**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Monday 8th October 2018 in the Council Chamber at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor M. Argue, Cathaoirleach Presiding

Present: Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, P. Brady, N. Connell,

F. Curtin, D. Downey, J.P. Feeley, 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

 D. Maguire, Head of Finance

 E. Doyle, Director of Service

 J. McLoughlin, Director of Service

 B. Jennings, Director of Service

 L. McGavigan, Senior Administrative Officer

 N. O’Kane, Senior Planner

 E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held on 10 September, 2018. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 10 Meán Fomhair 2018 a dhearbhu.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly thanked Mr. Des Maguire, Head of Finance for the report issued to the members at the September meeting in relation to comparative figures with other Local Authorities regarding State funding as presented in our Estimates. Councillor P. O’Reilly asked if the executive had made any progress in relation to making a submission to the Department on this matter.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive informed the members that beyond the figure given by Mr. Maguire at the September meeting it was not possible to collate all the State income allotted to the County. Mr. Ryan stated that because of the breadth of Government Departments assigning funds in a number of ways it was not possible for the Council to capture all these figures. Mr. Ryan stated that there is an issue with the level of local government funding and noted that this funding has been static since 2014.

Councillor P. Smith stated that County Cavan is deprived of Government support as it did not have a rail network, harbours, beaches or an air field. He stated that more money should be made available to County Cavan particularly with regard to tourism.

Councillor C. Brady stated that the short fall in spending in Cavan compared to other counties has a very real impact on the County. Councillor Brady stated that the lack of infrastructure such as rail and ports puts extra pressure on our roads network.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that a full presentation on the need for funding support for transport infrastructure in Cavan was made at a recent meeting with Transport Minister Shane Ross T.D. Mr. Ryan stated that maintaining ports and beaches can also be a drain on local authority funds.

It was proposed by Councillor P. O’Reilly and seconded by Councillor P. Smith to adjourn the meeting.

After the adjournment, Councillor P. O’Reilly stated that the motion was on the Agenda at the September meeting and should go forward as an all party proposal and not a political one.

Councillor P. McDonald supported Councillor P. O’Reilly stating that there is a need for more investment into the County.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that every local authority has beaten a path to the Government in the run up to the budget and we should follow suit.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that it was still unclear as to what proposal was being considered by the members. He stated that the type of report suggested would require a lot of resources.

It was proposed by Councillor S. P. O’Reilly that the meeting be adjourned so that the three party whips could meet with Mr. Ryan, Chief Executive. This was seconded by Councillor F. Curtin.

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

 Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

 And

 Resolved:

“that minutes of meetings of Cavan County Council held on 10th September, 2018 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 9 July 2018**

 Noted.

**To 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 replies from An Post & Deputy Brendan Smith regarding Post Office closures.**

 Noted.

 **(b). To note reply from Senator Joe O’Reilly regarding CCTV**

Noted. Councillor P. Smith proposed that the Council write to the Department asking that the application form be revamped. This was seconded by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly.

**6. To approve attendance of members at:**

 **(a) AILG Training Seminar to be held in Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo on 13October**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

 And

 Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, W. Bennett, P. Smith, V. Smith, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, M. Argue, J.P. Feeley, S. Smith, S. O’Reilly and C. Kelly at the AILG Training Seminar on 13 October be hereby approved”.

 **(b) “Smart Towns & Villages – An Opportunity to Revitalise Rural Ireland” hosted by Leitrim County Council to be held in the Lough Rynn Castle, Mohill, Co. Leitrim on 22 October.**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

 And

 Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillor P. McVitty at the Smart Towns & Villages – An Opportunity to Revitalise Rural Ireland be hereby approved”.

 **(c) National Tourism Forum “Let’s Talk Tourism” Conference to be held in the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney on 9 November**

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

 And

 Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors J.P. Feeley, S. O’Reilly and C. Kelly at the National Tourism Forum “Lets Talk Tourism” Conference be hereby approved”.

 **(d) Let’s Get Talking Galway “Mental Health in the Workplace and Wider Community” Conference to be held in the Connaught Hotel, Galway on 24 November.**

No attendees.

 **(e) AILG Autumn Seminar to be held in Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan on 25 & 26 October**

It was:

 Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

 Seconded by Councillor S. Smith

 And

 Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, W. Bennett, P. Smith, V. Smith, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, M. Argue, J.P. Feeley, S. Smith, S. O’Reilly and C. Kelly at the AILG Autumn Seminar on 25 & 26 October be hereby approved”.

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

**7. Consideration of Proposed Variation No. 1 of Cavan County Development Plan 2014-2020 and the Report of the Chief Executive.**

Mr. Nicholas O’Kane, Senior Planner made a presentation to the members stating that the variation is a material change to the development plan and required a period of public consultation. Mr. O’Kane stated that the changes require the approval of the elected members as it is a reserved function. He stated that the proposal sought is to insert an objective to support the vacant sites levy on zoned lands and to provide 10% social housing which covers Cavan town, Virginia, Cootehill, Kingscourt, Ballyjamesduff, Bailieborough, Belturbet, Mullagh and Ballyconnell. Mr. O’Kane stated that public submissions were sought on the proposals when the variation went on display from 12th July to 24th August 2018. Mr. O’Kane stated that seven submissions were received. He stated that the issues raised related to archaeological heritage, land zoning, regional planning guidelines and that changes to 10% social housing is compliant with the Act. He stated that the submissions received did not raise any issues that require alteration of the proposed variation.

It was:

 Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

 Seconded by Councillor S. P. O’Reilly

 And

 Resolved:

“that the proposed Variation No. 1 of Cavan County Development Plan 2014-2020 and the Report of the Chief Executive be hereby approved”.

**8. Consideration of Proposed Variation No. 1 of Cavan Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 and the Report of the Chief Executive.**

Mr. Nicholas O’Kane, Senior Planner made a presentation to the members in relation to the consideration of proposed variation No. 1 of Cavan Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020.

 It was:

 Proposed by Councillor S. Smith

 Seconded by Councillor D. Downey

 And

 Resolved:

“to approve material alterations to Variation No. 1 of Cavan Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 and the Report of the Chief Executive.”.

**9. To note Chief Executive’s Orders (Section 151 (4) Local Government Act 2001)**

Noted.

**10. To note Chief Executive’s monthly report (Section 51 Local Government Act 2014).**

Noted.

**North/South Interconnector.**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that two independent reports that the Minister for Communications, Climate and Environment, Denis Naughten T.D. had commissioned on the North-South Interconnector have concluded that overgrounding of the controversial high-power energy line is the best option. Councillor C. Kelly stated that locals will continue to vow that the interconnector will not be built as proposed. He stated that Eirgrid have said in the past that they will not proceed without the willingness of local landowners and there is still no willingness there with landowners.

 Councillor P. McDonald supported Councillor Kelly stating that he had attended numerous meetings on this and can categorically state that 99% of the landowners are opposed to this plan.

 Councillor C. Kelly proposed that the Chief Executive consider bringing members from the Bailieboro Cootehill electoral area to visit Germany and Belgium where cables have been laid underground. This was seconded by Councillor F. Curtin.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that this proposal should be brought to the next CPG meeting.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that the lack of independence undermines these new reports on the North South Interconnector. She stated that the files recently published expose a shameless collusion between the Department and Eirgrid.

 Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to the four T.D.’s living and working within the region to hear what they have to say on this matter.

 This proposal was seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley.

**Votes of Sympathy**

* The Reilly Family, Golf Links Road, Cavan on the death of Patrick, member of Cavan Fire Service and Civil Defence.

A minutes silence was held in memory of the deceased.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Crosserlough Camogie Club on winning the Senior League and Championship County Final and the Junior Team on winning the Junior Championship final.
* Drumlane Football Team on winning the County Junior Final.
* All involved in organising Culture Night throughout the County.

**MEMBER’S ITEMS – DEFERRED FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**1. That Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Health to deal with shameful delays in Disability Services in Assessment of Needs for Children.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that prior to last June the position of an assessment needs officer in County Cavan was vacant and this in turn led to shameful delays in getting assessment services to all children accessing therapeutic services that they need. Councillor Feely stated that the appointment of an assessment officer is welcome but there are still delays and extra occupational therapists and speech therapists are required. Councillor Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Disabilities asking that the Government take into account reports and appointment positions prepared by local HSE management for filling positions. He stated that the delay is far too long and called on the Government to provide resources to the HSE to allow these positions to be filled.

 Councillor P. McDonald seconded Councillor Feeley’s proposal.

**2. To request a report on social housing in Cavan and the number of local authority loans that have been taken up in the last two years.**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that the situation regarding eligibility limits for social housing in Cavan is far too low. He stated that when calculating income levies, the family income supplement is taken into consideration as part of the applicant’s salary which was not done in the past. He noted that the income limit to get a loan in Cavan for two adults and four or more children is €28,750 compared to €40,250 in Meath. He stated that this is a crazy situation; people are moving to other counties because they cannot get a house in Cavan. Councillor Kelly asked how many Council loans were given out over the last three years. He stated that the deposit used to be 3% and this has now increased to 10% which is causing great hardship. He stated that a low rate of interest is no good when people cannot obtain loans. He stated that it is very hard to get a 10% deposit if you are paying €800 or €900 a month in rent. Councillor Kelly proposed that the Council write to the Department suggesting that a person paying high rent every month for three years consequently should be taken into consideration. He stated that people cannot pay high rent and save at the same time. Councillor Kelly asked how many applications were received for a mortgage to rent and how many were successful. Councillor Kelly asked what the waiting list is currently for improvement schemes.

 Councillor S. Smith seconded Councillor Kelly’s proposal.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service noted that the eligibility requirements for loans differ within Cavan and the greater Dublin Regions. Mr. Doyle agreed that it is having an impact on people living close to other counties. Mr. Doyle noted that there are currently 676 on the waiting list. Mr. Doyle stated that in relation to housing loans it is a case that there are a small number of applications.

**8. To ask the number of social houses Cavan County Council has available for letting in the County and each Municipal District area and the number of applicants awaiting social housing in each Municipal District area.**

Councillor N. Connell noted that every month the homeless figures are increasing through no fault of the people themselves. Councillor N. Connell stated that he has seen in some cases houses being repossessed by banks and they are still idle ten years later. He stated that these are perfect reasons for anti social behaviour in a town. Councillor N. Connell called on Cavan County Council to put a CPO on bank owned houses making the banks sell the house back to the people.

 Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that it is the Housing Agency that sends local authorities houses that may be of interest to them to acquire. He stated that if Councillor Connell had a particular area in mind to let him know and he can discuss same.

 Councillor M. Argue asked the members to stay on for a Cathaoirleach’s reception to honour the Cavan u14 All-Ireland Ladies winners and Mr. Sean Walsh of Cavan Icebreakers.

 Item nos. 3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16 and 17 were deferred.

 The meeting concluded at 5.00p.m.

 Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Certified Correct: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_