

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 10th November 2025 at 12 noon.

Councillor J.P. Feeley, Cathaoirleach, presiding

PRESENT: Councillors W. Bennett, C. Brady, D. Brady, N. Brady, P. Brady, S. Conaty, N. Connell, B. Fay, C. Kelly, S.P. O'Reilly, T.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
C. McEntee, Financial Management Accountant
D. Gilchrist, Meetings Administrator
E. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer.

Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed all to the meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 13th October 2025. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 13th Mí Deireadh Fómhair 2025 a dhearbhu.

It was

Proposed by Councillor T.P. O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 13th October 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 14th July 2025.

Noted.

4. To hear presentation from Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan, AILG President 2025/2026.

Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon, past President of the AILG and Ms. Elaine Lynch, Communications and Meetings Officer, AILG to the meeting. Councillor O'Hanlon thanked the members for accepting AILG's invitation to address the meeting. Councillor O'Hanlon stated that the goal of AILG is to ensure Councillors they have the authority, resources and respect needed to perform their roles effectively. He noted that the AILG represents over 950 elected members across 31 local authorities. He stated that the

AILG's mission is simple – to support and empower Councillors by promoting local democracy and presenting the interests of elected members nationally and internationally. Ms. Elaine Lynch gave a detailed presentation to the members and noted that the AILG receives a small subscription from each of the 31 Local Authorities which helps the AILG fund training programmes, policy and research initiatives. Ms. Lynch noted that the AILG is about delivering results and stated that through sustained advocacy, the AILG has secured significant improvements in Councillors pay and non-pay supports – increasing the salary of members by 40%. She stated that the elected members training programme has grown from strength to strength over the past number of years. Ms. Lynch stated that AILG has done a huge amount of cross border collaboration with their counterparts the NILGA on All Island basis working most recently on areas such as threats and harassment, promoting civility in public life, promotion of Councils and role of Councillors/Local Government Innovations. Ms. Lynch stated that a stronger AILG depends on the engagement of Councillors by attending training and development events, engaging via plenary delegates, responding to member consultations, network with peers at AILG events and read the AILG's bulleting and follow AILG online.

The members in turn thanked Ms. Lynch for her presentation. Councillor J.P. Feeley thanked Ms. Elaine Lynch, Mr. Tommy Moylan and Mr. Liam Kenny for all the work they do on AILG. Councillor Feeley wished Mr. Liam Kenny, Director well in his retirement.

Note Members' Reports from Conferences/Training events

- 5. 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:

- 6.(a) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for State for Sport and Postal Policy in relation to state support for the Post Office network.**

Noted.

- (b) To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Health regarding asthma.**

Noted.

- (c) To note reply from Uisce Éireann regarding the upgrading of water and wastewater systems in towns and villages throughout Cavan and new connection timelines.**

Noted.

- (d) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage in relation to the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme.**

Noted.

- (e) **To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Transport regarding Ryanair's proposal for paperless check-in.**

Noted.

- (f) **To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport regarding fees charged by certain satellite television broadcasters.**

Noted.

- (g) **To note reply from the Office of the Minister for Education and Youth in relation to pay parity for school secretaries and caretakers.**

Noted.

- 7. To approve the attendance of members at AILG Training Seminar to be held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone on 15th November.**

It was

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And Resolved

"that the attendance of Councillors J.P. Feeley, P. Walsh, Á. Smith, C. Kelly, N. Smith, C. Brady, N. Brady, T.P. O'Reilly, W. Bennett, V. Smith, T. Smith, S.P. O'Reilly and A. Rogers at the AILG Training Seminar to be held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone on 15th November be hereby approved".

8. Member's Question / Ceist – Councillor Noel Connell

To ask Cavan County Council for a list of the housing estates that have been taken in charge in the Ballyjamesduff local Electoral area.

A reply issued to Councillor N. Connell prior to the meeting.

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

Chun uasdatú a lor gar líon na ndaoine, páistí agus teaghlaigh gan dídean a chuaigh os comhair Comhairle Contae na Chabháin go dtí seo i 2025, agus na figiúirí sin a chuir i gcomparáid le 2024 / To ask for an update on the numbers of individuals, children and families who presented as homeless to Cavan County Council so far in 2025, and how this compares to 2024 figures.

A reply issued to Councillor S. Conaty prior to the meeting.

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

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

Noted.

11. To approve the lease (for a period of 25 years) of lands containing 0.595 hectares or 1.459 acres in the townland of Kilmore, Virginia Road, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan to Ballyjamesduff Community Council Limited for the nominal fee of €50 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 T. Smith

Seconded by Councillor S.P. O'Reilly

And

Resolved;

“that the lease (for a period of 25 years) of lands containing 0.595 hectares or 1.459 acres in the townland of Kilmore, Virginia Road, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan to Ballyjamesduff Community Council Limited for the nominal fee of €50 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”.

12. To fix date, time and venue for December monthly meeting.

It was

Proposed by Councillor A. Rogers

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that the holding of the December monthly in The Resource Centre, Dowra on Monday 8th December, 2025 be hereby approved”.

Votes of Congratulations

- Shercock Tidy Towns on winning the overall Gum Litter Taskforce Award Prize.
- Templeport Minor Football Team on winning the division 3 final and Sam Maguire on receiving the man of the match award.
- Kingspan Breffni on winning the Pride of Place award in “Inclusive Communities” at the Pride of Place awards in Limerick.
- Mr. Michael D. Higgins on his final day as President of Ireland after fourteen years in office.
- Ms. Catherine Connolly on being elected 10th President of Ireland.
- The Cavan Centre, Kilnacrott on being named the Youth Award winner at the 2025 National Lottery Good Causes Awards. This award recognises the centre’s outstanding work in supporting and empowering young people.

- The Smart Towns and Villages Project launched at Cavan Digital Hub, backed by the PEACEPLUS programme which aims to modernise and future proof communities across the Central Border Region. An investment of €3.2 million was launched to transform rural towns and villages. The project is led by ICBAN. Ms. Caroline Brady, Town Regeneration Officer was commended for her help.
- The Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Mr. Dara Calleary on the announcement of €500,000 in funding to support investment in recreational facilities in Kingscourt.
- Cavan County Council, along with its project partners in securing a further €15m in funding for the Cavan Regional Sports Campus, through PEACEPLUS.
- Ms. Heather Humphreys on contesting the Presidential Election and doing the Cavan Monaghan Constituency proud.
- Mr. Jim Gavin for putting his name forward to contest the Presidential Election.

Vote of Sympathy:

- Mr. Conor Craven, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office on the death of his father Mr. Risteard Ó Craoibhín, Co. Cork.
- Mr. Kevin O'Neill, Water Services Caretaker on the death of his father Mr. Oliver O'Neill, Redhills.

MEMBERS' ITEMS – DEFERRED FROM OCTOBER MEETING

13.1 That the NCSE review and change the new guidelines for SNAs set out for 2025/2026 year.

Withdrawn.

MEMBERS' ITEMS – NOVEMBER MEETING

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

Cllr Kelly asked the Executive if there were any meetings or site visits with Eirgrid since the last Council meeting. Mr Jennings stated that there had been no meetings or site visits since the October Council meeting and there has been no notification of when the next meeting will be held.

It was proposed by Councillor N. Smith and seconded by Councillor C. Brady that the members break for lunch at 1pm and return at 1.30pm.

13.3 That Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Justice to allocate more Garda to our county in light of the recent revelation of crime rates in our county.

Councillor D. Brady noted that crime rates are on the rise in County Cavan and throughout the Country. Councillor Brady stated that the large number of applications to

join the Gardaí is not resulting in any significant increase in Garda numbers throughout our communities. Councillor Brady noted that in the first seven to eight months of 2025, there was a net increase of just 178 Gardaí in the State. He stated that the issue is not getting people to apply to join An Garda Síochána, it is getting increased numbers into training and ensuring measures are in place to retain current members. Councillor Brady stated that the adequacy of the Garda training allowance needs to be looked at particularly as more people over the age of thirty apply to join. Councillor Brady stated that the current allowance is not adequate particularly if trying to commit to childcare, rents or mortgages. Councillor Brady stated that the current allowance should be increased from €354 to €579.15 per week equivalent to minimum wage. Councillor Brady proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Justice to allocate more Gardaí to our county in light of the recent revelation of crime rates in our county. Councillor P. Walsh seconded Councillor D. Brady's proposal. Councillor Walsh stated that more community gardaí are needed in towns and villages to converse with locals. Councillor Walsh stated that the gardaí are doing their best with the resources they have but unfortunately drugs are becoming a serious issue throughout our County. Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and noted that morale among gardaí is at an all time low as they feel they are getting no support from higher up. Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and expressed her disappointment at the fact that Minister Jim O'Callaghan T.D. was in County Cavan recently and Councillors got no invitation to attend. Councillors T. Smith and S.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

13.4 That Cavan County Council request the Minister for Health and the HSE to engage in a full review of protocols regarding miscarriage and infant mortality procedures.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health and the HSE asking that they engage in a full review of protocols regarding miscarriage and infant mortality. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that new reforms are needed that guarantee paid leave for miscarriages before twenty-four weeks as currently they must take sick leave and anyone over twenty-six weeks is allowed maternity leave. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly noted that on a national level, the Pregnancy Loss (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2025 – currently making its way through the Oireachtas proposes five days leave for women, two and a half days for partners and the creation of a voluntary, confidential pregnancy-loss register. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that the campaign is both personal and urgent. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that as a Funeral Undertaker he wanted to compliment the staff at Cavan General Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda for the exemplary compassion and professionalism

shown by them to parents. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly was of the opinion that GPs are often left to support families without the specialist resources such trauma requires. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that the State's support still lacks reality, and every single life is precious. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that the bereavement grant has been taken away and asked that the Department of Social Protection re-instate this grant. Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion noting the emotional effect it can have on couples especially those already grappling with infertility. Councillor Smith stated that the term sick leave is insulting. Councillor Smith praised the incredible work of Féileacáin, the national charity supporting families affected by pregnancy and infant loss. Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and noted that there is not enough support out there for women. Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and described parenthood as a privilege many hold dear and one that makes the pain of loss even more acute.

13.5 To request a briefing or delegation on latest information on progress or lack thereof with regards to the National Children's Hospital.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Chief Executive Officer of the National Children's Hospital requesting a briefing or delegation on the latest information on progress or lack thereof with regards to the National Children's Hospital. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly described the situation as an absolute farce of the highest order and stated that there have been forty-three delays to the project. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly stated that the delays have gone beyond public answer, and it is ridiculous and nonsensical what is happening. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly noted that in 2019 the Chief Executive Officer addressed the members in the Council Chamber and gave a commitment that the members would be issued with up-to-date progress reports. Councillor O'Reilly stated that six years have passed and no update was ever received. Councillor S. Conaty seconded Councillor S.P. O'Reilly's proposal.

13.6 That in line with European Commission concessions given to Poland, that Ireland also suspends any new IPAS applicants' entry to the country due to current accommodation unavailability.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly welcomed the Government's recent decision to limit State accommodation for new arrivals from Ukraine to thirty days. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly referred to the European Commission's decision to allow Poland to temporarily suspend the right to apply for international protection for migrants arriving from neighbouring Belarus. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Government to go further by suspending the entry of new IPAS applicants to the Country

due to the current accommodation unavailability. Councillor O'Reilly stated that if we do not have availability of accommodation then we cannot take people in.

Councillor B. Fay seconded Councillor S.P. O'Reilly's proposal.

Councillor T. Smith supported the motion and noted that 88% of new arrivals are entering the Country from the North.

Councillor N. O'Connell supported the motion and stated that we do not currently have the services needed to accommodate these people.

13.7 Ag iarraidh ar an Aire Sláinte agus ar Fheidhmeannach na Seirbhísí Sláinte freastal a dhéanamh orthu siúd a bhíonn ag vapáil agus arm haith leo úsáid a bhaint as seirbhísí scoir den tobac / To call on the Minister for Health and the Health Service Executive to allow those who vape to avail of local smoking cessation services.

Councillor S. Conaty proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health and the Health Service Executive asking that those who vape be allowed to avail of local smoking cessation services. Councillor Conaty praised the programmes being run by the HSE in helping people to kick the habit of smoking but noted that most people who vape or use tobacco free oral pouches are doing so as a replacement for cigarettes. He stated that disposable vapes are a problem but refillable e-liquids and reusable vapes have helped many people in Ireland quit smoking. He stated that smoking cessation services should be able to support them and provide nicotine replacements. Councillor Conaty stated that he was disappointed to see that the Government in their recent budget heavily taxed refillable e-liquids while making little progress on banning disposable vapes.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and noted that many use vapes to ease the transition but wondered if vapes might now be even worse than cigarettes.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion and noted that there is a generation of young people addicted to vaping.

Councillor B. Fay supported the motion and noted that the issue has been discussed at the Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum.

Councillor C. Brady highlighted the problem of disposable vapes and noted that there is a need for high tax on refillable options as a disincentive.

13.8 I solas eolais nua-foilsithe sna meáin chumarsáide náisiúnta, chun ceist a chur ar Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin cad chuige nár úsáideadh cumhachtaí ceannaithe riachtanacha chun láitreán tréigthe ar both a shealbhú le linn 2024 / In light of information published in the national media recently, to ask why Cavan

County Council did not use compulsory purchase powers to acquire any derelict sites during 2024 through CPO.

Withdrawn.

13.9 To request an increase in funding allocated for social housing repairs and maintenance from the Department of Housing.

Withdrawn.

13.10 Ag iarraidh at Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin cruinnithe míosúla a bheoshruthú / Calling on Cavan County Council to livestream monthly meetings.

Councillor S. Conaty called on Cavan County Council to livestream monthly meetings. Councillor Conaty stated that he could see no reason why Council meetings could not be broadcast on social media channels and the Council's own website. He stated that the broadcasts should also be available to play back for anyone who might miss the livestream. He stated that it is past time that voters who put elected members in the Chamber should have a chance to see first-hand the work that is being done. Councillor Conaty thanked The Anglo Celt and Northern Sound for attending meetings and providing extensive coverage but said media landscape has shifted significantly and people expect access to the public working of government, be that national or local. Councillor Conaty noted that this is already standard practice in many other counties and councils, north and south and it is time Cavan caught up.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the live streaming of meeting had been discussed at a recent Corporate Policy Group meeting, and a decision had been taken by the Council Executive to explore matters further. Councillor Feeley stated that it was not as simple as switching on cameras, there was a cost and management issue too that had to be dealt with,

13.11 That this Council calls on the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to immediately conduct a full and independent review into the operations, accountability and performance of Tusla – the Child and Family Agency, in light of ongoing and widespread concerns from families, service users, and professionals regarding its effectiveness, transparency and decision-making processes.

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Ms. Norma Foley T.D. to immediately conduct a full and independent review into the operations, accountability and performance of Tusla – the Child and Family Agency, in light of ongoing and widespread concerns from families, service users and professionals regarding its effectiveness, transparency and decision-making processes. Councillor Fay acknowledged that Tusla's frontline staff are

doing their best, but the system itself is breaking under pressure. He stated that it is under resourced, understaffed and over stretched. He stated that the current system is failing to protect vulnerable children and families effectively. Councillor Fay stated that in 2024 Tusla handled a record 96,660 referrals to its Child Protection and Welfare services reflecting a dramatic increase in demands. He stated that reports across the nation have flagged serious issues, including family abuse and neglect, emotional, physical and sexual. He stated that concerns have been raised about children being lost in the system due to breakdown in communication between schools and Tusla.

Councillor Fay stated that under current procedures, if a child transfers to a new school with Tusla being notified by the previous institution there is no mechanism to track the child's welfare, leaving them unprotected in a very broken system. Councillor Fay asked for a comprehensive national review of Tusla's leadership, staffing levels and operational systems along with an immediate increase in funding, staffing and specialist supports for children and families particularly in rural areas such as Cavan.

Councillor S. Conaty seconded Councillor B. Fay's proposal and noted that people currently have very little confidence in how Tusla is being run or what it represents.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and noted that there are issues with the current system and stated that important decisions impacting services locally are made at national level.

13.12 That this Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications to review and strengthen the rules governing forestry planting along public roads and under or near power lines, particularly in West Cavan and neighbouring County Leitrim, where roadside and powerline forestry has become a serious safety and maintenance concern.

Councillor B. Fay proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications to review and strengthen the rules governing forestry planting along public roads and under or near power lines, particularly in West Cavan and neighbouring County Leitrim where roadside and powerline forestry has become a serious safety and maintenance concern. Councillor Fay stated that he and other Councillors from West Cavan recently attended a public meeting in Kildallan Community Centre to highlight how national forestry policy disproportionately affects counties like Leitrim with over 20% forest cover and Cavan at over 10%. Councillor Fay stated that the mass purchase of agricultural land for commercial forestry often by non-local or investment-focused entities is driving up land prices, displacing farming families, closing local schools and eroding Irish culture and community life. Councillor Fay criticised existing forestry and planning

regulations including the Forestry Act 2014 for failing to mandate protective setbacks and ongoing maintenance standards. Councillor Fay proposed restructuring afforestation grants to prioritise genuine farm forestry and local ownership, restricting large scale purchases by non-local investors, and introducing mandatory Social Impact Assessments for all forestry licences over five hectares. Councillor Fay asked for legislation to be introduced to protect infrastructure and public safety, including legally mandated 20m safety corridors around overhead lines, financial bonds to cover road damage, annual roadside tree and hedge maintenance and restrictions on large scale planting until these measures are enacted.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion and stated that investment companies are increasingly forcing locals out of the land market. Councillor Smith stated that the planting of forests is never going to stop but it should be done responsibly.

Councillor D. Brady supported the motion and stated that he is not opposed to forestry but warned that dumping all in West Cavan is unsuitable. Councillor Brady also called for a review on national policy particularly setback distances.

Councillors T. Smith and P. Walsh supported the motion.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and acknowledged the work of Save Leitrim group and stated that the challenges facing affected communities are long standing, having been raised for generations. Councillor Feeley noted that the “Right Tree, Right Place” policy is a step towards addressing past problems but pointed out that existing policies have not prevented issues such as trees falling on to roads and power lines, causing blackouts. Councillor Feeley stated that extensive forestry is also impacting on tourism stating that visitors do not want to see a monoculture of Sitka Spruce and stated that the Council’s planning department should have greater autonomy to assess forestry applications. Councillor Feeley stated that he has no issue with locals who own forestry and stated that investors from areas such as Golden Vale in the South should not be allowed to snap up land for planting.

13.13 To request the HSE to reinstate the Community Welfare beds in Monaghan Hospital.

Councillor T.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the HSE asking that Community Welfare beds be reinstated in Monaghan Hospital. Councillor T.P. O’Reilly stated that there is a need for such facilities for many under the age of sixty-five, particularly those living with neurological disorders such as multiple sclerosis.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded Councillor T.P. O’Reilly’s proposal.

13.14 To discuss the need to restore some In-Person Public Services.

Councillor Á. Smith stated that in recent years, Ireland has made significant moves towards digitising public services from online welfare applications to virtual appointments. Councillor Smith stated that while modernisation can bring efficiency, it has also created serious accessibility and human connection issues that can no longer be ignored. Councillor Smith stated that not everyone in Ireland has easy access to digital services, particularly the elderly, people with disabilities and those in rural areas who struggle with limited broadband access, digital literacy or technology affordability. Councillor Smith stated that for these people, an online only or phone-based welfare system is not convenient as it excludes people. These people need face to face, to help navigate complex forms, documentation and appeals processes. She stated that if somebody receives a letter from the hospital to see if they want to remain on a waiting list, the person now needs to scan a QR code to say they want to and if they do not respond they can be left off the list. Councillor Smith stated that social welfare is not just about money it is about dignity, empathy and understanding. She stated that a face-to-face meeting with a welfare officer can make all the difference for someone in distress. Councillor Smith stated that in-person officers can pick up on non-verbal cues, identify additional needs such as mental health support, and connect people with appropriate local resources. Councillor Smith stated that during emergencies, such as domestic violence situations, homelessness, or sudden job loss, people often need immediate in-person help. Councillor Smith stated that Ireland's move towards digital efficiency should never come at the cost of compassion or accessibility and stated that Ireland must invest in more in-person social welfare officers and offices to ensure that every citizen, not just the tech-savvy has fair and equal access to support. Councillor Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to relevant Departments in relation to same. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and stated that people are being met constantly with screens. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health asking that Community Welfare Officers be placed in towns and villages to help people to be guided in the right direction and answer queries they may have.

Councillors T.P. O'Reilly and B. Fay supported the motion.

Councillor J.P. Feeley endorsed all that was said and called on the Central Bank to engage with their regulated bodies.

13.15 To discuss parking proposals in Cavan Town.

Councillor Á. Smith asked the Executive of Cavan County Council for an update on parking bye-laws in Cavan Town, when the consultation process will take place and parking plans for Christmas in the town.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated free parking will return to Cavan town during the Christmas period and dates will be finalised after the Council meet with the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Connaughton stated that the bye-laws are currently at draft stage and will be brought to the Municipal District in mid-January. He stated that it is hoped to bring the draft bye-laws for public consultation in March or April with a possibility of commencing the bye-laws on the 1st July 2026.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion.

13.16 To request the OPW to provide more funding for drainage and flood relief works.

Councillor Á. Smith stated that in recent years many communities across Cavan and across Ireland have suffered repeated flooding, causing serious damage to homes, roads, farms and local businesses. Councillor Smith stated that heavy rainfall and changing weather patterns have made flooding more frequent and severe. Councillor Smith noted that local authorities and landowners are doing their best with limited resources, but existing drainage systems are often outdated or poorly maintained. Councillor Smith stated that drains and gulleys need regular cleaning and upgrading to prevent flooding, but unfortunately local authorities do not have the required funding to do this. Councillor Smith noted that the Office of Public Works (OPW) is responsible for national flood management and proposed that Cavan County Council write to Minister Kevin Moran, Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform with responsibility for the Office of Public Works asking that funding be increased for regular drainage maintenance and cleaning, upgrading of old drainage infrastructure, local flood relief schemes and emergency response supports and long-term flood prevention planning in vulnerable areas. Councillor Smith stated that this funding is vital to protect people's homes, farmland and livelihoods. Councillor Smith stated that small flood relief schemes need to be more accessible for local authorities. Councillor D. Brady supported the motion and noted in the past money was allocated to Ballyconnell/Ballinamore drainage committee to clean rivers.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and asked if there was a separate funding scheme from the Department regarding flood relief.

Councillors W. Bennett, B. Fay and P. Walsh supported the motion.

Councillor J.P. Feeley endorsed all that was said and noted that there are issues with flooding in Dowra and Swanlinbar.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service stated that the Office of Public Works fund the minor flood relief scheme which deals with properties not roads. He stated that the Department of Transport look after flood relief for roads and noted that more funding for flooding would be welcome.

13.17 That Cavan County Council ask the operators of Eircode to extend the allocation of codes to other properties and locations to assist the emergency services.

Councillor J.P. Feeley called on Cavan County Council to ask the operators of Eircode to extend the allocation of codes to other properties and locations to assist the emergency services. Councillor J.P. Feeley referred to a tragic event earlier in the year where a life was lost on Cuilcagh Mountain. Councillor Feeley stated that the incident occurred on the Cavan side of the mountain when the man became unwell and noted that the response was hindered not only by the difficult terrain, but also by the challenge of pinpointing his exact location, delaying emergency services including the Northwest Mountain Rescue Team. He stated that emergency services had great difficulty in locating the person. Councillor Feeley suggested that the operator of Eircodes allocate Eircodes to other spots such as a telephone masts or the carpark. He stated that this would be a game changer when locating incidences.

Councillor Á. Smith supported the motion.

Councillor D. Brady supported the motion and stated that the farmers in the area did great work in getting the emergency services to the top of the mountain. Councillor Brady noted that there was a lot of confusion regarding whether the man was located north or south of the border.

Councillors T. Smith, P. Walsh and B. Fay supported the motion.

13.18 That Cavan County Council include allocation points in the housing allocation scheme for those who were resident in residential care and Irish emigrants returning from abroad.

Councillor J.P. Feeley asked that Cavan County Council include allocation points in the housing allocation scheme for those who were resident in residential care and Irish emigrants returning from abroad. Councillor Feeley stated that there are many elderly people living abroad in declining health who wish to return home. Councillor Feeley stated that the Housing agencies are pro-active in bringing people home. Councillor Feeley stated that many of these people faced great challenges throughout their lives and asked that the local authority consider what supports can be given to these people. He stated that it will not cost the local authority anything to give these people the opportunity to get a house.

Councillors P. Walsh, C. Kelly, S. Conaty and T. Smith supported the motion.

The meeting concluded at 3.30p.m.