**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan County Council held on Monday 12th February 2018 in the Council Chamber at 2.00p.m.**

Councillor P. McDonald, Cathaoirleach Presiding

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

N. Connell, F. Curtin, D. Downey, C. Kelly, P. McVitty, P. O’Reilly,

S. O’Reilly, S. P. O’Reilly, P. Smith, S. Smith, V. Smith

In Attendance: T. Ryan, Chief Executive

E. Doyle, Director of Service

J. McLoughlin, Director of Service

P. Connaughton, A/Director of Service

E. McGinn, Meetings Administrator

An apology was received from Councillor F. Curtin.

1. **To confirm Minutes of Meetings held on 15 January, 2018. Miontuairiscí cruinnithe 15 Eanair 2018 a dhearbhu.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor S. P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor P. McVitty

And

Resolved:

“that minutes of meetings of Cavan County Council held on 15 January, 2018 be hereby approved”.

**2. To note Minutes of Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 7 December 2017.**

Noted.

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

Noted.

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

Noted.

**Votes of Congratulations:**

* Mr. Bob Gilbert on winning a LAMA award for “Community Volunteer of the Year” for Cavan.
* Mr. Thomas McPhillips and Comhairle na nOg an Chabháin on winning a LAMA award for Pop-Up Gaeltacht, best Irish Language Initiative.
* The new Leader of the Sinn Féin Party, Ms. Mary Lou McDonald.
* The new Deputy Leader of the Sinn Féin Party, Ms. Michelle O’Neill.
* Mr. Padraic McIntyre and the cast of “The Night Joe Dolan’s car broke down” in the Olympia Theatre. Councillor P. O’Reilly suggested that a Chairman’s reception be held to honour Mr. McIntyre and all Cavan people participating in the show. This was seconded by Councillor P. McVitty.
* Mr. Padraic McIntyre on the successful launch of his book “The night Joe Dolan’s car broke down” in Bailieborough Library.
* Mr. Jim Fox, Assistant Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office on taking up a new position with Enterprise Ireland.
* Ms. Jessica Kavanagh, Drung on reaching the National Finals of Ireland’s Best Young Entrepreneur competition in Dublin in March. Ms. Kavanagh won a Regional Award in the Best Start Up Business Category with her business Olann, a business which was born out of a desire to create a range of sophisticated yarn from ethically sources materials.
* Mr. Ronan Kelly of Bespoke Choice who represented Cavan in the Regional Finals in the Best Business Idea Category.
* Mr. Peter Scanlan of Elegant Gems who represented Cavan in the Regional Finals in the Best Established Category.

**Votes of Sympathy**

* The Sheridan Family, Killinkere on the death of Mr. John Sheridan, former staff member of Cavan County Council, member of Cavan Vocational Educational Committee and an All-Ireland 1952 football winner with Cavan.

A minutes silence was held in memory of the deceased.

1. **Presentation on the Cavan Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022**

Mr. Tom Sullivan, Acting County Librarian gave a detailed presentation to the members of the Cavan Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022. Mr. Sullivan stated that the programme is a national initiative putting culture and creativity at the heart of our lives. He stated that it acknowledges that everyone has the right to take part in, create and celebrate the culture of our country. He stated that it is our duty to put mechanisms in place to facilitate this initiative to maximum effect. Mr. Sullivan stated that access and participation are central to the vision and connecting artists and other creators to communities is also regarded as essential to realising the vision. Mr. Sullivan stated that County Cavan has a long tradition of embracing diversity. He noted that our border position as a county in South Ulster means that we understand and appreciate difference. He stated that culture is a valuable way of creating a more sustainable future in Ireland by imbedding it in economic and social policy. He stated that the strategy links with the aspirations of the Local Economic and Community Plan in developing a county with vibrant, sustainable, inclusive, healthy and active communities with a high quality of life and well-being. He stated that arts and cultural engagement have been identified as key drivers for engaging with and building communities. He stated that the new County Arts, Heritage, Library, Food and Tourism strategies take account of and link with the Creative Ireland initiatives and aspirations as does Cavan Diaspora Engagement Strategy which outlines opportunities to promote Cavan as a forward thinking county reaching out to existing networks and building new connections and relationships. Mr. Sullivan noted that Cavan has a well established record of investment in culture and creativity in the county through overall partnership approaches adopted by our cultural team working on local, regional and national initiatives for many years. He stated that the Ireland 2016 Programme. Heritage Week, Culture Night, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Science Week, Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann and other initiatives exemplify these collaborative relationships. Mr. Sullivan stated that Cavan County Council is confident that this strategy will provide the template to foster creative thinking and cultural expression that can be built on the coming years and allow everyone opportunities to express themselves creatively and realise their potential.

1. **To approve Arts Awards recommendations (to be circulated)**

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 Awards Recipients 2018** | | | |
| **No** | **Name of Group / Event** | ***Event description, location, etc.*** | **Fund amount approved** |
| 1 | Kate Ennals - At the Edge literary evenings | Published authors or poets read for 15 minutes and Open mic sessions | € 550.00 |
| 2 | Shercock Drama Festival | 35 annual drama festival - 8 different plays | €.600.00 |
| 3 | Bailieborough School of Music | Perform concert in Mahony Hall, Helix, DCU to celebrate 30 anniversary. | € 300.00 |
| 4 | The Virginians Drama Group | Produce and perform the play Juno and the Paycock by Sean O'Casey over 3 nights in the Ramor Theatre Virginia in March 2018 | € 300.00 |
| 5 | Cavan Drama Festival Committee | Enhance and promotion of this year’s 3-act drama festival to target greater audiences. | € 600.00 |
| 6 | Killinkere Drama Group | Stage a play by local playwright Pat Clarke, staging on bank holiday weekend. | € 300.00 |
| 7 | Gonzo Youth Theatre | Employ a professional crew to work with 11 - 13 yrs group to produce a stage production | € 750.00 |
| 8 | The Open Door Session | Continue monthly arts gathering in Bailieborough sourcing more established local artists (musicians, artists and poets) to perform to a growing audience. | € 650.00 |
| 9 | Lit Lab Writers Group | Host 5th annual Bailieborough Poetry Festival running in conjuction with an art exhibition in Bailieborough Library. | € 500.00 |
| 10 | Castletown Accordion Orchestra | Mid Summer Classical Concert in Ramor Theatre in June 2018. | € 300.00 |
| 11 | Edel Cox | Children's visual arts workshops within Cavan region. | € 400.00 |
| 12 | Aisteoiri Muinchille | Produce and perform (1) Winners by Friel, 16 - 18 February (2) Dancing at Lughansa 9 - 11 March (3) Losers by Friel Cootehill Arts Festival 21 -26 August. (4) Participate in Dermot Healy Tribute Cootehill Arts Festival 21 - 26 August. | € 600.00 |
| 13 | Belturbet Dramatic Society | Further development of a youth theatre programme initiated by Belturbet Dramatic Society in 2017, for young people in Belturbet. | € 600.00 |
| 14 | Kingscourt Youth Drama Group | Employ 2 tutors to give weekly drama workshops. | € 500.00 |
| 15 | Ramor Playwriting Group | A weekend workshop with Louise Lowe, Anu Productions. | € 400.00 |
| 16 | Cootehill Arts Festival | Annual arts festival in August 2018. | € 1,000.00 |
| 17 | Gerry Whelan 14th Annual Memorial Weekend | Annual traditional Irish weekend in Cootehill managed and driven by Cootehill branch Comhalta Ceoltoiri Eireann in September every year. Scheduled over the 3 days to include concert, ceili's, workshops in fiddle, whistle, accordion, flute, bodhran, dancing and Irish language comhra sessions. Open to all ages, genders, cultures and denominations who wish to take part in any or all events. | € 300.00 |
| 18 | Tony Cuckson | Present a concert of song, poetry and storytelling at Loughan House Prison in Cavan. | € 300.00 |
| 19 | The Moogles Theatre Company | New writing by woman from the locality in Cavan to be produced into a play. | € 500.00 |
| 20 | Killnaleck Youth Drama Society | KYDS teenagers, senior group and juniors will perform 3 different plays. | € 750.00 |
| 21 | Ed Reavy Traditional Music Festival 2018 | 4th Ed Reavy Traditional Music Festival to include a CD launch, concert, music workshops, comhrá workshop, dance workshops, historical lecture with an exhibition, fiddler of the year competition. Tour of Cavan County Museum. | € 700.00 |
| 22 | Cavan Camera Club | Purchase of background kit to use at workshops | € 500.00 |
| 23 | Theatre Lab Cavan | Cover tutor fees, expenses and running costs of workshops exploring theatre disciplines and acting techniques in conjunction with Ramor Theatre | € 600.00 |

**Professional Artists Awards Recipients 2018**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Group / Event** | | ***Event description, location, etc.*** | **Fund amount approved** |
| 1 | Jessie Keenan | Cover fee's for 3 professional dancers for a period of development and processing. | €1,000.00 |
| 2 | Kim McCafferty | Facilitate two high level mentorship programmes and to create, produce and run a one day arts festival in Con Smith Park Cavan in summer 2018 | €1300.00 |
| 3 | Paul Flynn | A series of concerts planned to commemorate the Centenary of the End of the Great War, held in Cavan, Enniskillen, and Dublin | €1,000.00 |
| 4 | Eilish McCann | Towards a solo show in Cavan in 2019 involving making drawings, prints and paintings combined with developing a website and accessing opportunities to fund and promote work. | €1,000.00 |
| 5 | Kasia Zimnoch and Pawel Kleszczewski | Create - LAKELAND (in the beginning was water project) and exhibition in Cavan County Council Museum. Presenting 1.5 years of work on this project. Consisting of short documentaries and a series of painting showing County Cavan Lakes and an installation "Bradán Feasa" and 3D viewers. | €950.00 |
| 6 | Edel Cox | Develop a coherent collection of handwoven contemporary art and craft pieces inspired by ancient weaving craft, contemporary fibre art, painting, mark making and pattern design. | €800.00 |
| 7 | Niamh McCormack | To attend vocal workshops with renowned performers/tutors to develop as a classical / opera singer. | €1,400.00 |
| 8 | Marie Smith | To assist with material costs to make new artworks | €800.00 |
| 9 | Mateusz Lubecki | Purchase material for new work | €600.00 |
| 10 | Jackie O'Neill | Research Irish Emigration, Immigration and investigate the broader notion of the word home. To cover the research and initial development part of this project. In 2019 plans to develop and produce a body of visual artwork. | €600.00 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tyrone Guthrie Residency Recipients 2018** | | |
|  |  |  |
| **Name of Group / Event** | ***Event description, location, etc.*** | **Fund amount approved** |
| Kieron Smith | Production of "The Workhouse" (Bawnboy) to gain an understanding and reflect the history of the building. The social and political history and the physical building. Collaborating with local community groups for research and development. Production development at Tyrone Guthrie Centre followed by workshop with creative team. Performance of final production to be held at Bawnboy Workhouse. | Residency |
| Mairéad Donnellan | Facilitate the completion and editing of first poetry collection for publishing. | Residency |

7. **To approve Roadworks Programme 2018**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor P. O’Reilly

Seconded by Councillor D. Brady

And

Resolved:

“that the Roadworks Programme 2018 be hereby approved”.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service outlined briefly the roadworks programme. He stated that Cavan County Council has been notified of the total allocation of €25.3 million for the improvement and maintenance of National, Regional and Local Roads for 2018. Mr. McLoughlin noted that the grant allocation for the County in 2018 is €12,315,260 and this allocation will support ongoing improvements to the National Road Network in the County. Mr. McLoughlin stated that project appraisal for Virginia By-Pass, Planning & Design of the N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon Section A, N3 Virginia Main Street, N3 Dublin Road Roundabout Scheme, N3 Virginia to Maghera Scheme are among some of the schemes included in this allocation. Mr. McLoughlin noted that the overall allocation for regional and local roads in Cavan for 2018 is €10,732,275 which is a 17.7% increase on the 2017 allocation. He stated that despite the increase the allocation is well below what is required to maintain he road network and with this level of funding the efforts of Cavan County Council will be concentrated on trying to keep as much of the road network intact as possible. Mr. McLoughlin noted that Community Involvement Schemes and Local Improvement Schemes are to be funded separately. He stated that Cavan County Council has allocated €2,326,379 from its own resources towards the improvement and maintenance of the non-national road network in 2018. Mr. McLoughlin stated that in addition to this €2,326,379 Cavan County Council has provided €570,000 from its Own Resources towards the cost of public lighting. Mr. McLoughlin stated that €3,122,272 has been made available for pavement overlays on the national secondary network, including the N55 North of Ballinagh to Moynehall and four separate projects on the N87 between Bawnboy and Swanlinbar. Mr. McLoughlin noted that Local Improvement Scheme now falls under the Department of Rural and Community Development and it has an allocation of €10m this year which has yet to be distributed to Local Authorities. Mr. McLoughlin noted that there is a commitment of €317,000 to road drainage related issues and remedial works. Mr. McLoughlin stated that a total of €323,500 has been allocated to bridge rehabilitation projects. Mr. McLoughlin stated that improvement works will be carried out on fifteen bridges across the three Municipal Districts and Cavan County Council will also provide €230,000 to enhance this programme. Mr. McLoughlin stated that a sum of €40,000 has been awarded for the repair and widening of Dunancory Bridge over the Blackwater River on the R194 Virginia Ballyjamesduff Road and the improvement of the R178 Virginia Bailieborough Road. He stated that both schemes have been awarded €20,000 to advance planning and design elements of the schemes. Mr. McLoughlin stated that an allocation of €25,000 has been put in place to carry out a project appraisal of the East West Link road.

Councillor S. Smith welcomed the increased allocation and pointed out that back in 2009 the Council got approximately €1.8m for regional and local roads and urged Cavan County Council to seek extra funding.

Councillor J.P. Feeley welcomed the increase and noted that Transport Infrastructure Ireland had reduced funding by 30%. Councillor Feeley noted that the N60 is an embarrassment to the Council, even though they are not technically responsible for it. Councillor Feeley stated that this road has deteriorated rapidly and must be dealt with urgently. Councillor Feeley proposed that a delegation meet with Minister Shane Ross in relation to road funding.

Councillor C. Kelly stated that if extra funding is not secured to maintain and improve the road network, Cavan will regain its title “The Pothole County of Ireland” like it had in the 1980’s. Councillor Kelly suggested that a meeting be held with Minister Humphreys in relation to road funding.

Councillor P. O’Reilly was of the opinion that those who pay road tax, development charges and property tax should be entitled to a slice of the cake. Councillor P. O’Reilly welcomed the funding for the Virginia By Pass project and the improvement works to be carried out on Dunancory Bridge. Councillor P. O’Reilly asked that the work on the bridge does not go ahead without drainage works being carried out as thousands of acres of land flood in the vicinity of the bridge. Councillor P. O’Reilly noted that Cavan has no rail network, no port or airport and therefore a case should be made for a greater roads allocation. Councillor P. O’Reilly proposed that people who apply to have their lanes done under the LIS should be asked to do drainage on the lanes which would save money.

Councillor P. McVitty stated that the junction and bend at Killinagher Church is very dangerous and the traffic merging on the N3 at the round-about at the Hotel Kilmore going back towards Cavan Town needs to be looked at urgently.

Councillor M. Argue stated that there was a serious accident on the N3 at Drumsillagh junction and this needs to be looked at.

Councillor P. Smith thanked the local area Manager and Staff for the professional way they carried out works on the roads in the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District area last year. Councillor P. Smith seconded Councillor P. O’Reilly’s proposal to ask those applying for the LIS scheme to carry out drainage on the lanes.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly acknowledged the €20,000 allocated for design and planning along the Virginia to Bailieborough Road and suggested that Cavan County Council invite local landowners to a meeting to ascertain what level of co-operation can be achieved. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly also asked for works to be carried out on the roads from Carrick Finea to Virginia and Ballyjamesduff to Virginia. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that there is a serious situation with the entrance to Supervalu and Lidl in Virginia involving the aluminium bollards causing damage to motorists’ vehicles.

Mr. McLoughlin, Director of Service and Mr. Brendan Jennings, Acting Senior Engineer replied to the members. Mr. Jennings stated that in relation to the Kilmore Roundabout funding sources are being explored in relation to same. Mr. Jennings noted that in relation to drainage works, the Council is examining ways to move this type of work to the modern era using suitable machinery.

**8. To approve the nomination by Cavan PPN of Barry Kavanagh to the Environmental & Planning Strategic Committee to fill the casual vacancy arising from Orla Sheridan standing down from the Committee.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor D. Brady

Seconded by Councillor W. Benentt

And

Resolved:

“that the nomination by Cavan PPN of Barry Kavanagh to the Environmental & Planning Strategic Committee to fill the casual vacancy arising from Orla Sheridan standing down from the Committee be hereby approved”.

**9. To approve attendance of members at:-**

* **Association of Irish Local Government Training Programme to be held in the Lakeside Manor Hotel, Virginia on 13 February.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor P. Smith

And

Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillors J.P. Feeley, S. Smith, S. O’Reilly, C. Kelly, S.P. O’Reilly, M. Argue, W. Bennett, P. Smith and P. McVitty at the Association of Irish Local Government Training Programme to be held in the Lakeside Manor Hotel, Virginia on 13 February be hereby approved”.

* **Colmcille Winter School to be held in Gartan, Co. Donegal on 23 & 24 February.**

It was:

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor P. Smith

And

Resolved:

“that the attendance of Councillor S. Smith at Colmcille Winter School be held in Gartan, Co. Donegal on 23 & 24 February be hereby approved”.

* **Celtic Conferences Seminar being held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford from 2-4 March.**

No attendees.

**10 (a) To note reply from Department of Public Expenditure and Reform regarding the continuation and management of Cohesion Funding by the Northern & Western Regional Assembly.**

Noted. .

**(b) To note reply from National Transport Authority concerning bus services in Cavan.**

Noted. Councillor M. Argue expressed her disappointment with the reply and stated that no Councillor in Cavan had been contacted before the bus route was changed as the letter suggests.

**(c) To note reply from Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding fodder.**

Noted. Councillor J.P. Feeley stated that the reply was unsatisfactory and the scheme put in place by the Minister is very inaccessible. Councillor S. Smith proposed that a further letter be sent to the Minister asking for a voucher system for meal to be put in place for farmers. Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded the proposal.

Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that a letter be sent to the Department of Transport equesting that they meet with a delegation from Cavan County Council with regard to school transport.

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

**1. That the Government urgently review changes to Stamp Duty with particular regard for the price of agricultural land.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley noted that in Budget 2018 the non residential stamp duty increased from 2% to 6% overnight with little or no warning. Councillor Feeley stated that the changes are particularly damaging to farmers who are trying to extend their landholdings and may be competing with somebody trying to buy land for afforestation. Councillor Feeley noted that the change had a significant impact on people who were negotiating the purchase of properties. Councillor J.P. Feeley proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Agriculture asking that the Government urgently review changes to Stamp Duty with particular regard for the price of agricultural land.

Councillor S.Smith seconded the proposal. Councillor S. Smith stated that most of the land has to be purchased with borrowing money noting that it is the biggest investment for the lowest return in agriculture.

**MEMBERS’ ITEMS – FEBRUARY MEETING**

**Kingscourt Water Supply**

Councillor C. Kelly stated that residents in Kingscourt were very irate after having no running water for up to ten days. Councillor Kelly stated that Irish Water left people stranded without a water supply and no notification was given by Irish Water as to what the fault was or when it would be restored. He stated that families with young children and people with disabilities had been left high and dry without access to a water supply. He stated that the people of Kingscourt were very annoyed by the way they were treated by Irish Water. He stated that when water was the responsibility of Cavan County Council this would not happen. Councillor C. Kelly thanked Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service for keeping the area up to date on what was happening and stated that Mr. Connaughton went far and beyond his call of duty. Councillor Kelly stated that initially there had been a burst main and when it was repaired a problem with the reservoir pump emerged.

Councillors P. McDonald and D. Downey supported the motion.

Councillor S. O’Reilly suggested that Irish Water be asked to attend a meeting of Cavan County Council.

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service acknowledged the concerns of the people of Kingscourt. He stated that there is now a new reservoir in operation which will take double the capacity of water.

**11. To call on the HSE to reverse the decision to remove Versatis from the Medical Card Scheme.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly thanked the Corporate Policy Group for allowing him carry forward his motion. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that Versatis is a pain relief patch used by patients suffering from chronic pain. Councillor O’Reilly stated that patients can no longer access the pain relief drug Versatis on their medical card and it will no longer apply to the drugs payment scheme. He stated that to buy Versatis it will cost patients in the region of €380 per month. Councillor O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to the HSE and Mr, Simon Harris, Minister for Health asking that the decision to remove Versatis from the Medical Card Scheme be reversed.

Councillor P. McVitty seconded the proposal.

**3. That a deputation from the Bailieborough/Cootehill Municipal District meet the Department regarding the East West Link.**

**5. That Cavan County Council write to the Minister for Transport, Shane Ross, T.D., to ask if he will make an additional emergency funding allocation to the roads programme for the Bailieborough/Cootehill MD owing to the seriousness in the deterioration of the roads in that area.**

While welcoming the €25,000 put in place to carry out a project appraisal of the East West Link Road, Councillor C. Kelly proposed that a delegation from the Bailieborough Cootehill Municipal District meet with the Department regarding the East West Link Road. He stated that the members raised the issue with Transport Infrastructure Ireland but were informed that it was a matter for the Department of Transport. He stated that this is a very important road linking Dundalk to Sligo and will benefit Counties Cavan and Monaghan. Councillor Kelly stated that the East West link should be upgraded to a National route.

Councillor S. O’Reilly supported Councillor C. Kelly’s motion. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that the roads in County Cavan are in need of urgent repair and proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Transport, Shane Ross, asking that he make additional emergency funding available to the roads programme for the Bailieborough Cootehill Municipal district. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that since last August there has been serious rainfall and our roads are covered with potholes. She noted that there is a huge volume of HGV’s on local roads. Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that there is no national route running through the Bailieborough Cootehill Municipal District and yet it has more kilometers of road than the entire County of Carlow. She stated that the East West Link Road is a critical piece of infrastructure for the municipal district and needs to be invested in.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Services stated that the East West Link Road has been brought to pre design stage and stated that looking to have the road upgraded could delay the process even longer. He stated that it is best to let it progress currently as a Regional road and then look to have it upgraded.

Councillors S. Smith and P. Smith noted that this matter has been discussed also at the Northern and Western Regional Assembly meetings.

**6. That Cavan County Council investigate/invite Penney’s Clothing Store to open a premises in Co. Cavan and to assist the search for a suitable site.**

Councillor S. O’Reilly proposed that Cavan County Council investigate/invite Penney’s Clothing Store to open a premises in County Cavan and that the Council would assist them in their search for a suitable site. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that in addition to providing popular fashion at affordable prices the presence of a Penneys store in Cavan town would be a huge boost to the local economy. Councillor S. O’Reilly noted that Cavan town has a higher population that Longford and Ballina and both of these towns have a Penneys store. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that young women and teenagers, in particular, are travelling to other towns such as Navan and Enniskillen to access Penneys to the detriment of other retailers in the area. Councillor S. O’Reilly stated that she believed that a Penneys store in Cavan town would attract additional shoppers and create employment and this footfall would create a spin-off for other shops in the town.

Councillor J.P. Feeley seconded the proposal. Councillor J.P. Feeley suggested that it be conveyed to Penneys that the County’s door is open to them to set up business in the County.

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

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive stated that Penneys will make their own commercial decision and noted that the Council’s Planning and Environment Sections will work with anyone wishing to come to Cavan town to invest. Mr. Ryan agreed that the County’s door is open to Penneys for business.

**7. That Cavan County Council develops a series of guidelines in the event of dangerous storm occurrences in light of the recent Storm Ophelia.**

Councillor D. Downey called on Cavan County Council to develop a duplicate of its highly successful Frozen Weather Guide for Storm Sized Events. He stated that lives were lost in the recent storm Ophelia which may have been needlessly lost had a basic guide been issued to the general public in regard to safety and support for local people. He suggested that the guide be issued to local employers urging an adoption of policy whereby a serious storm warning would lead to an immediate closure of non-essential businesses where the onus is on the employer to notify staff prior to risking a journey in such conditions. Councillor Downey stated that with global warning on the increase we can only expect these conditions to increase and therefore preparations can mitigate negative effects of storms in the future.

**8. That Cavan County Council call on the Government to join with other nations in phasing out the use of Microbeads in all products in our State.**

Councillor D. Downey noted that Microbeads constitute microscopic plastic beads in many cosmetic and industrial products which invariably find their way into the general ecosystem, ingested in large quantities by marine life, including fish stocks caught for human consumption. Councillor Downey noted that in 2014 An Taisce called for a total ban of these items. He stated that the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government stated that Ireland supports “the principal of banning microbeads” in such a way to allow industry to adapt. Councillor Downey proposed that the Council call on the Government to join with other nations in phasing out the use of Microbeads in all products in our state.

Councillors S.P O’Reilly and W. Bennett supported the motion.

**9. Cavan County Council call on the Department of Justice to recommend sterner punishments for repeat offenders and offenders of serious crimes.**

Councillor N. Connell proposed that Cavan County Council call on the Department of Justice to recommend sterner punishments for repeat offenders and offenders of serious crimes. Councillor Connell stated that criminal behaviour throughout rural areas is gone totally out of hand and elderly people are constantly living in fear. He stated that the same people are the same offenders are committing these crimes and then being faced with soft sentences.

Councillor D. Brady seconded the proposal. Councillor Brady noted that most of the criminals caught for offences in rural Ireland are out on bail after committing previous crimes.

Councillor P. McDonald supported the motion and stated that he would bring it to the Joint Policing Committee meeting.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed with the agreement of Councillor Connell that a proper means test be put in place for legal aid and this be included in the letter to the Department of Justice. Councillor Connell agreed to same.

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

**10. Rural Broadband Scheme.**

Councillor J.P. Feeley expressed his disappointment once again with the Rural Broadband Scheme. Councillor Feeley noted that initially it was stated that every house in rural Ireland would have broadband by 2016 which did not happen, then it moved to 2021 at the earliest and now the earliest is 2023. Councillor Feeley stated that broadband is essential for every family where there are 2nd and 3rd level students, it is essential for farmers as most of the accounts now have to be done online. Councillor Feeley stated that rural Ireland are been discriminated against. He stated that there is huge potential for small businesses to work from home but this can’t happen without broadband. Councillor Feeley stated that the Government needs to put a contract in place without further delay.

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly, P. O’Reilly and W. Bennett supported the motion.

Mr. Eoin Doyle, Director of Service stated that Cavan County Council stated that Mr. Kieran Heever, Senior Executive Officer, IT Department interacts regularly with broadband providers and that the local authority’s role will expand as the National Broadband Plan develops.

**12. To call for an urgent review by the Minister for Health of Long Term Illnesses Scheme.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly noted that he raised this issue two year ago in the Council Chamber. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly stated that the Long Term Illness Scheme has not been renewed since 1970 and noted that there are a number of illnesses not prescribed under the LTI Scheme. Councillor O’Reilly stated that it is time the scheme is expanded to include these life limiting diseases. Councillor S.P. O’Reilly proposed that the Council write to the Minister for Health asking that an urgent review of the Long Term Illnesses Scheme take place.

**13. That Cavan County Council introduces a revised Bye-Law and increased financial penalty on motorists found parking in designated disabled parking bays.**

Councillor S.P. O’Reilly called on Cavan County Council to introduce a revised Bye-Law Scheme and increase financial penalty on motorists found parking in designated disabled parking bays. Councillor O’Reilly stated that these parking bays are put there for a reason and should not be used and abused by those who are not disabled, Councillor O’Reilly proposed that the fine be increased from €80 to €160.

Councillor D. Downey seconded the proposal.

Councillor C. Brady supported the motion.

Councillor P. Smith noted that disabled parking bays in towns are vacant most of the time and stated that he was not in favour of the fine being increased.

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service stated that even though the bays are not in all day usage it is important that when disabled drivers need them, the space is there for them. Mr. McLoughlin stated that the Council would look at the bye-laws and penalty fine.

Councillor J.P. Feeley asked if the Council had made a submission in relation to boundary changes for local elections.

Mr. Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive informed the members that it was discussed at the CPG and agreed that Cavan County Council as a body would not make a submission but parties and individuals could do so if they wished.

**Items 4, 14, 15, 16 and 17 were deferred.**

**The meeting concluded at 5.10p.m.**

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Certified Correct: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_