

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 12th May 2025 at 2.00p.m.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly, Cathaoirleach, presiding

PRESENT: Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, N. Brady, P. Brady, S. Conaty, N. Connell, B. Fay, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, S.P. O'Reilly, A. Rogers, Á. Smith, N. Smith, T. Smith, V. Smith, P. Walsh,

IN ATTENDANCE: E. Doyle, Chief Executive
P. Connaughton, Director of Services
B. Jennings, Director of Services
L. McGavigan, Director of Services
M. McNally, Head of Finance
E. Smith, A/Administrative Officer

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly welcomed all to the meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 14th April 2025.

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 14th April 2025 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 10th March 2025.

Noted

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 reply from Office of the Minister for Health in relation to a request for additional funding for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

Noted. Cllr TP O'Reilly stated that this is good response and that he welcomed the funding of €2.3 million that the Alzheimer Society of Ireland received in Budget 2025.

(b) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Transport regarding waiting times for Driving Tests.

Noted.

To approve attendance of members at AILG May Training Module entitled "Emergency Response – Councils Supporting Communities in Weather Crises" to be held in Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo on 22nd May and Rose Hotel, Tralee on 24th May

Councillors N. Smith, C. Brady, S.P. O'Reilly, P. Brady were approved to attend.

6. Member's Question / Ceist – Councillor Stiofán Conaty

Chun uasdátú a lorg ar chuir i bhfeidhm Pholasáí Soláthair Eiticiúil de chuid na Comhairle Contae, de réir mar a bhí aontaithe ag baill tofa / To ask for an update on the progress of the implementation of the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy, as agreed by members at a previous meeting.

Noted. A reply was issued to Cllr S. Conaty prior to the meeting.

7. Member's Question / Ceist – Councillor Stiofán Conaty

Chun uasdátú a lorg ar an phróiseas earcaíochta don Oifigeach Gaeilge.

To seek an update on the recruitment process for the Irish Language Officer.

Noted. A reply was issued to Cllr S. Conaty prior to the meeting.

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

8. To note Chief Executive's monthly report (*Section 51 Local Government Reform Act 2014*).

Noted

9. To approve the lease of 0.039 hectares or 0.0963 acres of land to Swanlinbar Development Association (Trivia House), Co. Cavan for a period of 15 years for a nominal fee of €10.00 per annum, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, and notices circulated.

It was proposed by Councillor D Brady

Seconded by Councillor B Fay

And

Resolved:

"that the lease of 0.039 hectares or 0.0963 acres of land to Swanlinbar Development Association (Trivia House), Co. Cavan for a period of 15 years for a nominal fee of €10.00 per annum, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000 be hereby approved".

10. To approve co-option of Adrian Rogers to fill a casual vacancy arising from the election of Sarah O'Reilly to Seanad Eireann, in accordance with Section 19 of Local Government Act 2001.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Cllr C Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Cllr C Brady

And

Resolved;

“that the co-option of Adrian Rogers to fill a casual vacancy arising from the election of Sarah O’Reilly to Seanad Eireann, in accordance with Section 19 of Local Government Act 2001 be hereby approved”.

Cllr TP O’ Reilly welcomed Cllr A Rogers to the Council and congratulated him on his appointment. He stated that he is very obliging, a hard worker and is willing to help anyone who needs assistance. He also welcomed his friends and family to the chamber.

On behalf of the executive, Mr Doyle welcomed Cllr Rogers to his new role. He stated that every support will be given to Councillor Rogers and that the executive looked forward to working with him in the future. Mr. Doyle also congratulated Senator S. O’Reilly on her election to the Seanad.

Cllr C Kelly stated that Adrian is well known throughout the County, and he is popular in his area and has no doubt that he will make an excellent Councillor. He stated that he has a big act to follow and looks forward to working with him for the next four years. He congratulated Senator O’ Reilly and acknowledged the contribution she had made as a Councillor.

Cllr C Brady stated that she is delighted to second Adrian on his co-option. She stated that he is a great businessman. She wished him the best in the future. She also congratulated Senator O’ Reilly and wished her the very best of luck on her appointment as Senator, stating that she is sure that Senator O’ Reilly will do great work for the MD area and the whole County.

Cllr D Brady stated that on behalf of the SF Party he wished to congratulate Adrian on his co-option. He stated that he has known Adrian for a long time and wished him well with his work in the Bailieborough MD. He also offered his congratulations to Senator O’ Reilly.

Cllr N Smith offered his congratulations to Adrian stating that he is a fellow Knockbride man and looks forward to working with him in the Municipal District. He also congratulated Senator O’ Reilly.

Cllr B Fay congratulated both Cllr Rogers and Senator O’ Reilly and wished them both the best in the future.

Cllr T Smith offered his congratulations to both Cllr Rogers and Senator O’ Reilly on both their respective nominations.

Cllr Feeley wished Cllr Rogers and Senator O' Reilly well in the future stating that he is very fortunate to have Sarah's guidance as she was an excellent Councillor. He welcomed his parents and sister to the meeting.

Cllr SP O' Reilly congratulated Cllr Rogers stating that he has known him for a long time. He welcomed his family, stating that family will never be as important as he carries out this role as Councillor. He stated that all the Councillors are here to help each other, and we go out as a united front.

Cllr N Connell wished Cllr Rogers the best of luck in his new role.

Cllr Rogers stated that it is a proud day for both himself, Sarah and his family. He stated that he is honored to represent the Bailieborough- Cootehill MD and promised to be the voice for the people of the MD. He also thanked his proposer and seconder.

He stated that he has 3 goals

- To promote community engagement
- To support local business
- To work towards sustainable development of housing.

11. To set the date and time of the Annual Meeting of Cavan County Council.

It was agreed that the AGM would take place on Monday 9th June

Votes of Sympathy:

Sympathy was offered to the families of the following:

- Elaine McGinn employee of Cavan County Council and the extended Kennedy Family on the death of their father Mr Michael Kennedy
- The Smith Family, Oldcastle, Co Meath on the death of Mark Smith
- The family and extended family of Garda Kevin Flatley, Balbriggan, Co Dublin
- The Donohoe family on the death of Patrick Donohoe, Drumkeeran, Ballyhaise
- The Wynne family on the death of Mr Brian Wynne, Aughersakilly, Ballyconnell.
- Cllr SP O'Reilly and the extended McKeegan family on the death of his Aunt Patricia McKeegan, Tully Crescent, Cushendall, Co Antrim
- Michael Doyle and extended Doyle Family on the death of their mother Elizabeth Doyle, Newry, Co Down
- The Family and extended family of Mr Eddie O' Reilly, Corner House, Main Street, Virginia, Co Cavan.
- The Family of Pope Francis.

Cllr Feeley offered his condolence on the death of Pope Francis stating that it is important that we acknowledge his contribution, he had a strong advocacy for peace in the world and for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Cllr T Smith stated that Pope Francis was a global spiritual leader who held a special place in the hearts of many in Ireland. During his Papacy, he brought a message of compassion, humility, and justice – values that resonate strongly with our own community here in Cavan. His visit to Ireland in 2018, though brief, marked a

significant moment of reflection and healing for many. He wished Pope Leo XIV the best in his Papacy.

Cllr TP O Reilly stated that Pope Francis had a modest lifestyle, focussing on inequality and acknowledged his efforts on the improvement of the Church.

Mr Doyle expressed his condolence to the family of Pope Francis stating that he devoted his life of service to the Church. He then proceeded to welcome Pope Leo XIV to his new role stating that it is a highly important one coming at a time when there is a need for leadership in our world.

Cllr S P O'Reilly proposed that the meeting be adjourned until next month as a mark of respect to Pope Francis, stating that it was done in 2005 when Pope John Paul II passed away.

Cllr JP Feeley proposed that the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Pope.

It was agreed that the meeting would be adjourned for 15 minutes as a mark of respect to the late Pope Francis.

Vote of Congratulations:

- Billy Lord on being one of four finalists for this year's Irish Red Cross Young Humanitarian of the Year award
- Paul Brady on winning the 11th O'Neills.com All Ireland Singles Title
- Cllr B Fay congratulated the Council on the new agreement made between the Local Authorities and Irish Public Bodies Insurance resulting in Tidy Towns groups no longer having to pay for insurance.

MEMBERS' ITEMS DEFERRED FROM APRIL MEETING

12.1 Councillor Stiofán Conaty

Ag iarraidh ar Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin maoiniú a thabhairt do ghrúpaí pobail ar mhaithe le gineadóirí a cheannach agus molanna pobail a ollmhú faoi choinne tarlú adhaimsire / Asking Cavan County Council to allocate funding for community groups for the purpose of purchasing generators and kitting out community hubs for future severe weather events.

Cllr S Conaty asked the Executive if any funds had been allocated to community groups, and if not, if we could seek funds from elsewhere, for the purpose of allowing community groups to have the resources at hand in case of future severe weather events. Cllr Conaty stated that during Storm Eowyn, community groups and hubs became the saving grace for thousands of people in Cavan without electricity and phone services. He thanked them and commended their work and commended the emergency unit set up by Cavan County Council to coordinate and encourage these efforts during the storm. He stated that these groups are the backbone of our county and as we saw during the storm, they step up when required. He noted that these groups are already working at full capacity for their stated cause and often, they have just enough money and voluntary personnel to keep their heads above water. When Storm Eowyn hit, they did what needed to be done for the good of their neighbours, but not many had the generators required nor the funds necessary to adequately equip their community centres. Cllr S Conaty asked that the council look into either directly allocating funds to them or sourcing these funds for them. He stated by doing so it will allow us to enhance and increase the network of community hubs which sprung up

across the county during Storm Eowyn, to be prepared well in advance of future severe weather events.

Cllr D Brady supported the motion. He stated that if we can't provide the funding then maybe it should be looked for elsewhere. He stated that he attended a meeting in Corlough where some parts of the community were left without electricity or phone connection for some weeks after the storm due to fallen trees preventing access to lines. Cllr Brady noted that there is a windfarm in the Bawnboy/Ballyconnell area which provides funding to the local community and suggested that Coillte or the private forestry companies should be written to and asked to fund generators for these communities.

Cllr SP O Reilly supported the motion stating that the SPC should be looking at a funding model and suggested that this should be referred to the SPC to come up with a funding scheme.

Cllr JP Feeley stated that it is important to acknowledge the community groups who have already supplied generators, but national supports would be welcome.

Cllrs N Connell, B. Fay, T. Smith and C. Kelly supported the motion.

MEMBER'S ITEMS - MAY

12.2 Councillor Clifford Kelly

That Cavan County Council provide an update on the North South Interconnector.

Cllr Kelly enquired if there was any update since the last meeting or any meetings scheduled with ESB or Eirgrid to discuss this matter. He noted that they have the same problem in Wales and the people are taking their case to court to prevent the pylons from destroying their Country.

Mr. B. Jennings, Director of Service confirmed that there were no updates since the last meeting

12.3 Councillor Noel Connell

Issue with the humanitarian assistance scheme.

This item was cancelled.

12.4 Councillor Stiofán Conaty

Ag iarraidh ar Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin oifigí turasóireachta a oscailt ar an deireadh seachtaine / To ask Cavan County Council to consider opening our tourist information offices at weekends.

Cllr S Conaty asked that Cavan County Council consider opening the Tourist Information office at weekends, noting that he finds it very strange that the tourist office in the County town is closed on Saturdays. He stated that tourists are calling to the tourist office seeking information and are met with closed doors. He stated that they have made the effort of coming to Cavan, they have money to spend in Cavan, and we have so much to offer them across Cavan. He stated that Saturday is the day that they are going to come. He further added that Cavan Library have a temporary stand

where they give out tourist information which he believes is not enough. He stated that we have a great tourist office with knowledgeable staff which is bursting with information for tourists.

Cllr N Connell supported the motion.

Mr. B Jennings, Director of Service stated that the Council has invested heavily in online and social media presence, confirming that there is a lot of information online and that people will have online research done before they come to the County. He also pointed out that libraries, hotels and other venues are continuously being stocked with tourism information.

12.5 Councillor Áine Smith

Home Support Workers.

Cllr A Smith stated that Home Support is an extremely valuable part of our healthcare system. It was known in the past as home help and has expanded greatly over the last 15/20 years. She stated that it enables many people to remain in their own homes instead of going into nursing homes. He stated that in the past there were delays in getting such support in place for patients due to the lack of funding. Fortunately, there has been a big increase in the level of funding provided for this service but delays now occur in providing the home care due to lack of homecare workers. She stated that it is very regrettable that when home support is approved, there are often unacceptable delays in getting that support put in place for the patient which is due to the lack of workers for this role. She also noted that there has been pressure as well for years on nursing homes to recruit homecare assistants. She stated that the population is growing older and proper planning needs to be put in place to ensure that we have adequate people trained for all roles within the healthcare sector. Cllr A Smith stated that Cavan/Monaghan ETB, through Cavan Institute, has a Health Trainee Course and that placements are provided by a local Nursing Home as part of those students training. She stated that it would be practical for the HSE and the Department of Further and Higher Education through our Colleges to put in place suitable courses and have people trained in these skills. There should be far more direct recruitment by the HSE in filling these important positions she noted.

Cllr P Walsh supported the motion stating that people like to stay at home for as long as possible which makes a big difference to their lives.

Cllr JP Feeley supported the motion stating that home support relief is scarce and even if the hours were approved, there are not enough staff to fill all the hours.

Cllrs D Brady, T Smith, C Brady, W Bennett and SP O' Reilly supported the motion.

12.6 Councillor T.P. O'Reilly

That Cavan County Council request the Minister for Housing to make amendments to the current Croí Cónaithe grant scheme.

Cllr TP O' Reilly stated that he would like, between now and the next meeting, to gather amendments to the Croí Cónaithe grant scheme and put forward these amendments collectively to the Minister.

He stated that one of his own proposed amendments is that if someone has an old dwelling and builds a new dwelling on the footprint that this should be exempt from planning. He also suggested that anyone availing of the Croí Cónaithe grant should have to ensure the bathroom is accessible.

Cllr C Kelly supported the motion as did Cllr S Conaty who suggested that the 13 months for the work to be completed under this scheme is too short.

Cllr SP O Reilly supported the motion suggesting that payments should be made in stages and there is a problem with getting workmen thus the 13 months is too short.

Cllrs B Fay, T Smith, A Smith, P Brady, V Smith, W Bennett, N Brady supported the motion.

It was agreed that they would collectively send the suggested amendments to the relevant Minister.

12.7 Councillor Stiofán Conaty

An gá le reachtaíocht a chur i bhfeidhm chun tairgí HHC a rialú / The need to enact legislation to regulate the sale of HHC products.

I am calling for the government to explore the regulation of HHC products. HHC is a synthetic version of the active chemical in the naturally occurring cannabis plant, THC, and there has been little to no research done on its long or short-term effects. Anecdotal evidence tells us that, in some people prone to mental health difficulties, it can induce psychosis. It is being sold in every vape shop in Ireland and it is available to anyone over the age of 18.

Cllr S Conaty asked if the relevant Minister could be written to asking them to explore the regulation of HHC, with a view to evaluating it, or some version of it, to see if it can be made safe. He stated that there is little point in adding it to the list of banned substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act, because those producing it will simply alter the chemical arrangement to avoid the legislation. He stated that the reason that HHC is so prevalent is that the demand for actual, natural cannabis is huge and that outright criminalisation of cannabis was a mistake. He stated that unlike this new synthetic version, cannabis in its original form can give relief to those with chronic pain or illness.

He stated that he is encouraged to learn that Fianna Fáil has now adopted a similar position and has seen that there are many benefits to liberalising the laws around cannabis. He stated that HHC is dangerous, and it exists only to fill a niche in the market brought about by the criminalisation of the far safer, natural form of the plant.

Cllr P Walsh supported the motion stating that vape shops should be banned, people as young as 13 are using vapes and they should not be sold to people underage.

Cllr SP O Reilly supported the motion. He stated that he has seen people getting cannabis for relief; good people who deal with unscrupulous people to obtain it. He stated that there should be a middle ground, the HSE need to do something, what is in vapes are words never heard of before and if you google them the ingredients are equivalent to rat poison.

Cllr B Fay and Cllr TP O Reilly supported the motion.

12.8 Councillor T.P. O'Reilly

That Cavan County Council examine the possibility of erecting safety signage at lakes in the county.

Cllr T.P. O' Reilly asked the council to look at the possibility of erecting safety signage at the lakes in the county stating that the good weather brings a lot of swimmers. He stated that there are pockets in lakes that are not safe and that in his view no lake is safe.

Cllr T Smith supported the motion, He stated that the Killian's campaign was launched following the drowning of Killian Casey in Lough Sheelin where his friends as part of a Transition Year project got signs erected at local lakes with the help of Director of Service, Paddy Connaughton.

Cllr D Brady supported the motion stating that this is a very worthy motion following the recent tragedy in Donegal.

Cllr P Brady supported the motion stating that every lake should be deemed dangerous and to talk to people with local knowledge to see where signs are needed.

Mr. P Connaughton, Director of Service stated that Cavan County Council organise water safety training. He stated that the Council does not have any designated water safety areas in Cavan and the area has very limited resources. He stated that if people have specific areas in mind, then they can be looked at.

12.9 Councillor Damien Brady

Cavan County Council support the call to reinstate the cross-border health care scheme.

Cllr D Brady stated that the cross-border scheme was suspended due to a lack of funding. He noted that there are waiting lists on both sides of the border and pointed out that patient's outcomes can be different the sooner they are treated. He stated that the scheme allows patients to travel to the north for procedures and vice versa. Cllr D Brady requested that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health asking for the Cross Border scheme to be reinstated.

Cllr Feeley pointed out that the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme is reimbursed by the HSE. This scheme is a scheme to get planned healthcare in a private healthcare service in Northern Ireland. He noted that there are many people on waiting lists who could avail of this scheme.

Cllr S Conaty supported the motion stating that more awareness is needed on the scheme.

12.10 Councillor Niall Smith

To ask if there are any contingency road repair funds which could be divided among the Municipal Districts to allow for large road repairs at dangerous junctions to be completed as costings have been carried out by the MD area, but they find they cannot fund the repair due to lack of funds available, so these repairs have to be left undone.

Cllr Smith stated that there are costs prepared for larger road repair jobs and dangerous junctions and asked if there is any money available to cover these works.

Mr. Connaughton stated that Cavan County Council allocated €1 million from its own resources to the 2025 roads works programme, and as part of this €30,000 was allocated to each Municipal District to cover road safety schemes. He also noted that there is no other contingency in place for other works outside the road works programme.

12.11 Councillor Shane P. O'Reilly

To request Bord Failte, Department of Tourism and Department of Finance to put a package of measures in place to encourage those in IPAS contracts to return premises to visitor use, and to encourage new B&B units to market.

Cllr SP O Reilly requested that Cavan County Council write to Bord Fáilte, the Department of Tourism and the Department of Finance to put a package of measures in place to encourage new B&B units to the market. He stated that we have left our own villages and towns without hotels and B&B's as they have been repurposed to accommodate an influx of IPAS. He stated that tourism particularly fishermen brought in a cash injection to the rural community. He stated that Virginia the gateway to our county is without a hotel, similarly Kingscourt has no hotel. He stated that a package of measures is needed to put in place the return of these premises to use. If we don't support the tourism sector, we won't have it, he noted.

Cllr C Kelly supported the motion saying that the loss of the hotel for the public use in Kingscourt has had a very damaging effect on the town. He also stated that we need to try and encourage more people into the B&B sector.

Cllr S Conaty agreed with the motion stating that IPAS centers should be purpose built and publicly owned. He stated that people should have been placed in urban centers where there are available services amongst other criteria.

Cllr B Fay remarked that the town of Belturbet would have had 12 or 13 B&B's previously, we are now sending visitors to other counties, and the area is losing out.

Cllr T Smith supported the motion but stated that many hoteliers say that renting kept the doors open.

Cllr TP O Reilly stated that there is need to cut red tape and allow seasonal B&Bs to operate while the need or demand is there.

12.12 Councillor Shane P. O'Reilly

That in light of the recent announcement by the Department of Housing for the need for Local Authorities to review and extend their zoned lands in the County, that we view lands available immediately and engage in public discourse as to not delay our own county's best interests.

Cllr SP O' Reilly stated that in light of the recent announcement from the Department asking each Local Authority to reopen Co. Development Plans and to review and extend zoned lands for housing developments that we view lands available immediately and engage in public discourse as to not delay our own County's best interests. He noted that it's not that long since the Local Authority went through the development plan process and praised the work carried out on the plan as there was not one recommendation from the planning regulator. On the current rezoning request, he stated that those who produce good rapid plans are those who will receive funding, however he also stated that we must be mindful that we are not burdening landowners with tax.

Cllr's N Smith, C Kelly and B Fay supported the motion.

Cllr TP O' Reilly stated that there was a lot of work done on the County Development Plan, which was to be in place for five years. He stated that the problems are on the ground and that we need the utility companies to be more proactive. Builders can't build homes because it is too expensive.

Cllr P Walsh asked is the infrastructure in place to cater for the land rezoning.

Mr. B. Jennings, Director of Service stated that the timeframe of 6 months poses significant challenges, however he said that the Local Authority will look to zone additional land. He also noted that zoned lands don't necessarily translate into homes. Residential tax has led to problems leading people to looking into getting lands rezoned. Despite the challenges, Mr. Jennings stated that the Local Authority will take directions from the Minister.

12.13 Councillor Shane P. O'Reilly

To request the Minister for Social Protection, Mr. Dara Calleary T.D. to urgently reintroduce the payment of Death Benefit to families and to also close the anomaly regarding the payment of 6 weeks social welfare payments following death to spouses only.

Cllr SP O' Reilly requested that the Minister for Social Protection be written to requesting that the Death Benefit be reinstated. He stated that the death benefit of €850 was suspended during the financial crisis and has not been paid since the 1st January 2014, noting that this was a substantial help towards the cost of a funeral. Regarding the social welfare 6-week payment to spouses, Cllr SP O Reilly requested that the payment be extended to cover the next of kin in the event there is no spouse. He stated that if the spouse is not alive or if the person is separated or divorced, it means that the payment is not passed down to the next of kin.

Cllrs B Fay and TP O' Reilly supported the motion.

12.14 Councillor John Paul Feeley

That Cavan County Council call on renewable energy companies to make curtailed or wasted renewable energy available to support households experiencing energy poverty or for community use and that in amending the County Development Plan that we make compliance with this objective a condition of any grant of planning.

Deferred.

12.15 Councillor John Paul Feeley

In light of the decision of the Orange County, California and other regions to implement a moratorium on BESS facilities and other new restrictions, that Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Local Government to implement a regulatory framework for such facilities in Ireland.

Deferred.

12.16 Councillor Áine Smith

CRPS awareness.

Cllr A Smith stated that Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), is one of the most painful chronic conditions known to medicine, yet many have never heard of it. Raising awareness about CRPS is vital, not only to support those who live with the condition but also to push for earlier diagnoses, better treatment options, and more comprehensive research. She stated that CRPS is a chronic pain condition that typically affects a limb after an injury or surgery. What sets it apart is the intensity and persistence of the pain, which is often disproportionate to the original injury, over time the condition can spread and become debilitating. She stated that she has been asked by sufferers of CPRS to not only raise awareness but to ask that Ireland take part in the European Disability Card scheme. At present, Ireland does not yet participate in the European Disability Card scheme. However, in 2023, the European Commission proposed a mandatory EU-wide Disability Card, and discussions are ongoing to expand the card across all EU member states in the coming years. The European Disability Card is a standardised card intended to promote the recognition of disability status across EU countries, making it easier for people with disabilities to access certain services, benefits, or concessions when travelling or living in another EU country. Cllr A Smith called on the Minister for Health to raise more awareness regarding this chronic disease and called on the Minister for Children and Disabilities to ensure that Ireland participates in the European Disability card scheme.

Cllr Shane P O' Reilly supported the motion stating that there is still no review on the long-term illness scheme.

Cllr P Walsh and Cllr C Kelly both supported the motion

12.17 Councillor Noel Connell

To ask Cavan County Council to replicate a recent initiative by other local authorities in producing a 'Personal and Community Resilience Booklet' and distributing it to every home and business across the county.

Cllr N Connell stated that he has put this motion on the council agenda asking Cavan County Council to duplicate what has been done in a lot of counties such as

Monaghan, Galway, Roscommon, etc. He stated that the Pamphlet is called Personal Community Resilience, which is a practical guide designed to empower every household in our County to prepare for, respond to and support one another during times of crisis. He stated that in recent years, we have seen severe weather, unexpected emergencies and other challenges can disrupt daily life. This booklet is about equipping people with the knowledge and the tools to take proactive steps, whether that's preparation for extreme weather events, administering CPR or securing their homes and families, and that vulnerable members of our community are prepared for the unexpected. This pamphlet can be viewed online. He stated that this initiative can work if Cavan County Council, the HSE, Garda Síochána, Emergency Responders and Community Groups get together to ensure no one is left unprepared or uninformed.

Cllr S Conaty supported the motion stating that he would like to see Cavan County Council developing this. He stated that Monaghan County Council were the pioneers of this. He also recommended that the document be available in Irish.

Cllr D Brady and P Walsh supported the motion.

Ms. M McNally stated that they are working from the template and will come back with the draft document.

12.18 Councillor Noel Connell

Concerns over recent changes by Government to the criteria of the Tenant-In-Situ Scheme, and the impact these changes may have on homelessness in County Cavan.

Cllr N Connell asked that the Department of Housing be written to requesting the reinstatement of the same level of funding received in 2024 for the Tenant-In-Situ Scheme. He noted that in 2024, Cavan County Council was allocated € 3.2 million in funding for acquisitions which resulted in 15 acquisitions, of which 7 were tenants in situ, compared to in 2025 the Council received 2 million which is a 38% cut which resulted in 9 acquisitions in 2025.

Cllr Conaty supported the motion stating that the 38% reduction is unacceptable especially with more homeless presentations.

AOB

Cllr SP O' Reilly congratulated and wished M McNally the best in her recent appointment as Head of Finance and thanked her for the work she has been doing.

Cllr TP O' Reilly wished Cllr Conaty the very best as he is getting married on Friday.

Cllr D Brady wished Cllr Conaty and his future wife Caroline a long and happy life together.

Meeting concluded at 5.00 pm