service with local voluntary community involvement. He stated that if these offices are replaced by regional ones then local volunteers will be lost.

Cuuncillor J.P. Feeley seconded the motion. He noted the great works MABS and the Citizens information office in Cavan do. He stated that the service requires more resources and should not be removed and regionalized. He stated that the service is a crucial service and it is needed at county level.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – DEFERRED FROM FEBRUARY MEETING.**

1. **To ask Cavan County Council to write to the Minister for Social Protection Dr. Leo Varadkar, T.D. to review current payment levels to those suffering from life limiting illnesses and to address the disparity between previous income and state aid.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that our Government is failing to address the needs of those in our society faced with their own mortality. He stated that we as a State make people fight for what they need but if we were a caring society then it should be automatic. Councillor O’Reilly thanked the many local and national charities, staff in the local protection office and community welfare officers who help people suffering from life limiting illnesses. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that these people cannot continue to have the simple things in life when the State does not provide financial input. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly called on Cavan County Council to write to the Minister for Social Protection asking him to review current payment levels to those suffering from life limiting illnesses and to address the disparity between previous income and State aid. This proposal was seconded by Councillor P. Brady.

1. **To request that a land authority be established.**

Councillor S. Smith called on Cavan County Council to write to the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government requesting that a land authority be established to oversee the transfer and management of agricultural land across the country and that planning regulations be changed to include planning permission for afforestation. Councillor S. Smith noted that currently land is being bought by people with no connection to an area. Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded the proposal. He stated that a commission could protect existing farmers and assist in bringing separated holdings together.

 **3. That the HSE and the Minister for Health make urgent investment in the ambulance service to improve response times in the region.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council write to the HSE and the Minister for Health to make urgent investment in the ambulance service and to improve response times in the region. Councillor Feeley stated that there must be some way that the network of fire stations and medically trained staff locally can be utilised to reduce ambulance wait times. He stated that we have one third less ambulance staff employed to that North of the border. He stated that due to lack of investment in the ambulance service the lives of people in rural communities are being put at risk.

 Councillor D. Brady seconded the proposal. He stated that there is no reason why an ambulance could not be based at a fire station.

 Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion noting that the service provided by the ambulance service in the County is generally very good.

 **4. Express bus service in Cavan.**

Councillor S. Smith called on Cavan County Council to write to Bus Eireann asking that the express bus service from Cavan to Dublin remain in place as this service is very important and beneficial to County Cavan particularly as the County has no rail service.

 This proposal was seconded by Councillor P. McVitty.

 **5. That in the event of a hard Brexit that Cavan County Council request the Government to seek funding from the Cohesion Fund to address the deficit that will occur.**

Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform requesting that the Government seek funding from the Cohesion Fund to address the deficit that will occur in the event of a hard Brexit. He stated that as far as he was aware the current round of structural funds ends in 2020. He stated that a case should be made post 2020, with Brexit and the unfortunate challenges and adverse impacts it will have on the Border economy in particular, that as a State we should seek access to cohesion funding with a view to upgrading the infrastructure in the area that is and will be the most adversely affected by the impact of Brexit.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded the proposal. Councillor Feeley stated that it is essential that a proper strategy is put in place to deal with Brexit and we must demand investment and infrastructure in this region.

 Councillors W. Bennett and P. McVitty supported the motion.

 **6. To request Transportation Infrastructure Ireland to erect a safety barrier on the N3 at Lavey.**

Councillor V. Smith stated that there is an amenity park at Lavey lake which is very dangerous and proposed that the Council write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland to erect a safety barrier to the N3 at Lavey. He noted that four fatalities occurred at this location three of these in the last four years. He stated that he looked for an extension of the speed limit for 800km north to cover the amenity area and the Transportation Safety Section advised him that these fatalities were not due to speed. Councillor V. Smith noted that there are issues in relation to safety measures at Floods Quarry on the N3. He stated that road markings need changing in this area as two fatalities occurred at this location. Councillor Smith noted that in the draft transport infrastructure Ireland guidelines it is proposed to increase the speed limit from 50km to 60km.

 Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service stated that the main reason a barrier is installed is to minimize incidents to occupants if leaving the roadway and therefore a safety barrier at an amenity area would put people using the amenity area at risk. He stated that the Council are currently in discussion with TII to see what measures can be taken. He noted that the current speed limits are under review and they will be brought before the members at a Council meeting.

 Councillors P. O’Reilly, P. Smith and P. Brady supported the motion.

 **7. That Cavan County Council supports the campaign of “Donegal Families for Justice” in their quest for answers surrounding the disappearance of Mary Boyle in 1977. We call on the coroner to carry out an immediate inquest and this inquest should be followed by a commission of investigation in to the case.**

Councillor E. Greenan stated that Mary Boyle is the longest missing child in the State and her twin sister Ann is campaigning for the State to get answers into her disappearance. It was proposed by Councillor E. Greenan that Cavan County Council supports the campaign of “Donegal Families for Justice” in their quest for answers surrounding the disappearance of Mary Boyle in 1977. Councillor Greenan called on the coroner to carry out an immediate inquest and that this inquest be followed by a commission of investigation in to the case.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded the proposal. Councillor Feeley called on all those who had information on historic crimes to go to the Gardai with the information. He stated that the only people who should conduct investigations are the Garda Siochana and the only place to deal with these crimes is through the justice system.

 **8. That Cavan County Council turns its buildings blue on Autism Awareness Day.**

Councillor E. Greenan stated that he was contacted by a parent of an autistic child looking for the Council’s support in trying to light Cavan blue on Autism Awareness Day. Councillor Greenan noted that one in every one hundred people is autistic. He stated that he had been in discussion with the executive in relation to turning the Courthouse building blue and due to timing issues it could not happen this year but the Council is more than willing to show their support to the group in future.

 Councillor P. McVitty supported that motion and thanked the Cavan Autism Parents Support Group (CAPS) for the work they do.

 **9. That Cavan County Council supports the Bus Eireann workers.**

Councillor E. Greenan called on Cavan County Council to support the Bus Eireann workers and proposed that the Council write to Minister Shane Ross asking him to get involved in solving the dispute and avoiding an all out strike. Councillor Greenan stated that Bus Eireann serves County Cavan well by allowing workers and students commute to Dublin on a daily basis.

 This proposal was seconded by Councillor D. Brady.

 Councillor Peter McVitty noted that over €60,000 is being lost daily and this needs to be addressed as otherwise the tax payer will be footing the bill.

 **10. The challenges facing our young farmers.**

Councillor P. McDonald proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Creed calling on him to relax the criteria for the Young Farmer Scheme as regards educational requirements. Councillor McDonald stated that as it currently stands, the strict deadlines for enrolment in FETAC level 6 courses mean that many worthy applications are automatically excluded from the scheme. Councillor McDonald stated that with farming uptake by young people at an all-time low we need to consider it of the upmost importance that proper incentives are given to these young people to get involved in farming activities. He stated that young farmers are facing an increasingly complex set of barriers when trying to get on an even footing in their sector.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded the proposal.

 Councillor P. O’Reilly noted that Ballyhaise Agricultural College should have more practical elements. He stated that at present there were no practical elements in the College for pig or poultry training.

 Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion.

 **11. Doctor on call.**

Councillor P. Brady noted an incident where a mother with a sick baby after contacting doctor on call was told to bring her child to the A & E department where she would be seen by a paediatrician. He stated that two weeks later the mother received a bill in the post for €100. Councillor P. Brady complimented the doctor on call service in Cavan but stated that if doctor on call will not see a baby what is the point in having a GP cards for under six years.

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion. He noted that County Cavan is blessed to have a paediatric unit with fantastic staff. Councillor O’Reilly proposed with the agreement of Councillor Brady that the Council write to the Minister for Health asking that this anomaly in the scheme be looked at and identified as it is causing great concern to many parents. Councillor Brady agreed to the proposal.

 **12. Dumping/Spring Litter League.**

 **17. To ask Cavan County Council if they have proposed action plans to tackle increased problems of illegal dumping/fly tipping in the county.**

Councillor P. Brady stated that the problem of litter is getting worse day by day in the County. He asked what Cavan County Council is doing to alleviate the problem. He noted that there are still unauthorized waste collectors in towns. Councillor P. Brady called on members of the public to keep their eyes open to those that are littering our rural countryside and report the incident to Cavan County Council.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that it is a well known fact that illegal dumping and incidents of fly tipping are increasing at an alarming rate, not just in County Cavan but countrywide. She stated that prosecutions and fines for dumping are decreasing because fly tippers have become cute to not leaving any evidence. She stated that some reasons for illegal dumping are:- people cannot afford the extortionate cost of private waste collection, there is a lack of education mixed with laziness and some people just cannot be bothered to dispose of their waste properly. She stated that increased charges at recycling centres, and the fact that they are only open part time is also exacerbating the problem. Councillor S. O’Reilly asked the Council to open the amenity in Bailieborough all day on a Saturday and also asked if the amount of people using the recycling facility at the site has increased or decreased since the increase in charges and reduced opening hours. She stated that currently long delays before the litter warden gets to an illegal dumping site is adding to the spread of litter with weather and wildlife scattering rubbish over a larger area. She also asked if Cavan County Council had looked into using the EPA app which makes it easy for people to report a pollution incident the moment they see it. Councillor O’Reilly was of the opinion that more men are needed on the ground, more prosecutions and we need to engage with the public through the media.

 Councillor P. Smith supported the motion and noted the good news that a new litter warden had been employed by Cavan County Council. He stated that cameras should be used at bring centres. He stated that a survey should be carried out asking people where they dispose of their household waste. Councillor Smith urged the Council to go back into the schools and continue to advise students.

 Councillor N. Connell stated that putting signs under a camera telling people there is one in place is only encouraging people to go around the corner and dump their rubbish elsewhere.

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that naming and shaming is the only way to deal with litter louts and legislation needs to be passed regarding same.

 Councillor S. Smith advised that the Council select a pilot area both urban and rural and concentrate on them.

 Councillors W. Bennett, P. O’Reilly and P. McDonald supported the motion.

 Mr. Paddy Connaughton, A/Director of Service informed the members that the reality is that this is a national issue. He noted that there is an app being launched by the Council at the minute and he would get more details in relation to same. Mr. Connaughton stated that he would bring the matter in relation to opening times in Bailieborough and the need to do more to ask the public to report incidences to the SPC meeting and report back to the members.

 **13. Funding for Ghost Estates.**

Councillor P. Smith proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government asking him to put funding in place to complete ghost housing estates. Councillor Smith noted that not all housing estates in the County were up to standard stating that in Ballyjamesduff there are three estates without lighting since 2007. He stated that the absence of street lighting encourages anti-social behaviour.

Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded the proposal. Councillor Feeley stated that many of the people who had been involved in the construction of ghost estates and gone bankrupt were now back trading again. He stated that these people need to be followed by the Council.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, A/Director of Services informed the meeting that in 2010 there were 156 ghost housing estates in County Cavan and currently there are 21 ghost housing estates in the County stating that this is due to funding of €1.4m received in 2014. Mr. Connaughton stated that by 2018 it is hoped to have this figure down to 11.

 **14. The problem of ivy.**

Councillor P. Smith expressed his concern regarding the public hazard caused by the overgrowth of trees and service poles with ivy. He noted that a number of roads were disrupted by fallen trees during the last storm and the prevalence of ivy is blame. Councillor P. Smith proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Social Protection asking that the problem of ivy be addressed through the Community Employment Scheme and incentivized by GLAS payments and it may help towards cleaning up the problem.

 The proposal was seconded by Councillor W. Bennett. Councillor Bennett asked the executive to make a list of hedges not cut and send out notices to these farmers immediately.

 **15. School Transport.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that a cross party delegation met with officials from the Department of Transport in Tullamore last August which was not productive. Councillor Feeley noted that the maps being used by the Department are not taking account of the routes school buses are operating on. He stated that the new school transport regulations have no regard for where families traditionally went to school. He stated that the number of children on school buses is now declining as parents are bringing their children to school in cars so that they can go to the same school as their siblings. He stated that to date Minister Halligan has not engaged in the matter at all. Councillor Feeley proposed that the Council once again convey their concerns and seek a cross party delegation meeting with Minister Bruton.

 The proposal was seconded by Councillor M. Argue.

 **16. Urgent need for engagement with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to ensure that County Cavan is given priority within their plans for future plans for investment.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that Carmel Brady and himself met with Minister Mitchell O’Connor and the IDA in conjunction with Monaghan County Council and noted that it was clear from the meeting that there was no sympathetic ear being given to Cavan/Monaghan. Councillor Feeley stated that the Local Enterprise Office is doing a very good job working with businesses in the County and providing advice to people setting up their own business. He stated that the IDA is talking about bringing in a new strategy whereby they are moving to Regions like Cork, Limerick and Galway to set up businesses. He stated that it is essential that there are serviced landbanks in the County. He stated that Cavan County Council need to provide a better role in identifying lands noting that Meath County Council have established a dedicated enterprise unit. Councillor Feeley proposed the urgent need for engagement with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to ensure that County Cavan is given priority within their plans for future plans for investment. Councillor Feeley called on Oireachtas Members to ensure that we are put on the IDA’s agenda and that there is no disposal of lands at Killygarry to a third party.

 Councillor W. Bennett seconded the proposal. He stated that the Council needs to have a landbank ready and waiting for an investor to take over straight away.

 Councillor E. Greenan noted that it was eighteen months since the IDA stood in front of the Council with no benefits seen since the meeting. Councillor Greenan complimented the Local Enterprise Office on their promotion video to show businesses they helped to start up in the County. He stated that it is nearly forty years since the IDA brought a business to Cavan. Councillor Greenan stated that under no circumstances should the IDA site in Killygarry be disposed off to a third party.

Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that the Council needs to look in each municipal district for one potential site and have it ready for an investor to commence business straight away. Councillor P. O’Reilly asked that LEO attend a meeting of Cavan County Council.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service acknowledged the comments made by the members. He stated that we need to lobby in relation to the regional strategy of the IDA and areas outside of urban areas need to be targeted. Mr. Doyle stated that the Chief Executive is seeking a meeting with management level of the IDA. Mr. Doyle stated that he would talk to the Chief Executive in relation to staffing an enterprise office in Cavan.

 **18. Update on public lighting in Bailieborough.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that in January 2017 Cavan County Council adopted an external lighting policy for new developments and asked if there is a plan to install public lighting in existing estates. She stated that there are five estates in Bailieborough with a high number of pedestrians and need adequate lighting. She stated that all the estates in question are within walking distance of the school, church and shops. She stated that twenty extra lights would serve all five estates.

 Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion.

 Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service informed the members that there is currently no money in the budget for additional public lighting. He stated that he would take on board Councillor O’Reilly’s request but could not guarantee anything in the near future.

 **19. To ask Cavan County Council to if there is a new Scheme to replace the Gateway Scheme which is coming to an end in Summer 2017.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that the current Gateway Scheme is coming to an end in Summer 2017 and asked if there is a new scheme to replace it. She stated that the scheme was invaluable to Bailieborough and Cootehill Municipal District and very successful. Councillor O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Social Protection asking him to review the scheme or put a new scheme in place.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded the proposal.

 Councillor C. Brady stated that without the Gateway Scheme Cootehill town would have become very dilapidated.

 Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service informed the members that at this point in time the Council had not been advised of another scheme.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS MARCH**

 **20. That this Council invite the Road Safety Authority to the next Council meeting.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to the Road Safety Authority inviting them to attend a meeting of Cavan County Council. He stated that Transport Infrastructure Ireland has ignored the Council’s requests on numerous occasions and accidents are occurring on the N3 more and more. He stated that by contacting the RSA they might make a case to Transport Infrastructure Ireland for us. He noted that if the invitation is accepted then the Council should draw up an agenda for the meeting.

 Councillors S.P. O’Reilly and M. Argue supported the motion.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that the function of the Road Safety Authority is promotion of greater awareness of road safety.

 Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services noted that the Road Safety Authority do not deal with structural issues.

 Councillor V. Smith seconded Councillor P. O’Reilly’s proposal to invite the RSA to a meeting of Cavan County Council.

 **21. That this Council carry out a feasibility study on the alternative uses from all farm/poultry manures.**

Deferred to April Meeting.

 **22. The need for Cavan County Council to support the establishment of a refuge for victims of domestic violence, to help source funding for same and to work with the relevant government departments to ensure that this vital service is set up in County Cavan.**

Councillor N. Connell called on Cavan County Council to support the establishment of a refuge for victims of domestic violence, to help source funding for same and to work with the relevant government departments to ensure that this vital service is set up in County Cavan. Councillor Connell noted that one in three women suffer from psychological violence while one in four suffers from physical and sexual violence. Councillor Connell stated that there are four thousand women accommodated in emergency refuge accommodation due to domestic violence. Councillor Connell asked that the Council support the family of the late Clodagh Hawe and her sons to set up a refuge facility in County Cavan.

 Councillor E. Greenan commended Councillor Connell on his motion and fully supported it. Councillor Greenan stated that the minimum expectation is that there would be a refuge in every County for people suffering from domestic violence to attend with children.

 Councillor S.P. O’Reilly supported the motion. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that we are the premier local authority in the County and it is up to us to ensure that those in society who need our help get it. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly suggested that the Council provide a building to ensure that accommodation is forthcoming.

 Councillor Connell thanked the members for their support stating that we need to move forward and take action.

 The meeting concluded at 5.00p.m.