

COMAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

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

1. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter dated 21st July, 2025 from Office of the Minister for Social Protection re: Notice of Motion.
2. Email dated 7th July, 2025 from Private Secretary to Minister for Education and Youth re: Notice of Motion.
3. Email dated 17th July 2025 from Darragh O' Brien TD, Minister for Transport re: Waterford Airport.
4. Email dated 13th August, 2025 from Private Secretary to Minister for Health re Notice of Motion.
5. Email dated 22nd July, 2025 acknowledging receipt correspondence from Office Minister Jack Chambers TD.
6. Letter dated 1st August, 2025 from Dara Calleary TD Minister for Social Protection re: Notice of Motion.

2. CONFERENCES:

LAMA Autumn Seminar, Thursday 16th and Friday 17th October, Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford

Cllr. Niamh O'Donovan, Cllr John Pratt

AILG Autumn Training seminar 2025, Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th September, Westport Woods hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo

Cllr. Niamh O'Donovan, Cllr. John Pratt, Cllr. Sandra Conway

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Chairs Wednesday 3rd September 2025 Hotel Kilkenny

Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan

Irish Planning Institute 50th Anniversary Autumn planning conference, Thursday 2nd October, Gibson Hotel, Dublin

Cllr. John Pratt, Cllr. Adam Wyse, Cllr Sandra Conway

Event Already Approved

AILG Module 4, "A New Approach to Planning - the Revised National Planning Framework & Planning Act", Thursday 19th June, Radisson Blu Hotel, Cork (Southern Regio

(Event already approved)

Cllr. Declan Barry, Cllr. Thomas Phelan

AILG Module 4, "A New Approach to Planning - the Revised National Planning Framework & Planning Act", Saturday 21st June, Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan (Eastern & Midland/ Northern & Western Region)

(Event already approved)

Cllr. Declan Clune

3. MAYORAL/CATHAOIRLEACH RECEPTION/FUNCTIONS:

Civic Reception – Waterford Minor Ladies Gaelic Footballer Team

1. Waterford Pantomine Society
2. Waterford Youth Arts
3. Mary Reid
4. Charlie Costello
5. Eddie Cunningham
6. Waterford Community Gardaí
7. Fergus Walsh
8. Abbeyside FC
9. Abbeyside Ladies Gaelic Football Club

4. MOTIONS RECEIVED:

Galway County Council

“Galway County Council reaffirms its strong support for Portiuncula University Hospital, as recognised under Special Policy Objective H4 of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, and acknowledges PUH's long term strategic importance in the county and beyond as a provider of essential healthcare services and also as a major employer and economic driver in Co Galway.

-Galway County Council calls on the Minister for Health and CEO HSE to support PUH's critical role in maternity care provision in the county and to recognise Portiuncula UH's strategic location as the most accessibly located maternity unit in the country just 800 meters off the M6 in providing crucial timely accessible maternity care for mothers infants and families across a wide and rural catchment in County Galway and to communities in Roscommon, Westmeath, Longford, Leitrim, Offaly, North Tipperary and beyond. Restriction of maternity services poses serious risks to women and infants, especially those in rural and socioeconomically disadvantaged areas with poor transport where they are now facing much increased travel times and reduced local access to crucial maternity services.

- Galway County Council calls on the Minister for Health and CEO HSE to seek development of an immediate plan for reinstatement of high quality safe maternity services at PUH, with a location of the necessary funding & resources for full implementation.

-Galway County Council asks the Minister for Health if she will commission a fully independent external review of maternity services across the county and comprehensively examine risk assessments and consequences of any maternity care downgrade in the wider area served including

the ability of receiving maternity units to safely absorb additional patient load, given capacity, staffing, and infrastructure challenges”.

Galway County Council

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-Galway County Council calls on the Minister for Health and CEO HSE to support PUH's crucial role in maternity care provision in the county and to recognise Portiuncula UH's strategic location as the most accessibly located maternity unit in the country just 800 meters off the M6 in providing crucial timely accessible maternity care for mothers infants and families across a wide and rural catchment in County Galway and to communities in Roscommon, Westmeath, Longford, Leitrim, Offaly, North Tipperary and beyond. Restriction of maternity services poses serious risks to women and infants, especially those in rural and socioeconomically disadvantaged areas with poor transport where they are now facing much increased travel times and reduced local access to crucial maternity services”.

Galway City Council

“It was proposed that a letter of support issue in relation to the motion passed by Donegal County Council (copy attached) calling to safeguard the Triple Lock component of Irish neutrality. It was further agreed to circulate same to all authorities for their consideration.”

Donegal County Council

"Do Chomhairle Contae Dh(m na nGa/I, mar mheabhruchan gur ghlac Comhairle na hEorpa le Dearbhu Seville i mi an Mheithimh 2002, rud a dheimhnigh nach raibh aon bhagairt ar neodracht na hEireann mar thoradh ar Chonradh Nice, tugtar le fios gur dheimhnigh an Taoiseach a bhi ann ag an am, an tUasal Ahern, do Theach Laighean : "Athdhearbhaionn an Dearbhu Naisiunta ceangal na hEireann le beartas neodrachta agus dearbhaionn se: nach bhfuil Eire pairteach in aon ghealltanais comhchosanta: go ndeanfaimid ar gcinneadh ceannasach fein maidir le ar cheart d'fh6rsa cosanta na 26 Contae pairt a ghlacadh i dtascanna daonnula n6 bainistiochta gearcheime arna gcur ar bun ag an AE bunaithe ar an Ghlas Triarach ceadaithe ag na Naisiun Aontaithe, cinneadh an Ria/tais agus glactha leis ag Teach Laighean ".

Ta Comhairle Contae Dhun na nGa/I sasta gur bhain an Dearbhu Naisiunta Sol/unta le hlonstraimi daingniuchain de chuid na hEireann a bhain le Conradh Nice agus gur claraíodh e ina dhiaidh sin ag na Naisiun Aontaithe, agus gur athdhearbhaigh rialtas Cowan na geal/tanais ina dhiaidh sin tar eis diultu do Chonradh Liosp6in ar dtus in 2008.

Mar sin fein, is mian le Comhairle Contae Dhun na nGa/I a ndioma a chur in iul maidir le run agus polasai an Rialtais deireadh a chur leis an Ghlas Triarach, ina ndearna an Taoiseach, an tUasal Martin, cur sios air roimhe seo mar "croilar neodrachta na 26 contae".

I bhfianaise an ruin an riachtanas maidir le sainordú 6 na Naisiúin Aontaithe a bhaint, aithníonn an Chomhairle seo freagracht na Naisiúin Aontaithe maidir le síochain agus slándail idirnáisiúnta a choinneáil agus tosaíocht Cha/rt na Naisiúin Aontaithe mar dhoicimead bunúsach de chuid an dli idirnáisiúnta. Leiríonn an Glas Triarach gea/ltnas dlíthiúil agus polaitiúil 6 stat na hEireann i leith phrionsabail na Naisiúin Aontaithe. Ag am Ina bhfuil meadu ar eagobhsaíocht dhomhanda, iarrann an Chomhairle seo ar rialtas an tSaorstait an Glas Triarach a chosaint mar chuid larnach de neodracht na hEireann agus bru a chur ar iarrachtaí chun síochain agus taidhleoireacht a chur chun cinn.

Mar sin de ta Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGa/I go láidir i gcoinne polasai den chineál seo agus gea/lann siad go ndeanfar teagmhail le gach Comhairle Contae laithreach ag iarraidh orthu seasamh /inn agus leis na forais rialtais cul chun lád a chur ar an eolas faoina bhfreasúra."

Ma cheadaítear an run go ndeanfar e a scaipeadh ar chomhairlí ei/e taobh istigh den stat "Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGa/I, recalling that in June 2002 the European Council adopted the Seville Declaration, which confirmed that the Nice Treaty posed no threat to Ireland's neutrality, notes that the then Taoiseach Mr. Ahern confirmed to Teach Laighean that: "The National Declaration reaffirms Ireland's attachment to a policy of neutrality and confirms that: Ireland is not party to any mutual defence commitment: that we will take our own sovereign decision on whether 26 Counties defence force should participate in humanitarian or crisis management tasks mounted by the EU based on the Triple Lock of UN endorsement, Government decision and Teach Laighean approval".

Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGa/I is satisfied that the Solemn National Declaration was associated with Ireland's Instruments of ratification of the Nice Treaty and subsequently registered at the UN, while the undertakings were subsequently reiterated by the Cowan government following initial rejection of the Lisbon Treaty in 2008.

However, Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall now wishes to express its dismay at the stated intention and policy of the Government to dismantle the Triple Lock, which the Taoiseach Mr. Martin previously described as "the core of 26 counties neutrality".

In light of the intention to remove the requirement for a UN mandate, this Council recognises the responsibility of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security and the primacy of the UN Charter as a foundational document of international law. The Triple Lock represents a legal and political commitment by the Irish state to the principles of the UN. At a time of heightened global instability, this Council calls on the Free State government to safeguard the Triple Lock as a core component of Irish neutrality and to redouble efforts to promote peace and diplomacy.

Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGa/I therefore states its forceful opposition to such a policy and pledges to immediately contact all County Councils requesting them to join us in this course of action and to inform the appropriate government organs of their opposition."

Tipperary County Council

"On behalf of the residents of Tipperary, the elected members of Tipperary County Council should write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to urgently request the publication of regulations for renewable energy, including but not limited to biomethane, solar and wind energy, before any further grants are awarded to facilities by the government or any facilities are granted planning approval.

Furthermore, in recognition of the uncertainty caused by the absence of an up-to-date national regulation, this Council calls on the Minister to introduce a temporary pause on all large-scale projects.

This motion reflects the council's commitment to ensuring that renewable energy development proceeds in a manner that is appropriately planned, environmentally sustainable, respects people's rights and protects health and wellbeing of local communities who need to be prioritised in this legislation".

Limerick County Council

"That, Limerick City and County Council provide a liaison/link to Community Welfare where support is necessary to enable newly allocated tenants move in speedily."