

COMAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE

**Item
No.**

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 8TH APRIL, 2021

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

1. CORRESPONDENCE:

- a). Email dated 4th March, 2021 from the office of the Minister for Justice acknowledging receipt of letter re. Motion No. 168.
- b). Letter dated 4th March, 2021 from the office of the Minister for Housing acknowledging receipt of letter re. Motion No. 166.
- c). Email dated 5th March, 2021 from the office of the Minister of State acknowledging receipt of letter re. Motion No. 166.
- d). Letter dated 4th March, 2021 from the office of the Minister of State acknowledging receipt of letter re. Motion No. 169.
- e). Email dated 5th March, 2021 from the office of the Minister for Finance acknowledging receipt of letter re. Motion No. 168.
- f). Email dated 6th March, 2021 from the office of the Minister of State for Transport acknowledging receipt of letter re. Motion No. 167.
- g). Letter dated 22nd March, 2021 from the office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment responding to letter re. Motion No. 160.
- h). Email dated 24th March, 2021 from the office of the Minister of State for Transport, responding to letter re. Motion No. 167.

2. CONFERENCES:

NONE

3. MAYORAL/CATHAOIRLEACH RECEPTION/FUNCTIONS:

Civic Reception to Henry de Bromhead

4. MOTIONS RECEIVED:

Sligo County Council

At the March meeting of Sligo County Council the members passed the following resolutions and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities :

"I call on Sligo County Council to make a formal submission to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage outlining our complete opposition to the proposed provisions of the Land Development Agency Bill 2021.

The proposed removal of the Section 183 reserved function of Elected Members in relation to the disposal of local authority held land to the LDA as provided for in Part 7 Section 56 of the bill is unacceptable and an affront to local democracy. As advocates for the empowerment of local government, we can never support or accept any diminution in the reserved functions and powers of elected Councillors.

I also have concerns regarding the potential long term implications for local authorities in delivering social and affordable housing on local authority held land due to the extensive remit of the LDA. I believe that this is a major battle in our ongoing fight to preserve the local democratic function in the face of ever increasing centralism. "

"To call on Sligo County Council to formally request the Minister for Agriculture to seek the appointment of 'an Independent Meat Regulator' with statutory powers. The purpose of such an independent regulator will be to have legislative powers to investigate anti-competitive behaviour by meat processors, meat traders, bodies associated with the trade of meat, trade of meat by-products and/or trade by retailers who operate along the meat supply chain. "

"To call on Sligo County Council to write to the Government and An Post asking them to give a 2 year extension to the current contract that most of the local Post Offices are engaged in. This is because Covid-19 has had a dramatic negative effect on their income due to the reduction in footfall."

"That Sligo County Council engage with their relevant partners including Sligo PPN, Sligo Volunteer Centre to address the urgent needs of the hundreds of community groups across County Sligo who are facing a funding crisis to keep electricity, insurance, credit facilities, heating, maintenance costs and other recurring fixed costs serviced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whilst recognising that there has been many beneficial schemes open to the C&V sector to in turn support their communities over the pandemic, there is 110.11 a requirement to support the C&V sector themselves to stay afloat.

In addition, that this Local Authority write to the Taoiseach, Tanaiste, Leader of the Green Party and the Minister for Rural Affairs and Community Development to request a scheme be devised to address the Community and Voluntary Sectors funding needs".

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

At the March Meeting of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council the following motion was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities for their support:

"That Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, recognising the scale of the Housing crisis, reaffirms its commitment to work with Government and all relevant agencies towards delivering new housing units and in particular ensuring that sufficient Social and Affordable housing is built for those in need of same.

Recognizing, however, its responsibility to use Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown property in the best interests of society this Council rejects the provisions contained in the Land Development Agency 2021 Bill published by the Government removing the role of the elected members of Local Authorities in approving the transfer or sale of lands to the Land Development Agency.

The Council further agrees to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage urging a removal of that provision and to ensure that elected Councillors retain the right to control such sales or transfers and be able to prepare and plan for appropriate housing delivery on Council owned lands. The Council further agrees to circulate this motion to each Local Authority and the Association of Irish Local Government requesting their support for this."

Kerry County Council

At a recent meeting of Kerry County Council the following motion was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities :

"That we the members of Kerry County Council oppose the introduction of the Land Development Agency Bill."

Wicklow County Council

At a special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on the 22nd March, 2021 the following motion was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities :

'That the Members of Wicklow County Council call on the Government to reinstate, in the Land Development Agency Bill, the legal requirement that Councillors must consent to the sale of all public land in the ownership of the Council by way of a Disposal Motion (Section 183) voted for by a majority of Councillors in public session'.

Louth County Council

At the March meeting of Louth County Council the following motion was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities for their support :

" Calling on the Minister of Housing and or the Oireachtas members to amend the LDA Bill to remove s.49 and 56 of the bill as it is 'ultra vires' the programme of Government and is a direct stripping of Local Government Councillors executive powers".

Galway County Council

At the March Plenary Meeting of Galway County Council the following motion was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities :

"I call on Galway County Council to make a formal submission to the Minister for Housing Local Government & Heritage outlining our complete opposition to the proposed provisions of the Land Development Agency Bill 2021.

The proposed removal of the Section 183 reserved function of Elected Members in relation to the disposal of local authority held land to the LDA as provided for in Part 7 Section 56 of the bill is unacceptable and an affront to local democracy. As advocates for the empowerment of local government, we can never support or accept any diminution in the reserved functions and powers of elected Councillors.

I also have concerns regarding the potential long-term implications for local authorities in delivering social and affordable housing on local authority held land due to the extensive remit of the LDA. I believe that this is a major battle in our ongoing fight to preserve the local democratic function in the face of ever increasing centralism. "

Mayo County Council

At a meeting of Mayo County Council held on the 8th March, 2021 the following motion was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities :

"Mayo County Council wishes to formally outline its complete opposition to the proposed provisions of the Land Development Agency Bill 2021 . The proposed removal of the Section 183 reserved function of Elected Members in relation to the disposal of local authority held land to the LOA as provided for in Part 7 Section 56 of the bill is unacceptable and an affront to Local Democracy. As advocates for the empowerment of local government, we can never support or accept any diminution in the reserved functions and powers of Elected Councillors."

Limerick City and County Council

At a meeting of Limerick City and County Council held on the 8th March, 2021 the following resolution was adopted and it was agreed to circulate to all Local Authorities for support :

"That, Limerick City and County Council request Iconic Newspapers Ltd. to recognise the National Union of Journalists and engage with the NUJ worker representatives to address concerns of their employees working in the Limerick Leader newspaper."