**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 11th September, 2017 in the Council Chamber at 2.15p.m.**

Councillor P. McDonald, Cathaoirleach Presiding

Present: Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, P. Brady,

 N. Connell, F. Curtin, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly,

 S. P. O’Reilly, P. Smith, S. Smith, V. Smith.

In Attendance: T. Ryan, Chief Executive

 E. Doyle, Director of Service

 J. McLoughlin, Director of Service

 P. Connaughton, A/Director of Service

 E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

1. **To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 10 July 2017. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 10 Iúil 2017 a dhearbhu.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

 Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

 And

 Resolved:

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 10 July 2017 be hereby approved”.

**2. To note minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 10 July 2017.**

 Noted.

1. **To hear presentation from Shane Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, ICBAN on ICBAN Report – Ireland’s National Broadband Plan: Delivering on the Promise.**

Councillor P. McDonald welcomed Shane Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, ICBAN and Kieran Hever, Head of IT, Cavan County Council to the meeting.

Mr. Campbell thanked the members for allowing him the opportunity to make a presentation on ICBAN Report – Ireland’s National Broadband Plan: Delivering on the Promise. Mr. Campbell acknowledged the dedication of Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady and F. Curtin who represent Cavan County Council on ICBAN. He stating that the policy interests of ICBAN is to ensure best technological provisions for each area of the Centre Border Region, to monitor and encourage delivery on National Broadband Plan and to change narrative in NI to fibre to the home (not fibre to the cabinet) and drive an investment solution on this. Mr. Campbell noted that for every one percentage point increase in broadband penetration in a state, employment is projected to increase by 0.2 to 0.3 percent per year. Mr. Campbell stated that a rural user’s experience of using the internet will be entirely revolutionized with a decent fibre connection. Mr. Campbell stated that the National Broadband Plan is a fantastic ambition and the job is to stick with it and fight for the rewards. He stated that under the National Broadband Plan it is expected to have 30mBps download and 6Mbps upload to all premises by 2022. He stated that the purpose of ICBAN’s report is to ensure that Councils become confident in documenting the promises and securing the upgrades in fixed and mobile broadband. Mr. Campbell noted that there were seven key findings and twenty recommendations within their report. He state that ambition must be fully embraced and supported with demand aggregations. Mr. Campbell stated that 70% is a license to create a poor indifferent service and should be set at 95%-98%. He stated that the National Broadband Plan and Mobile Broadband Plans should be aligned and strategic engagement is needed with COMREG and the Government.

Mr. Kieran Hever, Head of IT stated that the National Broadband Plan is still been evaluated with a decision not expected until next year. In the meantime, Eir have been selected to bring high speed broadband to 300,000 premises nationally which are categorised in the rural areas.  These premises have been identified down to their Eircode and are listed on the DCCAE website.  These premises will be connected by the end of 2018. For the other premises in the county waiting connection through the NBP, there are wireless broadband options.  There are 2 providers in the county - Imagine and Eurona - who connect premises with only a fixed number of connections allowed on each mast, which ensures high quality speeds.  Mr. Hever stated that Cavan County Council is actively working with all providers to prioritise premises.  He stated that the Council are currently involved in a pilot scheme to facilitate funding for the building of a mast to bring wireless broadband to a part of Maudabawn using LEADER funds.

Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed the presentation and noted that there is a level of skepticism among the general public in relation to the National Broadband Scheme. He stated that the scheme is constantly being delayed and this in turn could lead to targets being missed. He stated that people know what is needed regarding fibre to the home and stated that the National Broadband Plan needs to be implemented sooner rather than later.

1. **To hear presentation from Jimmy McGovern, Students Union of Ireland regarding publicly funded education.**

Deferred to October meeting.

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

Noted.

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

Noted.

Councillor J.P. Feeley asked the executive of Cavan County Council to engage with

Leitrim and Sligo County Councils to examine an application for funding which was

refused in relation to developing a greenway.

It was agreed that the Council would engage with Leitrim County Council to see if they

could ascertain the reasons for the decision to refuse the funding.

1. **Adoption of Cavan County Tourism Development Plan 2017- 2022.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor F. Curtin

 And

Resolved:

“that the Cavan County Tourism Development Plan 2017 – 2022 be hereby adopted”.

Councillor P. McDonald welcomed Ms. Grainne O’Connor, Acting Tourism Officer, Cavan County Council and Mr. Michael Counahan, CHL Consulting Company Ltd to the meeting.

Councillor J.P. Feeley acknowledged the work of the staff in developing a Tourism Strategy. He stated that it is a very comprehensive document reflecting the reality of the tourism market and where we are in County Cavan. He stated that there are many positive highlights in the plan with Cavan having a lot to offer to tourists. He stated that the report highlights the issues surrounding Brexit which will be a major challenge to the County. He stated that signage needs to be improved and addressed comprehensively.

Mr. Michael Counahan, CHL Consulting Company Ltd informed the members that the core objective of the plan is to develop an all-county plan that will galvanise the tourism proposition and enable Cavan to grow and develop successfully as a unique destination within the island of Ireland. He stated that the aims of the plan are to increase tourist visits and economic return by 15% - 20% over the next five years, invest in and improve on Cavan’s tourism experiences, build capacity and galvanise tourism providers and provide strategic direction on development and marketing. He stated that the strategic development framework is set out in three Pillars namely, destination development, trade development and positioning and marketing. Mr. Counahan noted that the plan details a set of actions which correspond to the Strategic Pillars. The stated that these actions will help Cavan meet its core objectives of increasing and sustaining visitor number and Cavan County Council will lead on some initiatives while other, partner agencies can be mobilized to take the lead. Mr Counihan noted that the presentation highlighted where Cavan stood by comparison to other inland tourist destinations, fourth overall behind Kilkenny, Kildare and Tipperary and sixteenth nationally.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive welcomed the plan stating that the Council has a five year period to work in collaboration with other industries and trade in implementing the plan. He informed the members of Failte Ireland’s intention to develop a Lakeland tourism brand, which would be more suited to Cavan’s geographical location.

Ms. Grainne O’Connor. Acting Tourism Officer noted that signage is an issue and is identified as an action in the strategy which needs to be looked at.

**8. To note Cavan County Council’s Annual Report for 2016.**

Noted.

 Councillor J.P. Feeley expressed his disappointment that under the library events no reference is made to the unveiling of the plaque commemorating Sean MacDiarmada outside Tullynamoyle National School, Dowra.

 Councillor Feeley also asked that statistics be compared from one year to another in the report.

**9. To note Financial Report for period ending 30 June 2017.**

Noted.

**10. Local Improvement Scheme 2017.**

 Noted.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services informed the members that a pilot Local Improvement Scheme 2017 will be operated under the Department of Rural and Community Development and no indication has been given to date on how much funding will be made available to Local Authorities for the scheme. He noted that the Department has stated that it will be based on the level of demand for the scheme, the level of resources available and the capacity of local authorities to complete their proposed application for works by the end of 2017. Mr. McLoughlin stated that at the Corporate Policy Group meeting it was agreed to submit 11 applications under the scheme for Cavan. He stated that the cost of completing works on the 11 laneways will come to a total of €496,000 with €67,000 coming from local contributions.

Councillor P. O’Reilly welcomed the local improvement scheme funding. Councillor P. O’Reilly was of the opinion that submitting 11 applications was totally inadequate. Councillor P. O’Reilly proposed that the Council submit 27 applications, 9 from each of municipal district. Councillor O’Reilly stated that if the Council submitted only a few applications it would fail to stress the seriousness of the situation affecting the County, where much industry particularly agricultural is located on private rural laneways.

Councillor W. Bennett seconded Councillor O’Reilly’s proposal.

Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed the allocation. He stated that there is a huge demand for local improvement schemes throughout the County. He stated that the Council has to be guided by the Executive regarding the amount of applications that can be complete in full by the end of the year. Councillor J.P. Feeley complimented Minister Michael Ring on his initiative.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services stated that he had discussions with the Department at Senior level who stressed to him that the capacity to deliver was the key criteria. He stated that to apply for funding for a much greater number would be detrimental in the long-term if the Council were to receive funding but fail to meet obligations in carrying out the work. Mr. McLoughlin stated that the unexpected latest turn of events meant that the Local Authority would now be seeking contributions. This would be where they had earlier this year informed laneway dwellers that there would not be a local improvement scheme in 2017.

Councillor C. Brady stated that if the letter in response to the Department is filled out as requested the Department will know that there are 200 lanes outstanding in the County.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that the 3 whips meet with the Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach and Director of Services to come to a conclusion on the matter.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor S. Smith.

Following an adjournment it was unanimously agreed by the members to make application to the Department for 15 lanes under the pilot local improvement scheme 2017.

**11. To fix date for Special Meeting to consider the variation basic rate in Local Property Tax under Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 as amended by Section 5 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2013.**

It was agreed that a Special Meeting to consider the variation basic rate in Local Property Tax under Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 as amended by Section 5 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2013 be held on Thursday 28th September 2017 at 11.00a.m.

**12(a) To approve 7 year lease of .1291ha. or 0.319 acres of land at Bexcourt Centre, Bailieborough to Breffni Integrated CLG for a nominal fee of €50.00 per annum, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, and notices circulated.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor P. McDonald

 Seconded by Councillor F. Curtin

 And

 Resolved:

 “that a 7 year lease of .1291ha. or 0.319 acres of land at Bexcourt Centre, Bailieborough to Breffni Integrated CLG for a nominal fee of €50.00 per annum, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

**(b) To approve the disposal of land containing 0.0429 acres or 0.0174 ha. at Woodview Park, Ballyconnell to Mr. Seamus Donohoe, 13 Woodford Park, Ballyconnell, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 and notices circulated.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor P. McVitty

 Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

 And

 Resolved:

 “that the disposal of land containing 0.0429 acres or 0.0174 ha. at Woodview Park, Ballyconnell to Mr. Seamus Donohoe, 13 Woodford Park, Ballyconnell, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

**(c) To approve a 25 year lease of .13 ha of land at Stradone, Co. Cavan for a nominal fee of €1.00 per year for 25 years to Laragh Area Development Group CLG, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 and notices circulated.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor V. Smith

 Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

 And

 Resolved:

 “thata 25 year lease of .13 ha of land at Stradone, Co. Cavan for a nominal fee of €1.00 per year for 25 years to Laragh Area Development Group CLG, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

**(d) To approve a 10 year lease of 0.062 hectares or 0.153 acres of land at Dowra, Co. Cavan for a nominal fee of €1.00 per year for 10 years to Dowra Resource Centre CLG., pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 and notices circulated.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

 And

 Resolved:

“that a 10 year lease of 0.062 hectares or 0.153 acres of land at Dowra, Co. Cavan for a nominal fee of €1.00 per year for 10 years to Dowra Resource Centre CLG., pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved”.

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

* **AILG Training Seminar to be held in the Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway on 19 September 2017.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor V. Smith

And

Resolved:

 “that the attendance of Councillors W. Bennett, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, M. Argue, P. Brady and C. Brady at AILG Training Seminar to be held in the Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway on 19 September be hereby approved”.

* **AILG Training Seminar to be held in Cork on 23 September 2017.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor V. Smith

And

Resolved:

 “that the attendance of Councillors J.P. Feeley, P. Brady, F. Curtin, S. O’Reilly, S.P. O’Reilly, and C. Kelly at AILG Training Seminar to be held in Cork on 23 September be hereby approved”.

* **Local Authority Members’ Association (LAMA) Autumn Training Seminar to be held in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary on 29th & 30th September.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor V. Smith

And

Resolved:

 “that the attendance of Councillors W. Bennett, P. Smith, M. Argue, C. Brady, V. Smith, J.P. Feeley, P. Brady, F. Curtin, S. O’Reilly, S.P. O’Reilly, S. Smith, P. O’Reilly and C. Kelly at Local Authority Members’ Association (LAMA) Autumn Training Seminar to be held in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary on 29th & 30th September be hereby approved”.

**14(a) To note reply from Niamh Smyth, T.D. regarding IDA – Job Creation in the Border Region.**

Noted.

 **(b) To note reply from Office of the Minister with Responsibility for Defence in relation to concerns of members of the Defence Forces.**

Noted.

 **(c) To note correspondence from Leo Varadkar, T.D. An Taoiseach**

Noted.

 **(d) To note reply from Director of CABU Ltd regarding Killykeen Forest Park,**

Noted.

 **(e) To note reply from Department of Finance regarding fuel equalization.**

Noted.

 **(f) To note reply from Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs regarding the endorsement of the Seanad Private Members’ Declaration of Independence Day Bill 2017.**

Noted.

 **(g) To note reply from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding reports of human rights violations against Falun Gong practitioners.**

Noted.

 **(h) To note reply from Department of Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform regarding the provision of insurance for older vehicles.**

Noted.

 **(h) To note reply from Simon Harris, T.D., Minister for Health concerning the response times of ambulances in Cavan.**

Noted.

Councillor P. McVitty asked that a reminder letter be sent to the Minister for Transport in relation to HGV drivers obtaining insurance.

 **Votes of sympathy:**

* Councillor Clifford Kelly on the death of his brother Emmett Kelly.
* The Sharkey Family, Virginia on the death of Pat Sharkey former employee of Cavan County Council.
* Councillor Sean Smith and the Smith family on the death of his aunt-in-law Christina Smyth.
* Councillor Sarah O’Reilly on the death of her grand uncle Mr. Harry Brady.
* Dermot Walsh former employee of Cavan County Council on the death of his wife Martina Walsh.
* The Mulligan Family on the death of Mr. Denis Mulligan, member of Cavan Association Luton.
* Renate, Martin and Ralph Falger on the death of Edgar Falger, Kurnach, Germany. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that Edgar (the local butcher) always showed great friendship to the people of Mullagh and Cavan when they visited Kurnach.
* John Bennett and Family Belturbet on the death of his wife Angela.

 **Vote of Congratulations:**

* The Committee, Volunteers, Sponsors, Exhibitors, Clarke Family and anyone else associated with the success of the Taste of Cavan.
* Virginia Show Committee on hosting a very successful 76th Annual Show.
* Lakeland Dairies on the opening of its new processing plant in Bailieborough.
* Joe Doherty and Jackie O’Neill on their Scéalta dar dTalún exhibition in Ballyhaise Agricultural College.

Councillor C. Brady informed the meeting that Ballyhaise College has invited Cavan County Council to host a monthly meeting in the college. It was proposed by Councillor C. Brady that we host a future meeting in the college and this was seconded by Councillor C. Kelly.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Services stated that the Council will look into the possibility of same.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS**

**4. Additional Garda Resources for West Cavan**

**9. Closure of Barracks in Ballyconnell from 9pm to 9am**

Councillor S. Smith expressed his disappointment with the decision to close Ballyconnell Garda Station from 9pm to 9am noting that there was always a 24 hour service at the Station. He stated that Ballyconnell station is situated on the border and covers a huge area from Cavan town to Blacklion. He stated that with Brexit looming the closure of Ballyconnell Garda Station during the night is not acceptable. Councillor S. Smith stated that additional resources such as cars and personnel are needed at local level to reflect the confidence of the local community in An Garda Siochana. He stated that locals are concerned with the growing level of crime within the community. Councillor S. Smith stated that previously Manorhamilton was the headquarters for West Cavan but this was changed by the Commissioner and had not proven beneficial to Gardai. Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Justice asking that additional resources be provided to Gardai in border counties and that west cavan be placed under the headquarters of Manorhamilton as in previous years.

Councillor P. McVitty seconded Councillor Smith’s proposal. Councillor McVitty stated that a public meeting is being held in Ballyconnell tonight to hear the views of the local community in relation to the closure of Ballyconnell Garda Station from 9pm to 9am. He stated that he spoke with Superintendent Coen who informed him that it made more sense to have Gardai out on the road together than have one Garda sit in a Station over day and night. He stated that the Superintendent assured him that there will be Gardai in the area at night.

Councillor D. Brady supported the motion stating that he was shocked to hear that the station was closing from 9pm top 9am second hand and he a member of the Joint Policing Committee. He stated that this topic needs to be discussed at the next JPC meeting. He stated that more Gardai are needed in West Cavan and he proposed that the Council in their letter to the Minister for Justice ask how many Gardai are currently serving West Cavan.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion. He stated that he is disappointed with the decision to downgrade Ballyconnell Garda Station and also the fact that it was not discussed at the last JPC meeting. He stated that the decision to close Ballyconnell Garda Station from 9pm to 9am is setting back relations between local communities and the Gardai. Councillor Feeley asked that the Council write to the Acting Garda Commissioner asking for more Garda resources in rural areas along the border. He asked that the decision be further looked at and have it justified with other public offices that are open twenty four seven.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS DEFERRED FROM JULY MEETING**

**1. In light of the development of ‘Gas to the West’ to bring the natural gas network to Enniskillen and Derrylin in County Fermanagh, that Cavan County Council engage with local business in the Ballyconnell area to determine**

 **potential usage and make the case for the extension of the Network into County Cavan to all relevant authorities.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that in light of development of “Gas to the West” bringing the natural gas network to Enniskillen and Derrylin in Co. Fermanagh that Cavan County Council engage with local business in the Ballyconnell area to determine potential usage and make the case for the extension of the Network into County Cavan to all relevant authorities. He asked that LEO engage with local businesses and authorities north of the border to see how we can work together to bring natural gas to County Cavan.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that it was obvious that this gas pipeline would bring significant benefit to County Cavan. He stated that the Local Enterprise Office is in contact with Northern Ireland to see the practicalities of same.

 Councillor P. McVitty asked that the Quinn Group be included in the talks.

**2. That in light of the fact that much of County Cavan is outside a 60 or 90 minute travel time from a Primary Coronary Intervention Centre that Cavan County Council call on the Minister of Health and the HSE to set out plans to ensure proper access to this essential service.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris and the HSE to set out plans to ensure proper access to a Primary Coronary Intervention Centre in light of the fact that much of County Cavan is outside a 60 or 90 minute travel time from a Centre. Councillor Feeley asked that the members from Cavan County Council sitting on the Health Forum bring the matter up at the next HSE meeting. Councillor Feeley stated that only a small portion to the east of the County falls within the 60 minute timeframe noting that much of the County is not even within the 90 minute timeframe.

 Councillor P. Brady seconded the proposal and stated that he would raise it at the next HSE meeting.

Item Nos 3, 5,6,7,8,10,11,12, and 13 were deferred.

Meeting concluded at 5.30 p.m.