**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on 9th October, 2017 in the Council Chamber at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor P. McDonald, Cathaoirleach Presiding

Present: Councillors M. Argue, W. Bennett, C. Brady, P. Brady, N. Connell,

F. Curtin, J.P. Feeley, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, S. O’Reilly,

S. P. O’Reilly, S. Smith, V. Smith.

In Attendance: T. Ryan, Chief Executive

E. Doyle, Director of Service

D. Maguire, Head of Finance

B. Jennings, A/Director of Service

P. Connaughton, A/Director of Service

E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meetings held on 11th & 28th September 2017. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 11 & 28 Mean Fomhair 2017 a dhearbhu.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

And

Resolved:

“that minutes of monthly meeting of Cavan County Council held on 11th & 28th September 2017 be hereby approved”.

**2. To note minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 11 September 2017.**

Noted.

1. **To approve the co-option of Mr. Daniel Downey to fill casual vacancy arising from the resignation of Mr. Eugene Greenan as a member of Cavan County Council *(in accordance with Section 19 of Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)).***

It was:

Proposed by Councillor N. Connell

Seconded by Councillor P. McDonald

And

Resolved:

“that the co-option of Mr. Daniel Downey to fill casual vacancy arising from the resignation of Mr. Eugene Greenan as a member of Cavan County Council be hereby approved”.

Councillor N. Connell welcomed Councillor Downey to the Sinn Fein Party noting that Mr. Downey is a co-ordinator with the Cavan Public Participation Network and a very committed community worker.

Councillor McDonald wished Mr. Downey the best of luck in the years ahead and looked forward to working with him on Cavan County Council.

Councillor Downey thanked the members and stated that he was both humbled and honoured to serve the people of Cavan on behalf of Sinn Fein. He stated that he looked forward to working with all Councillors and the Executive for the betterment of County Cavan.

Councillor M. Argue on behalf of the Fine Gael Group welcomed Councillor Downey to the Chamber.

Counillor J.P. Feeley on behalf of the Fianna Fail Group welcomed Councillor Downey to the Chamber.

1. **To hear presentation from Jimmy McGovern, Students Union of Ireland regarding publicly funded education.**

Councillor P. McDonald welcomed Mr. Jimmy McGovern, Vice-President for the Border, Midlands and Western Region of the Union of Students of Ireland to the meeting.

Mr. McGovern thanked the members for accepting his invitation to speak to them in relation to publicly funded education. Mr. McGovern informed the members that the Union of Students of Ireland are calling on Government Officials and the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education and Skills to invest in the publicly-funded third level education model as outlined in the Cassells report which was published last year. Mr. McGovern noted that the report warned that the funding system for the State’s higher education is not sustainable and will lead to a sharp decline in the quality of graduates unless the problem is tackled soon. Mr. McGovern stated that the USI are calling for greater grant investment in Budget 2018 and asked the members of Cavan County Council to support them. Mr. McGovern stated that an income-contingent student loan outlined in the Cassells report is a drastic increase in fees from €3,000 to €5,000 a year in disguise. He stated the moment higher fees and a loan scheme are accepted we are saddling people with €20,000 of mortgage-modelled debt and forcing them to emigrate. He stated that an income-contingent loan scheme is not a viable solution to third level funding as a debt burden would deter people from applying to college. Mr. McGovern called on the members of Cavan County Council to send a motion to the Government calling on them to invest monies into higher education over the next decade and to rule out any possible introduction of an income-contingent loan scheme.

It was proposed by Councillor P. Brady and seconded by Councillor M. Argue that the Council send a letter to the Minister for Education supporting the USI.

1. **To hear presentation from Cavan Arts and Cultural Centre Ltd.,**

Councillor P. McDonald welcomed Ms. Siobhan Harten, Mr. Joe Keenan and Mr. Philip Doherty from Cavan Arts and Cultural Centre Ltd. to the meeting. Ms. Siobhan Harten outlined the social aspect the centre has had stating that it has involved more than 1,000 local volunteers. She stated that the Centre has also provided opportunities to 12 Tus Workers as well as former Cavan Drug and Alcohol Services attendees in aiding their recovery from addiction. Ms. Harten showed a video to the members extolling the positive impact had by the Arts Space since the 110 year old former Town Council headquarters was bestowed for use by the arts. Ms. Harten noted that to date the space has 444 shows and events under its belts attracting 15,000 visitors.

Mr. Keenan stated that he was delighted that the Arts Space has been included as a point of importance in the Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan, noting that for every €1 spent on the arts there is a turnover of €6 to the local economy. Mr. Keenan stated that together we are putting Cavan first in making great art work. Mr. Keenan stated that they hoped to establish the Centre as a cultural and artistic hub on a national scale. Mr. Keenan stated that with the €750,000 funding secured they are unsure what works can be done except that the roof, heating and electrics will have to be looked into first in order to make the town hall a lifelong building for County Cavan.

Mr. Philip Doherty praised Cavan County Council and Catriona O’Reilly, Arts Officer and her team for their support. Mr. Doherty noted that Cavan is already the envy of many counties nationwide. He stated that the level of interaction the public have at the arts space with skilled professional creative artists is one of the key factors in developing a future for culture locally. Mr. Doherty assured the members that the Cavan Arts and Cultural Centre is not in competition with Ramor Theatre.

Councillor M. Argue thanked Siobhan, Joe and Philip for their presentation informing them that she is 100% behind them.

Councillors J.P. Feeley thanked Siobhan, Joe and Philip along with their large team of volunteers. He thanked them for the huge amount of work being done in bringing people into the arts and keeping the doors of an historical building open.

Councillor Paddy McDonald wished the Cavan Arts and Cultural Centre well in the future.

1. **To note Chief Executive’s Orders.**

Noted.

1. **To note Chief Executive’s monthly report.**

Noted.

Councillor J.P. Feeley queried if there was any update from Leitrim County Council on the Greenway. Councillor J.P. Feeley also noted that the Chief Executives met with Minister Murphy in relation to the housing situation and wondered if there was any feedback from same.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, A/Director of Services informed the members that in relation to the Greenway the application was refused under the Smarter Travel banner.

Mr. Tommy Ryan informed the members that the main focus of the meeting with the Chief Executives and Minister Murphy was homelessness. He stated that in relation to the Housing Programme, Cavan County Council has exceeded its targets and stated that a further meeting will be held in relation to policy changes.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly asked if the County and City Managers’ Association were involved in making a submission in relation to the review of local government reform which was discussed at the recent AILG conference.

Mr. Tommy Ryan stated that a questionnaire was circulated to everyone approximately six months ago in relation to the review of Municipal Districts.

**CABU**

Councillor J.P. Feeley informed the members that Mr. Eoin Doyle and himself met with CABU the new owners of the chalet section at Killykeen Forest Park. Councillor Feeley wished the new owners well with their investment. Councillor Feeley stated that CABU were assured that Cavan County Council would work with them in whatever way they could to make the investment a success. Councillor Feeley thanked the staff and executive for attending the meeting.

**8. To fix date and time for local authority Annual Budget Meeting (Schedule 10(5) Local Government Act 2001 and Section 103(2) Local Government Act 2001 as substituted by Section 58(f) Local Government Reform Act 2014).**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor J.P. Feeley

Seconded by Councillor M. Argue

And

Resolved:

“that Wednesday 29th November, 2017 at 10.00a.m. for Cavan County Council’s Budget Meeting be hereby approved”.

**9. To fix date, time and location of November 2017 monthly meeting.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor W. Benentt

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved:

“that Monday 13th November, 2017 at 11.00a.m. in Ballyhaise Agricultural College for Cavan County Council’s Monthly Meeting be hereby approved”.

**10. To approve the disposal of 0.8658 acres or .3504 ha of land at Crenard, Crossdoney, Co. Cavan to Mr. David Bates, The Station House, Crenard, Ballinagh, Co. Cavan for the sum of €20,000 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 211 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act 2000, and notices circulated.**

Postponed.

**11(a) To approve attendance of members at the AILG Autumn Seminar to be held on the 12 & 13 October in the Sligo Park Hotel.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor F. Curtin

And

Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, W. Bennett, V. Smith, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly, M. Argue, S.P. O’Reilly, S. Smith, F. Curtin, P. Brady, J.P. Feeley, S. O’Reilly and C. Kelly at AILG Autumn Seminar to be held in the Sligo Park Hotel on 12 & 13 October be hereby approved”.

**(b) Celtic Conferences on “Invasive Exotic Species of Wildlife in Irish Rivers, Canals & Lakes” to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 24-26 November.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S.P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor F. Curtin

And

Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors C. Brady, W. Bennett, P. O’Reilly, M. Argue, S. Smith and P. Brady at Celtic Conferenceson “Invasive Exotic Species of Wildlife in Irish Rivers, Canals & Lakes” to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 24-26 November be hereby approved”.

**(c) AILG Training Seminar to be held in the Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon on 21 October -**

F. Curtin, J.P. Feeley, C. Kelly, P. O’Reilly, S.P. O’Reilly, V. Smith, S. O’Reilly.

**and in the Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny on 26 October -**

C. Brady & W. Bennett

**12(a) To note reply from AXA Insurance plc regarding acceptance criteria for drivers of large commercial vehicles.**

Noted. Councillor P. McVitty expressed his disappointment with the reply.

**(b) To note reply from Department of Finance regarding motor insurance**

Noted. Councillor J.P. Feeley expressed his disappointment with the reply and stated that he hoped the Diaspora report will address the issue.

**(c) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding ivy on trees through the GLAS Scheme.**

Noted.

**(d) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Health concerning travel time to a Primary Coronary Intervention Centre.**

Noted. Councillor J.P. Feeley asked that a letter be issued to the HSE and a further letter be sent to the Minister for Health asking him to reply comprehensively on the matter.

**Votes of sympathy:**

* The Cosgrove Family, Dublin on the death of former Taoiseach and Fine Gael Leader Mr. Liam Cosgrove. Councillor P. O’Reilly gave a briefing on Mr. Cosgrove’s life stating that he will forever be remembered for his role in bringing Northern Ireland to the brink of peace with the Sunningdale Agreement in 1973.
* Councillor D. Brady and the Brady Family, Ballyconnell on the tragic death of his brother Aidan Brady.
* Mr. Vincent Craig, employee of Cavan County Council on the death of his wife Brenda Craig.

A minutes silence was held in memory of the deceased.

**Vote of Congratulations:**

* Virginia International Logistics on winning Fleet Transport Irish Haulier of the Year 2018 and Fleet Transport International Haulier of the Year at the 11th Annual Fleet Transport Awards.
* Cavan Gaels on winning the County Senior Football Championship.
* Shercock GFC on winning the County Intermediate Football Championship.
* Ballymachugh GFC on winning the County Junior Football Championship.

**Slurry Spreading**

Councillor S. Smith noted that rainfall has been exceptionally high this year and therefore made it impossible for farmers to spread slurry. He stated that when growth fails slurry cannot be absorbed into the land. Councillor Smith proposed that a letter be sent to the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Environment asking that the slurry spreading period be extended for another two to three weeks.

Councillor P. O’Reilly seconded the proposal.

Councillors Bennet and McVitty supported the motion.

Mr. P. Connaughton, A/Director of Service stated that he would make contact with the Department immediately. Mr. Connaughton informed the members at the end of the meeting that the Department had sent a reply stating that an announcement would be made the next day with an extension period for spreading slurry.

Councillor S. Smith thanked Mr. Connaughton for his prompt action.

**Bus Eireann**

Councillor M. Argue noted that the new 109 bus route leaving Cavan for the city centre no longer stops at the Mater Hospital and this is causing great concern to many Cavan people who avail of this route to attend hospital appointments. Councillor Argue noted that the bus now stops at Doyle’s Corner forcing locals to cross busy lanes of traffic in order to attend health appointments. Councillor M. Argue proposed that a letter be sent to Bus Eireann headquarters asking them to review the situation and revert the route back past the hospital.

Councillor W. Bennett seconded the proposal stating that it is causing widespread confusion for passengers, some of whom had remained on the bus to Busaras and then have to pay for a taxi to get back to the Mater Hospital.

Councillors S.P. O’Reilly, P. McDonald and P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – DEFERRED FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**1. To discuss the downgrading of the Ulster Bank in Ballyconnell.**

Deferred to Municipal District Meeting.

**2. To seek to meet the Minister for Transport regarding road funding for the County.**

Councillor S. Smith proposed that the Council write to Minister Ross asking him to meet with a delegation from Cavan County Council with regards to road funding. Councillor Smith noted that as it currently stands Cavan County Council only have 50% of the funding re quired to maintain roads in the County. Councillor Smith stated that if extra funding is not sought the road situation within the County will deteriorate greatly.

Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded the proposal. Councillor Feeley stated that there is a need for significant investment in our roads. Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that the Municipal District Authority covering Ballinamore had recently secured a deputation to meet with Minister Ross and therefore Cavan County Council should too.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, A/Director of Service informed the members that funding for roads has decreased greatly over the last number of years but the executive will continue to push for more funding.

**3. That this Council requests the Minister for Finance not to increase excise fuel duty on the freight industry.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Finance asking the Government not to increase fuel duty on the freight industry. Councillor O’Reilly stated that any increases in the cost of fuel would have a knock-on effect on our competitiveness and would lead to increases in the price of goods and services. Councillor O’Reilly noted that consumer groups have warned against any such measures saying that to penalize diesel drivers now after spending the previous decade encouraging people to switch from petrol to diesel would not be a good idea.

Councillor P. McVitty seconded the proposal.

Councillor S. Smith supported the motion.

**4. That Cavan County Council outlines its policy, quota and numbers employed of peoples with disabilities.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly asked the Executive to outline its policy, quota and numbers employed by Cavan County Council of people with disabilities. Councillor O’Reilly noted that there were different types of disabilities and felt as a major employer Cavan County Council should be doing more to employ people with a disability.

Councillor D. Downey supported the motion and congratulated Cavan County Council in supporting the Cavan Disability Network.

Councillors W. Bennett and P. Brady supported the motion.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service informed the members that Cavan County Council as an employer, must comply with the Employment Equality Acts, the Disability Act and the Safety Health & Welfare at Work Acts. Mr. Doyle stated that the Council implements a policy of equality of opportunity for all staff and has adopted a Code of Practice for the Employment of People with Disabilities. He stated that the purpose of this Code of Practice is to provide a clear statement of policy in relation to people with disabilities and to provide guidance for the Council in relation to their employment. Mr. Doyle stated that people with disabilities are entitled, as of right, to apply for any post in the local authority service for which they are qualified and to have their applications considered on the basis of their abilities, qualifications and suitability for the work in question. Mr. Doyle stated that the Council must also ensure, unless there is good reason to the contrary, that not less than 3% of the persons employed by them are people with disabilities. Mr. Doyle noted that each Annual Report submitted to the monitoring committee since 2012 has reported that over 7% of people employed with Cavan County Council are people with disabilities. Mr. Doyle stated that in 2016 this figure was 7.29% which represented 29 employees out of 398.

Councillor P. O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Environment recommending that the disability employment quota be increased from 3% to 6%.

Councillor M. Argue seconded the proposal.

**5. That Cavan County Council invite the Chief Executive and local executive of Transport Infrastructure Ireland/National Roads Authority to our next meeting.**

Councillor P. O’Reilly noted that in the past Cavan County Council requested meetings with the National Roads Authority now Transport Infrastructure Ireland to which no positive outcomes were achieved. Councillor O’Reilly noted that changes proposed for Virginia are causing great concern to retailers. Councillor O’Reilly proposed that the Council invite the Chief Executive and the Local Executive of Transport Infrastructure Ireland to a meeting of Cavan County Council to discuss various issues the members have on different national primary routes within the County. He stated it is important to have this meeting as local knowledge and dialogue could prevent accidents from happening.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded the proposal. He stated that the only time in the past that the TII had acceded to Cavan County Council was when Councillor McVitty raised the issue in relation to wrong signage on the N3 Belturbet bypass. He stated that the people of Maghera have made submissions in relation to opposing an increase in speed limits in Maghera.

Councillor V. Smith supported the motion stating that he has raised the issue at Lavey Strand on numerous occasions with the TII but to no avail.

Councillors F. Curtin and P. McVitty supported the motion.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, A/Director of Service stated that the TII are open to meeting with the members. Mr. Jennings suggested that a delegation made up of two members from each party and the executive meet with the TII and that an agenda be in place prior to the meeting. Mr. Jennings asked that the names of the members willing to be part of the delegation be given to him as soon as possible. Mr. Jennings informed the members that there are different sections within the TII and he will make contact with same when arranging the meeting. Mr. Jennings stated that Cavan County Council has a good relationship with TII.

Councillor P. O’Reilly thanked all for their support. Councillor O’Reilly agreed that an agenda should be drawn up prior to the meeting.

**6. Killeshandra Health Centre.**

Councillor S. Smith noted that it is now ten to twelve years since this item was first raised and the people of Killeshandra are still no further on in relation to their Health Centre. Councillor Smith proposed that the Council write to the HSE and ask that a monthly report be sent in relation to what progress is being made on Killeshandra Health Centre. Councillor Smith stated that he is not convinced that a serious attempt is being made to put the Centre in place and he is concerned as medical personnel are being changed and not replaced.

Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded the proposal. He stated that there is huge frustration within the Community and the HSE need to make their intentions clear.

Councillor P. McVitty supported the motion. Councillor McVitty stated that to the best of his knowledge a new site is being looked at and he hoped it would progress soon.

Councillor P. Brady supported the motion stating that Cavan County Council members would have it discussed at the next HSE forum meeting.

**8. Cavan County Council supports a request to Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment, Denis Naughton, T.D., and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, T.D. to engage in meaningful dialogue for the creation of a CCTV and security systems grant for members of the agricultural community and rural dwellers due to the increasing frequency of burglaries and thefts in the North Eastern Region.**

Councillor O’Reilly noted that there has been a significant increase in the amount of burglaries taking place in the North Eastern Region and something must be done to make people feel secure in their homes. He stated that grants need to be made available to allow people in rural areas install CCTV and security systems. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council supports a request to Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment, Denis Naughton, T.D., and the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, T.D., to engage in meaningful dialogue for the creation of a CCTV and security systems grant for members of the agricultural community and rural dwellers due to the increasing frequency of burglaries and thefts in the North East Region.

Councillor F. Curtin seconded the proposal.

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that item should be discussed at the JPC meeting in order to progress same.

Councillor D. Downey supported the motion stating that Irish farmers are the heart of Irish rural countryside.

Councillors S. Smith and P. O’Reilly supported the motion.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly thanked the members for their support. Councillor O’Reilly asked that it be forwarded as an item for the next JPC meeting and also to include on the motion that Crime Call should be televised all year round.

**9. That Cavan County Council write to the Bank of Ireland requesting a reversal of the newly introduced cashier services.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that Bailieborough is the second largest town in the County and Bank of Ireland have now introduced new cashier services which means there is no cashier available to the public from 12.30p.m. to 5.00p.m. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that from 12.30p.m all business must be done through automated machines which is a major downgrade of services. Councillor O’Reilly noted that there is now only one ATM machine servicing the town of Bailieborough and it is frequently out of service due to technical issues. Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to the Bank of Ireland requesting a reversal of the newly introduced cashier services and also that a new ATM be placed in the town which allows people to lodge and withdraw money.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded the proposal. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that there is no bank in Mullagh and the majority of people go to Bailieborough to use the banking facilities. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that the towns of Kingscourt and Cootehill are totally cashless. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that there are a certain amount of financial institutions apart from Credit Unions where management do not value face to face customer service.

Councillors P. McDonald, N. Connell, C. Brady and D. Downey supported the motion.

Councillor S. O’Reilly thanked the members for their support and suggested that the Council write to the Regional Bank of Ireland Manager asking him to attend a meeting of Cavan County Council.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – OCTOBER**

**12. Progress report on vacant houses in the County.**

Councillor P. McVitty asked the executive for a progress report on vacant houses in the County. He stated that one estate in particular namely St. Brigid’s Terrace in Cavan has twelve vacant houses and some of these are vacant for the last twelve years. He stated that these houses are in disrepair, damp and starting to destroy the houses next door to them. Councillor McVitty noted that some of the estates are too narrow for bin lorries to drive into and collect the rubbish. Councillor McVitty asked how many refusals were made by people who were offered Local Authority houses. Councillor McVitty asked if the Council had any plans to sell a cottage in Doogarry which they renovated some time ago and is now overgrown with trees and weeds. Councillor McVitty noted that there are quite a number of vacant houses in Swanlinbar. Councillor McVitty stated that there is a lot of employment in the vicinity of Swanlinbar and asked if there was anything the Council could do to get people to take over these houses.

Councillor P. O’Reilly noted that there was a report published recently stating that Monaghan County Council had the highest turnover of houses. Councillor O’Reilly asked where Cavan features in this report.

Councillor J.P. Feeley suggested that the Council look for funding to get closed/vacant houses back into the market for circulation.

Councillor S. Smith supported the motion suggesting that people on the housing list in Counties Leitrim and Fermanagh should be offered houses in Swanlinbar.

Councillor M. Argue stated that she was in discussion with Mr. Seamus McLoughlin, Housing Construction, and he informed her that the Council is currently in the process of making a submission to the Department seeking funding to do up the houses in St. Brigid’s Terrace.

Mr. Brendan Jennings, A/Director of Services informed the members that Mr. Seamus McLoughlin is currently working on St. Brigid’s Terrace. Mr. Jennings stated that there are 2,000 Council houses in the County with only 74 of these vacant. Mr. Jennings informed the members that there is no demand for houses in Swanlinbar at the present time and selling these houses may be an option for the Council.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, A/Director of Services stated that the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government has written to all local authorities asking them to put in place a vacant homes action plan by the end of the year and appoint a designated vacant homes officer. He stated that this plan will primarily focus on areas of greater demand for housing and what houses are available in the private sector.

**13. Cutting of Hedges.**

Councillor P. McVitty stated that he has raised this issue on numerous occasions and there is still a problem with hedges not being cut which in turn leads to accidents. Councillor P. McVitty was of the opinion that if the Council notifies a landowner to cut their hedge and it is not adhered to, then the Council should cut the hedge themselves and send the bill to the landowner.

Councillor P. O’Reilly seconded the proposal.

Councillor F. Curtin asked that for every one hundred letters sent to landowners to cut their hedges how many are ignored and if ignored who is responsible if an accident occurs.

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

Mr. Brendan Jennings, A/Director of Services stated that on the notice issued to landowners there is an advisory note stating that the policy may not provide cover in the case of an accident if cutting is not adhered to. Mr. Jennings stated that we are currently one month into hedge cutting season and so far 71 notices have been issued. He stated that not many Counties go down the route of the Council cutting the hedges and recouping the cost from the landowner.

Councillor P. McVitty asked that an article be placed in the Anglo Celt and also on Northern Sound advising people to cut their hedges.

**14. That Cavan County Council supports the Life Saving Equipment Bill, 2017 which provides specific penalties for those found to have damaged life saving equipment such as defibrillators.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that currently there is legislation going through the Seanad to impose strict penalties on those who interfere with life saving equipment. Councillor Feeley noted that local communities make huge efforts to provide life saving equipment such as defibrillators and that any damage to the casing can render the equipment unsuitable. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposeled that Cavan County Council supports the Life Saving Equipment Bill, 2017 which provides specific penalties for those found to have damaged life saving equipment such as defibrillators. Councillor J.P. Feely also asked our Oireachtas members to support the motion.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly seconded the proposal.

Councillors N. Connell and S. Smith supported the motion.

**15. That Cavan County Council request the Minister for Health, Simon Harris T.D., to provide more support for people living with Parkinson’s Disease.**

Councillor M. Argue stated that at present there are approximately 200 people living with Parkinson’s Disease in County Cavan and 12,000 nationally with this figure set to double in the next 20 years. Councillor M. Argue stated that there is a shortage of neurologists and nurse specialists in the area of Parkinson’s Disease. She stated that some people are only getting to see a Neurologist every twelve months if they are lucky, when it should be twice a year. Councillor M. Argue proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, T.D. asking that the Government provide more support for people living with Parkinson’s Disease. Councillor Argue stated that more funding is required to improve services at a national and local level.

Councillor P. O’Reilly seconded the proposal.

Councillor J.P. Feeley supported the motion.

Councillor P. O’Reilly noted that Cavan County Council was one of the big winners in Government funding for rural renewal projects. He stated that 13 community projects across the county are set to get funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Councillor O’Reilly noted that €100,000 is going to Ballyconnell, €100,000 to Ballyjamesduff, €100,000 to Belturbet, €100,000 to Mullagh. Councillor O’Reilly noted that the biggest single recipient in Cavan is the Cavan Digital Hub which will receive €200.000.

Councillor P. O’Reilly thanked all those involved in the lighting of Cavan Courthouse with blue lights in support of Autism Awareness.

**Item Nos 7, 10, and 11 were deferred.**

The meeting concluded at 5.40p.m.