

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Youghal Town Council held on 12th February, 2013 in the Mall House, Youghal at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Mayor Michelle Hennessy presided.

Cllrs. Linehan-Foley, Revins, O'Connell, Burke, O'Sullivan, Beecher & Murray.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Flanagan.

Officials Present: Mrs. Patricia Power, Town Manager.

Mr. Liam Ryan, Town Clerk.

Mrs. Helen Mulcahy, Staff Officer.

### **Opening Prayers:**

The members and officials recited the opening prayers.

### **Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 15th January, 2013:**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 15th January, 2013 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Revins, seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley and unanimously adopted by the Members.

### **Minutes of Special Meeting held on 22nd January, 2013:**

The minutes of the pre-budget meeting held on 22nd January, 2013 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Revins, seconded by Cllr. Linehan Foley and unanimously adopted by the Members.

### **Report of the Town Clerk on matters arising since the Monthly Meeting of Youghal Town Council held on 15th January, 2013.**

#### **1. Local Government Boundary Commission Submission:**

I have forwarded the following submission to the above group as requested by the Members at the Meeting held on January 23rd, 2013.

#### **“Municipal Districts:**

One of the underlying principles behind the proposals for Municipal Districts in ‘Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government’ is the town + hinterland unit. Putting People First indicates (6.4.2(c)) that Municipal Districts will normally consist of a principal town plus its hinterland, and that the towns around which municipal districts will be designed will as far as possible be those which currently have municipal status (or other larger towns without that status) though in a minority of cases inclusion of more than one town in a Municipal District will be unavoidable.

#### **Town + Hinterland Units and the Size of County Cork**

However, application of this principle in Cork is complicated by the large size and population of the County, and by measures which have been taken to cope with these. Specifically:

(1) The population: councillor ratio in Cork will be higher than other Counties in the State as a whole, the proposed maximum national threshold of 950 Councillors would result in an average ratio of 1 councillor per 4,830 persons based on 2011 Census figures. The Boundary Committee’s Terms of Reference indicate that Cork County Council will have 55 members. On that basis, the average population per member would have been 7,270 based on 2011 Census figures, in Cork, which is 50% above the proposed national average.

(2) The Minimum number of Councillors per County Electoral Area indicated in Putting People First is 6, so the higher population: councillor ratio in Cork means the minimum size of Electoral Areas and Municipal Districts will be higher there as well. Multiplying the proposed national average ratio of

4,830 persons per councillor by 6 gives a minimum electoral area of 28,980. Multiplying the proposed Cork average population ratio of 7,270 by 6 gives a minimum electoral area population of 43,620, some 14,640 above the envisaged national average.

(3) The diversity of County Cork is a consequence of its size, and results in a wide range of population densities within the County, from the suburbs around Cork City, through strong agricultural areas with substantial long distance commuting to Cork City, to small towns, sparsely populated peninsulas and mountainous areas in the west of the County. In lower density areas with smaller towns, the THU principle is difficult to apply, because the natural town + hinterland unit has too low a population, while the opposite is the case in South Cork and Metropolitan Cork.

While "Putting People First" considered the inclusion of more than one town in a Municipal District would be unavoidable in a minority of cases, however it will be unavoidable in all cases in County Cork, if the minimum Municipal District population is applied.

### **Recommendation;**

Having considered all of the above Youghal Town Council feel that the existing Midleton Electoral Area which has a population of 64,456 (larger than some County Councils ) should be broken up to form 2 separate Municipal District Councils with the eastern one of the two centering on the former Town Councils of Youghal and Midleton. The western Municipal District Council could centre on the former Town Council of Cobh, together with Carrigtwohill, Knockraha, Little Island and possibly up to and including Glanmire. The proposed Municipal District Council centered on Youghal and Midleton would have a population of possibly 40,000 and could be serviced by 6 to 7 public representatives.

We would suggest that it could be named the Youghal Midleton Municipal District Council or the Midleton Youghal Municipal District Council giving joint recognition to both of the major towns within its functional area.

The County Manager could decide in due course the administrative base for such a Council and how it may operate on the ground. Naturally in due course Youghal Town Council will be making a further submission to Cork County Council in relation to putting Youghal forward as the administrative base for such a District Council.

Youghal Town Council are of the opinion that this is possibly the only logical and practical solution currently, given the narrow guidelines within which the Electoral Area Boundary Commission has been tasked to operate.

### **Missed Opportunity;**

Youghal Town Council would like to point out that the strict adherence to County Boundaries is a really missed opportunity for Youghal. Youghal is situated at the mouth of the River Blackwater dissecting the Counties of Cork and Waterford. Youghal's natural hinterland would face westward in County Cork to Killeagh, Castlemartyr, Ballymacoda, Inch, etc. and eastward in County Waterford to Aghlish, Clashmore, Tallow and Ardmore etc. Based on this area, Youghal would be the ideal location on which to centre a Municipal District Council to service this area, (Youghal's natural hinterland). Youghal is the current retail centre for this area and could become the service centre for this region. However the rigid adherence to existing County Boundaries seems to rule out this more practical approach.

I would like to thank the Commission for the time taken in considering Youghal Town Council's submission and eagerly await the Commissions Final Report in due course".

## **2. Submission to the Court Services;**

I have forwarded the following submission to the Court Services as requested by the Members at the Meeting held on 15th January last.

1. The court offices were in recent years substantially developed and can boast the finest holding cells and facilities in the country. The offices were renovated to compliment the future renovation of the Court House itself which is an iconic building in Youghal with strong architectural value.

The court offices serve both Youghal and Midleton District Court which both have vast catchment areas. The closure of these offices will serve nothing but to waste the enormous amount of public money invested to date. This is utterly pointless.

Currently Youghal District Court Office sits at the Town Hall which was initially proposed as a temporary measure until the courthouse was renovated. Youghal Town Council reviewed the rent paid by the court service and reduced it by 25% in order to maintain the service within the town.

2. It can be reasonably anticipated that the long term goal of the court service will be to move Youghal District Court and Offices to Cork City which will have serious practical implications for members of the legal profession, members of An Garda Siochana and members of the public.

At present the Gardaí spend part of the day at Youghal District Court and as each member of the Gardaí complete their business they leave and return to the local Garda Station. The move to Cork City will necessarily mean that Gardaí will spend the entire day between court and travelling which makes no economic sense.

Likewise members of the profession as well as members of the public will be forced to spend the entire day between court and travelling. There is also a danger as is my experience with busy courts such as Midleton and Cork District Court that a case may or may not be reached given the length of court lists or the court may not be able to allocate time to hear the case on its first listing. Therefore several attendances in court may be required from all parties involved as opposed to one attendance which is the current position of Youghal District Court. I anticipate that this will ultimately cost the State vast amounts of public money.

At present the District Court Judge in Youghal sits twice a month and adds as well specifically fixed dates. The business at Youghal District Court is mixed between crime, civil matters and family law and there is a very strong volume of all such matters but mostly in crime. It has been my experience that the Judge will often sit as late as 7pm in order to finalise the business of the day.

Members of the public seeking to engage the court service in respect of family law matters (and in particular for urgent domestic violence matters) will be particularly disadvantaged by any move of the court and offices to Cork City and this will be very apparent for the more vulnerable members of the community.

3. It is not simply members of the profession that will be in difficulty should the proposed closures proceed. The Court and Offices not only provide employment within Youghal but the Court sitting in the locality attracts a certain level of business and activity to the town.

The town has over the years experienced a strong decline in its former industrial base and has faced high levels of unemployment. The closure of the court offices and court will serve a devastating blow to the town itself and cannot in my view be justified for any reason.

In conclusion the proposals do not make clear where the financial gain will be in the closure of

Youghal District Court and Offices and if there are savings it is the Council's view that they should be balanced against the practical and consequential difficulties as outlined above. The Council are completely opposed to any closure of the offices or moving of Youghal District Court.

### **3. Collapsed Wall at the Lighthouse Hill;**

The Non National Road Grant for 2013 has been notified to us at €161,300 which is €33,700 less than 2012 and €133,700 less than the road grant received in 2009. It is impossible for a Roads Authority (Youghal Town Council) to maintain the roads infrastructure of the Town with an ever decreasing roads allocation year on year.

Bank debt in Ireland stands at a staggering €64 billion. Every man, woman and child has already paid €9,000 each to pay bank debts. Far from being "bailed out" Ireland has paid more hard cash to the banks than any other European country. Germany has paid €40 billion, but Ireland has already paid a staggering €41 billion. Ireland's bill is equivalent to 25% of Ireland's economic output. In Germany it is just 3%.

Against this backdrop Local Authorities cannot maintain services as so much money is being vacuumed from their funding streams to pay Government Debt and fund the Banks.

### **4. Cork Rebel Week: Opportunities for Towns to get involved in Rebel Week.**

As part of Rebel Week, International Marching Bands will be invited to Cork to partake in the Event. Local Communities in Towns throughout Co. Cork and districts in Cork City, will host the bands and will organise local events and activities throughout the week with the highlight of an International Cork Parade in Cork City on Saturday 19th October. Towns in Co. Cork can now apply to be considered as a Host Town. I attach the application form which needs to be completed by any Town wishing to be considered. Below are further details of what becoming a Host Town involves and what you can do to ensure your Town can be considered in the selection process.

#### **What does being Host Town Involve?**

Being a Host Town involves a Town, or District in the case of Cork City, hosting a 50 piece International Marching Band from Wednesday 16th October to Sunday 20th October 2013. The Bands School or College will fund all travel expenses to Ireland. The Host Town will be required to provide accommodation, meals, transport and activities for the 50 piece Band. This is a similar arrangement as the successful Special Olympics concept. Family and friends who accompany the band will stay in hotels and/or B & B's in the Host town at their own expense.

#### **What funding is available for a Host Town?**

A fund of up to a maximum of €7,500 will be provided by Cork County Council towards the costs of being an official Host Town. Each approved Host Town will have to retain all receipts for expenditure incurred in being a Host Town and produce these to claim funding subject to fundraise/source local sponsorship if additional funding is required.

#### **What is the closing date for receipt of completed applications?**

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday 22nd February. Completed application forms for Town applicants in Co. Cork must be submitted on or before this date to Anne O' Donnell, Cork County Council, Tourism Department, Floor 10, County Hall, Cork.

#### **Votes of Congratulations:**

There were no votes of congratulations passed at this meeting.

### **Votes of Sympathy:**

There were no votes of sympathy passed at this meeting.

### **Town Foreman's Report:**

The Town Foreman's Report on works carried out from the 11th January, 2013 to the 7th February, 2013 was brought to the attention of the Members and noted. Arising from the report the following items were raised:

1. Disabled parking spaces around the Town incorrectly marked.
2. Old hackney space in South Main Street still not moved.
3. Potholes at St. Raphael's Cross.
4. Footpath leading to Ardan Na Mara.
5. Question re grade of stainless steel used at Diving Rocks.
6. Potholes at Bawnmore.
7. Sunken manhole cover at Kilcoran Road.
8. Possible date for re-opening Diving Rocks.
9. Grid covers on North Main Street lifting.
10. Potholes on De Valera Street.
11. Possible refurbishment of Courthouse. The Town Clerk explained that this was a matter for the Courts Service. In addition he said that Youghal Town Council were considering serving a derelict sites notice on the Courts Service because of the condition of the Courthouse.
12. Condition of footpath in Quains Tce.
13. Opening of Playground in Blackwater Heights.
14. Missing railings at the steps on the Promenade.
15. Litter on the Spa Hill
16. Spring clean for Green Park.

### **County Council Items:**

#### **ENGINEERS REPORT ON ITEMS RAISED AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING.**

##### **Lighthouse Wall Stabilisation Works:**

A grant of €290,000 has been approved for the appointment of a Consultant & Contractor to continue works at the above. This will enable the stabilized section to be completed with the erection of the parapet walls and the road and path repaired. This is expected to be complete by the 3rd quarter of the year. Separately a monitoring survey is due to start and continue for the coming year. This survey will give indication of any further requirements.

##### **Youghal Main Drainage:**

Tenders for the Network have been analysed and an appointment of a Contractor is imminent. Tenders for the design, build and operate of the treatment plant are being assessed with an appointment due shortly.

The following items were also raised:

1. Sea Wall Update.
2. Ponding on roadway at Amber Garage/Greyhound Track.
3. Update for the Boardwalk.
4. €3 charge on entering dump being incorrectly levied on people disposing of waste electrical items only.
5. Improved signage for the Harbour regarding the use of jet skis.
6. Old boat dumped on Nealons Quay.

### **Managers Orders:**

Managers Order no's 9/2013 to 25/2013 were brought to the attention of the Council and noted.

### **Planning Applications:**

P. 13/58001 was brought to the attention of the Council and noted.

### **Further Information Received:**

The Members were informed that there was no further information received.

### **Disposal of Properties:**

The Members were informed that there were no Disposals for February.

### **Mayors Business:**

The Mayor read a letter to the members from Youghal4All announcing their intention to take over the forthcoming St. Patricks Day Parade. The Members unanimously agreed that this was good news for Youghal and everyone concerned and wished Youghal4All well with organising this event.

### **St. Patricks Day Parade:**

See 'Mayors Business'.

### **Update re Clock Gate:**

The Town Clerk circulated the Members with an overview of the process in relation to the re-opening of the Clock Gate. The Members noted same. 2013 Regional & Local Road Grants Allocations: The Town Clerk circulated the Members with details of the Regional & Local Road Grant Allocation for 2013 and advised the Members that the allocation was €161,300 - €33,700 down on last year. The Town Clerk stated that this level of funding was completely inadequate for a Town the size of Youghal and it was impossible to maintain our roads to an acceptable standard with this level of funding. The Town Clerk urged the Members to lobby the Minister in relation to the situation. The Members agreed that a letter should issue from Youghal Town Council on their behalf.

### **Report by Cllr. Hennessy On Municipal District Councils:**

The Mayor informed the Members that she did not have a report yet but would have one after the forthcoming meeting planned for the 18th February.

### **Discussion Document on Joint Policing Committees:**

The Town Clerk circulated the members with discussion document in relation to Joint Policing Committees – the Members noted same.

### **Planning & Development 2013:**

The Town Clerk circulated the Members with details of the revised Act, Planning & Development Act, 2013 for their information. The Members noted same.

### **Archaeological Report on Church St/Emmet Place:**

The Town Clerk circulated the Members with the final archaeological report on Church St/Emmet Place Public Realm Works for their information. The Members noted same.

### **Fishery, Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2013:**

The Town Clerk circulated the Members with the details in relation to the Fishery, Harbour & Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2013 for their information. The Members noted same

### **Archaeological Report on The Enterprise Centre:**

The Town Clerk circulated the Members with the final archaeological report on the Enterprise Centre for their information. The Members noted same.

### **Motion in the name of Cllr. Linehan Foley:**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Linehan Foley, seconded by Cllr. Revins and unanimously

adopted by the members of the Council:

“That This Council calls on the HSE to review the appointment of South Doc in the East Cork area, as the organisation are not providing an adequate and quality service to the Youghal Area”.

Cllr. Linehan Foley said that following on from the last meeting and in discussions with people from the Town who had experiences with South Doc - South Doc were not using the facility in the Millennium Park and in many cases were refusing to respond to call outs to Youghal and were instead insisting that people from Youghal travel to their base in Midleton. The Councillors agreed that the situation was unacceptable and must be tackled immediately.

It was agreed that a letter would issue to both the HSE and South Doc highlighting the situation and calling for immediate action.

### **Correspondence February 2013.**

1. Acknowledgement letter from Mr. Phil Hogan TD, Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government acknowledging letter in relation to Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee.

2. Letter from the NCBI thanking the Council for their donation of €300.

3. Acknowledgement letter from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to Rapid correspondence.

4. Notice and brochure from Charleville Chamber in relation to their Business Conference.

5. Notice from the Mid-West Regional Authority in relation to the 18th Annual Conference on Economic Recovery.

6. Notice from TGR Seminar in relation to a Conference on Community & Local Development Leader Funding and the Councillor.

7. Notice from Celtic Conferences in relation to a Drug and Alcohol Abuse Seminar.

On the proposal of Cllr. Murray which was seconded by Cllr. Revins the members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Beecher would attend this conference.

8. A letter from Nenagh Town Council in relation to the rolling out of the Community Intervention Team nationwide.

9. Eures Cross Border Partnership Tourism Conference 2013.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke which was seconded by Cllr. Revins the Members unanimously agreed that Cllr. Linehan Foley would attend the forthcoming LAMA Conference in Wexford on the 5th & 6th April.

### **Any Other Business:**

The Manager read a report to the Members in relation to ‘Cork Rebel Week’ which was being organised as part of ‘The Gathering 2013’ Festivities. It was proposed to bring a number of marching bands from the United States to Ireland to participate in ‘Cork Rebel Week’. Each band would consist of 50 members and would be hosted by various towns around the County. These towns would be responsible for the bands accommodation, meals, transport etc. A fund of €7,500 would be made available to each participating town and applications would have to be made in the coming week or two. The Members unanimously agreed that the organisation of same was a huge task and it would be impossible to put an application together at such short notice. The Members suggested that perhaps some of the other community groups within the Town might be interested in taking the project on board.

This concluded the business of the meeting