**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 8th December, 2017 in Bailieborough Library at 3.00p.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. 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. **To confirm Minutes of Meetings held on 13th November 2017. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 13 Samhain 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 November 2017 be hereby approved”.

**2. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9 October 2017.**

 Noted.

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

Noted.

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

Noted.

1. **To hear presentation from Tom Sullivan, Acting County Librarian and Catriona O’Reilly, Arts Officer on the Library and Arts Strategy.**

Mr. Tom Sullivan, Acting County Librarian gave a detailed presentation to the members. Mr. Sullivan stated that the Library Development Plan for Cavan Library Services 2017-2021 will deliver a library service that is a cornerstone of the community, within easy reach of all residents of the County, providing equitable access to information, knowledge and learning opportunities, contributing to the economic, social and cultural fabric of Cavan society and supporting community cohesion. He stated that this will be done by working creatively and collaboratively with a range of partners locally, regionally and nationally and making strategic and flexible use of technology. He stated that there will be significant capital developments in the next five years including the launch of My Open Library (self service access outside of normal opening hours) and the building of a new library in Virginia and improvements to Ballyjamesduff and Kingscourt Libraries. He stated that the next five years will see the County Library Service consolidating and expanding existing services and further embracing new technologies. He stated that it will continue to be a trusted source of information at the heartbeat of community with face to face service at branches complimented by extensive online services. He stated that the development plan is not a stand-alone initiative. He stated that the actions listed will be undertaken in partnership and collaboration with other sections in Cavan County Council, along with local government, national agencies and local groups. He stated that the plan is closely linked to the Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022 and plays a key role in delivering a range of social and economic strategies, working with the Arts, Heritage, Cultural, Diaspora, Digital, Business, Food, Tourism and Genealogy Strategies.

Ms. Catriona O’Reilly, Arts Officer informed the members that the Arts Council received funding of €68m in Budget 2018 which is up €3m from 2017 and will allow the Arts Council to meet existing commitments. Ms. O’Reilly stated that the Arts Council Plan Making Great Art Work: Leading the Development of Arts in Ireland 2016-2025 has five strategic goal priorities namely The Artist, Public Engagement, Investment Strategy, Spatial and Demographic Planning and Developing Capacity. She noted that the City and County Managers’ Association and the Arts Council agreed A Framework for Collaboration – working together over the next ten years. Ms. O’Reilly stated that the National Planning Framework 2040 is a plan to guide and shape the spatial development for 20 year National Plan to set out high level aims for population growth projections from 4.7mn to 5.5mn people. Ms. O’Reilly stated that Cavan County Council will nurture and create the conditions in which great art can happen, while ensuring that as many people as possible can engage with and participate in high quality arts experiences so that the distinctive contribution of the arts to people’s lives is fostered. Ms. O’Reilly stated that the artistic priorities for 2017-2022 is to recognise the professional artist creator as central to the ongoing development of the arts, expand grant opportunities to artists, increase opportunities for emerging artists to work with established artists and champion artistic innovation and award winning artists with local and national publics.

Councillor P. McDonald thanked Mr. Sullivan and Ms. O’Reilly for their detailed presentations.

Councillor J.P. Feeley congratulated all on the great work being done by both the library and arts the length and breadth of the county and welcomed the development of a mobile library in the western part of the county. Councillor Feeley noted that there is a library service available to prisoners from Loughan House and he stated that this opportunity should also be given to members of the public.

Councillor N. Connell welcomed the news to upgrade the library services in Ballyjamesduff.

Councillor C. Kelly complimented Mr. Sullivan on the huge efforts made on modernising the library service in Cavan. He stated that he is disappointed the there is no new library proposed for Kingscourt in the plan. Councillor C. Kelly proposed that the development of a new library in Kingcourt be included in the draft plan. This proposal was seconded by Councillor S. O’Reilly. Councillor C. Kelly thanked Ms. O’Reilly for the magnificent works she is doing in promoting the arts across the Council on a small budget.

Councillor P. Smith thanked both Mr. Sullivan and Ms. O’Reilly for their assistance during his time as Chairman of Cavan County Council. Councillor Smith welcomed the news that the library in Ballyjamesduff is being upgraded.

Councillor P. O’Reilly asked for signs to be put up in order to promote the Theatre in Virginia.

Councillors M. Argue, S.P. O’Reilly, D. Brady and W. Bennett also complimented Mr. Sullivan and Ms. O’Reilly for the work they do throughout the county.

Mr. Sullivan stated that Kingcourt Library would be included in the Plan.

It was:

 Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

 Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

 And

 Resolved:

“that the Library and Arts Strategy be hereby approved”.

1. **To declare roads to be public roads in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 as per attached schedule.**

It was:

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor S. O’Reilly

 And

 Resolved:

“that the following roads be declared as public roads in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 –

* The road known as Glen Alainn Housing Estate in the town of Mullagh, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Lisgrey Gardens Housing Estate in the town of Bailieborough, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Cnoic Alainn Housing Estate in the town of Cootehill, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Lismeen Hills Housing Estate in the town of Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Swiftbrook Glen Housing Estate in the town of Virginia, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Highfield Housing Estate in the town of Bailieborough, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Bothair Bui Bothair Glas Housing Estate in the town of Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Meadow Park Housing Estate in the town of Cavan, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Annalee Manor Housing Estate in the town of Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Carrickfern Housing Estate in the town of Cavan, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Headford Grove Housing Estate in the town of Virginia, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Cul Na Greine Housing Estate in the town of Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Twin Oaks Housing Estate in the town of Bailieborough, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Ard Dun Housing Estate in the town of Kingscourt, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Erindale Housing Estate in the town of Kingscourt, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Carraig Beag Housing Estate in the town of Cootehill, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Bellamount View Housing Estate in the town of Cootehill, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Corner Manor Housing Estate in the town of Bailieborough, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Oak Park Housing Estate in the town of Mullagh, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Cluain Aoibhin Housing Estate in the town of Cavan, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Ardkeen Housing Estate in the town of Cavan, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Augnaskerry Housing Estate in the town of Cavan, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Drumcarraig Housing Estate in the town of Cavan, Co. Cavan.
* The road known as Kesh Road Housing Estate in the town of Cavan, Co. Cavan.”

**7. To approve the disposal of lands at Gortaquill, Belturbet Co. Cavan containing 0.26 hectares to Finbar and Ann Kiernan, Gortaquill, Belturbet, Co. Cavan 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 S. Smith

 Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

 And

 Resolved:

“that the disposal of lands at Gortaquill, Belturbet Co. Cavan containing 0.26 hectares to Finbar and Ann Kiernan, Gortaquill, Belturbet, Co. Cavan pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved.

**8. To note Financial Report for the quarter ending 30th September 2017.**

Noted.

**9. To approve the nomination by Chambers Ireland of Andrew O’Gorman to the Environmental & Planning Strategic Policy Committee to fill the casual vacancy arising from Jimmy Jackson standing down from the Committee.**

It was:

 Proposed by Councillor M. Argue

 Seconded by Councillor F. Curtin

 And

 Resolved:

 “that nomination by Chambers Ireland of Andrew O’Gorman to the Environmental & Planning Strategic Policy Committee to fill the casual vacancy arising from Jimmy Jackson standing down from the Committee be hereby approved.

**10. To note Audit Committee Report pursuant to Section 121 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014.**

Noted.

**11(a) To note reply from Department of Children and Youth Affairs regarding investment in the Early Years Sector.**

Noted. .

 **(b) To note reply from Department of Health regarding additional supports for people living with Parkinson’s Disease.**

Noted.

 **(c) To note reply from Minister Heather Humphreys T.D. enclosing letter from Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding Life Saving Equipment Bill 2017.**

Noted.

 Councillor D. Brady wished Mr. Noel Burke, Chief Fire Officer and Civil Defence Officer

 all the best in his retirement and proposed that as a Council good wishes be sent to Mr.

 Burke for a long, happy and healthy retirement. It was proposed by Councillor P.

 O’Reilly and seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley that Mr. Burke be invited to attend the

 January meeting of Cavan County Council.

 **Vote of Sympathy:**

* The Barr Family, Derry on the death of Mr. Glenn Barr, former Ulster Defence

Association Leader.

* The Drury Family, Mullagh on the death of Fr. Ronan Drury, Professor Emeritus of

Homiletics at St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth and Editor of the Furrow Magazine.

 **Vote of Congratulations:**

* All sports clubs throughout the County who received Capital Sports Grants.

 **To fix date and time of Cavan County Council’s January Monthly Meeting.**

It was:

 Proposed by Councillor S. Smith

 Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

 And

 Resolved:

“that Monday 15th January 2018 at 2.00p.m. for Cavan County Council’s Monthly Meeting be hereby approved”.

**It was proposed by Councillor P. O’Reilly and seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly to suspend standing orders to deal with Local Improvement Scheme funding.**

 **Local Improvement Scheme Funding.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly expressed his disappointment at the amount of funding received for Local Improvement Schemes in County Cavan. Councillor P. O’Reilly was of the opinion that the people of County Cavan had been let down as €40,080 in extra LIS funding was given to County Cavan leaving it as one of the lowest allocations nationally. Councillor P. O’Reilly noted that Donegal County Council received an allocation of €2.5m and staff are employed at weekends to ensure that the works are completed and monies spent.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services outlined in great detail the process involved in making an application to the Department for the LIS noting that at the September Council meeting it was proposed and seconded that application be made to have 15 lanes in the County completed by the end of the year. He said the application for 15 lanes was submitted and an allocation of €723,000 was looked for with only €293,000 being allocated to Cavan County Council. Mr. McLoughlin stated that with the €293,000 in funding, 9 lanes could be completed by the end of December, two in Cavan Belturbet Municipal District, three in Bailieborough Cootehill Municipal District and four in Ballyjamesduff Municipal District. Mr. McLoughlin stated that the Council could not commit to completing the works if the conditions that the money be spent could not be met. Mr. McLoughlin stated that grants collapse if not spent and cannot be carried forward.

Councillor P. O’Reilly was of the opinion that every Council in the second allocation got what they requested and his argument was why Cavan County Council only looked for €40,000.

Councillor P. Smith supported Councillor O’Reilly stating that he got the feeling there was no willingness there to try and progress the case for extra LIS funding.

Councillor C. Brady asked that the executive provide a full list of the approximate 200 lanes in the county now seeking to avail of LIS funding.

Councillor S. Smith stated that Fine Gael are wrong to blame Fianna Fail for doing away with the LIS, wrong to blame Sinn Fein and now wrong to blame the executive for not looking for large amounts of funding. Councillor S. Smith stated that the Department is wrong allocating funding with rigid rules that it be used and spent before the end of the year. Councillor S. Smith noted that the highest allocation given to Cavan County Council of €1m was during Fianna Fail’s term in Government.

Councillor W. Bennett noted that the LIS was replaced with a scheme whereby a local authority could allocate up to 15% of its discretionary roads budget to local improvement schemes while the local community could make a contribution of 20% of the cost but unfortunately Cavan County Council chose not to do so.

Councillor J.P. Feeley queried how Minister Ring dealt with funding for other local authorities, where there was little prospect of ever spending the monies allocated by the end of the month.

Councillors F. Curtin, P. McVitty, S.P. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly, C. Kelly and V. Smith supported the motion.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin stated that the local authority are constrained by data protection and, how the list was dealt with, is based on a decision previously agreed by past elected members. Mr. McLoughlin stated that Councillors may make specific representations to find out where specific lanes are on the list, but the full list cannot be published.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that under no circumstances will the executive sign off or commit to completing the works if the conditions that the money be spent cannot be met as the Council is subject to Departmental audit.

**It was agreed at the Corporate Policy Group Meeting that items 5 and 7 on the Agenda be dealt with first.**

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – DECEMBER MEETING**

**7. The Cavan County Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture to introduce emergency measures to assist farmers deal with the growing fodder crisis.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that severe weather conditions since August have left farmers across the County on the verge of a serious fodder crisis. He stated that farmers normally have enough fodder for cattle and livestock up until the spring when the grass begins to grow but the unexpectedly cold and wet summer and winter has meant farmers are running out of hay earlier than usual as many farmers have already had to house their animals. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Agriculture calling on him to introduce emergency measures to assist farmers deal with the growing fodder crisis.

 Councillor S. Smith seconded Councillor Feeley’s proposal. Councillor S. Smith stated that this is a particularly bad year for farmers as many farmers were able to secure their first cut of silage of the year but very few were able to get a second due to the adverse weather conditions. Councillor S. Smith noted that the worst affected areas are mainly in the North West and West of the County.

 Councillor F. Curtin supported the motion. He stated that this year was the worst on record for rain fall. Councillor Curtin also noted that the purchase of hay and silage has also increased making it difficult for farmers to buy.

 Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion. Councillor McV itty was of the opinion that farmers in the south of the County had their sheds full of straw but were holding back on the sale so that they can increase their price in the middle of the crisis. He stated that some of the allocation should be made towards purchasing feed and nuts.

 Councillors W. Bennett and D. Brady supported the motion.

**5. Call on Cavan County Council to purchase a Property Marking Machine.**

Councillor V. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council purchase a property marking machine which could be rented out to community groups throughout the County to engrave machines and property within communities. He stated that currently a pilot scheme is being run in Carrickmacross monitored by the Gardai. Councillor V. Smith stated that if property is engraved it can then be returned to its owner when recovered by Gardai. Councillor V. Smith stated that Inspector Niall McKiernan informed the members that at one market three hundred pieces of equipment were found in one van with only two of the items engraved.

 Councillor P. McVitty stated that this had already been discussed at the Joint Policing Committee and the purchase of a machine is very cost effective and not difficult to use.

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

 Mr. Tommy Ryan. Chief Executive stated that the Council would look into and examine the purchasing of a property marketing machine.

 **Item Nos. 1,2,3,4,6 and 8 were deferred.**

**The meeting concluded at 6.00p.m.**