

**MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED JULY MEETING OF DONEGAL COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2021 IN THE AURA LEISURE
CENTRE, SALLAGHAGRANE, LETTERKENNY AND ONLINE**

C/158/21 MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllrs J Murray (Cathaoirleach), L Blaney, K Bradley, C Brogan, P Canning, T Conaghan, D Coyle, G Crawford, N Crossan, T Crossan, A Doherty, G Doherty, L Doherty, R Donaghey, M Farren, M T Gallagher, M Harley, N Jordan, J Kavanagh, D M Kelly, N Kennedy, M C Mac Giolla Easbuig, F Mc Brearty Jnr, M Mc Bride, M Mc Clafferty, M McDermott, I Mc Garvey, N Mc Garvey, P Mc Gowan, M McMahan, G Mc Monagle, A Molloy, M Naughton, J O'Donnell, J S Ó Fearraigh, and B Sweeny.

C/159/21 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

John McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Patsy Lafferty, A/Director of Housing, Corporate and Cultural Services / Meetings Administrator, Liam Ward, Director Community Development & Planning Services, Brendan O'Donnell, A/Director of Roads & Transportation, Richard Gibson, Head of Finance, Garry Martin, Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services, Bryan Cannon, A/Director Water & Environment, Frances Friel, Communications Officer, Roíse Ní Laifeartaigh, Rannóg na Gaeilge, Anne Marie Crawford, Staff Officer, Corporate.

**C/160/21 LEGAL ADVICE ON THE EMERGENCY MOTION REGARDING THE
PURCHASE OF FIVE HOUSES IN BUNCRANA**

The Cathaoirleach extended congratulations to Patsy Lafferty on his appointment as Acting Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services and welcomed him to the meeting.

Mr Lafferty informed members that an additional report had been circulated in respect of item 4(a) arising from issues raised in relation to the report circulated on the 16th July and subsequently considered in committee on the 26th July, 2021. This, he confirmed, provided clarification regarding a number of the issues that had arisen at the previous meeting in relation to conveyancing. It contained, he added, the House Acquisition Form which detailed the list of required improvement works and associated costings which had been forwarded to the Department for funding. The document also contained, he advised, confirmation from Mr John Gallagher, A/Senior Engineer that the petrographic report as included in the report to members dated the 16th July 2021 was the full and complete assessment as provided by Fastnet Analytical.

Cllr A Doherty said that he believed that the report issued on the 16th July, 2021 was incomplete. He noted that there was specific mention in the acquisition form to the all in cost which included a detailed list of the improvement works required, yet there was no mention of mica. He asked for clarification in relation to the matter as in his opinion the purchase of the five houses concerned did not in any way represent value for money.

Cllr Mc Brearty concurred with the assessment that the information provided to date was incomplete. He asked that he be provided with file ref H58/19 in its entirety. He contended that there were inconsistencies in the testing of the houses, given that No's 1, 2 and 3 had not been tested and that House 4 did not have a Test Suite B report. He queried as to why the Test Suite B report for House No. 5 consisted only of a one page document. There were serious issues and inconsistencies here, he advised, particularly in relation to the value for money aspect of the purchase. He confirmed that he was currently in the process of seeking the information through the FOI process and expected to have full access to the file in question.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Meetings Administrator informed the meeting that two out of the five houses had been tested as a random sample. He noted that a number of FOI requests had been received and were being processed under the relevant FOI legislation and that responses would issue over the next week to ten days.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that this was not good enough and that answers were needed as to what the crush and newton strength of the blocks were in this instance. He asked also that he be provided with a copy of the full Test Suite B report.

The Chief Executive advised that Cllr Mc Brearty had met with the Cathaoirleach and himself on the 5th October to discuss the issues in question. The Test Suite B report referenced was the full report, he said, and had indicated that the blocks appeared to be sound. The Council, he said, was not in possession of any further details. The company concerned, he noted were a reputable company. He said that the Council had no agenda here and were not experts in geological testing. The FOI process would, he confirmed, give Cllr Mc Brearty access to the file within the terms of the Act.

Cllr A Doherty noted that the Social Housing Capital Investment Fund had raised no objection to the purchase of these properties with a recommended budget of €680,000 for the purchase price, fees and improvement works subject to confirmation that the acquisition of the properties represented good value for money at the all in cost including boiler upgrade, external path repair, kitchen units and window and door maintenance. This, he stated, had been sent to the Council on the 9th October and yet when the response issued on the 11th November there was no mention of the cost for mica related remedial works.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that as a democratically elected member he should not have to seek the information in question through FOI. The advice from senior counsel, he advised, was that he was legally entitled to the file. He called on the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach to ensure that the relevant access was provided or if not to state clearly the legal reasons for withholding same.

The Cathaoirleach advised that the release of the file was imminent under

FOI legislation. Responding Cllr Mc Brearty said that the vast majority of his FOI submissions to date had been denied. He reiterated again his request for access to the full file and said that he reserved the right to seek costs from the Council in a judicial review as a matter of public interest. He asked that the item 4(a) be revisited when he was in possession of the complete file.

C/161/21 **SECOND LEGAL OPINION IN RELATION TO THE PURCHASING OF MATERIALS FROM QUARRIES THAT ARE KNOWN TO HAVE SOLD DEFECTIVE BLOCKS**

At this juncture Cllr Mc Brearty enquired as to why the County Solicitor was not in attendance as he had a number of queries in relation to the legal advice and the interpretation of same.

He alluded to the following:-

- That a copy of the briefing document sent to the Junior Counsel by the County Solicitor be provided to members given that the direction had been initially to seek advice from Senior Counsel.
- Questions in relation to planning enforcement in respect of manufacturing sites and quarries operated by Cassidy Bros.
- Why Donegal County Council is obligated to keep buying products from Cassidys and the reasons for same.

Cllr Blaney said that he had requested a second legal opinion on this issue. He was, he said, firmly of the opinion that the Council should be able to withdraw custom either directly or indirectly from any company that has sold or sells defective materials. He noted that Cllr Mc Brearty had initially accepted the second legal advice but now seemed to have changed his mind. He said that he had great reservations about one particular entity being named and that the general public needed to be informed if there was more than one company involved in the production and supply of defective materials. He asked also that a second more senior legal opinion be sought in relation to this procurement issue.

Cllr Mc Brearty called on Cllr Blaney to withdraw the remark that he had initially accepted the legal advice as presented.

A number of heated exchanges then took place with the Cathaoirleach calling on Cllr Mc Brearty a number of times to refrain from interrupting the meeting.

After again requesting Cllr Mc Brearty to desist from interrupting the business of the meeting, he proceeded to inform those present that he had been left with no option but to ask Cllr Mc Brearty to withdraw from the meeting.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Gallagher. There was no counter proposal.

The Cathaoirleach at this juncture adjourned the meeting for a ten minute recess.

On resumption Cllr Mc Brearty said that he was not going to leave the meeting and requested an apology for himself and his family in relation to the remarks made by Cllrs Blaney and Mc Mahon.

The Cathaoirleach said that if he refused to withdraw from the meeting he would have no option but to adjourn the meeting online, in the interests of order.

Cllr Mc Brearty said that his democratic rights were being blocked.

The Cathaoirleach said that the disruption was preventing the business of the meeting from proceeding and that he had no option but to reconvene online.

Members outlined the need to progress with the business in hand. There was reference also to the excellent work being carried out by the members of the Mica Action Group in relation to the redress campaign.

A number of members expressed concern that the ongoing disruption was reflecting badly on all the elected members.

The meeting was then adjourned to 2pm in the afternoon and members informed that a link would issue in due course.

On resumption of the meeting the Cathaoirleach said that legal advice had been sought and Cllr Mc Brearty had been informed that he could join the meeting online. The Cathaoirleach asked the Meetings Administrator to update members on any further procedural matters. The Meetings Administrator alluded to Paragraph 13 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended and Standing Order No 46 both of which provided clear guidelines in relation to the mechanisms available to members for dealing with disorderly conduct at meetings. He advised that there was provision for sanctions in terms of a reduction in remuneration and the introduction of suspension for a specific period of time should such disruptive behaviour continue.

A number of members outlined their support for the Cathaoirleach and were in agreement that he had no other option, as the business of the Council had to proceed given the obligation on members to represent the people of Donegal.

Cllr Mac Giolla Easbuig said that he was disappointed that Cllr McBrearty had been asked to leave the meeting as those whom he represented were being effectively disenfranchised by this action. He then left the meeting in protest.

Cllr Mc Bride said he was opposed to a democratically elected member

being asked to leave the chamber and that personal clashes should not interfere with the business of the meeting.

Cllr Mc Monagle said that all members wanted space to ensure that the meeting took place in a respectful manner. He said that it was not acceptable that one member took control of the meeting and that it was disrespectful and undemocratic. He outlined his support for the Cathaoirleach and said that there needed to be respect for the ruling of the Chair and for Standing Orders if members wanted to get back to participating in physical meetings.

Cllr Gallagher said it was clear that the law needed to change and that all those in a position of authority at national level needed to be contacted with regard to amending the legislation so that a mechanism could be found to ensure that those who supplied or continued to supply defective materials were effectively sanctioned.

The Cathaoirleach said that it would be possible to write to the Department expressing the views raised by members. He informed Cllr Blaney that a second legal opinion on the procurement issue had been sought and the advice was that under European law companies who sold defective materials in the past were not prohibited from taking part in the tendering process.

The issue members advised was not that companies could tender but rather that the Local Authority should be able to refuse to engage with manufacturers who supplied materials of this nature.

C/162/21 **PROVISION OF SAFE COUNTY COUNCIL PLAYPARKS AND /PLAYGROUNDS INCLUDING THE PROMPT TIMELY MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF DAMAGED PLAYGROUNDS**

On the proposal of Cllr A Doherty, seconded by Cllr T Crossan it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council ensure the provision of safe County Council play parks and playgrounds, ensure the prompt timely maintenance and repair of damaged playground equipment and establish a local on-call repair service to complement or respond to needy works required"

Cllr Doherty received a response from the Director of Community Development & Planning Services in relation to the above

He highlighted the need for a local on call service and advised of the need to ensure that facilities for additional needs and special needs children were included in all future tenders. There was also a need to ensure that juniors and toddlers were catered for. It was imperative, he added, that a Council official was in attendance when playground inspections took place so that all deficiencies could be addressed in a timely and efficient manner.

He called for a review of the facilities in the Carndonagh and Greencastle

areas and outlined the necessity of looking at same as part of the 2022 budget process.

Cllr Crossan supporting the motion said that swift action was needed and that the matter warranted due consideration at budget time.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/163/21 **CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE WORKS 2021**

On the proposal of Cllr Murray, seconded by Cllr Mc Dermott the following motion submitted by the late Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness was adopted:-
"To discuss the allocation of funding under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021"

A reply had been issued by the Director of Roads & Transportation.

There was no opposition to the motion.

C/164/21 **EMERGENCY FUNDING TO BUILD TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Dermott, seconded by Cllr Canning the following motion was adopted;-

"To call on this Council to urgently apply to the Minister for Housing Darragh O Brian for emergency funding to build temporary accommodation in different areas in the county"

Cllr Mc Dermott received a reply from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

Cllr Mc Dermott said that this was an issue that needed to be looked at immediately given the anticipated demand in Donegal over the next few years. It was possible, he said, to buy temporary cabins which could be located in areas such as Inishowen, Ballybofey- Stranorlar and in West Donegal and use made of the Council's own lands and services.

Cllr Canning said that this was something that needed to be considered in the context of the Council's Housing Need and Demand Assessment.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Cllr Mc Bride, said that he had brought forward a similar motion at a recent Letterkenny Municipal District meeting and queried whether or not there had been any follow up with the Department regarding the matter.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Meetings Administrator said that the matter would be followed up with the Department but that there were significant logistical challenges involved in providing temporary accommodation on the scale required.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community Development & Planning Services said that the Housing Need and Demand Assessment would feature significantly in the County Development Plan and that this was something that could be factored into the review of the plan due to commence in May 2022.

C/165/21 **FULLY RESOURCED COUNSELLING SERVICE FOR INDIVIDUALS /FAMILIES STRESSED BY THE MICA ISSUE**

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Bride, seconded by Cllr Mc Garvey the following motion was adopted:-

"That Donegal County Council requests a meeting with the HSE to ensure that a fully resourced counselling service is in place in Donegal to deal with individuals/families suffering stress from the blight of mica".

Cllr Mc Bride received a reply from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

Cllr Mc Bride said that the blight of mica was affecting families and children alike and services needed to be put in place to alleviate the stress under which many people were living. He cited the need to ensure also that adequate staffing levels were in place to ensure the delivery of all relevant counselling services.

Cllr Mc Garvey outlined his support for the motion.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Director Housing , Corporate & Culture said that contact would be made with the HSE in relation to the provision of specific supports.

Cllr Mc Bride concluding asked that every effort be made to expedite the matter.

Cllr A Doherty noted that this had already been raised by the DCC members on the Regional Health Forum and that the response had been that this was not something which was within their remit.

C166//21 **RECOGNITION FOR THE MASSIVE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN TACKLING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

On the proposal of Cllr Mc Monagle, seconded by Cllr A Doherty it was resolved to adopt the following motion:-

"That this Council supports the call by the National Joint Council of Health Sector Trade Unions for the HSE and Government to formally recognise the massive contributions and sacrifices Healthcare Workers have given in helping to tackle the covid pandemic and that we write to the Taoiseach, Tánaiste and the HSE requesting that they live up to their

commitments made to our Healthcare workers and follow the examples set by Governments in Denmark, France, six counties and elsewhere".

Cllr Mc Monagle received a reply from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

Cllr Mc Monagle said it was essential that healthcare workers received recognition for the sacrifices they had made in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. He called on the Government to stop dragging their feet on the matter and to come up with specific recommendations as a matter of urgency. It was imperative, he added, that all concerned supported the call made to the HSE and the Government by the National Joint Council of Health Sector Trade Unions.

Cllr A Doherty supporting the motion advised of the need to further explore suitable rewards and benefits to those working on the frontline. He alluded also to the necessity of ensuring that homecare workers were suitably recognised.

There was no opposition to the motion.

Mr Patsy Lafferty, Meetings Administrator said that a copy of the resolution would be forwarded to the relevant Government personnel and to the Health Service Executive.

C/167/21 RECORDING OF MEETINGS

Cllr N Crossan expressed concern that plenary meetings were being recorded verbatim and details circulated on social media which resulted in member's comments and contributions being taken out of context. This shameful behaviour, he said, had to stop given the implications for members in general.

He said that if this unofficial recording was to continue he would not be participating in the meetings concerned.

C/168/21 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

It was unanimously agreed to defer consideration of same to the Adjourned September Meeting.

C169//21 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

It was unanimously agreed to defer consideration of same to the Adjourned September Meeting

The following questions were noted;-

C/170/21 MINUTES OF HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2014-2019

Cllr Harley submitted the following question:-

"I am requesting a copy of the minutes of all meetings of the Housing SPC between June 2014 and June 2019".

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/171/21 **DOES THE COUNCIL HAVE AN ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE RENTED PROPERTIES OF WHICH TENANTS ARE IN RECEIPT OF HAP WHICH MAY BE AFFECTED BY MICA**

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

Does this Council have an estimate of the number of private rented properties of which tenants are in receipt of HAP which may be affected by Mica?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/172/21 **CAN THIS COUNCIL WORK TO ESTABLISHING A MICA TESTING LABORATORY WITHIN THE COUNTY**

Cllr G Doherty submitted the following question:-

Can this Council work to establish a Mica testing laboratory within the County, either in-house in Donegal County Council or working with our partners in LYIT?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/173/21 **HOW MANY FAMILIES ARE WAITING FOR HOUSING INCLUDING THOSE ON HAP BUT STILL ON THE COUNCIL LIST**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

How many families are waiting for housing in each MD to include those on HAPs but still on the Council list?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/174/21 **HOW DOES THE COUNCIL PROPOSE TO CONCLUSIVELY DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF COUNCIL OWNED HOMES AFFECTED BY MICA**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

How does this Council propose to conclusively determine the number of Council owned homes affected by mica county-wide?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/175/21 **HOW MANY PROPERTIES HAVE THE COUNCIL BOUGHT OR BUILT SINCE 1995 PLUS NUMBERS BEING RENTED BY THE COUNCIL THAT MAY HAVE MICA, PYRITE AND PYRRHOTITE**

Cllr Mc Brearty submitted the following question:-

How many properties have the Council bought or built since 1995 up to the present date and how many may have Mica, Pyrite and Pyrrhotite. eg: homes, apartments, SI homes, Turnkey and Council built properties etc. plus what are the number's being rented by Council through the 10 years leasing scheme, 5 year RAS scheme, HAP or any other rental scheme tat may also have Mica, Pyrite and Pyrrhotite?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/176/21 **CAN I HAVE THE NAMES OF COUNCIL STAFF, COUNCILLORS AND TDS THAT MET WITH THE EXPERT PANEL FOR DEFECTIVE BLOCKS IN 2016**

Cllr McBrearty submitted the following question:-

Can I have the names of Council staff, County Councillor's and TDs that met with the expert panel for defective blocks in 2016 and why myself and other councillors were not told or asked to meet with this so called expert panel?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/177/21 **HOW MUCH MONEY HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO EACH MD FOR LIS WORKS AND HOW DOES THIS COMPARE TO THE AMOUNTS REQUIRED IN EACH MD TO MEET APPROVALS**

Cllr Crawford submitted the following question:-

How much money has been allocated to each MD for LIS works county-wide and how does this compare to the amounts required county-wide in each MD to meet approvals?

He received a response from the A/Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/178/21 **HOW MANY PROJECTS ARE COMING TO DONEGAL IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS THAT NEED CO-FUNDING BY THE COUNCIL**

Cllr Harley submitted the following question:-

How many projects are coming to Donegal in the next few years that need co-funding and how much does the Council need to fund these projects and can you give me a breakdown for each Municipal District?

He received a response from the Head of Finance in relation to the above.

C/179/21 **MICA COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK FUNDING**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

Mica Council Housing Stock Funding

How many applications for recoupable funding for remedial works to council houses with defective concrete blocks have been submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2019, 2020 and 2021 and when will the current works plan for council affected Mica houses commence and will the Council confirm the location and number of houses identified and prioritised for works in 2021?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/180/21 **THE OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (ORIS) SPECIFICALLY SUPPORTS THE GROWING OUTDOOR ACTIVITY TOURISM SECTOR AS PRIORITISED IN "OUR RURAL FUTURE" MEASURES 1-4**

Cllr A Doherty submitted the following question:-

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) specifically supports the growing outdoor activity tourism sector as prioritised in "Our Rural Future"(Measures 1-4)

Measure 1

What applications were submitted by DCC by the June 30th deadline? and Will the council confirm that the optimum applications permitted is being prepared by DCC and will be submitted under Measures 2 & 3 & the Project Development Measure by the July 30th deadline?

He received a response from the Director of Economic Development, Information Systems & Emergency Services.

C/181/21 **CAN I BE UPDATED ON WHETHER THERE ARE ONGOING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN NRDO AND DFI ROADS NORTH OF THE BORDER REGARDING THE A2 DERRY TO BRIDGEND**

Cllr T Crossan submitted the following question:-

Can Donegal County Council update me on whether there are ongoing discussions between N.R.D.O and D.F.I .Roads, north of the border, regarding the A2 Derry to Bridgend section and the potential link up with the N13 County Road? Can you keep me updated on any future developments regarding this?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/182/21 **CAN DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL CONFIRM IF THEY MADE A SETTLEMENT TO WHITEMOUNTAIN QUARRIES LTD OR WERE THERE ANY OTHER SUCH SETTLEMENTS MADE TO WHITEMOUNTAIN QUARRIES LTD IN RECENT TIMES**

Cllr T Crossan submitted the following question:-

Can Donegal County Council confirm that in recent litigation [2021 No. 413 JR] that they made a settlement to Whitemountain Quarries Ltd. as a result of this litigation and if so can they outline the reasons for such a settlement or were there any other such settlements made to Whitemountain Quarries Ltd in recent times and if so can there be clarification on those?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/183/21 **LIST OF THE PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR FUNDING TO THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE WORKS FUNDING**

Cllr McGuinness submitted the following question:-

Can I have a list of the county-wide projects proposed for funding to the Department under the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works funding?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/184/21 **WHAT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RELATION TO THE LETTERKENNY TO BURTONPORT RAILWAY PROJECT BY DCC**

Cllr McBride submitted the following question:-

What developments have taken place in relation to the Letterkenny to Burtonport Railway Project by Donegal County Council?

He received a response from the Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the above.

C/185/21 **CAN I BE INFORMED AS TO HOW WE ARE GOING TO ROLL OUT A STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH SOCIAL HOUSING TENANTS AFFECTED BY MICA**

Cllr Mc Monagle submitted the following question:-

Can I be informed as to how we are going to roll out a strategy to deal with social housing tenants affected by Mica that will be timely and address their re-housing needs?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/186/21 **HOW MANY OF OUR SOCIAL HOUSES HAVE BEEN TESTED PER MD**

Cllr McMonagle submitted the following question:-

How many of our Social Houses have been tested to date and can I have a breakdown per MD?

He received a response from the Director of Housing, Corporate & Cultural Services in relation to the above.

C/187/21 **MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS/BODIES**

Members noted the following motions from other Councils.

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“Clare County Council call on Government to put forward a global ban on fracking being proposed by Ireland at the United Nations General Assembly on climate-mitigation, public health, environmental-protection and human-rights grounds.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“Due to “the huge unmet need” as described by Dr Deirdre Lundy (an expert in menopause care & HRT prescribing, who advises GPs throughout Ireland) on Liveline with Joe Duffy (May 13th, 2021) that Clare County Council call on the Minister for Health and the Department of Health to recognise the need to address all forms of womens’ health by:-

- Providing funding and support both in hospitals and in general care for menopausal care.
- Initiating a campaign to inform the public of the multiple and diverse symptoms attributable to menopause.
- Providing all necessary resources to train and up skill Irish GPs on menopausal care.
- Including HRT “body identical” in drugs scheme.
- Communication with health insurance companies to ensure the menopausal care coverage is provided.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“Due to recent events,that the Department of Health provide funding to all communities throughout County Clare for defibrillators and training. There needs to be more than one covering each area.”

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

“Now that we have an efficient and effective Covid Vaccination Programme, Clare County Council appeals to Minister for Health Mr Stephen Donnelly to seriously consider using our vaccination centres along with our vaccinators and pharmacists to administer the HPV vaccine.

We appeal to the Minister to use the centres as part of a “catch up” programme as the HPV Vaccination Programme was not completed in

some counties. We are requesting the Minister to offer the HPV Vaccine free of charge to ALL secondary school students.”

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

“To ask the Council to suspend standing orders to consider the following motion:-

It is the policy of this Council not to purchase goods or services, produced or provided, in whole or in part (as practicable), from illegally occupied territories by illegal settlers and that any such contracts should cease as soon as allowed.

We ask that a copy of this motion if successful is sent to each Local Authority.

Footnotes:-

1. Occupied Territories: a territory which is occupied within the meaning of the 4th Geneva convention and confirmed as such by the International Court of Justice, International Criminal court or International Tribunal.
2. Illegal Settlers: a member of the civilian population of an occupying power whose presence within the relevant occupied territory is being facilitated by the occupying power.
3. Occupying Power: as defined by fourth Geneva convention.”

FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

“Fermanagh and Omagh District Council notes the legal and social movement globally for the ‘Rights of Nature’ aimed to strengthen protections for people, place and planet.

We believe that ‘Rights of Nature’ can help inspire an innovative rethinking about how to create regenerative, not extractivist, economies while also making human and other living communities safer, stronger and more resilient.

The positive work already being done by Council staff and groups on the climate emergency and biodiversity crises are commendable, but we recognise the need for a rights-based approach to nature.

We propose, that over the next 6 months, this Council will collaborate with civic society to explore what rights of nature mean for the people and economies of the region and to investigate how Rights of Nature could be expressed in community plans, corporate plans, improvement objectives and other strategic frameworks. In particular, the Council will in the next 6 months hold two community workshops and work with the local community and stakeholders to draw up a Declaration for the Rights of Nature for the District area to be brought back before Council for adoption.

We also request that a report, authored in collaboration and with input from the local community be brought to FODC in relation to embedding ‘Rights of Nature’ as a keystone concept into Council’s operational practices, planning processes and long term decision making.

Mindful of our mutual environmental obligations under the Espoo Convention we call on all Councils, North & South, to also explore 'Right of Nature' for their Council areas, not least in Donegal, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Mid Ulster & Causeway, Coast & Glens."

FERMANAGH & OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Israeli Human Rights Organisation, B'Tselem, and the UN Human Rights Watch have been recently reported that Israel is guilty of crimes of apartheid and persecution, and the 'Ministry for Public Security' was strongly criticised for their treatment of Palestinians in the HRW. As a Council who has adopted and is supportive of the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council hereby call on the Chief Constable of the PSNI and the Garda Commissioner, as well as the Department of Justice & Policing Board in the North and Minister for Justice and Policing Authority in the South, to immediately withdraw their respective forces from any and all partnerships with the Israeli ministry responsible for police and prisons (Ministry of Public Security) and from companies which are involved in surveillance in illegal Israeli settlements report.

Patrick Corrigan from Amnesty International noted that "as a matter of urgency, the PSNI should suspend all programmes with the Israeli police and security services where there's a clear risk of involvement in human rights violations... (the) police service must ensure it is not implicated in Israel's human rights violations. The distressing scenes from East Jerusalem and Gaza should now be a wake-up call."

As such, and mindful of our BDS commitments, we call on the PSNI Chief Constable and Garda Commissioner to immediately cease all partnership and involvement with the security forces of apartheid Israeli. In support of this we call on all Councils on this island to back this motion and lend their voices in support of the Palestinian call for international solidarity and BDS action. "

Furthermore, this Council calls on An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, to expel the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland due to the ongoing de facto annexation of Palestine and further requests that Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney TD, use his position as representative for Ireland on the UN Security Council to seek full enforcement of the UN resolutions on Occupied Palestine and East Jerusalem and that the Dublin government also calls on the EU to place sanctions on Israel. We also call on the Dublin government to recognise the State of Palestine. Furthermore, that this Council invites the Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland, Dr Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid, to meet with the Council so that we may convey our solidarity and support, through her, to the Palestinian people.

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

"That in light of the recent Government announcement on the Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 entitled "Our Rural Future", and the lack of infrastructure such as sewerage in our local towns and villages,

Limerick City and County Council call on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to maintain the status quo with regard to policy on one-off rural housing in our County and City Development Plan and that the phrase “social and economic need” not be included.”

MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection and the Government to carry out a review of the Carer’s Allowance Scheme and the Carer’s Benefit Scheme. In the case of the Carer’s Benefit Scheme that the cap of 2 years duration should be removed. In the case of the Carer’s Allowance Scheme that the assessment of the Carer and their spouse/partner/co-habitant should be based on net income and not gross income as is currently the situation. Furthermore, that all carers who are over the income threshold should at least receive a minimum payment.”

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“That Meath County Council call on the Government to explore the German Sparkasse Community Banking Model, to provide balance for the Irish Banking system and to avoid potential banking monopolies which could damage availability at reasonable cost, to necessary finance for our citizens.”

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

“To call on the Department of Health to prioritise the establishment of the Transport Support Scheme, which will replace the Motorised Transport Grant, and to ensure that access to this grant is widened to include eligibility for parents/guardians of children who need specially adapted vehicles.”

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

“This Municipal District calls on the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, the Minister of State at Dept. Of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Anne Rabbitte TD, and the HSE to put in place measures to support those who are cared for in their homes, on a full time basis, whose carer may be incapacitated due to ill-health or emergency; we ask that an emergency response unit be made available (care team/carers) that could be called in to support patients in these circumstances.

We also ask that this motion be circulated to all local authorities in the state.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“I am asking Sligo County Council to write to the Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys and ask that all working mothers and their partners be allowed to take paid leave after suffering a miscarriage or stillbirth. This bereavement allowance would give employees three days leave when a pregnancy ends in miscarriage or stillbirth, rather than forcing them to use their sick leave.

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“To call for funding to be made available for the provision of small wastewater treatment systems in local villages throughout the country.”

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council call on the Minister for Justice to reconsider her department’s decision not to have a specific offence of stalking introduced on to the statute books, and to not only introduce an offence of stalking but to also introduce longer sentences for the crime than that currently available to prosecutors.”

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“That the Department of Education would give all schools an allocation of hours for a dedicated Home School Liaison Officer, (similarly the allocation of Guidance Counsellor hours for Covid-19) to work with families on the reintegration of their children whom Covid-19 had an impact on their attendance and therefore their learning.”

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

“That this Council writes to the minister responsible for local government and planning with the following proposal:-

That as part of the conditions for a planning application for new housing estates, developers must install Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). We are also calling on the minister to instigate a review in order to install AEDs in all existing residential developments across Ireland. 70% of cardiac arrests happen at home, every minute that there is a delay in acting reduces the person’s chance of survival by 10%. Having the AED close at hand provides a vital link in the chain of survival and offers the person, adult, baby, or child the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest.”