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COMAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14TH DECEMBER, 2023

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

1. CORRESPONDENCE:

None

2. CONFERENCES:

Event previously approved

AILG Training Module 6 “Government Legislation Policy Programme 2023 – A Briefing for Elected Members”, Saturday 18th November, The Clayton Hotel, Galway (Eastern & Midland/Northern & Western) **(Event already approved)**

Cllr. Damien Geoghegan, Cllr. Jason Murphy

AILG 2024 Annual Training Conference, 14th & 15th February 2024, Arklow Bay Hotel, Co. Wicklow **(Event to be approved)**

Cllr. Joe Kelly, Cllr. Joe Conway, Cllr. Jody Power

AILG Training Module 6 “Road Safety: New Speed Limit Policy and Safeguarding Road Users”, Thursday 16th November, The Tower Hotel, Waterford (Southern Region) **(Event already approved)**

Cllr. John Pratt, Cllr. Pat Nugent, Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cllr. Stephanie Keating

Celtic Conferences “Modular Housing in Ireland”, 24th-26th November, McKeivitt’s Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth **(Event already approved, date and location change)**

Cllr. Pat Nugent, Cllr. Declan Doocey

Celtic Conferences “Irish Social Welfare System”, 1st-3rd December, O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork **(Event already approved)**

Cllr. Stephanie Keating

3. MAYORAL/CATHAOIRLEACH RECEPTION/FUNCTIONS:

1. Michael Stokes & Shaz Furlong – Emerald Kick Boxing Club
2. Larchville Lisduggan Residents Association
3. Clem Hire

4. Waterford City Brass
5. The Estuary Men's Shed at Passage East
6. Dungarvan Boxing Club
7. George Morrisson

4. MOTIONS RECEIVED:

Clare County Council

"Today I want to encourage all of you to urge the Minister for Finance to take immediate action in introducing Primary Medical Certificates (PMCs) to all individuals with physical disabilities. I also call upon the members of the Seanad to initiate a commencement debate emphasizing the critical necessity for the Minister for Finance to issue PMCs to all those with physical disabilities. In recent weeks, I have received numerous heartfelt communications from individuals across our county. These messages have come from parents and family members who share a common belief with me - that the widespread issuance of PMCs to individuals with physical disabilities could significantly enhance the quality of life for these individuals and their families.

I understand this is not the first time this issue has been brought to the attention of the Minister, or the Ministers before him, and undoubtedly it will continue to be raised with the ministers who follow. People born with physical disabilities often endure a multitude of health challenges, including heart problems, early onset arthritis, chronic pain, conditions such as Lupus, MS, Syringomyelia, visual and hearing impairments, bronchial issues, and a compromised immune system, to name just a few. The introduction of PMCs for all those affected would go a long way in aiding families by providing improved access to transportation for hospital and doctor visits, granting individuals a modicum of independence necessary to maintain their spirits.

The current criteria for obtaining a Primary Medical Certificate is archaic and no longer applicable to the myriad of complex disabilities diagnosed on a daily and weekly basis. A Primary Medical Certificate should be a top priority, not an arduous and exasperating process.

We must recognise that individuals with disabilities deserve our unwavering support and assistance. They should not be treated as second-class citizens but should receive the necessary support to help them navigate each day with reduced pain and improved quality of life. A Primary Medical Certificate is a vital document that confirms severe and permanent disability.

The existing criteria, defined in the Finance Act 2020, no longer suffice. We must advocate for a radical overhaul of the Finance Act in 2024 to adapt to the evolving needs of individuals with disabilities.

Our government must actively champion the rights of people with disabilities and provide more than mere table scraps in terms of support and recognition. It is crucial that we facilitate the application process for a Primary Medical Certificate through Local Health Offices.

In conclusion, let us unite in our resolve to make a difference in the lives of individuals with physical disabilities by pushing for the introduction of Primary Medical Certificates. Let us demonstrate our commitment to equality, compassion, and progress for all members of our society."