

**COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE  
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 IN COUNCIL CHAMBER  
DUNGARVAN**

**Present**

Cllr. John O’Leary (Mayor)	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Joanne Bailey	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Seamus O’Donnell
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Donal Barry
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan
Cllr. Conor McGuinness	Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. David Daniels	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Cristiona Kiely

Apologies: Cllr. Seamus Ryan, Cllr. Liam Brazil, Cllr. Joe Conway, Cllr. John Pratt

**Officials in Attendance**

Mr. Michael Walsh, Chief Executive  
 Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate Services, Culture & Planning  
 Mr. Ivan Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services  
 Mr. Michael Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development  
 Mr. Gabriel Hynes, Senior Engineer, Roads.  
 Mr. Bernard Pollard, Head of Finance  
 Mr. Dave Mitchell, Corporate  
 Ms Anne Flynn, Corporate  
 Mr. Liam McGree, Senior Planner

Mayor called for a vote of sympathy followed by a ten-minute adjournment as a mark of respect for the late Jack de Bromhead, son of Freeman Henry de Bromhead. This was seconded by Cllr .J. Power and passed unanimously, the Mayor spoke to express his sympathy on behalf of the Council to Jack’s family.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

- a) Plenary Meeting held on 14th July, 2022 Proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan and agreed by all.  
 Cllr. E. Quinlan asked for a correction and the word “legal” to be removed from the minutes in respect of the advice he was describing on page 3. He offered to share the recording and reports to verify this. Cllr. Wyse stated that we’ve known that this opening was coming up for some time and like everyone we had, ye had, the ability to go find out our own legal opinion on it and look into it. Both amendments agreed.
- b) Special Meeting held on 8th July, 2022 proposed by Cllr. S. Power and seconded by Cllr. Doocey and agreed by all.

## 2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Roche requested outline of the circulated legal advice on the election of the Transport SPC Chair that occurred at the meeting on the 14th July.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined the legal advice received from McCann FitzGerald. He confirmed that Circular Letter LG 07/2014 (“Establishment of New Strategic Policy Committees”) was correctly outlined to the members in advance of the vote on 14<sup>th</sup> July per the advice received. The vote did not achieve the elected representational spread on the full council resulting in noncompliance with certain provisions of the guidelines. The guidelines had not anticipated such an outcome and do not offer a remedy when filling such a casual vacancy. The advice received regarding the legal consequences, if any, of non-conformity with the Guidelines, was that not every such error invalidates the relevant appointment and/or the consequences of such a process. The advice continued to state that if a challenge were brought to this appointment, it is unlikely that the High Court would invalidate the appointment, notwithstanding any error of law that the court might find to have occurred. McCann Fitzgerald recommended that this issue should be brought to the attention of the Department so that further guidance could be given to local authorities thus avoid a recurrence in the future.

K. Kehoe, DoS, stated that similar advice had been received previously in relation to the election of a single SPC chair that majority vote was the only option currently available.

Cllr. Hearne voiced his concern that a precedent was being set and independents would be consequently excluded for the Corporate Policy Group (CPG). He was further concerned that the SPC chair currently held by his party could be lost and they could also be excluded from the CPG also if the person that currently had in that position was to change. The CPG needed to be inclusive of all members.

Cllr. Roche stated that she had a totally different view to the interpretation of the executive. She highlighted that fact that the pact had taken advice but it was not legal advice as clarified in the confirmation of minutes above but the advice the Council received was on the basis that the advice that the pact acted on was legal. She stressed that the importance of this matter not related to finances or chairmanships but the CPG representation of the seven independent members being one of the biggest representative groupings. She added that since 2014 the custom and practice or precedent was that an independent chair would stay with an independent member and similarly for party members who were chairs. The CPG makes decision on what comes before the Council in terms of motions or agenda content. Cllr. Roche called on the executive to intervene and the Mayor should not accept the result of the decision and the lack of representation that resulted from it.

Cllr. E. Quinlan again clarified that he checked the record of the previous meeting and he had obtained an audio recording and media reports to verify that his amendment to the minutes was accurate in that he had not referred to the advice he had received as legal. He had offered to share the recording and reports.

Cllr. Daniels expressed his regret that this situation had been arrived at and that it was an independent group position to chair that SPC from his reading of the legal advice. He wanted to see all members of the council treated fairly and represented and for it to be seen as such by the public. Taking High court Action was not feasible. He said that the honourable thing would be to return the chair to the independent members. He would like to hear CEOs opinion on the matter.

Cllr. Barry stated that in the interest of fairness and good practice that all political interests on the council were represented. The majority vote would not provide this outcome and the ruling party could end up with all the SPC chairs. He stated that all had acted in good faith on the day of the election and that the chair should now vacate his position and that a new election held allowing it to go back to an independent candidate.

Cllr. McGuinness agreed with the views put forward by Cllr. Hearne and the issue was about proportionality and representation. He questioned that nature of the advice received by the pact and why it was mentioned at the previous meeting. He thought it would be fair if the recordings obtained were provided to Corporate Services and the other members. He thought it would be in everyone’s interest if the transcripts of the part

in question were appended to. He further thought that the SPC Chair should be vacated and an independent allowed to take the position and the consequent representation on the CPG for the independent members.

Cllr. Wyse clarified again that Fianna Fáil had not had legal advice as per the correction to the minutes earlier and that all members had the option to obtain their own advice.

Cllr. O' Donnell stated that the decision to appoint the SPC chair was passed by the members so it should stand.

K. Kehoe, DoS, reiterated that the position had been filled in the same manner as previous vacancies and that there was no other mechanism available to it. The correct process had been followed to fill a vacancy for a single chair and it is the only option currently available in such circumstances. The advice stated members should seek to achieve a representative spread in filling the vacancy. He urged the members to support contacting the Department and ask for a correction to be made to the guidelines.

M. Walsh, CE, reiterated the view of K. Kehoe. The intent and spirit of the guidelines was not adhered to but the correct process was followed as had occurred in the election of all previous selections of replacements for a single SPC chair vacancy. He stated that there had been acquiescence by all parties previously in replacing SPC chairs. The same level of magnanimity did not exist on this occasion. He has no authority to overturn the vote of the majority of the Council in this matter.

Cllr. Roche stated that they had not thought it necessary to seek their own advice in advance of the previous meeting as there no forewarning that custom and practice since 2014 was under threat. She wanted to know what facilities could be put in place to ensure independents representation at the CPG level even as an observer.

The Mayor committed to bring the representation issue to the next CPG but stated that as the CEO had explained that nothing further could be done regarding the SPC chair appointment.

Cllr. Clune proposed a suspension of standing orders so that items 5-9 before item 4, this was seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and agreed.

### **3. Land Disposals**

K. Kehoe, DoS, introduced and explained the details of the listed disposals. Proposed by Cllr. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. Nugent and agreed by all.

Cllr. Fitzgerald objected to the changing of the agenda moving the Management Report to the end of the agenda. The Mayor explained that it had already been proposed and seconded and that no amendment was put forward. He added that the plenary has the right to change the agenda.

Cllr. Griffin also objected as he felt that he had not had the opportunity to speak. Cllr. McGuinness asked that the meeting return to the original agenda as he felt there was not enough time to raise an amendment. Cllr. Bailey were also unhappy with the process and that she had also wanted to speak. The Mayor reiterated that he would always be fair and that valuable time was being used up and they had to move on to Item 5 as no amendment was put forward at the time of the proposed agenda change.

Cllrs McGuinness, Bailey, Hearne, Griffin and Fitzgerald left the chamber.

### **5. Election of Deputy Mayor**

Cllr. E. Quinlan proposed Cllr. Tom Cronin for the position of Deputy Mayor, he paid tribute to the late Cllr. Tobin who had held the post all too briefly. He spoke of Cllr. Cronin's suitability and track record for the role.

Cllr. O'Donnell seconded the proposal. Cllr. O' Sullivan and Cllr. S Power also spoke in favour and support of appointing Cllr. Cronin. No other candidates were proposed, and Cllr. Cronin was deemed elected.

The new Deputy Mayor then paid tribute to his predecessor, the late Cllr. Tobin and offered his full support to the Mayor to do what is right for the people of Waterford in an equitable manner. He also thanked his proposer and seconder.

## **6. Budgetary Process Timetable - for information**

B. Pollard, HoF, explained the plan for this year, he clarified the changes to the LPT requirements with the required date for agreeing it being put back two weeks and also that there was also an option to set the LPT on a multi annual basis if members wished.

Cllr. Kelly was concerned that the budget meeting was scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> November while the deadline for finalising it was 30<sup>th</sup> November.

B. Pollard, HoF, explained that the calendar was influenced by the Municipal District meetings schedule. He confirmed that there was a 14-day leeway period should the budget not be passed by 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Cllr. Daniels asked if any guidance had been issued by the Department regarding cost increases particularly for energy, B. Pollard confirmed that none was issued but that cost inflation created a serious and volatile environment for the budget. He confirmed that a budgetary workshop for all members was scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Cllrs. McGuinness, Bailey, Hearne, Griffin and Fitzgerald returned to the chamber during this discussion.

## **7. 2022 Census Data Presentation**

L. McGree, SP, outlined details on the 2022 Census data.

Cllr. Kelly said that the County was doing well in terms of population growth but that he was concerned that Waterford would be disadvantaged if infrastructure was not funded by Government to facilitate the extra population. Cllrs. Hearne, Phelan and Barry were also concerned about infrastructure funding from Government. Cllr. Phelan also requested a district breakdown of the housing data which, it was agreed to provide if available. L. McGree also explained that the population increases were due to inward migration brought about by the increased economic activity in Waterford.

Cllr. J. Power noted that the regional population was now over 600,000 which should give it more resources.

Cllr. Daniels enquired if there was trend data available on younger people leaving.

M. Walsh, CE, stated that it was a phenomenal performance that showed the National Planning Framework targets were achievable and the measures taken by the Council in areas such as housing have made Waterford a place where people are choosing to live. He continued that it was the start of an exciting time as Waterford was now an attractive proposition for inward investment. The growth rate was probably the highest it had ever been.

Cllrs. Murphy, E. Quinlan, Roche and Kiely concurred. Cllr. Roche asked for clarification on what boundaries had been used for the city in the data, the treatment of people living in South Kilkenny and how the number of TDs in the constituency would be increased by the Electoral Commission.

Cllr. McGuinness commented that there would be a continued challenge to house the increasing population.

L. McGree, SP, explained that the boundaries were the Department's electoral area ones and that he would send on the data that had been prepared. There was not data available yet regarding any movement in age groups within the population. There was growth in the population was happening where the council and state agencies were focussing investment in urban and inner urban areas. This indicates that the strategy is working in leading and directing growth in Waterford. Mr. McGree clarified that he would need to get regional figures and would provide them later.

Cllr. O' Sullivan commented that the secret of the best place to live was out and that in addition to a housing crisis there were issues for the Department of education in providing Primary and Secondary school services for the increased number. She thought a letter should be sent to the department to get them to accelerate

their efforts. Cllr. Nugent expressed concern at the escalating house prices. Cllr. J. Power asked about the position of Waterford as the regional capital. Mr. McGree said they would be working with the Regional Assembly to promote this and would also be working to manage the supply of housing to aid affordability.

M. Walsh, CE, stated that around 800 extra houses per annum were needed to keep up with demand. He clarified that refurbished units such as those under the Repair and Lease scheme were not included in the new dwelling figures. As the first local authority to put in place Affordable Housing this would contribute another 100 to 150 dwellings per year further assisting with supply at sustainable prices. Mr. Walsh also said an opportunity existed with Cost Rental that the Council could pursue. Waterford's profile with regards to Social Housing was also ahead of target.

## **8. Correspondence**

Proposed by Cllr. E. Quinlan, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by all.

Relating to the response from the Private Secretary on behalf of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Cllr. Kelly asked if we should be asking for more funding for Housing Adaptation Grants given that the Department said that they had funded Waterford "equal to requirements".

I. Grimes, DoS, noted that the response from the department was interesting as Waterford City and County Council is always oversubscribed and his staff were in the process of applying for more funding. Demand was always very high for our own stock and exceeded applications but there were still funds available for privately owned dwellings.

It was agreed that Cllr. Geoghegan could be added to the list of approved attendees for the AILG Conference in Trim on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September.

## **9. Notice of Motions**

### **1. Motion in the name of Cllr. Mary Roche**

*"That this Council resolves to rename The Large Room in City Hall, Waterford as The Dr Mary Strangman Room in memory of women's' health advocate, suffragist and Waterford's' first female Councillor Dr Mary Strangman (1872-1943)".*

**Reg. No. 220** (dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2022)

Motion proposed by Cllr. Roche who included an amendment to the motion so that the room was called "Dr Mary Strangman Large Room". Seconded by Cllr. Kiely who also spoke in favour and suggested that a plaque be placed outside the room.

Cllrs Griffin, Kelly, Geoghegan, Phelan and McGuinness contributed to a discussion which was supportive of the motion but resulted in Cllr McGuinness proposing that that the change should be considered by the SPC prior initially. Cllr. McGuinness proposed an amendment to the motion to forward the motion to the SPC which was seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald. A show of hands vote was conducted on the amendment where there were 9 votes in favour and 10 votes against meaning the amendment was defeated and the motion passed that the Large Room in City Hall would be renamed the "Dr Mary Strangman Large Room".

## **4. Monthly Management Report**

Cllr. Nugent welcomed the news in the media about the Airport, he asked about the new Vacant Property Refurbishment funding and if it can be applied for in rural areas.

Cllr. Barry raised the issue of disposal of council land and rights of way and asked that they not be made without the permission of the members.

Cllr. Phelan asked if he could have details of the 5 trails projects mentioned on page 5 of the Management Report that are eligible for Community Trails Management Organisations. He asked if Homeless Services were equipped for dealing with people needing replacement HAP properties, he wanted to know if the council were on track to deliver the required units under the retrofitting programme. He also enquired about the impact of the energy crises on Christmas and Street lighting and could the Council do more.

I. Grimes, DoS, clarified that the vacant property refurbishment funding was aimed at privately owned properties that could be leased back to the Council for social housing. It was limited to urban areas with a population of greater than 400. The full commitment will be met on retrofitting this year. He would speak to Cllr. Phelan regarding the constituent's homelessness support issue off line.

K. Kehoe, DoS, explained that all land disposals are currently approved by the Plenary Council as it is a reserved function. He explained that there might be cases where the Council gives a letter of Consent for Planning Permission to a developer to allow them to apply for Planning Permission on Council lands but in no way does this commit the Council to disposal of those lands to the developer.

M. Quinn, DoS, agreed to provide the members with a list of the five trails that were eligible to apply for funding for the Community Trails funding.

M. Walsh, CE, explained that the costs for public lighting and Christmas lights may not be an issue this year but might be next year and there would be discussions with the members in the course of budget preparation. There was also a working group within the council that was dedicated to saving energy where possible. He outlined that there was a proposal for the extension of the Airport runway and infrastructure which would be subject to the agreement of the members, the continued support of the government and the approval of current shareholders who would see their ownership diluted. Heads of agreement were put in place and business plan prepared. He expected that this would be brought to the members in a special meeting to explain the proposal as €16.5m would be needed for the runways extension which required contributions from the Council, Government and Private investors.

Cllr. Kelly asked for clarification on the recent Electoral Reform Act and its implications. He also asked if there was an impact on the councils plans due to cost inflation. Additionally, he enquired when the capital approval from the Government for the North Quays might be expected. He wanted to commend the performance of the Communications Team and how they now had a reach of 800k to over 900k people on social media which was very important.

Cllr. Kiely commented on the recent water pollution headlines and asked what could be done about it. She suggested that maybe a workshop was required as it was a massive issue across the county. In terms of sustainable communities Cllr. Kiely enquired about provision of charging points for EVs and electric bikes, how we could prepare for the increased use of ebikes and enquired about the councils plans for energy conservation.

Cllr. Bailey asked about this year's Halloween preparations especially regarding the hotline that was in place last year. She commented that the prices on the Affordable Housing Schemes were at the top end of the scale and enquired if they could increase and enquired if there were plans for public information evenings. Additionally, she asked if there was dialogue between Housing and SETU regarding student accommodation.

K. Kehoe, DoS, responded that there would be a information session or workshop for members on the changes introduced by the Electoral Reform Act in October following commencement of the Act.

M. Walsh, CE, explained that the Directorates are being held to their 2022 budget commitments on costs. There would be a requirement for a level of prudence to be applied in the preparation of the 2023 budget.

M. Quinn, DoS, outlined that there is an expectation for a response on North Quays funding in October.

G. Hynes, A/DoS, explained that there was a broad level catchment management plan which provides for recommendations that could be made to improve water quality. He also expected that the provision of charging for electric bikes would be carried out by the private sector.

I. Grimes, DoS, explained that there was good co-operation between the Gardai and the Fires Service regarding Halloween preparations and that he would speak to the Chief Fire Officer regarding this year's preparations. He explained that prices for the Affordable Housing would not change from those published. Housing would not be involved in any discussions with SETU regarding student accommodation as it falls more in the remit of planning.

K. Kehoe, DoS, agreed to put the "Share a Room" scheme for students out on our social media platforms.

Cllr. Doocey asked if Housing staff could help HAP tenants find new rental properties when their existing one is sold as they are having difficulty. He also wanted to know if the €129m available for active travel could be used to maintain some of the original local walkways that had minimal work during the year.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if energy companies assets and infrastructure could be put in a higher class for commercial rates through revaluation.

Cllr. Daniels requested an update on the advice document for those applying for Planning Permission in rural areas for new houses. He asked for an update on the Development Contribution Scheme as he was worried it would impact competitiveness. Additionally, he asked for some clarification of the solid fuel fire regulations. He thanked the CEO for the update on the Airport and asked that the shareholders be kept in the loop.

I. Grimes, DoS, clarified that it was the HAP tenants responsibility to search for their own accommodation when their existing property was being sold by the landlord, the Council would not have the resources to be searching for properties for HAP tenants. There was a HAP Place finder service available for those who had not found alternative accommodation and were in imminent danger of homelessness which was successfully finding HAP properties.

B. Pollard, DoS, stated that it is not possible for us to charge a higher level of rates to energy companies currently as the Valuation office determine rateable valuation.

K. Kehoe, DoS, stated that the SPC would be receiving the submission relating to Development Contributions which would be followed by a workshop for the members before coming before the Plenary and then going to public consultation. He said that the council would be competitive in what was proposed.

G. Hynes, A/DoS, clarified that the extra Active Travel funding was not available for maintenance work but could be used for new footpaths. The new solid fuel regulations were coming in from 1<sup>st</sup> October and the moisture content for wood needs to be less than 25%.

M. Walsh, CE, clarified that there would have to be an EGM of the airport shareholders for any agreement to be accepted.

Cllr. Griffin proposed extension to Standing Orders for thirty minutes seconded by Cllr. J. Power and agreed by all.

Cllr F. Quinlan asked about a change to regulations regarding allocations of two and three bedroom house to family units that had both boys and girls.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked if an end of season report could be included next month to the Emergency Services section. She also enquired if there could be five beach wheelchairs (one for each Blue Flag beach) provided for the summer season next year.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked who was paying for moving the pumphouse on the North Quays. He also stated that the water quality in the Suir Estuary was getting worse causing more weed growth on beaches up the estuary which he asked if the council could remove. He also enquired if there was any help available from the EPA to tackle the water quality issue.

I. Grimes, DoS, confirmed that the allocations policy would be before the next Housing SPC and that it would deal with Cllr Quinlan's query. He suggested that a shortened version of the annual report compiled by the Water Safety Officer could be included in the Management Report for October. He agreed to discuss the funding of the extra beach wheelchairs for next year with the Sports Partnership.

M. Quinn, DoS, confirmed the pumphouse on the North Quays would be moving to area slightly to the east of its current location. The costs were shared between the council, Irish Water and URDF. The council would only be making a small contribution.

G. Hynes, DoS, stated there was a catchment management plan for the estuary and he agreed to report back to the members on the water quality this year. He said consideration could be given to removal of weeds from beaches but it is naturally occurring weed.

Cllr. Griffin supports the idea of a meeting on water quality. He said the new owner of Waterford FC had a lot of plans for the inclusion of various clubs including youth clubs and if it would be possible to have him present to the members. The Mayor said that CPG might consider this.

Cllr. J. Power asked about the 7 fixed penalty notices for litter and if it was a particular company that was involved. He asked if expenses could be paid to PPN members from age friendly groups. He would like a list of the conservation projects that are in progress. He enquired about the N25 Underpass request where it intersects with St Declan's Way and if there was any progress. With regards to the three naval ships that were being decommissioned if there was any chance one could be moored in Waterford. He asked if a map of the lands in public ownership could be made available to all so that adverse possession could be monitored. He asked if trees could be planted on these public lands to prevent adverse possession.

Cllr. McGuinness asked about plans to have affordable housing outside of the city and what was holding it up. He also asked if any approach had been made to the Government to get some of the €9.4bn surplus funds collected for local authorities. He also said that the revaluation of energy suppliers infrastructure for rates may not lead to extra income for the council.

Cllr. Hearne asked about council tenants being approached to move to smaller units and if more sensitivity could be applied. Regarding the two private nursing homes that are being closed he asked if the council could approach HIQA to ensure that the residents didn't come back as an issue for the Council to house them at a later date. He commended the Housing Department on the 259 inspections to the council stock and the 71 properties that were remediated and also the staff at the Regional Homeless Hub for the way they assisted people.

Cllr. Murphy noted that there were 1675 waste management complaints but that it only resulted in less than 200 actions. He asked if a report on the Ukrainian refugees could be included in the Management Report. He asked about the Housing Adaptation Grant funding applications of €2.2m and how it compared with the previous year plus if all the funds would be spent. He wanted to know if there would be any information events held on providing information relating to the Affordable Housing Scheme.

G. Hynes, A/DoS, will send out details of the waste collections notices. He stated that the number of people crossing the N25 to St Declan's Way would not justify TII funding for an underpass and that appropriate signage could be put in place as an alternative.

K. Kehoe, DoS, stated that all public lands were mapped and it was vast, and he would discuss with the Cllr. Power the best way to access the information. He clarified that there were currently no cases of adverse possession but there would be instances of illegal occupation ongoing at certain points in time. He also clarified that PPN volunteers do not get paid expenses.

M. Quinn, DoS, stated that the Museums Director was looking at the opportunity in relation to the mooring of one of the retired naval ships and he would revert to the members in due course.

I. Grimes, DoS, confirmed that expenses would not be paid to PPN and will review position in relation to Age Friendly representatives. He confirmed that two affordable housing schemes were advertised and would be allocated on a first come first served basis and that these schemes were aimed at large urban areas initially. This was the focus of the Minister but that proposals for schemes outside the city would be brought to the Department in the coming months now that these two were under way. Regarding the allocations policy and single people living in 3 bed properties he said that we need to encourage people to move to smaller properties especially as there were now more one and two bed units available.

He will make enquires with HIQA regarding the two nursing homes that are closing and the consequences for residents. Regarding the Housing Adaptation funding he clarified he did have the drawn figure year to



date but normally 80 to 90% is drawn down at the end of the year. He explained that there was information in the Management Report in the Community Section regarding the Ukrainian refugees. He would be hesitant to divert from the continual high demand for services by the displaced Ukrainian people in order to write reports. So far Waterford had taken in more than 800 people into the centres and more than half had moved on to more permanent accommodation.

## **10. AOB**

Cllr. Fitzgerald expressed his concern at the issues of lack of space on school transport for students that had seat in previous years. This was supported by Cllrs. S Power and Doocey. A letter to the Department of Education was proposed.

Cllr. Kiely wanted to acknowledge Tom Breen, one of our lifeguards, who will represent Ireland at the World Surfing games in California next week (along with Holly Widger) and this is also a qualifier for the 2024 Olympics. He will also represent Ireland in the World Lifesaving Games in Italy.

Cllr. Barry expressed deep concern at the closure of the two Nursing homes that was announced and the loss of the beds.

Cllr. Power wanted to wish his former council colleague Eddie Mulligan the best of luck in his new position.

Cllr. McGuinness wanted to express his objection, on behalf of the Sinn Fein Party, to the chairing of the meeting by the Mayor on this occasion.

This concluded the business of the meeting

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_