**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 1ST AUGUST, 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COURTHOUSE, CAVAN**

COUNCILLOR S.P. O’REILLY, CATHAOIRLEACH PRESIDING

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

F. Curtin, J.P. Feeley, E. Greenan, P. McDonald, P. McVitty,

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

IN ATTENDANCE: G. Finn, Chief Executive

 P. Lafferty, Senior Engineer

 J. Brannigan, Director of Services

 E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

Apologies were received from Councillors N. Connell, C. Kelly & P. Smith

Councillor S. P. O’Reilly informed the meeting that he had received notification from Councillor

J.P. Feeley asking him to convene a special meeting of Cavan County Council under Section 4

of the Standing Orders to discuss the serious issue of “fracking” outside Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh.

Councillor J.P. Feeley thanked the Cathaoirleach for granting his request and the Executive and Members for attending the meeting. Councillor Feeley went through his motion in great detail stating

that in light of the recent announcement by Tamboran Resources Limited they intend to commence exploratory drilling near Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh on foot of a Petroleum Exploration Licence in that jurisdiction and a similar licence in this jurisdiction and given profound concerns that exist amongst the people of this region he requested that Cavan County Council:-

1. Call on Minister Alex White, TD, Minister for Communications and Natural Resources, An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD and the Government to intervene directly with David Cameron, MP, British Prime Minister and the relevant UK Ministers and Peter Robinson MLA, First Minister and Martin McGuinness MLA, Deputy First Minister, together with the Stormont Executive to immediately stop all drilling and other invasive exploratory works by Tamboran Limited and their agents.

2. Call on the Government to direct the Department of Communications and Natural Resources and the Department of Health together with the EPA and other appropriate State Agencies to commence an independent study, drawing on international experts and experience to study the long term implications of Hydraulic Fracturing (“Fracking”).

3 Call on the Government to commence a detailed local consultation on the impact of Hydraulic Fracturing so as to develop a plan for the sustainable development of our natural resources in order to provide for the long term environmental and economic sustainability of all prospecting activity.

4. Directs that this Council shall not in any way assist Tamboran Resources Limited or their agents in any respect and shall take all and every measure available to the Council to prevent any Hydraulic Fracturing or related activities in the County or Region,

5. In view of the exceptionally sensitive nature of our geology, the importance of a clean environment for our agricultural sector, the magnificent waterways in our region and the immense potential for tourism and most importantly the concerns relating to human health that the Government of Ireland should immediately seek to prevent all forms of hydraulic fracturing in our Country until such times as these concerns can be comprehensively addressed.

Councillor S. Smith informed the meeting that he had been in touch with the Northern Environment

Minister, Mark Durkan. He read an article from Mr. Durkan which stated that there was no application

made to the Department to carry out fracking. Minister Durkan stated that granting permission relating to fracking operations will only take place when it has been supported by very strong evidence which indicates that fracking is safe for public health and the environment. He stated that before Tamboran are given permission to proceed with drilling in Belcoo, a full screening process

under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations will be required to ensure that there is no

potential for significant environmental impact. Councillor Smith stated that Minister Durkan said he

would ensure that this screening process is rigorous and definitive before permitted development

rights are considered.

Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services made a presentation to the members in relation to Hydraulic

Fracturing.

It was unanimously agreed by the members that:-

(i) Cavan County Council write to Deputy Alex White, Minister for Communications and Natural Resources and Deputy Joe McHugh, Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources with Special Responsibility for Gaeltacht Affairs and Natural Resources asking that they meet with a delegation from Cavan County Council to discuss the issue of Hydraulic Fracturing and also to intervene directly with the Northern Ministers and British Prime Minister to immediately stop all drilling and other invasive exploratory works by Tamboran Limited and their agents.

(ii) Cavan County Council would invite the Members of the European Parliament to attend a meeting of Cavan County Council to hear their views on “Fracking”. It was agreed to bring this matter to the Corporate Policy Group seeking agreement to hold a meeting with the MEPs to discuss a number of issues with one on them being “Fracking”.

(iii) Cavan County Council would re-adopt the motion passed in 2012 which stated the following - “that the Members of Cavan County Council note the concerns of many people regarding Hydraulic Fracturing in the Region. The Council awaits the outcome of detailed studies by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources on the environmental and economic effects of the exploration of shale gas. A moratorium on Fracking should remain in place until these studies are complete”.

(iv) Numbers 4 and 5 outlined in Councillor J.P. Feeley’s motion be amalgamated to now read “directs that the Council shall not in any way assist Tamboran Resources Limited or their agents in any respect and shall take all and every measure available to the Council to prevent any Hydraulic Fracturing or related activities in the County or Region and in view of the exceptionally sensitive nature of our geology, the importance of a clean environment for our agricultural sector, the magnificent waterways in our region and the immense potential for tourism and most importantly the concerns relating to human health that the Government of Ireland should immediately seek to prevent all forms of hydraulic fracturing in our country until such times as these concerns can be comprehensively addressed”.

**Any Other Business:**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly urged all members to attend the Museum in Ballyjamesduff on Monday 4th

August at 10pm for the official opening of the Cavan World War 1 Trench experience and expedition

by Minister Heather Humphreys TD.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly asked all members who were willing to help at the Taste of Cavan on the 8th

and 9th August to give their names directly to Ms. Majella Tierney.

The meeting concluded at 11.15a.m.