

**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse,
Cavan on Monday 9th September 2024 at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly, Cathaoirleach, presiding

PRESENT: Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, N. Brady,
P. Brady, S. Conaty, N. Connell, B. Fay, J.P. Feeley,
C. Kelly, S. O'Reilly, Á. Smith, N. Smith, T. Smith, V. Smith,
P. Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE: E. Doyle, Chief Executive
P. Connaughton, Director of Services
B. Jennings, Director of Services
L. McGavigan, A/Director of Services
M. McNally, A/Head of Finance
E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly welcomed all to the meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 15th July 2024. Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 15th Iúil 2024 a dhearbhu.

It was

Proposed by Councillor P. Walsh

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 15th July 2024 be hereby approved”

2. Disclosure of Interests (Section 177 Local Government Act 2001).

Noted.

Note Minutes of Committee Meetings

3. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 9th May 2024.

Noted.

Note Members' Reports from Conferences/Training events

4. To note members' reports from conferences and training events (Section 142 and Section 143 of the Local Government Act 2001; Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2014 Part V Section 5 (1)).

Noted.

Correspondence

5(a)To note reply from the Minister of State for Financial Services, Credit Unions and Insurance regarding insurance premiums.

Noted.

(b)To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding a review of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 in relation to the recovery of dwellings from those in breach of their tenancy agreements.

Noted

(c)To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Justice regarding the Garda Vetting process.

Noted. Councillor Smith proposed that the Council write again to the Minister for Justice asking for one vetting card to cover all groups. This proposal was seconded by Councillor B. Fay.

(d)To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Health regarding home support services.

Noted

(e)To note reply from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media regarding new laws in the area of online safety.

Noted.

(f)To note reply from Minister Roderic O’Gorman TD regarding the draft regulations for childminders.

Noted

(g)To note reply from Office of the Minister for Housing regarding increased financial aid being given to first time home builders to help them install the various compulsory energy saving devices to their homes.

Noted

(h)To note reply from Office of the Minister for Education regarding Capitation Grants.

Noted

(i)To note reply from Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion regarding Early Intervention Primary School Places.

Noted

(j)To note reply from Office of the Minister for Education regarding the School Bus Scheme.

Noted.

(k)To note reply from Office of the Minister for Health in relation to accessing dental services for medical card holders in County Cavan.

Noted

(l)To note reply from the General Manager, Area Operations, Dublin Northwest National Ambulance Service regarding ambulance response times in the County.

Noted.

6. To approve attendance of members at:

- AILG Autumn Training Seminar to be held in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan on 11th and 12th September.

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor B. Fay

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors T. Smith, V. Smith, C. Brady, N. Brady, W. Bennett, B. Fay, S.P. O’Reilly, J.P. Feeley, P. Walsh, C. Kelly, N. Smith, Á Smith, P. Bray, S. Conaty, N. Connell and S. O’Reilly at the AILG Autumn Training Seminar to be held in the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan on 11th and 12th September be hereby approved”

- AILG Training Module “An overview of the Planning System” to be held in the Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore on 28th September.

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor B. Fay

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors T. Smith, V. Smith, C. Brady, N. Brady, W. Bennett, B. Fay, S.P. O’Reilly, J.P. Feeley, P. Walsh, C. Kelly, N. Smith, Á Smith, P. Brady and S. O’Reilly at the AILG Training Module “An overview of the Planning System” to be held in the Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore on 28th September 2024 be hereby approved”

Votes of Congratulations:

- Enterprise students from Coláiste Dún an Rí who received a gold medal representing Ireland at the prestigious SAGE World Cup (Student Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship) in Tokyo, Japan, showcasing their groundbreaking invention: the RUST (Rubbish, Utilisation, Sorting Technology) bin.
- Thomas Williams, Kingscourt on winning a gold medal for Ireland at the European Athletics U18 Championships in Slovakia in the men’s hammer throw.
- Britney Arendse, Mullagh, Co. Cavan on coming fourth in the Para Powerlifting women’s final in the Paralympics in Paris.
- All students on receiving their Leaving Cert Results.

Votes of Sympathy:

- The Sheanon Family, Glangevlin on the death of Michael Sheanon, former member of Cavan County Council outdoor staff.
- The Fitzsimons Family, Crosskeys on the death of Mary Fitzsimons.
- The Lee Family, Ballyjamesduff on the death of Robert Lee.

7. Member's Question – Councillor Stiofán Conaty

Chun uasdátú a fháil ar stádas reatha an phróiséis earcaíochta chun Oifigeach Gaeilge lán-aimseartha úra a fhostú agus soléiriú ar an bhuiséad agus na dualgaisí a bhaineann leis an ról

To ask for an update on Cavan County Council's recruitment of a new full-time Irish Language Officer and for clarification on the budget and job description associated with the role.

A reply issued to Councillor Conaty prior to the meeting. Councillor Conaty asked for clarification on whether the Irish Officer would be full time or have extra duties.

Councillor Conaty stated that he felt there was enough work for a full time Irish Officer as well as huge potential for the creation of an Irish Language unit to work on its own merit.

Ms. Lynda McGavigan, A/Director of Service stated that the local authority is in the process of recruiting an Irish Officer who will be primarily full time with some extra duties.

8. Member's Question – Councillor Stiofán Conaty

Chun briseadh síos a lorg ar líon na ndaoine atá tar éis iad féin a chur i láthair Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin sa tóir ar lóistín éigeandála sa bhliain a chuaigh thart, agus cé mhéad dóibh siúd a fuair tairiscintí agus a ghlac le lóistín laistigh den chontae

To ask how many individuals and families have presented to Cavan County Council for emergency accommodation within the last year, including how many of those were offered and accepted accommodation within the county.

A reply issued to Councillor Conaty prior to the meeting.

Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council

9. To note Chief Executive's monthly report (*Section 51 Local Government Reform Act 2014*).

Noted

10(a) To approve nomination of Councillor Winston Bennett to Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board in place of Councillor Trevor Smith.

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor N. Smith

And

Resolved;

“that the nomination of Councillor W. Bennett to Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board in place of Councillor T. Smith be hereby approved”

(b) To approve nomination of Councillor Trevor Smith to the HSE Regional Health Forum – Dublin North East in place of Councillor Winston Bennett.

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor N. Smith

And

Resolved;

“that the nomination of Councillor T. Smith to the HSE Regional Health Forum – Dublin North

East in place of Councillor W. Bennett be hereby approved”

11. To seek nominations to Cavan County Council’s Protocol Committee.

It was

Proposed by Councillor N. Smith

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that the nomination of Councillors N. Smith, C. Kelly, J.P. Feeley, P. Brady, S. O’Reilly, B.Fay,

S. Conaty, N. Connell, N. Brady, C. Brady, T. Smith, W. Bennett and D. Brady to Cavan County Council’s Protocol Committee be hereby approved”

12. To approve the Local Property Tax Rate Adjustment for 2025.

It was proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley and seconded by Councillor C. Kelly that the Local Property Tax Rate Adjustment for 2025 be retained at 15% and for the duration of the present Council.

Mr Doyle confirmed that the revenue earned from the adjustment would be allocated in full to the Council’s ambitious capital programme and would form one part of the yield required to deliver same.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Brady and seconded by Councillor S. Conaty that the Local Property Tax Rate Adjustment for 2025 be reduced by 15% to help householders who are currently struggling with the cost of living.

A vote was taken on the proposal to reduce the Local Property Tax Rate Adjustment by 15% with 3 voting for, 13 voting against and 2 absent.

A vote was taken on the proposal to retain the Local Property Tax Rate Adjustment at 15% for the lifetime of this Council with 13 voting for, 3 voting against and 2 absent.

As the counter proposal was defeated it was agreed that the Local Property Tax Rate Adjustment remain at 15% for the lifetime of this Council.

MEMBERS' ITEMS

13.1 That Cavan County Council provide an update on the North South Interconnector.

Councillor C. Kelly asked the executive of Cavan County Council if there had been any recent updates on the North South Interconnector

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that there had been no recent updates on the North South Interconnector since the last Council meeting. Mr. Jennings informed the meeting that a request has been received from the ESB to meet with the three planning authorities and it is expected that this meeting will take place before the end of the month.

13.2 Medical Card eligibility and need for review.

Deferred.

13.3 The need for updating and reviewing the rules and taxable income under Social Welfare payments and incentives for those under 23.

Deferred.

13.4 The members of the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District request the Minister for Transport to immediately increase the maximum age for drivers of public transport from 70 to 75.

Councillor T. Smith stated that the members of the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District discussed the need to increase the maximum age for drivers of public transport from seventy to seventy-five at their meeting and were advised to bring the motion before the main Council. Councillor Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Transport asking him to immediately increase the maximum age for drivers of public transport from seventy to seventy-five. Councillor Smith noted that he knows of a driver who retired from Bus Eireann and immediately took up employment with a private operator bringing school children to and from swimming lessons.

Councillor P. Brady seconded Councillor T. Smith's proposal and stated that if the Government would change regulations to allow bus drivers to continue working after the age of seventy, many of the problems associated with school transport could be alleviated.

Councillors N. Connell, C. Kelly and T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

13.5 Call on the Department of the Environment to provide more publicity at election time to encourage more people to come out to vote.

Councillor C. Kelly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Environment asking that more publicity be given at election time to encourage people to come out to vote. Councillor Kelly noted that in some countries if you do not vote you are fined. Councillor Kelly stated that he was shocked to see the number of people who did not vote in the last local election which is a vital part of democracy.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and noted that it was disheartening to see the number of people who did not vote in the local election in May. Councillor Feeley stated that posters are vital at election time or otherwise people would not be aware of an upcoming election. Councillor Feeley also noted that polling stations need to be looked at along with the buildings that are used on polling day. He stated that it is in the remit of the Department to encourage greater participation.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and stated that education on democracy, local government and voting in elections should begin in schools and transition year would be a good place to start on this.

Councillor Á. Smith noted that the Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE) subject was introduced a few years ago which includes democracy and local government as a module, but they are not always chosen by a teacher to cover.

Councillors T. Smith, W. Bennett, P. Walsh and S. O'Reilly supported the motion.

13.6 Lack of cruiser traffic on the Shannon/Erne Waterway.

Councillor D. Brady stated that there has been a decline in cruiser traffic over the last few years on the Shannon/Erne Waterway and asked the local authority to explain the reason for this. He stated that traffic is measured at lock gates and bridges and Waterways Ireland figures show that in 2004 there were seventy-six thousand cruisers but in 2023 there were only thirty-five thousand. He stated that twenty one percent of the drop occurred in the last five years and early figures for 2024 indicate that this will be a crisis year with figure for April/May not reaching 50% when compared to the same months last year. Councillor Brady stated that a few factors contributed to this decline such as cost hire, rising price of diesel and closure of pubs, restaurants and shops along the route. Councillor Brady stated that we cannot let this decline go unannounced and do nothing about it. Councillor Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Tourism to highlight the Council's concerns and see what can be done to bring it back to the levels it was previously at.

Councillor Á. Smith seconded Councillor D. Brady's proposal and suggested that we also write to Waterways Ireland. Councillor Smith noted that since the Emerald Star

pulled out of Belturbet, Bellanaleck in Co. Fermanagh and Carrick-on-Shannon in Co. Leitrim are the nearest places to Cavan to rent a boat.

Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and noted that there is a boat company in Belturbet that has been struggling under the weight of additional costs and price inflation in recent years but is now ready to make a comeback. Councillor Fay noted that four restaurants between Belturbet and Bellanaleck have closed along the river over the last three years. He stated that people on boats are finding it difficult to come up the river and there are boats parked in Belturbet for years so when cruisers on the Shannon/Erne waterway come into the town there is no docking space for them.

Councillors J.P. Feeley and P. Walsh supported the motion.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service acknowledged that navigation on the waterway has been of huge benefit to local towns. Mr. Jennings stated that Cavan County Council in partnership with Waterways Ireland and Fáilte Ireland conducted a study on this and noted that there has been a natural change in habits in more recent times with people going abroad and not staying in Ireland for holidays. He stated that the increase in costs is also a factor and people want facilities such as restaurants, bars and activities when they dock. Mr. Jennings stated that Waterways Ireland are going to work with towns, villages and communities in this region with a view to developing the Shannon/Erne Waterway further. He stated that one of the biggest difficulties on the waterway is the sixteen locks.

13.7 Support for the retained fire service in County Cavan.

Councillor D. Brady noted that despite promises made last year following an industrial dispute, difficulties remain for those working in the service locally. Councillor Brady stated that firefighters keep our communities safe and provide an invaluable service twenty-four hours seven days a week. Councillor Brady stated that in September 2023 retained firefighters voted to accept proposals from the Workplace Relations Commission following intensive consultation and under the terms of the overall proposal, new recruits will now enter the service with guaranteed minimum earnings moving to increments more quickly than previously the case. Councillor Brady stated that other terms were also agreed but these new proposals are slow to materialise. Councillor Brady stated that costs are high when it comes to training firefighters, but firefighters want to continue to provide a service. Councillor Brady noted that the number of firefighters has increased in Cavan Town while in Ballyconnell station the number has decreased. Councillor Brady stated that firefighters are going to introduce a week on week off rota for firefighters. Councillor Brady stated that firefighters want the Minister for Environment to engage with all representative bodies acting on behalf of retained firefighters.

Councillors T. Smith, J.P. Feeley, W. Bennett and Á. Smith supported the motion. Mr. Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive Officer stated that there are significant industrial relations ongoing at national level in relation to the matters raised by Councillor Brady and a resolution will be forthcoming at a national level. Mr. Doyle noted that eighteen firefighters are currently being trained in Cavan and they will graduate shortly. Mr. Doyle acknowledged the work that firefighters do and thanked Chief Fire Officer, Noel O'Reilly and his Officers for the work they do daily throughout County Cavan.

13.8 Calling on Cavan County Council to prioritise the construction of additional social housing units in response to the growing homelessness crisis.

Councillor N. Connell called on Cavan County Council to prioritise the construction of additional social housing units in response to the growing homelessness crisis. He stated families are being evicted from their houses and told to go on the Council's housing list or apply for rented accommodation through HAP. Councillor O'Connell stated there is no accommodation available to rent in the County and there are currently one thousand nine hundred on the Council's waiting list. Councillor O'Connell stated that the Council need to speed up the construction of houses and source more money from the Department to do this.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion.

Councillor S. Conaty noted that while homelessness is a problem in the County there are many young adults lucky enough to be living with their parents as they cannot afford to purchase a house.

Councillor S. O'Reilly supported the motion and noted that there is a huge need for houses in Ballyhaise.

Ms. Lynda McGavigan, A/Director of Services noted that during the last Council term two hundred and forty-three new houses were built and one thousand five hundred people were supported with accommodation. Ms. McGavigan stated that there are several hundred houses planned between 2024 and 2029. Ms. McGavigan stated that within the next few weeks a workshop on housing will be held for the members.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Chief Executive Officer noted that the Council is aware of some sites in Ballyhaise and Virginia for housing.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that he had visited several sites in the past week and there is a lot of hard work being done with houses in the pipeline.

13.9 Rún chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an chumarsáid le custaiméirí agus pobail atá buailte le fógraí uisce, i gcomhthéacs an bhriseadh i soláthair ar na mallaibh ar scéimeanna soláthair uisce

Motion for a review of communications with customers and communities affected by water notices in light of recent disruptions to group water supply schemes.

Councillor S. Conaty called for a review of communications with customers and communities affected by water notices in light of recent disruptions to group water supply schemes. Councillor Conaty noted the difficulties customers experienced this summer with the Annagh Group Water Scheme and the Castlerahan, Mountnugent, Munterconnaught (CMM) Group Water Scheme. Councillor Conaty stated that some people in the Annagh Group Water Scheme did not get notification about the “do not consume” notice and were not aware that they should not have been drinking the water. Councillor Conaty noted that some of these people contact Uisce Eireann and were told to go to their website as all the information was on it. Councillor Conaty proposed that Cavan County Council write to Uisce Eireann asking them to improve communications going forward with its customers.

Councillor D. Brady supported the motion and not all people have access to computers to check these details, particularly the elderly. Councillor Brady stated that it was very hard for businesses to operate in towns when the water scheme is down.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and informed the meeting that representatives from Uisce Eireann are due to give the members a presentation prior to the October meeting.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and noted that there is now a new text service system operating to inform people of the difficulties that arise and stated that she is hopeful that this is going to improve things going forward.

Councillors B. Fay, T. Smith, C. Kelly and N. Connell supported the motion.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service informed the members that Cavan County Council acts as a water supervisory authority on the group water schemes. He stated that they advise the schemes where there are health concerns, but it is up to the group water schemes themselves to inform their customers of what is happening.

13.10 Call on the Minister for Education to increase the capacity on school buses immediately.

Councillor N. Connell proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Education to increase the capacity on school buses immediately. Councillor N. Connell stated that many families had been in touch with him over the issue of not being able to get the bus to school despite the fact they were on it for the last number of years.

Councillor Connell stated that it is time to move forward and provide real solutions on this as far too many children are being left behind. He stated that this issue arises every year leaving many people paying privately for buses to take their children to school.

13.15 To call on the Minister for Education and the Minister for Transport to review the school bus ticket programme.

Councillor P. Brady proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Education and the Minister for Transport to review the school bus ticket programme.

Councillor Brady noted that the last few weeks for people in his local area was very hard over the issue of not being able to get the bus to school even though these children were on it over the last number of years. He stated that many of these children simple have no other way if getting to school as both parents work in most cases. Councillor Brady stated that the system needs to change, and the concessionary bus ticket system is not working.

Councillor S. Conaty supported the motion and noted that working parents have no way of getting their children to school without paying privately for it.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion and noted that the same issue comes up every year. He stated that better communication with Bus Eireann is required.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and felt that the only way to sort the problem is to put on enough buses to bring children to school. Councillor Kelly noted that the issue was not specific to County Cavan as it is happening all over the Country, and everyone is fighting to get buses on the road to bring their children to school.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and noted that more bus drivers are needed, and the job needs to be made attractive for people to take it up.

Councillors W. Bennett, Á. Smith, and B. Fay supported the motion.

13.11 Rún go scríobhfaí chuig Feidhmeanas na Seirbhísí Sláinte chun freagra a fháil ar úsáid amach anseo d'ionaid sláinte áitiúla follamha timpeall Contae an Chabháin, go sonrach Béal Átha hÉis i measc eile, agus an féidearthacht chun seirbhísí dochtúra a chur iontu arís

Motion to write to the HSE, requesting an answer on the intended use of empty local health centres around County Cavan, notably Ballyhaise among others, and on the possibility of the resumption of GP services within.

Councillor S. Conaty proposed that Cavan County Council write to the HSE, requesting an answer on the intended use of empty local health centres around County Cavan, notable Ballyhaise among others, and on the possibility of the resumption of GP services within. Councillor Conaty noted that his former colleague Councillor P. McDonald raised the issue last year and no answer had been received. Councillor Conaty stated that there is currently no GP in Ballyhaise Village, and this service needs to be restored.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and noted that the HSE stated last March that there had been no doctor in Ballyhaise since 2017, and the health centre is being fully utilised with no available space for a full time GP.

13.12 Sick Leave and pregnancy loss.

Councillor Á. Smith stated that in Ireland today if you experience an early miscarriage which is any time before twenty-four weeks, you have no entitlements to workplace leave. Councillor Smith stated that your only option if working full time is to take sick leave or annual leave if you need to take time off. Councillor Smith stated that having to take either of these leaves after experiencing such a potentially devastating health event feels nothing short of archaic in a modern world. She stated that the current lack of legislation is damaging and resembles a nation in which women's health is not respected or prioritised. Councillor Smith stated that we need to acknowledge that people who experience early pregnancy loss are not sick and should not have to take sick leave. Councillor Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Government asking that legislation be implemented to provide up to twenty days paid leave for women who experience early miscarriage and up to ten days paid leave for an employee who needs time off work to avail of IVF or other reproductive related treatment. Councillor Smith stated that this legislation would go a long way in helping to normalise discussions around pregnancy and fertility in the workplace. She stated that the introduction of legislation would not just be about feeling supported at work, it would also be about being protected.

Councillor P. Walsh seconded Councillor Á. Smith's proposal.

Councillor S. O'Reilly supported the motion and noted that Féileacáin offer great support to anyone affected by the death of a baby around the time of birth.

Councillors P. Brady, C. Brady, B. Fay, J.P. Feeley and T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

13.13 To request an extension of the deadline for works to be completed under the Croí Cónaithe Scheme.

Councillor Á. Smith stated that the Croí Cónaithe Scheme is a very welcome initiative and an excellent grant at a time when housing is in short supply and noted that there has been great uptake on the grant as it is a wonderful incentive to bring our rural and urban dwellings back to life. Councillor Smith stated that the timeframe is proving difficult for people to fulfil the time for works needed. She stated that unfortunately tradesmen and construction workers are hard to get within the timeframe of thirteen months. Councillor Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Darragh O'Brien asking that the timeframe of the scheme be extended to fifteen or eighteen months to give people a chance to get all works completed.

Councillor S. Conaty supported the motion and stated that the grant should be paid out in instalments as he was not aware of too many young people who could come up with €50,000.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion, stating that an extension of the deadline for works is needed so that people who have a house that needs to be restored can avail of the scheme.

Councillor J.P. Feeley endorsed all that was said and stated that there is a huge uptake of the scheme nationally.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and noted that the scheme is very beneficial to young people who can do up properties.

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

13.14 To seek clarity from Minister Darragh O'Brien T.D. on housing grants favouring urban development as opposed to rural development.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Darragh O'Brien, on housing grants favouring urban development as opposed to rural development. Councillor O'Reilly stated that he would like to see more balance to this and stated that he felt that some of the grants available were more geared towards urban settings than rural settings and would like to see this changed.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion and stated that clarity is needed on housing grants.

13.16 The need for more educational supports for children with additional needs.

Councillor P. Brady stated that there is a need for more educational supports for children with additional needs. He stated that during his canvass campaign prior to the local elections he learned of many distressing life stories from families on the doorsteps. He stated that the problems in Cavan are multi-layered, there is a need for more therapies, resources, buildings, staff and communication with the HSE. Councillor Brady stated that there is a pay disparity between HSE occupational therapists and speech and language therapists compared to those in the private sector and this needs to be addressed. Councillor Brady stated that in 2018 Clogher House was to be upgraded and that is only taking place now. Councillor Brady noted that Drumlin House in Cootehill is practically full and stated that the hydro pool in Cavan should be open for use every day. Councillor Brady stated that a new respite centre is urgently needed for County Cavan and proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Ann Rabbitte asking when works will commence on a new respite centre.

Councillor P. Walsh seconded Councillor P. Brady's motion and stated that there should be no delay in any services that makes a difference to a child's life.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion and noted that speech therapists in County Cavan are nearly all temporary.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion and noted that early intervention is needed at an early stage.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and noted that occupational and speech therapists that qualify in Northern Ireland are not recognised in the South and if this was the case it would increase the number of therapists south of the border.

Councillors T.P. O'Reilly and B. Fay supported the motion.

13.17 The need to increase income limits for social housing.

Deferred.

13.18 Rún go soláthróidh Comhairle Contae an Chabháin ranganna Gaeilge don fhoireann agus do bhaill tofa, ar mhaithe le tuilleadh Gaeilge a bheith in úsáid ag cruinnithe agus i gcumarsáid inmheánach

Motion that Cavan County Council offer Irish language classes for staff and elected members, with a view to increasing the use of Irish at meetings and in internal communications.

Councillor S. Conaty proposed that Cavan County Council offer Irish language classes for staff and elected members, with a view to increasing the use of Irish at meetings and in internal communications. Councillor Conaty stated that there are loads of people out there who would love to learn Irish or be given an opportunity to use what Irish they already have. Councillor Conaty thanked Ms. Carmel Cusack Smith, Irish Officer for her work over the years and commended Cavan Library Service for its many initiatives including during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion and noted that the introduction of Irish would need to be done step by step. She stated that there are lots of Irish signage in place throughout the Council buildings.

Councillor P. Brady supported the motion and stated that the Irish language needs to be promoted more within schools and among our youth.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly reminded members that the relics of St. Kilian will be in Cavan from October 3rd to October 6th.

The meeting concluded at 4.35p.m.