



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

6 Márta, 2024.

DON CATHAOIRLEACH AGUS GACH BALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Leis seo, iarraim ort, le do thoil, a bheith i láthair ag Cruinniú Míosúil na Comhairle a thionólfar ar **Dé Luain, an 11 Márta, 2024 AR 3:00 i.n. i SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS CONTAE AN CHLÁIR, INIS agus via ardán MS Teams.** Thíos faoi seo, gheofar sonraí den ghnó a dhéanfar ag an gcruinniú.

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair.

Mise le meas,

NOTE: Briefing by John Treacy on Clare County Council's Engagement with the County Nursery Sites and Research Update, 2:00 p.m.

Riarthóir Cruinnithe

An Roinn Seirbhísí Corparáideach
Stiúrthóireacht Airgeadais agus Seirbhísí Tacaíochta
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Corporate Services Department
Finance and Support Services Directorate
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2

CLÁR OIBRE - AGENDA

- 1) Miontuairiscí na Cruinnithe seo leanas den Chomhairle.
- 1) Minutes of the following Council meeting.
 - (a) Miontuairiscí Chruinniú mí Feabhra, a tionóladh ar an 12 Feabhra 2024.
 - (a) Minutes of February monthly meeting held on 12 February 2024.
 - (b) Miontuairiscí Chruinniú mí Feabhra a cuireadh ar atráth, a tionóladh ar an 19 Feabhra 2024.
 - (b) Minutes of the adjourned February meeting held on 19 February 2024.

2. Matters Arising.
2. Nithe ag éirí as.

3. **Comhfhreagras/Correspondence.**

4. Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.
4. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe Ceantar Bardasach
 - (a) Ennis Municipal District meeting held on 9 January 2024
 - (a) Cruinniú Ceantar Bardasach na hInse a tionóladh ar an 9 Eanáir 2024

5. Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee Meetings.
- 5 Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe Coiste Polasaí Straitéiseach
 - (a) Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 4 December, 2023.
 - (a) Cruinniú Coiste Polasaí Straitéiseach Forbairt Gheilleagrach a tionóladh ar an 4 Nollaig, 2023.
 - (b) Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 19 September, 2023
 - (b) Cruinniú Coiste Polasaí Straitéiseach Forbairt Tuaithe a tionóladh ar an 19 Meán Fómhair, 2023.

6. Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 2 February 2024.
6. Cruinniú Grúpa Polasaí Corparáideach a tionóladh ar an 2 Feabhra 2024.

7. Monthly Management Report.

8. Report in accordance with Section 37E (4) and (5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the Meelick Windfarm, Co. Clare.

9. 2024 Council Resolution for Borrowing.
10. Fáilte Ireland's Festival and Events Funding 2024.
11. Draft Clare County Heritage Plan 2024-2030.
12. Clare Local Area Grant Scheme 2024.
13. Annual Service Delivery Plan.
14. Draft County Clare Strategy for Housing People with a Disability.
15. Briefing by John Treacy on Clare County Council's Engagement with the County Nursery Sites and Research Update – 2.00pm.
16. **Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. J. Killeen:- (deferred from the February Council meeting)**

“We call on Clare County Council and our Oireachtas members to lobby for greater funding for the Community Investment Scheme and the Local Improvement Scheme.

We call also for extra funding to reduce dramatically the list of those waiting to be prioritised for repair.

Please provide an outline of the number on the waiting lists per MD for LIS and CIS”

17. **Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. R. McInerney:- (deferred from the February Council meeting)**

“That Clare County Council examine the possibility a clinic service targeted at individuals, couples and families who are deemed ineligible for social housing in order to provide comprehensive information and guidance on other schemes which they may qualify for including but not limited to; Help to Buy, Local Authority Affordable Purchase, First Home, Local Authority Home Loan, Cost Rental and Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.”

18. **Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. J. Crowe:- (deferred from the February Council meeting)**

“I am calling on Clare County Council to arrange for a viability study to deal with a view of the possibility of a rail link service to link Ennis and Limerick with Sixmilebridge, Bunratty and Shannon Airport, to include Shannon Town Centre and the Industrial Estate.

In turn this will give connectivity to many holiday makers and business, people not alone in the mid-west region but throughout Ireland, especially with the growth that is taken place at the Airport. This will help to maintain and drive same.

It will benefit workers from Ennis, Limerick and surrounding areas to travel to Shannon. It will also help our environment to reduce cars and busses from our roads.”

19. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. L. Grant:- (deferred from the February Council meeting)

“Call on Clare County Council to reopen the public participation process in identifying bathing waters across the county. I would ask the Council to investigate if any work could be done to bring up the score of submitted locations so that they may reach the criteria set out in the EPA framework.

With more and more people sea swimming, there is a clear desire for more bathing water locations across the county. Many people were disappointed that several sites were not designated a bathing area, particularly Doolin Pier. The county would benefit greatly if we could get additional bathing areas.”

20. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. P.J. Kelly:-

“That TII be requested to inform the Council of the circumstances in which it would not formally object to decisions of Clare County Council to grant planning permissions for houses adjacent to N68, N85 and N67.”

21. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. J. Cooney:-

“Due to the unprecedented weather conditions experienced over the last number of months and the subsequent effect it has had on the county’s road infrastructure, I am calling on Clare County Council to seek emergency funding to tackle the current road disrepair and bring the road network back to an appropriate standard.”

22. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. P. McMahon:-

“I will ask the Taoiseach and all the relevant Ministers to give the Shannon Airport Group the relevant economic “push”, to sustain the economic projection of the airport, to relieve Dublin Airport and sustain the Airport into the future.”

23. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. C. Murphy:-

“With regard to the implementation of Shannon Estuary Economic Task Force report, that CCC undertake a) an assessment of the specific opportunities it presents to the people of Clare, b) the skills involved and numbers of personnel that may be required in its implementation here in Clare, c) an assessment of the housing need within the proximate Municipal Districts to support that implementation and d) an assessment of the quantity of zoned land in those MDs to determine whether we have capacity to ensure these opportunities provide the maximum benefits at the most local level.”

24. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. M. Howard:-

“Clare County Council request Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly to follow Australia by consigning vaping to prescription-use only for adult smokers trying to quit.”

25. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy:-

“Identified for more than 30 years in the Clare County Development Plan as a strategic infrastructure corridor for the Ennis Northern Inner Relief Road, Tulla Road to Gort Road, I am calling on Clare County Council executive management team to take action and engage with the Department of Transportation to progress the funding for the traffic studies, design, environmental studies, the construction of the most immediate section of this strategic piece of infrastructure which is in part Council ownership, that being from the beginning of the existing built road that ends abruptly at the Clare Technology Park, to continue across the railway track so as to connect to the existing most westerly roundabout in Oakleigh Wood.

The Department of Transport needs to factor this strategic corridor reserved in our County Development Plan into the transportation plan for our county town, especially since a portion of it is already built, so as to bring the accessibility benefits of this infrastructure to the County, which are *inter alia*: alleviation of traffic on the Gort Road and the Tulla Road; improved connectivity to the Gort Road Industrial Estate, a venue of substantial employment in our county, where access (either by way of traffic lights or roundabout(s)) to the Gort Road Industrial Estate should be factored into this phase of development; improved both-way access from East Clare to North Clare without congesting the town centre; alleviation of congestion of the town centre; and amelioration of the active travel corridors, especially the immediate corridor planned for the Tulla Road from the motorway into Ennis.”

26. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllrs. G. Flynn, R. McInerney, J. Garrihy, T. O’Callaghan, J. Crowe, M. Begley agus J. Flynn:-

“We are calling on the Minister for Tourism, Catherine Martin and the Minister for Housing, Darragh O’Brien to urgently engage with the providers of short-term lets and Airbnb’s throughout Ireland that are providing much needed support and accommodation to enhance the tourism industry that is so vital to our economy.

What is required is a suspension of the mandatory registration process for short-term let’s until adequate consultation and clarification is put in place in order to allay the fears, anxiety and misinformation that is bringing huge uncertainty to the providers of accommodation in this sector. This confusion has been caused as a result of very little engagement from the Government Ministers in Tourism and Housing that are undermining families in Ireland that are trying to supplement their income at a time when Ireland is just recovering from the huge economic impact from Covid 19 restrictions. The proposed guidelines for short-term lets need to be suspended until proper engagement and consultation takes place to create a proper and workable policy to protect this vital support to the small tourism sector.”

27. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. I. Lynch:-

“Recognising the potential for economic development and tourism in the region from marine based activities. I propose that Clare County Council take a leadership role in initiating a joint feasibility study with Kerry County Council, Limerick City & County Council and Fáilte Ireland. The purpose of the study is to explore and evaluate the opportunities for the development of the northern and southern banks of the Shannon Estuary as a centre of excellence for water sports and marine activities, aligning with the actions outlined in the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce Report.”

28. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. P. O’Gorman:-

“That Clare County Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to ensure that broadband customers receive a speedy response where there is a breakdown in service such as copper wires/fibre cables or breakages in poles. Furthermore, calls on ComReg to ensure that the providers of these services are held to account for failures in their service of delivery.”

29. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. T. O’Callaghan:-

“Council approved a loan for 10 million, that a discussion be allowed under the following headings:

- A. What the cost of the loan and it's Duration.
- B. Schedule of Loan Repayments by DAC.
- C. List the Assets owned by DAC at this current date.
- D. Purpose of Loans and has the Council guaranteed all liabilities.
- E. Is the Council financially liable in any event of unfortunate financial misadventure.”

30. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllrs. P. Hayes, M. Howard, C. Murphy, P. Burke, S. Talty, J. Killeen:-

“To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development to update the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878 and the associated Rules and Regulations for the Regulation of Burial Grounds 1888 to provide a comprehensive framework to regulate burials, exhumations, and burial grounds. A recent review of Burial Ground Management in Clare references the need for updated/consolidated National Legislation to support the oversight and management function of this essential service at local level to bring it in line with current burial ground practices, regulation/enforcement, and health & safety requirements”.

31. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr P. Hayes:-

“I propose that Clare County Council requests Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys, to consider and implement a policy change that allows participants in Community Employment Schemes (CES), Rural Social Scheme (RSS), and Tús Programme to continue their valuable contributions until the age of 70. This extension would not only acknowledge the dedication and skills of these individuals but also contribute to the overall well-being of our community and enhance the sustainability of these programs. These programmes play a crucial role in fostering community development, providing essential services, and supporting those who may face challenges in securing traditional employment. Currently, participants in these valuable community-based employment programs are required to retire at the age of 66 and considering the changing demographics and the desire of individuals to remain actively engaged in work programmes, I am asking you to make this important change to allow participants the opportunity to continue to contribute to their local communities.”

32. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. G. Flynn:-

“I am calling on the Minister for Housing Darragh O’Brien for clarification and information concerning affordable housing applications sent to his department by the local authority in Clare for approval and funding. Media reports have indicated that Minister O’Brien stated during his recent visit to Clare on Friday 23rd of February 2024 that any delays in the delivery of affordable housing rests with Clare County Council. Monthly management reports presented to Clare County Council’s statutory monthly meetings have indicated that a number of applications have gone to his department for approval and funding, and I would encourage his department to fully engage with Clare’s housing department in order to expedite delivery.”

33. Curtha faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan:-

“That this Council requests that Minister for Education, Norma Foley would include road safety on the curriculum at all levels of education in the county,”