

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 10th March 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, 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. McGinn, Senior Staff Officer

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

Confirmation of Minutes

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 10th February 2025. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 10th Mí Feabhra 2025 a dhearbhu.

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 10th February 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 13th January 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 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) regarding the location of the average speed cameras on the N3 Cavan

Noted. Councillor B. Fay proposed that a further letter be sent to Ms. Paula Hilman, Assistant Commissioner, Road Policing and Community Engagement in relation to the location of the average speed cameras on the N3 Cavan.

(b) To note reply from the National Tobacco Control Office, HSE regarding Vaping Regulations.

Noted.

(c) To note reply from HSE Dublin and North East regarding trolley crisis in Cavan General Hospital.

Noted.

(d) To note reply from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to hedge cutting.

Noted.

(e) To note reply from Office of the Government Chief Whip and Minister for Mental Health in relation to SOSAD.

Noted. Councillor B. Fay proposed that a further letter be sent to Minister Mary Butler in relation to a promise she made to provide funding to SOSAD.

(e) To note reply from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the fallout from recent storms, in particular around powerlines and forestry.

Noted.

6.(a) To approve attendance of members at the AILG training seminar to be held in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon on 20th March or the Clayton Hotel, Galway on 22nd March.

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, W. Bennett, N. Brady, T. Smith, V. Smith, J.P. Feeley, P. Walsh, C. Kelly, N. Smith, Á. Smith, P. Brady, S.P. O’Reilly and B. Fay at the AILG training seminar to be held in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon on 20th March or the Clayton Hotel, Galway on 22nd March be hereby approved”.

(b) To approve attendance of members at the AILG training conference to be held in the Limerick Strand Hotel on 2nd and 3rd April.

It was

Proposed by Councillor N. Smith

Seconded by Councillor J.P. Feeley

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, W. Bennett, N. Brady, V. Smith, T. Smith, J.P. Feeley, P. Walsh, C. Kelly, N. Smith, Á. Smith, P. Brady, S.P. O’Reilly and Brendan Fay at the AILG training conference to be held in the Limerick Strand Hotel on 2nd and 3rd April be hereby approved”.

(c) To approve attendance of members at the Celtic Conferences “Corporate Governance” conference held in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 7th to 9th February 2025 (retrospective approval)

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor W. Bennett

And

Resolved;

“that the attendance of Councillor N. Smith, V. Smith, T.P. O’Reilly, T. Smith and P. Brady at the Celtic Conferences “Corporate Governance” conference held in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 7th to 9th February 2025 be hereby approved.”

Votes of Sympathy:

Sympathy was offered to the families of the following:

- Deputy Brendan Smith, Councillor Áine Smith and the Smith family on the death of their brother and uncle Mr. Hugh Smith in England.
- The Tierney Family, Ballyjamesduff on the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Tierney father of staff member Fintan Tierney.
- The McCabe Family, Barconey, Ballyjamesduff on the death of Mr. Brendan McCabe.
- The Gerrity Family, Virginia on the death of Mrs. Helen Gerrity.
- The McVeigh and Maguire Families on the death of Ms. Gemma McVeigh, sister of Niall McVeigh, Director of Cavan Institute.
- Mr. John McCormack, foreman Bailieborough Cootehill area on the death of his mother Mrs. Kathleen McCormack.
- The McFarlane Family, Belfast on the death of Brendan McFarlane.

- The Devlin Family, Ballyconnell on the death of Mr. John Devlin.
- The Foxe Family, Mullagh on the death of Mr. Leslie Foxe.

Vote of Congratulations:

- Virginia Rugby Club u14 and u16 girls' teams on winning All-Ireland titles.

7. Member's Question – Councillor John Paul Feeley

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm:

(a) The number of LIS applications on hand and the year of submission of such applications.

(b) The estimated cost of completion of applications to hand.

A reply issued to Councillor J.P. Feeley prior to the meeting.

8. Member's Question – Councillor John Paul Feeley

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm:

(a) The number of times in the past twelve months when the Council Outdoor Staff/Fire Service have had to respond to fallen trees, telephone or electricity supply poles on to public roads.

(b) The number of invoices issued to landowners/utility providers on foot of such incidents.

(c) The number of such incidents arising from Commercial Forestry.

A reply will issue to Councillor J.P. Feeley at April Meeting.

9. Member's Question – Councillor Stiofán Conaty

Chun ceist a chur faoin mhéid daoine agus clainne gan dídean sa Chabhán.

To ask how many individuals and families presented as homeless in Cavan in 2024.

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 seek nomination to replace Councillor Shane P. O'Reilly on the Northern & Western Regional Assembly.

Deferred to April Meeting.

12. To approve recommendation of Arts Awards including development, emerging and professional artist awards.

It was

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that payment of Arts Grants in accordance with following list, as circulated, be hereby approved”

Arts Development Award Recommendations 2025

No.	Name of Group/Event	Event description, location etc	Fund Amount Approved
1	Drumgoon Community Centre	We plan to host Maudabawn One Act Drama Festival. In Nov 2025 The Drama Festival will be held over two nights with 6 drama groups from all over Ireland	€1000
2	Bailieborough Creative Hub	Proposed activities subject to funding available to engage with other community /diverse groups for inclusive workshops/projects including cross-border group collaborations, exhibition Cavan County Museum, All Ireland Summer Showcase Art exhibition, Member Solo exhibitions. Feasibility study for public art mural in Bailieborough, Culture Night- themed members exhibition, making props for public event. Website development and Christmas Event in Bailieborough	€2000
3	Killeshandra CCE	On the 14th, 15th 16th & 17th of March 2025 the Killeshandra Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann are holding their fourth Irish traditional music, song and dance weekend. This weekend will cater for all ages and abilities.	€1500
4	Virginia Active Retirement Group	Art classes for a minimum of 15 members	€800
5	Cootehill Arts	Cootehill Arts is organizing street performers and musicians for the annual Cootehill St. Patrick's Day Parade and Christmas Market 2025. For St. Patrick's Day 2025, we have commissioned artist Rosie Cole to create 'macnas' type paper mache faces to use in this as well as future parades.	€2000
6	Theatre Lab Cavan	Project Title: "Elevate: Empowering Young People through the Art of Circus & Spectacle Theatre". Providing young people aged 14-18yrs with a creative, physical, and social outlet through circus & spectacle arts. Exploring the potential to develop another outdoor spectacle style theatre performance as part of the festival again this year.	€2000
7	Mammoth Street Band	The project is to revive the samba band in Belturbet. We would like to expand our membership with the intention of participating in community events and parades.	€750

8	Deborah Gubiotto	Fairy Trails of Cavan is a public art project celebrating local folklore and fairy tales through the creation of immersive miniature fairy towns. The installations will be situated within Cavan, including Con Smith Park, Deer Park, Dun A Ri Forest Park, and Killykeen Forest Park.	€2000
9	Cruit Eireann/ Harp Ireland	CÉHI, in collaboration with local harpers and Music Generation Cavan Monaghan propose exciting events which celebrate Co. Cavan's thriving harping tradition for Lá na Cruite Harp Day Cavan 2025 on Saturday 18th October.	€2000
10	Arvagh Hens Shed	The project at Arva Hens Shed is a series of four creative workshops that will take place over six meetings from March to September 2025.	€605
11	Gonzo Youth Theatre	This year we are proposing to write and perform our own play with the help of playwright Sarah McKenna Dunne, after exploratory engagements we are confident we will facilitate and promote a meaningful engagement for the young people, for the artist and facilitators also.	€2000
12	Cavan Town CCE	The Ed Reavy Traditional Music Festival which will run from Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th October 2025.	€1000
13	Denn Developments CLG	Artist Collette Kearney will create a Mural to showcase our rich cultural history. The site of the proposed Mural is on a sidewall of a property located in Crosskeys Village. Permission for works has been obtained. A completed design and quote has been obtained and agreed with Ms Kearney with a commencement date of early April 2025 subject to weather.	€1000
14	KYDS	Two shows will take place for each drama group in June 2025 involving approximately 72 children aged from 4-18	€835

		years old in our local community. Every child will have a speaking part that has been written/adjusted to suit each child's strengths.	
15	Rosie Carroll in conjunction with The Cottage Market Cavan	A Flower's Picnic. An appreciation for nature gift's. To develop four high-quality flower seats, which will be made from wood and vinyl. The four seated flowers will create a picnic area at ground level in Con Smith Park, Cavan town. Wheelchair accessible, the area will allow all to enjoy the coloured shadows and shapes of the towering flowers.	€1000
16	The Music Society	TMS offering live gigs once per month, in a sound equipped venue in Cavan. Three official and original artists/bands chosen to play each month, with one wild card performance (music, comedy, magic, dance). Event is aimed to run year through 12 months per year.	€1000

17	POD Youth Theatre	The funding goes towards paying facilitators who lead weekly workshops, prep and administration for POD members (13 Junior and 10 Senior) culminating in an end of year performance.	€2000
18	Cavan Drama Festival	To facilitate a workshop to identify those who wish to become involved/contribute to the 80th Festival this year. This would involve participation beyond the current Committee and audiences and could include past attendees, members of the broader Amateur Dramatic group and contributors and supporters of the Festival over its 80 years.	€1150
19	Sean Connolly	"The Cure" is a 15-minute short film based and set entirely in Cavan. It will be shot over a five-day period within the county in September 2025. The production will involve approximately fifteen people comprised of mainly local Cavan talent and crew.	€2000
20	Belturbet Comhaltas- Coel Le Cheile Trad Fest	Following the success of the Belturbet Comhaltas Ceol Le Chéile Trad Fest in September 2024, the committee will host the Ceol Le Chéile Trad Fest 2025.	€2000
21	Cavan Arts Festival	Nurturing young talent and creating lasting legacies within the local arts scene, in line with our festival strategy through the Young Festival Makers (YFM) programme. Feedback from our 2024 participants highlights the value of this experience.	€1245
22	PJ Flood Festival Committee	The Committee aims to promote all aspects of the traditional and community arts through workshops, sessions, masterclasses and live performances and recitals focusing on the uilleann pipes and celebrating the	€2000

		life of renowned local piper and teacher PJ Flood. The highlight of the weekend is the annual concert.	
23	Indigos Ego	We are recording an album and will be marketing it in a showcase of the album in the town hall	€750
24	Hoodwink Theatre Productions	The aim is to grow the group over time through workshop events, script readings casting event and bringing productions to stage. For 2025 we have a new production entitled 'Willing' written by Elaine Birkett and will be Directed Phil Gilbride	€750
25	Rafal Szydlowski	Project Details – Riá Pitá. A bilingual (Spanish-English) interactive music and drama project designed for children aged 7-12.	€1200
26	Ballyjamesduff Creative Space	Hosting a showcase /exhibition event entitled " A BRUSH WITH OUR TOWN: AN ARTIST CELEBRATION OF BALLYJAMESDUFF.	€379

27	Drumgoon PlayActors	We will stage a new 2 act play in Oct/Nov 2025 in Gallonray House. Cast of seven with 8-10 backstage crew and helpers. Profits if any will be donated to 2-3 local voluntary groups/initiatives.	€420
28	Our Creative Voice	Our Creative Voice meets weekly to engage in creative writing and improvisation , sharing stories. We will engage artists to facilitate dance and singing workshops to enhance the performance booked for the Townhall Arts Centre for performance in Oct 2025.	€1375
29	Tullyvin Musical Society	This year we are running a variety show in February in addition to our October musical. The variety show will be held in Tullyvin Community Centre on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd February 2025.	€1200
30	St. Patricks NS Castletara	To create a vibrant, inclusive, and autism-friendly mural on the playground walls, forming part of a larger project to complement the new sensory/play garden already funded for our autism classes.	€1200
31	Shercock Tidy Towns	This project has two main activities: 1: Artist Led Project: 'The Circular Economy' – children's designs for a vinyl print to wrap around recycling bins. (2): Mini-Festival – one day afternoon event with public talks offered by (1: Mural artists who installed the three murals in the town (OMIN and Friz), 2: Folk from UCC and the National Museum of Ireland to explore interpretations of the Relaghan Idol and (3): a talk from ecologist about our colourful and diverse biodiversity in the area.	€975
32	Sound In Motion	This grant would facilitate the launch of two ukulele hubs in the Cavan area, potentially hosted at local libraries offering an eight -week program for adults in the	€1000

		community, culminating in a lively jam session that encourages collaboration and creativity.	
33	Lost Boyz Studios	Lost and Found (Found on Film) is an immersive, hands on weekend filmmaking workshop in Cavan. Over two days, participants will step into the world of filmmaking, learning the essentials of visual storytelling including scriptwriting, cinematography, sound design and editing. By the end of the workshop, each participant or small group will have created a short film (30 seconds to 1 minute), bringing their unique ideas to life on screen.	€600
34	Ballyconnell Youth Hub	A three-day interactive props making workshop facilitated by professional artist Rosie Cole. Participants will design and create their own costumes/props, culminating in a St. Patrick's Day parade showcase.	€600

35	Anna Wiercioch	Sustainable Creations: A Community Art Journey. The project will consist of 6 workshops on recycling and upcycling, taking place at Gowna Community Centre from July to September 2025.	€1200
36	Aisteoiri Muinchille	Production of Lay up your Ends by Charabanc Theatre Company April 2025 in Cootehill in collaboration with Cootehill 300	€500
37	Cootehill Arts Festival	Street drama with community groups and Celebration Concert in July 2025 featuring local artists	€900
38	Edel Cox	I wish to facilitate a weaving project with children across the county of Cavan. The project would function as 6 X 90 minute sessions with children from ages of 7-10years, to take place in venues such as libraries across the county.	€1300
39	Gowna Tidy Towns	Imaginative Adventures - Art, Music and Movement. The project will offer a series of creative workshops focused on visual arts, music, circus skills, and drama, designed to engage children and foster creativity, skill development, and self-expression.,	€2000
40	Gowna Active Age	Project Details: The Active Age Group in Gowna will host a series of 7 arts workshops titled Creative Journeys: Sustainable Art & Mindful Expression, taking place between April and August 2025. The project aims to engage up to 90 participants over the course of these workshops, providing a supportive and creative environment for adults to explore mindfulness, artistic expression, and sustainability.	€2000
41	NYAH Co. Cavan Traditional Music	A sharing of Culture. Protestant /Catholic /World Folk Together in Cavan. Saturday 5th April in Belturbet & Cavan Nursing Home Concerts and Late Session with Mullaghboy Orange Lodge Accordion Band & Turas Band	€2000
		Sunday 6th April Farnham Arms Hotel Main Street Cavan Carvery room at 3pm Open Session for Mature Musicians and Singers .	
	TOTAL		€52234

Emerging Artist Award Recommendations 2025

No.	Name of Group/Event	Event description, location etc	Fund Amount Approved
1	Luke Conroy	The award will be transformative for my career, providing the resources and time to create a screenplay that intertwines my screenwriting experience with the rich folklore of my locality. While I've had success writing screenplays and producing a podcast on Irish folklore, balancing these pursuits with full-time work has made it challenging to sustain focus on a single project. This grant would allow me to dedicate 15 days exclusively to writing and research.	€2000
2	Sam Moore	This award will provide the opportunity to immerse myself in an intensive pottery course, allowing me to deepen my understanding of ceramics as an artistic medium. While I have developed a strong foundation in ceramics, I want to push beyond functionality and create work that is sculptural, expressive, and conceptually rich. Through this course, I will explore experimental forms, surface treatments, and unconventional firing methods.	€2000
3	Sandra Coote	This award would help me to build on the advances I have made in my work over the last year. In 2024 I was lucky to receive an award that allowed me to travel to Scotland and participate in a workshop. In that workshop I learned additional dyeing techniques for my fibre and how to achieve a better outcome with my pieces. This gave me the courage to put a piece into an exhibition which subsequently sold and to sell my work at other events. By attending a similar event with another well recognized fibre artist I could only hope for equal or greater results.	€2000
4	Louise Swords	Receiving this Emerging Artist Award would be a pivotal step in my artistic development, allowing me to refine and expand my clay modelling skills. My current practice involves creating air-dry clay dioramas and animations, and I am eager to push my work further by exploring more figurative and realistic sculpting techniques. This will be essential as I prepare for my solo exhibition in 2026, for which I plan to create larger-scale, intricately detailed pieces. The award would enable me to attend the Figure Sculpting Workshop at Artform in Dunmore East (June 25th-29th), led by esteemed sculptor and illustrator Alan Clarke.	€1210
5	Viktoriia YevsiuKova	This award would greatly contribute to my development as an artist by providing the resources and support needed to continue my artistic pursuits. The financial assistance will allow me to purchase essential art	€1200

		supplies, such as high-quality canvases, paints, brushes, and other materials. Access to these resources will enable me to bring my artistic visions to life with greater precision and quality. In addition to art supplies, the award will help ease the financial burden, providing peace of mind and stability to focus on my art without constantly worrying about basic needs. It will also open doors to potential collaborations with other artists and opportunities to connect with the broader art community	
6	Alex Brady	This award would significantly contribute to my development as a filmmaker by enabling me to invest in resources to improve both my technical skills and creative capabilities. Acquiring the equipment would allow me to experiment with new filmmaking techniques and push the boundaries of my storytelling. With the funding I would be able to purchase a camera capable of capturing professional-grade footage, ensuring that my documentaries meet industry standards for clarity, detail, and visual impact. In addition to improving the quality of my work, owning my own camera would allow me to reduce costs over time, as I could avoid rental fees and have greater control over my filming schedule.	€1000
7	Onai Tafuma	I am seeking funding to support the next phase of my professional development. Over 6 weeks, I will collaborate with a professional photographer (Jose Galang) and a dance artist (Douglass Reddan) to enhance my ability to create and direct movement effectively for capture. This process will allow me to explore both technical and creative aspects of choreography while developing skills essential for crafting movement. Process Breakdown: Week 1: Understanding Film Techniques – Learning camera angles, lighting, and framing in relation to movement. Week 2: Translating Movement for the Camera – Experimenting with speed, size, and fluidity in movement sequences. Week 3: Performance and Camera Integration – Directing dancers and refining choreography for screen impact. Week 4: Refining and Finalizing – Reviewing footage, making adjustments, and building a portfolio.	€2000
8	Dirty Marmalade	Our aim with this award is to progress our project further by promoting our album nationally. Our goal is to film a professional live performance of our album in a studio, approximately 40min in duration. This will embody the concept of our album and showcase our high standard of musicianship in a live setting. When the project is complete we will send the video to our booking agent which will aid us in booking a national Irish tour followed by a headline gig in Workman's Cellar, Dublin towards the end of the year.	€1500

9	Christopher O'Brien	<p>I am a producer, mix engineer, guitarist and bassist. I was trained as an Engineer by two Grammy Winning producers at Ardent Studios in Memphis Tennessee. For the last 5 years I have primarily worked with Ria Rua as a producer, mix engineer, guitarist and bassist. As Ria's music has found it's way to more and more people, she has been asked repeatedly to play live on radio, live as a duo for showcases, etc., but has had trouble taking advantage of these opportunities, because neither she nor I own a professional quality acoustic guitar. If I am successful in my application I will use this instrument to help promote Ria's music to a wider audience, via these sorts of opportunities. In 2020 I borrowed an acoustic guitar from a friend and Ria and I used it to make an acoustic version of her song, "I Can't Sleep". That version went on to be one of her most successful releases. We would hope to repeat that success with other acoustic versions of her material, as the stripped back nature of acoustic arrangements can reach a much different audience than her normal approach to production. Additionally, Ria's new music is leaning into more traditional songwriting from a melodic and harmonic perspective, and as such this instrument would be used extensively for songwriting and recording. Finally, as a musician for hire, having access to a professional quality instrument will greatly increase my work opportunities, as a hired gun and songwriter as it is infinitely easier to write and arrange songs with an acoustic instrument than with an electric one.</p>	€500
10	Zoran Donohoe	<p>This award would significantly contribute to my development as an musician by providing me with the opportunity to engage in one-to-one mentoring with some of the musicians I deeply admire. This mentorship will offer a unique space for personal growth, enabling me to learn directly from an experienced professional in the irish music industry.</p>	€2000
11	Anna Wiercioch	<p>Receiving the Emerging Artist Award would provide a crucial opportunity to expand my artistic practice by exploring the creative potential of recycled liquid paper in multimedia painting. My objective is to develop a distinctive body of work that integrates sustainability with contemporary painting techniques, focusing on texture, layering, and translucency. To achieve this, I plan to: Conduct research into the artistic possibilities of recycled liquid paper, studying its structural properties and applications in mixed media. Attend workshops with Yehia Abouelnaga, a leading paper artist, or seek</p>	€900
		<p>mentorship from other experienced paper artists to refine my techniques.</p>	

12	Breda O'Flaherty	The award would be very helpful in setting up an exhibition in May (Venue to be decided). The Exhibition will be on the derelict buildings of humble origin lying across the country.	€708
13	Lee-Anne Brady	I am applying for this award as an opportunity to expand my creative practice and explore new artistic directions. Currently, I rely on portrait commissions to sustain my work, but this often means that many of my creative ideas are set aside. As a result, I have been unable to fully pursue my own artistic journey. The first step in this journey would be to attend a landscape painting course, allowing me to develop new techniques and approaches distinct from my portrait work. Last year, I attended an oil painting portraiture course with PJ Lynch, which was an exceptional learning experience. It deepened my understanding of color and portrait techniques. However, landscape painting requires a fundamentally different approach—one that I am eager to explore.	€1300
14	Aisling Kearney	My proposal focuses on supporting the research and writing of a non fiction collection entitled 'Stray.' I aim to commence writing of the non fiction collection in May 2025 and writing the collection in six months. The collection will be a series of essays about my estrangement from my family. I passionately believe this collection is important to write – one in three families in Ireland experience estrangement, and yet, there has never been a non fiction essay collection published about estrangement. I plan to write about my experiences growing up in Cavan, my relationships to my parents and my extended family, with the aim to illuminate and document the nature of estrangement, situating my experience within Ireland's socio-historical context.	€2000
15	Christopher Clarke	This award would significantly support my artistic development by enabling three key activities 1. Workshops - I will continue attending workshops so I can put myself outside of my comfort zone, develop new techniques and engage with other artists. Life drawing has previously taught me a lot about drawing so I would like to attend that again. I would also like to explore more abstract approaches by attending an abstract focussed workshop later in the year. 2. Painting trip - Last years grant allowed me to embark on a transformative painting trip to Glenveagh, Donegal, where I connected with my surroundings in a meaningful way. That experience deeply influenced my work, leading to a series of paintings and drawings from my time there, such as the attached painting of houses. I would love to undertake a similar	€2000

		trip, this time to sligo as its ancient history, beautiful natural landscape and paleolithic art offer rich inspiration. 3. Dedicated time for art - Taking time off work would allow me to immerse myself in my practice without distractions. This period would provide the space for research, exploration, and creative expansion. achieve this, and with dedicated time off, I can fully engage in this learning.	
16	Liz O'Hanlon	This award would help me to get a weeks residency in Tyrone Guthrie to complete a play that I started when I was there a number of years ago, and have struggled to finish. It is a piece I have great belief in, it is based in a classroom and we get a look at the world through the eyes of these wise, comical and unfiltered kids.	€800
17	Deirdre Fox	This award will assist in the release and launch of the EP. This will include funding the printing/copying and launch of the EP. Spotify uses a distributor service ranging from \$9.99 - \$50 per single or album. The launch will involve hiring musicians to perform live on the night. The venue may have a hire fee depending on the venue. (I haven't decided which one yet).	€2000
TOTAL			€25118

Professional Artist Award Recommendations 2025

No.	Name of Group/Event	Event description, location etc	Fund Amount Approved
1	Raquel Montero Calero	This award will contribute to my development as an artist for various reasons. 1. It will help me to invest in training and attending workshops as well as pay mentorship and other collaborators in the production. Without the pressure of the economic situation, I'll be able to focus in what matter the most: the artwork and its meaning. 2. The objective of the work is to revisit the script, expand it, work on the production aspects and finally be able to present it to an audience when is ready. I've applied for the AIR residency in Roscommon Art Centre. This award will support part of the expenses on that period.	€2000
2	Odhran O'Brien	This award will significantly enhance my development by enabling professional growth, innovative research, and collaborative creation. Through a subscription to industry-leading knowledge and skills platform, Music Ally Pro, I will gain cutting-edge marketing strategies and insights, equipping me to adapt to evolving industry trends and expand opportunities in Ireland and abroad.	€1700

3	Elaine Loebenstein (nee Brennan)	<p>I would like to be given the opportunity to create new work and to be afforded the time to investigate a number of collaborative avenues. There are three areas I would like to focus on: 1. The creation of a series of short city films in collaboration with Australian artist Michael Mortlock, who is based in Dresden. An experienced videographer and photographer, we would work together to devise a number of short films with a specific city focus with improvised scores which would be disseminated online (via social media, YouTube etc). There could also be the possibility to present these within the context of a live film concert, or concerts. 2. Investigating the possibilities of interacting with live, improvised visuals and in particular examining the possibilities AI image generation which could respond to improvised music within a live, concert setting. I am in discussions with Gerfried Stocker of the Ars Electronica Festival in Linz about this. He has previously used a pre-programmed model to create images to respond to a prepared performance, but this more advanced concept would be something that has not been done before. 3. Discussing and devising a collaborative soundtrack for the newly restored silent film Wonder of the Sea (1922) with other musicians (Chris Janka and Mark Holub of the band Blublut) and the voice artist Christian Reiner. Initial work on the project would be focussed on recording a 20-minute sample that could then be used to apply for grants or seek full funding for the project from commissioning arts bodies.</p>	€1000
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4	Grainne Brady	<p>I am applying for funding to support a period of focused songwriting development, combining structured mentoring with independent creative time. This will include five days of online workshops with renowned singer-songwriter Boo Hewerdine, followed by a two-week residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Co. Monaghan.</p>	€1740
5	Ian Wilson	<p>My compositional work often touches upon environmental issues. I recently explored the parlous state of Cavan's boglands through music ("we have no prairies", 2024), and am now proposing a compositional project exploring the habitat and nature of the underthreat curlew, a bird of much significance to Cavan. In terms of the actual music, my challenge is to create a large-scale piece (c.30 minutes) for solo violin and loopstation (technology that allows looping of the soloist's sounds or phrases in real time), that responds to, reflects on, and also evokes the beauty of the curlew's past and present habitats as well as the sadness around its decline and the hopes for its survival – a lot to cover, hence the length of the proposed piece.</p>	€2500

6	Orla Galligan	Receiving the 2025 Professional Artist Award will be a transformative opportunity for my artistic growth, enabling me to deepen both the conceptual and technical aspects of my work. This support will allow me to expand "Cycles of Being", a body of circular artworks that explores the interconnected rhythms of life, time, and existence. My primary objective is to push the boundaries of my current practice by experimenting with new materials, larger scales, and innovative techniques that challenge the traditional confines of circular compositions. The award will provide the resources needed to invest in high-quality materials, professional equipment, and advanced tools that will elevate the craftsmanship and detail of my work	€1100
7	Julie Corcoran	This award will contribute to my development as an artist by supporting research and development for new artworks based around the Ralaghan figure which was found in my neighbouring townland of Ralaghan almost 100 years ago. The award will finance access to machinery, materials and time to develop the project at Creative Spark Fab Lab. The Fab Lab is a fully equipped digital making facility based in Dundalk, Co. Louth.	€3000
8	Celine Burke	My objective, if I am successful with this application, is to complete the recording of my second album of my own original songs and release it in 2025. Thanks to funding received from Cavan Arts Office in 2024, I was able to record 4 tracks for my album. These tracks are attached to this application. If successful for this funding grant, it will enable me to continue to finance the cost of	€1500

		completing the recording. My first album was released in 2011.	
9	Mark St. John Ellis	For the past six years I have been revisiting my previously released albums and updating them with current studio technology through editing with additional instrumental arrangements as well as recording new works . The end result is to create a box set of seven cd's that encompasses and demonstrates the strengths of my career as a composer and through its design encapsulate my work as a conceptual artist / designer. To date there are five cd albums all with a generic design that catalogues them as being part of the project. There are two albums to go to complete the set.	€2000

10	Chloe Maguire	This award will allow me to deepen the research and development of Mothering Spaces, my emerging project focused on female health and motherhood in visual arts. The project will foster a network for artists exploring these themes, through exhibitions, screenings, and workshops in Cavan and across Ireland. The funding will enable me to develop a tailored online platform informed by over 80 artist responses to a recent call for expressions of interest for the project.	€1150
11	James O'Donnell	In applying for this award, I am attempting to find a way to create more opportunities for myself as a writer-director. If successful, I intend Dirty Mac's first production to be part of the Cavan Arts Festival. I learnt so much from last year's festival and the focus this year is to build on this success, work with local actors, and develop a company that can create theatrical events whilst presenting surprising stories in a site-specific manner. The play is part guided tour and part theatre production, fusing the history and geography of Cavan Town with the memories and relationship of the play's characters. I see this play as a love letter to Cavan Town. To help me achieve this I would like to apply for production cost funding for this new work which will go towards wages for myself and the two actors to develop and rehearse this play and perform it at the Cavan Arts Festival. In addition, this funding will afford me time to create an identity for Dirty Mac.	€3000
12	Rita Perry	The proposed project is a collaboration over the course of a 2 week residency in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre with fellow Cavan artist Robbie Perry. The aim of this collaboration is to further develop our working artistic relationship while exploring and creating new musical compositions. This research process will be recorded, producing several original works to showcase at the end of the residency. This award will provide a secure and	€3000
		steady creative work environment along with financial stability in order to have the dedicated time and space necessary to further develop my collaborative practice. Ultimately, this award will provide a transformative opportunity for me to grow both as a composer and collaborator.	

13	Marie Smith	<p>During my residency at Townhall Arts Centre in 2023, I was introduced to the Digital Suite and have since become a member of Cavan Connects - Digital Champions Group. I embraced the new technology (laser cutter and 3D printer) and have been intrigued to see how I could use them more in the production of my sculpture.</p> <p>On the advice of Daniel Peeters (Digital Project Leader, Cavan County Council – please see letter of support) I began to research how sculptors are using 3D printing as a tool in the creation of artworks. I discovered that it is common practice for sculptors to engage a 3D printing company to take a maquette or small sculpture, scan it and then 3D print it in ratio to a much larger scale. Scaling up work is something I have been doing myself but using the old-fashioned way of measuring with calipers and calculating the ratio. It is very time consuming and labour intensive, taking months of work and I am missing opportunities as a consequence.</p>	€2000
14	Alice Lynch	<p>Having spent time attending the Gaeltacht in Donegal courtesy of a grant from Cavan arts for researching our use of Irish, I am preparing to write a play about my experiences in the gaeltacht and as someone who loves the language but has great difficulty using it. At the moment, the play will consist of very many characters played by two actors. As I have not written a play like this before, I am applying for a grant to work with a dramaturg and a facilitator to workshop the play to see what format works best in connecting and reaching audiences through a mix of English and Irish that needs to be understood and entertaining.</p>	€2350
15	Eileen Tackney	<p>With my previous albums all was synthesiser based and with this album I am using all local trad musicians. This is connecting me more to the trad world. The feedback from musicians is that what I am producing is new and refreshing so I'll take that as a very good sign that I'm on the right track with what I am creating. A lot of the preproduction is done from my own home. Objective is to take it to a proper recording studio and lay down the tracks- 14 musicians are involved. It will then be recorded in Ashgrove Studios, Cavan, mixed in Jam Studios and Mastered in WAV Mastering so this is where the expense is.</p>	€3000

16	Ronan O'Raghallaigh	<p>I plan to make a short (20 minute) art-film to be exhibited at Cavan Arts Festival in 2026. The film will follow me performing artistic interventions at sites in Cavan as I research the history of the O'Reilly family there through a fictional ancestral figure based on an anti-Irish cartoon captioned G'O'Rilla from the 1860s in the 'Punch' magazine.</p>	€3000
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17	Karina Charles Lynch	Receiving this award would be pivotal in my growth as an interdisciplinary artist, particularly as a playwright and actress, by advancing my new musical theatre play, Journey to the Sun's Daughter. This award will facilitate organising a casting and three intensive one-day workshops over four weeks. This effort involves three actors, a composer, and a director-script developer, aimed at perfecting the script and developing musical themes. The primary aim of these workshops is to refine the script and music in preparation for a full-scale production by year-end	€2971
18	Elena Duff	This Professional Development Award would enable me to significantly expand my artistic practice's scope beyond painting and develop new skills in installation, sculpture, video, and sound art. While continuing my painting practice, I aim to create immersive, multisensory environments that complement and enhance my existing work. Having spent years developing my musical abilities and gaining an audio engineering qualification, I want to integrate sound more deliberately into my art practice. The award would support production costs for creating both studio and field recordings specifically designed for art installations and performances, bridging my musical and visual arts practices. The grant would also allow me to advance my video art capabilities through access to professional software like Adobe Premiere and After Effects.	€3000
19	Kim Gaffney Art	The purpose of this award is to enable me to develop a new body of work in preparation for exhibiting on a national level. My project is to buy time as an artist to develop a body of work using mixed media called 'Anam Cara, Soul Friends' I have been immersed in learning this year and am well underway with my studies as part of the Cornerstone art course in the Schoolhouse of Art in Enniskerry. I wish to put my new skills into my practice in developing a large body of work that reflects what I have learned. The purpose of the work I wish to create is to really demonstrate the power of art to evoke feeling. My wildlife art is becoming my signature work as an artist and I find it connects with people so well.	€1000
20	Elish McCann	This award represents a transformative opportunity in my practice, allowing me to develop an ambitious new body of work while receiving invaluable critical	€3000

		feedback and mentorship from a prominent Irish artist. It will provide the time, resources, and professional support necessary to elevate my practice and establish a stronger artistic presence in the North East. My primary goal is to create a new series of paintings that explore the experience of moving home. This body of work will culminate in a solo exhibition at Droichead Arts Centre in early 2026.	
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21	Jessie Keenan	I apply to the Professional Artist Award to fund an important development stage in the creation of a new dance film installation work. I wish to dedicate time to: - review film footage created during my 2023/24 Dance Artist in Residence at Townhall Cavan - develop my film editing skills - research set designers, technicians, composers to build a design team for this new work In 2023/24 I was dance artist in residence in Townhall. During my residency I researched ideas connecting bodies, buildings and memories - using the Townhall building as my subject.	€3000
22	Stephen Dunne	I would like to use the award to develop a series of performances and moving image works in collaboration with two artists, Mark Titchner and John Strutton. Mark's work is often language based and with a strong element of social interaction. Similarly John uses performance and drawing in unique ways to produce audio-visual installations and performances that have a ritualistic atmosphere, akin to a séance. John and I have worked together on a collaborative drawing project since the early 2000's, we swap unfinished or rejected drawings for each other to undo. The resulting works are most successful when a third artist emerges who is neither of us. Something we would aim for as an outcome of this project.. The award would develop my own interdisciplinary collaboration and contribute to the research and development of new artwork.	€3000
23	Michele Harton	Receiving this award would be a transformative step in my development as an artist, allowing me to expand my practice into large-scale installation work. My artistic journey has been deeply rooted in creating imaginative mystical landscapes and folklore inspired paintings that capture the essence of place and spirit which I feel would translate well to 3D work. Recently, I have been exploring ways to push my work beyond the canvas, immersing audiences in experiences that engage multiple senses. With this funding, I aim to attend the "Paint don't Paint" course taught by highly respected artist Anne Ryan at Artform School of Art in Dunmore East, Waterford, where I would gain practical skills in designing, constructing, and installing larger three dimensional works. a deeper engagement with my work.	€1050

24	Rebeca Sanchez	<p>This project, inspired by the poetry of Federico García Lorca, represents a significant step in my artistic development and in the dissemination of Flamenco art in Cavan. By integrating multiple artistic disciplines, it fosters collaboration among local artists while establishing a creative network that nurtures both established and emerging talents. A key objective is to create a Flamenco work that resonates with diverse audiences, allowing them to see themselves reflected in its themes and expression. This project is envisioned as an evolving piece—one that can expand and deepen as additional collaborators and funding become available.</p>	€1000
25	James Smith	<p>Since moving to Crosskeys, Cavan, I'm excited to create a space where I can grow my own musical practice while supporting others in developing theirs. With years of experience working as an engineer, producer, and mixer, I'm eager to foster a collaborative environment for local musicians to thrive. Having learned from esteemed producers like Rob Kirwan (Hozier/U2), Ben Rawlins (Rhiannon Giddens), and Ciaran Bradshaw (Sing Street) while working on my previous band's albums, I've gained invaluable insights into the recording process. This grant will allow me to further explore my creative potential in my new space while offering a local band the chance to develop a 3-5 track EP.</p>	€3000
26	Tobi Kenneth Fadoju	<p>Receiving this award will be a pivotal step in my growth as a cinematographer and storyteller. My short film will explore the lives of creatives who have grown up in the Irish foster care system, highlighting their struggles, artistic journey, and how their upbringing has shaped their craft. As someone who has experienced the foster care system firsthand, this project is deeply personal. It will not only allow me to document underrepresented voices but also push my artistic and technical skills to new heights.</p>	€2800
27	Sarah McKennaDunne	<p>I want to collaborate with Prime Cut Productions, a Belfast based theatre company, on a development workshop for a new edition of my script, The Girls of the Sacred Heart. It explores the 1943 orphanage fire in Cavan, and will be workshopped, with actors to interrogate its style and form, specifically with the addition of a fourth character, representing the playwright's journey, an outside eye. All insights gained from this workshop will inform the final draft of the script that aims at a large-scale, site-responsive production in three venues in Cavan, Belfast, and Dublin, in three locations associated with fire tragedy.</p>	€1500

28	Paul McCann	<p>I have written a large number of songs over the last 10 years. This has included a small amount of song cowriting / collaborating. Jeff Buckley's sole album 'Grace' has been my favourite album for more than 20 years. It is the template for what I consider to be musical perfection. While I was recording my second record (Alter Ego), I contacted many of my favourite artists including the bass player and cowriter on Buckley's Grace album, Mick Grondahl. Although his schedule did not allow for him to add bass to that album, he has kindly recorded bass for an album I am in the process of recording. Amongst many musical classics, Grondahl was the main songwriter on Buckley's 'Dream Brother' song. The song was built around an bass run that Grondahl presented to Jeff Buckley. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to work with one of my favourite living musicians. Grondahl has also suggested that during the week of the workshop, that we work on an unfinished Jeff Buckley song. There is currently a barebones version of this song on YouTube, which I was familiar with. To have the opportunity to work with Mick Grondahl would be an incredible honour, but to be involved in finishing a Jeff Buckley song would be out of this world. We have also discussed other potential opportunities to collaborate, including Songwriting Work Shops and Q&A's in Cavan where Mick visited for a week in November.</p>	€2667
29	Clare Martyn	<p>If successful I will use the money to buy time to write and demo new music. My weekly expenses are about €338, so I could afford approximately 9 weeks for €3000. For those 9 weeks I would work 8-10 hour days, 5 days a week. In that time, based on my previous rate of work over the last few years, I would hope to write and demo - in my home studio - 4-5 new songs. This funding could be exactly the help I need to push my career forward. I am ambitious, passionate and wilfully delusional. Ria Rua (Red Queen)</p>	€3000
30	Eileen Coyle	<p>Collaborate with other talented musicians to perform my music live, bringing new energy and interpretation to my work. Partner with three Cavan-based musicians to create an original album inspired by the landscape and rich culture of the region. Deepen my compositional skills, exploring new styles and techniques to push creative boundaries and evolve my sound. Perform my music live, Perform 3 concerts locally, connecting with audiences and sharing my vision through intimate and engaging performances.</p>	€1050
31	Roisin Harten	<p>This award will allow me to further explore the ideas I developed during my residency at the Ramor Theatre, focusing on bridging dance choreography and film. My primary goal is to collaborate with filmmaker Gareth</p>	€2510

		Byrne, exploring how choreography can be effectively captured and expressed through film. During my residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre (to be confirmed), I will use the space to experiment with different ways of filming the movement I have already created and how cinematic techniques can enhance the choreography. I will explore how lighting, architecture, and spatial limitations or possibilities affect the movement vocabulary. I will also research artists such as David Lynch and Richard Billingham, whose dreamlike and unsettling aesthetics will inform the visual direction of this project. Their work will help shape the overall atmosphere I wish to create. For the future of this project my aims are to use this research to apply for the Dance Bursary to create the film and to premier at the Cavan Arts Festival 2026.	
32	Darragh Slake	I am the lead artist in progressive funk rock band "Dr Slacke & The Palpitations." If successful in this application we will use the Townhall, Cavan to prepare and record this new music and employ our Cavan engineer, Jamie Byrne. Jamie has demo'd the project for us and is currently mixing the demos. After recording the tracks we will send them for mix and master in Jam Studio's Carnaross, Kells. I have worked closely with Noel Monahan in the last 10 years, putting music to his words and performing with him at festivals. I have also worked closely with Josh McClorey since he first started writing and performing music at a very young age. We have written numerous songs but have not released anything until now. This will be my 4th self-produced original studio album and my most exciting writing collaboration	€2000
33	Karen Donnellan	This award will support me in making new glasswork for future sculptures. Since moving home to Ireland from New York in 2021, I have not had access to glass making facilities. In lieu, I have worked with a range of materials like marshmallows, light, and found objects as well as glass elements previously fabricated in the US. Having exhausted these avenues, I am excited to return to my material of choice and make a series of sculptural objects.	€3000
34	Robert Kelly	This award will help me expand my practice by creating an experimental, AI-driven short film, The Last Seanchaí. Blending traditional Irish storytelling with emerging technology, the film will explore how folklore and memory are distorted when filtered through an artificial lens. This is an arthouse project rooted in Cavan's storytelling tradition but pushing into surreal, abstract territory. I'll develop my skills in AI-assisted filmmaking, using tools	€2500

		like Runway ML, Stable Diffusion, and Unreal Engine to create shifting, dreamlike visuals that respond to a seanchai's words. This award offers a unique opportunity to push boundaries, bridging traditional storytelling with cutting-edge artistic experimentation.	
	TOTAL		€76088

MEMBERS' ITEMS – MARCH

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

Councillor C. Kelly asked the executive of Cavan County Council if there had been any recent updates on the North South Interconnector

Mr. Brendan Jennings, Director of Service stated that a meeting took place in February between the three planning authorities and Eirgrid. He stated that Eirgrid were sent away to do work in respect of compliance and report back when same is complete.

13.2 College placements for apprentices.

Councillor Á. Smith stated that apprenticeships are crucial to Ireland's economic growth and social development. Councillor Á. Smith stated that in a rapidly evolving job market, the need for skilled workers has never been more pressing. She stated that apprenticeships provide a unique and effective pathway for individuals to gain practical experience and develop essential skills which contribute to the nation's economic and social prosperity. Councillor Á. Smith stated that numerous industries in Ireland including construction, engineering and healthcare face significant skills shortages. Councillor Á. Smith stated that a highly skilled workforce enhances Ireland's competitiveness on the global stage. Councillor Á. Smith noted that apprenticeships are very accessible to individuals from diverse backgrounds and provide an alternative to traditional academic routes. Councillor Á. Smith stated that placements need to be kept as close as possible, and a situation has developed in Cavan where apprentices are being sent to Cork and Shannon. Councillor Á. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to Solas asking that placements for apprentices be given nearer home. Councillor S.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and noted that apprenticeships have always been seen as the poor relation when it comes to education, and they are far from it. He stated that Solas has worked quite well with those involved in the electrical trades and there is a centre in Cavan for this but unfortunately the same cannot be said for mechanics or carpenters.

The motion received unanimous support from members.

13.3 Promotion of the Irish Language.

Councillor Á. Smith complimented Cavan County Council for the great work being done on organising activities throughout Seachtain na Gaeilge. She stated that a lot of great work is being done by Cavan County Council, and it is important to promote the Irish language. Councillor Á. Smith expressed her disappointment at the recent cuts by Foras na Gaeilge amounting to €820,000. Councillor Á. Smith stated that Foras na Gaeilge are the primary funding source for the Irish language and noted that the core budget has only been increased once since 2008. She stated that the cut in funding will affect schemes across the country and affect funding to key language organisations and scholarship schemes. Councillor Á. Smith stated that a few key organisations affected by the cuts are calling on both the Irish and Northern Irish governments to address the mechanism under which Foras na Gaeilge is funded. Councillor Á. Smith noted that if no funding framework can be agreed that amends the current North-South match-funding ratios, the crisis will only deepen. Councillor Á. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for the Gaeltacht asking that funding be made available for promotion of the Irish Language.

13.16 An gá le maoiniú ceart don Gaeilge / Lack of funding for Irish Language.

Councillor S. Conaty echoed Councillor Á. Smith's sentiments and stated that last week for the first time in the history of the state, the Irish language community were forced by ballot to go on strike due to lack of funding for the Irish language. Councillor Conaty stated that those on strike were opposing the latest round of cuts announced by Foras na Gaeilge, amounting to €820,000. Councillor Conaty stated that these cuts are disastrous and will affect groups who are already under severe funding pressure and cannot keep lights or heat on, not to mention provide services. Councillor Conaty stated that the unprecedented strike is a testament to the frustration and anger they are feeling. Councillor Conaty stated that as a state and as a Local Authority, we need to get serious about promoting and funding the Irish language both nationally and locally. Councillor Conaty complimented the library service and community groups such as Gaeil Mhuincille in Cootehill for the great work done during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

13.4 Need to reform systems of approval for new medicines.

Councillor Á. Smith stated that patients should have faster access to newly developed drugs and medicines as delays in the State approving new medicines mean Irish patients are waiting close to two years for access to drugs already approved by the European Medicines Agency. Councillor Á. Smith stated that the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association (IPHA), which represent drug developers, says that even when

companies propose the price that is eventually agreed upon for a medicine, it takes on average five months before it becomes available to patients. Councillor Á. Smith stated that these delays are life threatening for patients. Councillor Á. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health, Ms. Jennifer Carroll MacNeill asking her to reform the system of approval for new medicines by urging the Pharmaceutical Industry to consider ways to ensure access, affordability and availability of medicines for patients.

Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded Councillor Á. Smith's proposal.

Councillors T.P. O'Reilly and P. Walsh supported the motion.

13.5 Hazard of scooters on footpaths in the towns in County Cavan.

Councillor N. Brady stated that she had received complaints from older people and those with disabilities in relation to the hazard of scooters on footpaths in the town in County Cavan. Councillor N. Brady stated that on the Road Safety Authority's website e-scooters are not to be used on footpaths and those wearing them are required to wear hi-vis vests. Councillor N. Brady noted that children are being carried on e-scooters with no hi-vis vests or helmets. She stated that under the regulations you must wear a helmet or there is a fine of €125 and a fine of €50 if caught travelling on a footpath. Councillor N. Brady stated that these laws need to be enforced and asked if Cavan County Council could erect signs to say e-scooters are prohibited on footpaths.

Councillor B. Fay seconded Councillor N. Brady's proposal. Councillor Fay stated that there is a need for an awareness campaign around e-scooters to be run on national television.

Councillors P. Walsh, D. Brady, N. Connell and T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

13.6 That extra funding be sought from central government for necessary repairs after Storm Eowyn.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that there was serious damage done to our roads because of storm Eowyn. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that the local authority fixed the roads and did a wonderful job but the money for this came from the local authority's budget which is unreasonable. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council seek extra funding from Central Government to carry out necessary repairs after Storm Eowyn.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion stating that it is not fair that council resources were used to deal with storm damage.

The motion was supported unanimously.

13.15 To ask Cavan County Council to write to the Minister for Transport to request more funding for repair of roads in County Cavan to deal with the damage done during recent storms.

Councillor N. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Transport to request more funding for repair of roads in County Cavan to deal with the damage done during recent storms. He stated that photos of the damage done by the storm should be sent to the Minister.

13.20 That Cavan County Council lobby for a substantial top up in this year's road works allocation.

Councillor T. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council lobby the Government for a substantial top up in this year's road works allocation. Councillor Smith stated that most of the county's public transport was on main roads which are also being widely used by large agricultural machinery daily.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that local and regional roads have deteriorated around the County and there is not enough money given to the Local Authority to upgrade many of the routes and bring them back up to standard. He stated that while there is an increase on roads funding from last year, it barely keeps pace with the construction inflation that is there. Councillor Feeley stated that numerous Ministers had visited the County over the years and saw the state of the roads and were provided by details presentations from the executive regarding the need for additional funding. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council invite our Oireachtas members to the April meeting of Cavan County Council so that they can listen to what the members have to say about roads in County Cavan and the need for more funding.

Councillor D. Brady supported the motion and paid tribute to his colleagues in the Emergency Services for the great work that they did during storm Eowyn, and to the Council staff for the effort that they put in to help people across the County during storm Eowyn.

Councillor W. Bennett seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley's proposal to bring the Oireachtas members to the next Council meeting. He stated that extra funding is needed now not at the end of the year when there is no time to do the work.

13.12 The need for emergency assistance to deal with the serious deterioration of our local roads.

Councillor N. Connell stated that roads in County Cavan are deteriorating rapidly and there is a great need for emergency assistance to deal with this issue. He stated that people are paying their road tax and the least they could expect is roads that are

passable. Councillor Connell stated that immediate action is needed and called on Cavan County Council to seek extra funding for our roads.

Councillor B. Fay supported the motion.

Councillor W. Bennett seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley's proposal to invite the Oireachtas member to the April meeting of Cavan County Council.

13.7 That Cavan County Council seek clarification from EIR regarding recent repair works after Storm Eowyn.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly called on Cavan County Council to seek clarification from EIR regarding recent repair works after storm Eowyn. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that people need to know what timeframe or procedure EIR have in place for repairs.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that there are still people waiting to be re-connected. He stated that people need to be re-connected in a timely fashion particularly the elderly who depend on their panic buttons.

Councillor B. Fay seconded Councillor T.P. O'Reilly's proposal and noted that there are still poles and wires hanging on hedges throughout the County.

Councillor N. Connell supported the motion and stated that EIR are giving false information to customers when they ring them with regards to needing planning permission to re-instate a pole.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and noted that EIR are using local authorities as a blame for them not carrying out their duties. He stated that EIR are hiding behind their own inefficiencies. He stated that it is totally unacceptable, and it has nothing to do with the local authority.

Councillors S. Conaty and W. Bennett supported the motion.

13.8 To request the Minister for Health to provide additional funding for the Alzheimer Association of Ireland.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Health asking that the Government provide additional funding for the Alzheimer Association of Ireland. Councillor T.P. O'Reilly stated that while the association is grateful for the funding it receives it does need extra funding to provide staff to care for Alzheimer patients. He stated that the Association provides an invaluable service and helps keep many patients in their own homes.

Councillor Á. Smith seconded Councillor T.P. O'Reilly's proposal. Councillor Smith stated that the association does great work and they now go into secondary schools to educate TY students.

Councillor P. Walsh supported the motion.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and noted that the work being done by the Cavan branch is amazing. He stated that at a time when the Country is awash with money, these are essential services that require funding.

13.9 That Cavan County Council call on the Oireachtas to amend the Forestry Act, 2014 to make the local authority a notice party in respect of all licencing applications lodged under the Act so that they can make submissions as appropriate for consideration by the Minister before the granting or refusal of such applications.

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Oireachtas to amend the Forestry Act, 2014 to make the local authority a notice party in respect of all licencing applications lodged under the Act so that they can make submissions as appropriate for consideration by the Minister before the granting or refusal of such applications. Councillor Feeley stated that afforestation is having a major impact on our road's infrastructure, and we see significant damage done to our roads by felling forests. Councillor P. Walsh seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley's proposal.

Councillor T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and agreed that we need more input at local level.

13.10 That Cavan County Council call on the transfer of all recreational, amenity and tourism related functions from Coillte and transfer of these to the National Parks and Wildlife Service or a specifically created agency.

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Office of An Taoiseach and the Minister for Agriculture calling for the transfer of all recreational, amenity and tourism related functions from Coillte to be transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service or a specifically created agency. Councillor Feeley stated that amenities on sites need to be protected. Councillor Feeley stated that local authorities promote the County and secure funding for tourism while Coillte produce crops of timber and are not a tourism promotion agency.

13.11 That Cavan County Council call on the TII to conduct a safety review of all junctions on the N3 from the Dublin Road Roundabout to Aghalane.

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that Cavan County Council write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland asking them to conduct a safety review of all junctions on the N3 from the Dublin Road Roundabout to Aghalane. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that there is a huge volume of traffic on this stretch of road and if built today junctions would not be allowed. Councillor Feeley stated that a piecemeal approach is no longer acceptable. Councillor Feeley noted that Daggan Cross was particularly dangerous, with traffic having to cross two lanes of traffic to get into it.

Councillor B. Fay seconded Councillor J.P. Feeley's proposal.

Councillors Á. Smith, P. Walsh, D. Brady and N. Brady supported the motion.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated that Transport Infrastructure Ireland carry out reviews once every five years. He stated that one was carried out last year on this road and the Council are waiting on a report back from them.

13.13 The need for an online rental system for tenants living in Council accommodation.

Withdrawn.

13.14 To ask Cavan County Council if they will consider extending the next hedge cutting period in 2026 until the middle of March as consideration has to be given to the huge clear up that has to be undertaken after inevitable Winter Storms, e.g. Winter 2024/2025 is a typical example of incredible work required after two storms. Unfortunately, many rural hedges remain uncut on minor roads, as this year's hedge cutting period comes to an end.

Councillor N. Smith asked that Cavan County Council consider extending the next hedge cutting period in 2026 until the middle of March as consideration has to be given to the huge clear up that has to be undertaken after inevitable Winter Storms. He stated that many rural hedges remain uncut on minor roads, as this year's hedge cutting period comes to an end. Councillor Smith asked if there was a law there to fine people who do not cut their hedges.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion and stated that after Storm Eowyn it is important that as many hedges and tress as possible are cut. He stated that farmers who do not cut their hedges should be made take a hit on their farm payments.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and stated that hanging trees and hedges are costing lorry drivers their wing mirrors.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services stated that the Council work with farmers as far as possible.

13.17 Go ndéanaí athbhreithniú ar no go nglacfaí I bhfeidhm Polasaí Soláthair Eiticiúil I dtaobh crioche faoi fhorghabháil / That Cavan County Council review or adopt and implement an Ethical Procurement Policy in respect to illegally occupied territories.

Councillor S. Conaty called on Cavan County Council to review or adopt and implement an Ethical Procurement Policy in respect of illegally occupied territories. Councillor Conaty asked that Cavan County Council no longer awards any contracts or utilise services provided by companies involved in breaching human rights and international law. Councillor Conaty stated that Sinn Féin deplores that any business should profit from protracted armed conflict and systematic violations of human rights, or that local

Councils would be in any way potentially, directly or indirectly complicit with such profiteering.

Councillors N. Connell and D. Brady supported the motion.

**13.18 Gá dul I bhfeidhm ar earcaíocht agus fadhbanna eile sa chóras tástála tiomána /
Need to tackle recruitment and other problems in the driver testing system.**

Councillor Conaty stated that as a country we are struggling to match the increased demand for driving tests with appropriate resources. Councillor Conaty stated that no test centre in the Country including Cavan is meeting the statutory maximum of ten weeks in the service level agreement. Councillor Conaty stated that the unsatisfactory performance of the Road Safety Authority cannot be ignored in all this. Councillor Conaty stated that there are not enough permanent driving instructors, and many areas are without a permanent, let alone temporary test centre. Councillor Conaty proposed that Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Transport to immediately address these unacceptable delays by expediting the recruitment process and to conduct an urgent review into the workings and failings of the Road Safety Authority.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and noted that people returning from the US and Australia are all facing the same ridiculously long waiting list. He stated that there is a major need for a test centre to be established in Virginia or Kingscourt.

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

13.19 The need to recruit and retain additional home carers.

Councillor T. Smith stated that he had received representation from families where home help hours were granted and yet no one fulfilled the hours. Councillor T. Smith proposed that Cavan County Council write to the HSE asking that they recruit more carers.

Councillor S.P. O'Reilly supported the motion and noted that currently there is a home carers crisis.

Councillor C. Kelly supported the motion and noted that carers are badly treated and poorly paid. He stated that conditions need to change.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion and stated that the difficulty is getting people to fulfil the hours as there is a lack of people willing to take up these jobs.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion and noted that carers are leaving the private sector and going to the HSE as there is no sick pay to those working privately. Private carers use their own vehicles and pay their own expenses.

Councillor W. Bennett supported the motion and noted that carers are saving the State a fortune.

Councillors N. Connell, P. Walsh and T.P. O'Reilly supported the motion.

Any other business

Councillor C. Kelly asked the Director of Services for Housing if it was possible to make a presentation in relation to people in social housing as to what their entitlements are. Ms. Lynda McGavigan stated that she would speak to Councillor Kelly after the meeting. Councillor D. Brady wished the Executive and members of the Fire Services the best of luck travelling to New York to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Councillor T.P O'Reilly congratulated Mr. Brendan Jennings, Mr. Conor Craven and all involved in organising Local Enterprise Week.

Councillor T. Smith congratulated the members of Ballyjamesduff Musical Society and Frolics 2025 on their production of "Night of a thousand Stars".

Certified Correct: _____ Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____