

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR AN GCRUINIÚ IOMLÁNACH DE CHUID
CHOMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH TIONÓLTA
AR AN LUAN, 20 MÁRTA 2023 AG 3.00 I.N. I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE,
HALLA AN CHONTAE & VIA FOIRNE MS



MINUTES OF PLENARY MEETING OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2023 AT 3.00 P.M.
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL & VIA MS TEAMS

- Chair:** Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick.
- Elected Members:** *Council Chamber*
Cllrs., Tomás Breathnach, Martin Brett, John Coonan, Fidelis Doherty, Maria Dollard, Michael Doyle, David Fitzgerald, Joe Malone, Michael McCarthy, , Eugene McGuinness.
- MS Teams*
Cllrs. Eamon Aylward, John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Peter Cleere, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Pat Dunphy, Ger Frisby, Denis Hynes, Joe Lyons & Andrew McGuinness, Patrick O'Neill.
- Officials:** Sean McKeown, Tim Butler, Mary Mulholland, Fiona Deegan, Denis Malone, Noelle Brett, Anne Marie Shortall, John Tennyson, Nicolaas Louw, Dearbhala Ledwidge, Seamus Kavanagh, Sheasky McGuire, Gerry Tyrrell, Kevin Hanley, Catherine Cooney, Ashling Slattery & Anne Maria Walsh.
- Apologies:** Martin Prendiville

1. *Dearbhú Miontuairiscí - Confirmation of Minutes*

- (i) **Minutes of February Plenary Meeting held on Monday, 20th February, 2023**
Proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed:
"That the Minutes of February Plenary Meeting held on Monday, 20th February, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (ii) **Minutes of Special Meeting held on Monday, 13th February, 2023**
Proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:
"That the Minutes of Special Meeting held on Monday, 13th February, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (iii) **Minutes of Special Meeting held on Monday, 27th February, 2023**
Proposed by Cllr. Michael Doyle, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed:
"That the Minutes of Special Meeting held on Monday, 27th February, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

Fógraí - Announcements

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick congratulated the following:

- All involved in the St. Patrick's Day Festival as it was a successful weekend.
- Willie Mullins on winning the Gold Cup again at Cheltenham.

Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick extended vote of sympathy to the following:

- Ethna Whelan, Housing Department on the death of her mother Mary Whelan.
- Family of the late Tony Kiely, Danesfort [*Pensioner*]
- Family of the late Mary Cuddihy, Stoneyford [*Pensioner*]

All Members were associated with the votes of sympathy.

2. (a) (i) **Ag Glacadh i gCúram - Taking in Charge**

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed that:

“We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the initiation of proceedings for the taking in charge of the following development in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and in compliance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010.”

Development: TC154 - Ogenty, Gowran, Co Kilkenny

(ii) **Máistirphlean Loch Mhic Easa - Loughmacask Masterplan**

Mr. Denis Malone referred Members to the Interim Chief Executive’s Report on the Loughmacask Masterplan. He advised Members that this Report addresses the submissions/observations received in relation to the Draft Plan which was on public display from 26th August, 2022 to 7th October, 2022. The Report sets out the written submissions received in the Interim Chief Executive’s response to the issues raised and makes recommendations to the Members on the issues arising from the Consultants.

He stated that 175 submissions have been received. The main areas of concern in the submissions related to Traffic Management, School Traffic and Butts Regeneration.

The Draft Loughmacask Plan is not a Statutory Plan. However it does have significant impact for the development of the area going forward. It will be incorporated as a variation to the adopted City & County Development Plan 2021-2027. It is recommended that the Members accept the respective recommendations by the Interim Chief Executive as set out in the Report. On the agreement of the Members the proposed changes to the Draft Plan will go back out on public display for a further period of six weeks. After that a further Interim Chief Executive’s Report is prepared and must be considered by the Members. Members then decide whether to make a Masterplan with or without the proposed alterations. Mr. Malone further advised that the Members of the Kilkenny City Municipal District has considered the Interim Chief Executive’s Report at their March Monthly Meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed that:

“We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council, having considered the following:

- *The draft Loughmacask Masterplan, the Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Report, the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Report (Non-Technical Summary), the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report and the Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment, all of which were placed on public display from Friday 26th August, 2022 – Friday 7th October 2022; and*
- *The Interim Chief Executives Report on the draft Loughmacask Masterplan, dated 10th March 2023*

do hereby resolve to:

- (a) *accept the recommendations of the Draft Masterplan in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Interim Chief Executive’s Report; and*

- (b) *place on public display for a minimum of 4 weeks the material alterations arising from the recommendations of the Interim Chief Executive, following which submissions with respect to the proposed material alterations will be taken into account before the Masterplan is made, all in accordance with our decision made at a meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on the 20th March 2023.*"

(iii) **Cuid 8 Molta: Rochtain Lána Lousybush ar Nascbhóthar CBS
Proposed Part 8: Lousybush Lane Access to CBS Link Road**

Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the proposed access to the CBS Link Road. In his Presentation he outlined to the Members the location of the proposed link between Lousybush Lane and the Loughmacask Link Road. Residents at the end of Lousybush Lane will use this new access to the Loughmacask Link Road. Lousybush Lane will be developed under Active Travel measures to facilitate pedestrians and cyclists to access the new CBS School. There will be no vehicular traffic on Lousybush Lane. Mr. Kavanagh advised that the Council intends to commence Part 8 process for this proposed development.

It was proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone and agreed that Part 8 for this development commence.

(b) (i) **Ráiteas Airgeadais Bliantúil 2022 - Annual Financial Statement 2022**

Ms. Noelle Brett, Financial Management Accountant advised the Members the draft Annual Financial Statement for 2022 has been circulated with the Agenda. She advised that the Audit has commenced and the Audited Accounts and Audit Letter will be brought back to the Elected Members later in the year.

She gave an overview on the 2022 Financial Statement:

- Total Revenue Expenditure - €104m
- Surplus for 2022 - €18,230
- Cumulative Surplus - €108,000
- 2022 - Very challenging year.
- Serious inflation challenges, energy/fuel costs, Building Maintenance etc.
- Increased energy/fuel costs - additional €1m
- Pension provision - additional €940k - serious national issues.
- Planning fees/car parking income down
- Number of areas where expenditure exceeds the budget provision. Resolution required by Members to the over expenditure in the various Service Areas. Amount €15,541.864. Matched funding and additional grants were received in relation to the over expenditure.
- Balance Sheet - maintained a strong balance sheet.
- Cash Management - closing balance €42.1m
- €21.85m is ring fenced for capital projects
- Non mortgage loan balance €14.2m, no new loan drawn down in 2022.
- Mortgage loans balance €33.85m - 4 new loans advanced in 2022.
- Arrears - Collection rates maintained in 2022, Kilkenny is one of the top performers across the Local Government Sector.
- Rates - 95%, Loans 90%, Rents 96%
- Increase in rent arrears of €118k - focus will be maintained on this area of collection.
- Capital Expenditure €63.1m - Housing & Roads accounts for €50m of the total expenditure which is 100% recoupable from the state.

Ms. Noelle Brett thanked the Finance staff and all Budget holders for their work over the year in maintaining budgets and collection rates.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick thanked Ms. Brett for the detailed overview of the 2022 accounts.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Martin Brett, Fidelis Doherty and Tomás Breathnach in relation to:

- Doubtful arrears on rates €486k.
- Draw down of approved mortgage loans on 55% of applications – why are all loans not drawn down.
- Subsidiary Accounts – clarify status of these.

Ms. Noelle Brett responded to the issues raised by the Members.

Mr. Sean McKeown thanked Ms. Noelle Brett, Mr. Martin Prendiville and the Finance Team for their prudent finance management and for maintaining collection rates in this very challenging year of 2022.

He acknowledged the work of three Members of the Finance Team for their input into their respective areas in finance. One Member is transferring to Housing and two Members are retiring and he wished them well in their retirement.

It was proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed that:

“That Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of Excess Expenditure for year ending 31st December, 2022 as follows in accordance with S104(2) Local Government Act 2001:

	€
Housing & Building	
A01 Maintenance & Improvement of LA Housing	2,488,939
A02 Housing Assessment, Allocation and Transfer	38,157
A03 Housing Rent and Tenant Purchase Administration	71,834
A04 Housing Community Development Support	1,636
A05 Administration of the Homeless Service	136,473
A07 RAS and Leasing Programme	221,240
A09 Housing Grants	417,609
A11 Agency & Recoupable Services	<u>187,196</u>
Subtotal	3,563,084
Road Transportation & Safety	
B01 NP Road – Maintenance & Improvement	295,925
B02 NS Road – Maintenance & Improvement	311,156
B04 Local Road – Maintenance & Improvement	4,176,875
B05 Public Lighting	262,892
B07 Road Safety Engineering Improvement	423,207
B10 Support to Roads Capital Programme	27,626
B11 Agency & Recoupable Services	715,460
Subtotal	6,213,141
Water Services	
C01 Water Supply	131,017
C02 Waste Water Treatment	26,052
C03 Collection of Water & Waste Water Charges	6,378
C04 Public Conveniences	16,120
C06 Support to Water Capital Programme	20,749
Subtotal	200,316

	Development Management	
D05	Tourism Development and Promotion.....	496,154
D06	Community & Enterprise Function.....	840,298
D07	Unfinished Housing Estates.....	960
D08	Building Control	17,195
D09	Economic Development and Promotion	629,267
D10	Property Management	227,561
D11	Heritage and Conservation Services.....	109,537
	<i>Subtotal</i>	2,320,972
	Environmental Services	
E01	Landfill Operation & Aftercare.....	46,838
E04	Provision of Waste to Collection Services	17,066
E05	Litter Management	9,005
E06	Street Cleaning	107,762
E09	Maintenance of Burial Grounds	232,457
E10	Safety of Structures and Places	34,868
E11	Operation of Fire Service	405,403
E12	Fire Prevention.....	16,635
E13	Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution.....	254,856
E15	Climate Change & Flooding.....	52,858
	<i>Subtotal</i>	1,177,748
	Recreation and Amenity	
F02	Operation of Library and Archival Service.....	205,515
F03	Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations	354,100
F04	Community Sport and Recreational Development.....	585,139
F05	Operation of Arts Programme	114,252
	<i>Subtotal</i>	1,259,006
	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	
	Miscellaneous Services	
H01	Profit & Loss Machinery Acc	180,920
H05	Operation of Morgue and Coroner Expenses	13,533
H07	Operation of Markets and Casual Trading	1,667
H10	Motor Taxation	2,141
H11	Agency & Recoupable Services.....	609,336
	<i>Subtotal</i>	807,597
	TOTAL	€ 15,541,864

It was proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed that:

"We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council, hereby adopt the Annual Financial Statement for year ending 31st December, 2022."

(c) (i) **Scéim Deontais d'Imeachtaí Pobail 2023 – 2023 Community Event Grant Scheme**

Ms. Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer presented report on the Events Grant Scheme for 2023 as circulated with the Agenda.

She advised the Members that 57 applications were received for funding.

Following assessment of applications:

- 51 applications are recommended for funding
- 6 applications were deemed to be ineligible for the Scheme

and the Community Section will liaise with these grant applicants.

The budget allocated for the 2023 Scheme is €22,000 and the total amount has been allocated to the 51 applications.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed that:

“That the Event Grants 2023 totalling €22,000 are hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council, as per report circulated.”

(ii) Tuarascáil Bhliantúil LCDC - LCDC Annual Report

Ms. Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer presented the LCDC Annual Report for 2022. She advised that the LCDC has approved of the Annual Report and has recommended that the Council approve it.

It was proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett, seconded by Cllr Eugene McGuinness and agreed that:

“That the LCDC Annual Report for 2022 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council.”

**(d) (i) Plean Laghdaithe Sceitheadh Uisce Éireann do Chill Chainnigh 2023
Irish Water Leakage Reduction Plan for Kilkenny 2023**

Mr. John Tennyson, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Irish Water Leakage Reduction Plan for Kilkenny in 2023.

In his Presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Water Main Rehab Programme 2022 – to date – 9 Projects.
- Mains Replacement Priority List for 2023 – 16 Areas submitted to Irish Water for inclusion in the 2023 Programmes.
- Scheme recommended for construction and design by AP.
- Five Schemes listed for construction (*Lead Replacement Programme*)
- Three Schemes recommended for design.
- Find and Fix Programme and overview of works undertaken in 2022. Reduced leakage attained in a number of Water Supply zones.
- Pressure Management Programme – pressure reducing valves installed in Kilkenny City, estimated 15% reduction in burst frequency.
- Smaller scale pressure management valves installed in Inistioge and Ferrybank in 2022.
- First Fix Programme – customers entitled to one initial fix on the private side of the connection.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick thanked Mr. John Tennyson for the detailed overview on the Programme.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Deirdre Cullen, Pat Dunphy, John Brennan, Patrick O’Neill, Tomás Breathnach, Eugene McGuinness and Michael Doyle.

Issues raised by Members were as follows:

- Improvement to road surface by Area Offices should be co-ordinated with any replacement of underground water network.
- Priority list submitted by Council not taken on board by Irish Water – What criteria is used by UE to prioritise schemes.

- Schemes on Boiled Water Notices – delays in getting water back up to the standard required.
- Repairing Leaks – Alert System not being used to notify customers some of the time.
- Replacement of asbestos pipes.
- Capital upgrade for Kilkenny – current projects in train and how much is being invested by Irish Water in the County.

Mr. Tim Butler and Mr. John Tennyson responded to the issues raised by Members. Members were advised that there is significant investment in two Schemes in Kilkenny at present – Kilkenny Regional Water Supply Scheme and Gowran/Goresbridge/Paulstown Water Supply (due to commence in 2023). It is also proposed that Bennettsbridge Supply will be improved under the small towns and villages upgrade programme.

Notifications on planning works are issued through the Alerts System. Some emergency works may be undertaken without notification to customers.

(e) (i) Nuashonrú ar Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide - Climate Action Update

Mr. Denis Malone advised that the Council has commenced the process in the preparation of the Council's Climate Action Plan. There will be regular updates given to the Members over the next year.

Ms. Dearbhala Ledwidge, Climate Action Co-Ordinator gave a PowerPoint Presentation of Kilkenny County Council's Climate Action Plan.

In her presentation she gave an overview on the following:

- Statutory Requirements – Kilkenny County Council must adopt a Climate Action Plan by 23rd February, 2024. Process commenced earlier this year. Guidelines have been issued.
- Local Authority Climate Action Plan – 51% reduction in Green House Gasses by 2030, 50% improvement in energy efficiency.
- Local Authority Framework – number of policy documents published over the years.
- Local Authority Scope – Accountability, Influence, Co-ordinate and facilitate, advocate.
- Who's involved – Climate Action Team, Steering Committee, Elected Members, Staff, Stakeholders, South East Energy Agency.
- Climate Action Plan – Schedule/Milestones
- Advance Planning Stage – Areas developed over the past months.
- Challenges, opportunities and support.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick thanked Ms. Dearbhala Ledwidge for her Presentation.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Tomás Breathnach, Joe Lyons and Fidelis Doherty.

Issues raised by Members were as follows:

- Reduction in emissions/fossil fuels.
- Planning Conditions for new development to include energy saving measures.

- Baseline data.
- Interaction with SPC and Climate Action Team.
- Private Solar Farms – viable to operate.
- Promotion of Electric Vehicles and charging points.

Mr. Denis Malone and Ms. Dearbhala Ledwidge responded to the issues raised. They advised that all new houses built must reach A2 rating. The Development Plan encourages energy efficiency policies.

(f) (i) ***Nuashonrú Náisiúnta Leathanbhanda - National Broadband Update***

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick welcomed Mr. Adam Ledwith and Ms. Justine Judge from National Broadband Ireland (joining remotely) to the meeting. He invited Mr. Ledwith to give his Presentation.

Mr. Ledwith thanked the Cathaoirleach and the Council for the invitation to update Members on the National Broadband Plan.

In his PowerPoint he gave an overview of the following:

- National Overview – statistics on premises surveyed, designs completed, premises connected, BCP’s installed and school BCP’s installed.
- Project overview for County Kilkenny – 18,919 premises without access to high speed broadband – 44% completed to-date representing an investment of €30m.
- Overview of Development Areas – number of premises ready for connection, 8,284 premises are live.
- Approximately 6,000 premises are currently in the Network Build Phase of the project – 75% complete by end of 2024.
- Approximately 3,000 premises at survey/design stages.
- Details of update data available on NBI Website – specific information for Elected Members on website. Website is updated monthly for County data statistics and can be downloaded per County.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick thanked Mr. Ledwith for his presentation.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, Pat Dunphy, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Tomás Breathnach, Fidelis Doherty, Maria Dollard, Joe Lyons and Ger Frisby.

Issues raised by Members were as follows:

- Villages with small populations 1,000 to 1,500 – what is status for improved broadband?
- Plans to change from existing providers in towns where coverage is very poor.
- Need to improve broadband in all areas to encourage remote working.
- More Remote Working Hubs – problem getting connections.
- Level playing pitch on price for all operators.

Mr. Ledwith responded to all the Members queries and advised he will follow up on specific locations. He advised that NBI does not decide on locations, the Government decides on the work programme. This is a state funding project.

(ii) ***Tuarascáil Mhíosúil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh***
Chief Executive's Monthly Report

Mr. Sean McKeown presented his Monthly Report as circulated.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick advised that the Chief Executive's Report will be taken as read. Any questions can be referred directly to the Interim Chief Executive.

(iii) ***Cairt an Choiste Iniúcháireachta - Audit Committee Charter***

Mr. Tim Butler advised that the Audit Committee has approved the Audit Committee Charter at their meeting on 6th March, 2023 for the year 2023. This Charter sets out the purpose and functions of the Audit Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed that:

"That the Audit Committee Charter is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

(iv) ***Tuarascáil Bhliantúil an Choiste Iniúcháireachta 2022***
Audit Committee Annual Report 2022

Mr. Tim Butler advised that the Audit Committee has approved the Annual Report 2022 at their meeting on 6th March, 2023. The Annual Report contains an overview for the activities of the Audit Committee for 2022.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle and agreed that:

"That the Audit Committee Report 2022 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

3. ***Comhfhreagras - Correspondence***

Response from Minister Norma Foley in relation to Notice of Motion No. 02-2023 was circulated with the Agenda. Cllr. Tomás Breathnach raised concerns that the response did not address the issues raised in the Notice of Motion. He requested that the Council write back to the Minister.

4. ***Gnó ar athló ó chruinniúroimhe seo - Business adjourned from a previous Meeting***

None.

5. ***Dátaí agus Amanta do chruinnithe a shocrú - Fix Dates & Times of Meetings***

(i) **Schedule of Meetings**

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed.

(ii) Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick advised that the April CPG will take place on Thursday, 6th April at 9.00 a.m. via Teams.

6. **Plé ar Thuairiscí agus Moltaí ó Choistí an Comhairle**
Consideration of Reports & Recommendations of Committees of the Council

None.

7. **Gnó Eile romhainn i bhFógra reachtála an Chruinnithe**
Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting

None.

8. **Oideachas agus Oiliúint - Education & Training**

- (i) Conference circulated with the Agenda was proposed by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed.

9. **Gnótha ag éirí as Miontuairiscí - Matters Arising from Minutes**

None.

10. **Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business**

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty requested an update on the Speed Limit Review and the timeframe for implementation. Mr. Tim Butler advised review is close to completion and a Public Consultation will take place in the coming months.

11. **Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion**

03 (23) Cllr. Pat Dunphy

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed that:

"That Irish Water replace the old pipes that are constantly leaking in the Grange, Clonmore, Clogga, Silverspring and Chapel Street areas of Mooncoin. Customers are having to deal with ongoing leaks resulting in no water on a regular basis. It is unfair on Community and Business, having to put up with this so often.

To ask Irish Water how many leaks have occurred in the areas mentioned above over the past 3 years and the full cost of repairing those leaks."

Cllr. Pat Dunphy and Cllr. Tomás Breathnach spoke on the Notice of Motion.

12. **Fógraí i dtaobh Rúin ó Údaráis Áitiúla eile ag lorg tacaíochta ó Chomhairle Chontae Chill Chainmigh - Notices of Motion from other local authorities seeking support of Kilkenny County Council**

It was proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed by all that the following Notices of Motion numbered 11 (23) and 18 (23) received from other Local Authorities be taken as read and noted:

11 (23) Wicklow County Council

"That the Members of Wicklow County Council object strenuously to the Coillte decision to partner with a UK based Investment Fund, Gresham House, in the purchase by this Fund of thousands of hectares of Irish forestry lands depriving the Irish people of the profits accruing and at the same time driving up the price of agricultural land which could be bought by Irish Farmers. Furthermore, this Council calls on the Government to halt this arrangement immediately and ensure that the future ownership of Irish Forestry assets remains in the hands of the Irish People and that where local farmers who need more land to improve their viability would be able to buy back from this giant Coillte fund."

12 (23) Sligo County Council

"That this Council write to the Minister for Health, the Taoiseach and the Tanaiste to ask for an explanation as to why Sligo and the North-West has not been included as a surgical hub and for Sligo University Hospital to be added to the list as the 6th surgical hub catering for the people of Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal, North Mayo and North Roscommon. Can this motion be shared with all TDs and local authorities in all of the aforementioned counties."

13 (23) Sligo County Council

"Under the older and disability grants scheme, retired old age pensioners who have decided to put their affairs in order by transferring their homes to their next of kin while retaining their right to live in their homes for the rest of their lives, now find themselves unable to avail of those grants. They live on their own. Their next of kin does not live in the house with them. The next of kin have their own house with mortgages and families expenses. The household income of the applicant who resides there and the registered owner and their spouse is taken into account, so the two household incomes exclude the applicant from the grant. I propose that Sligo County Council writes to the Minister and the Department to address this anomaly and to amend the terms and conditions of the schemes to exclude the income of the registered owner and their spouse if they do not reside in the property."

14 (23) Sligo County Council

"That this council write to the Ministers for Communication and Justice seeking the introduction of legislation at an EU level so that social media accounts are traceable to people operating them. This would immediately stop anonymous abuse, online bullying and trolling."

15 (23) Sligo County Council

"To call on Sligo County Council to write to the Minister of Transport Eamon Ryan to introduce a scheme, to make funding available to our regional roads to address realignment and other safety issues."

16 (23) Westmeath County Council

"That Westmeath County Council would write to the Finance Minister to request immediate action using the expertise available to design and implement a comprehensive regional public banking system that makes full use of the remaining financial services infrastructure in local towns and other areas in this county to deliver an essential local banking service to local communities and businesses that would augment the work of post offices and credit unions and give local people and business real finance and borrowing options and keep local towns thriving."

17 (23) Cork County Council

"That rather than its apparent aims of limiting public participation and access to justice, the new Planning & Development Bill would take the opportunity to address identified concerns with regard to Ireland's need to meet the requirements of the Aarhus Convention, to which it is a signatory."

18 (23) Kerry County Council

“That this Council calls on the new Minister for Defence to award the medals and recommended by Commandant Pat Quinlan to the veterans of Jadotville. Failure to do so is a stain on the reputation of the State.”

That concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE