

Minutes of the Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee Meeting held on 10 December 2021 @ 10.00 am via Microsoft Teams

Present: Cllr John Paul Feeley, Chair
Cllr Madeleine Argue
Cllr Patricia Walsh
Cllr Trevor Smith
Mr Thomas Maughan
Ms Theresa Mongan
Ms Chrissie O'Sullivan
Mr Eoin Doyle, Director of Services
Ms Bridie McBrearty, Housing
Ms John Wilson, Housing Construction
Ms Deirdre Donnelly, C & E

Apologies: Ms Jacqueline McDonagh
Ms Christine McDonagh

Cllr Feeley, Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2021 were proposed by P Walsh and seconded by M Argue.

2. Traveller Interagency Group Strategy Development

D Donnelly provided an update to the meeting. She advised that good progress had been made in the development of a new Strategy for the Traveller Interagency Group. This involved engagement with the members of the Group together with its three subgroups, which address: education, employment, and health. It has included a specific engagement with Cavan Traveller Movement to support their ongoing roles. This has provided a wealth of material which will be considered in the draft of the Strategy together with effective linkages to the LTACC. The draft Strategy will be considered by the full Group at its meeting in the afternoon following which it will be finalised for circulation and publication.

C O'Sullivan informed the group that a very useful piece of work was underway with Cavan Traveller Movement. The Membership of their Board had changed, and specific training has been provided. They have reviewed their aims and objectives and will agree their Strategic Plan for next 3 – 5 years which will form the basis for a harmonised working relationships with other agencies currently working with travellers in the county.

3. Annual Traveller Count

B McBrearty advised the Group that in accordance with Circular 38/2021 the annual estimate of travellers in the County on 3 December was currently being compiled. She thanked the Cavan Traveller Movement for the information they submitted. It will be lodged with the Department in next few weeks and a copy will be made available to the Group.

4. Traveller Accommodation Plan Review

B McBrearty informed the meeting that she had been advised by the Department that guidance would be issued as to how the TAP review would be carried out. It was agreed that if need be, a special meeting can be convened to consider this once guidance has issued.

She advised that to date in 2021 a total of 11 traveller households had been housed, 8 in Council housing and 3 by an Approved Housing Body. There are currently 9 traveller households in receipt of HAP in the County.

She confirmed that funding approval had been received on 6 December from the TAU to fund refurbishment and repair works at a house in Drumkeery. As the family will have to move the Council is currently seeking alternative accommodation for them so that the Contractor can be appointed to undertake the works next year.

5. Any other Business

J Wilson advised that he had contacted P Mulligan in Roads who had carried out a survey of the road at the Group Scheme in Townparks. He has limited budgets and John agreed to discuss the matter with him again to see if he can facilitate some remedial works to the road in the Group Scheme. It was suggested that the households should first be contacted to have the roadway clear before he returns to further survey.

B McBrearty that herself and R McAvenue had met with Cavan Traveller Movement as agreed at previous meeting to discuss the submission which had been made. It was evident from the meeting that communication with the Travellers is an issue and one which will be addressed in conjunction with CTM to resolve. C O'Sullivan confirmed it was a very useful meeting and will be followed up regularly with similar meetings opening a direct line of communication which is very welcome.

C O'Sullivan sought support for a family who are in Homeless in Dublin and wish to live in Cavan, B McBrearty agreed that she should discuss with the Council's Social Worker. She advised that as they are approved for social housing support in Dublin they should seek accommodation in the private rented market and they will receive their HAP payment from Dublin. If they then wish to live permanently in Cavan they should apply for social housing support to the Council, however they need to be aware that any time they had accrued in Dublin will not be brought forward to Cavan.

6. Schedule of Meetings

Friday 11 March, 10 June, 16 September and 9 December er at 10 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Cavan Courthouse.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking all Members for their contributions over the year and wished everybody a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Signed: 
Chairman

Date: 21/6/22