

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH



Miontuairiscí Chruinniú Specialta a tionóladh ar an 26ú Feabhra 2007 i Seomra na Comhairle, Halla na Cathrach, Cnoc Chorcaí ag 6.45 i.n.

I Láthair an tArdmheara, An Comhairleoir Vincent Jackson sa chathaoir.

Comhairleoir:

Maurice Ahern
Paddy Bourke
Gerry Breen
Christy Burke
Catherine Byrne
Eric Byrne
Anne Carter
Joan Collins
Michael Conaghan
Ray Corcoran
Emer Costello
Lucienda Creighton

Comhairleoir :

Paschal Donohoe
Dessie Ellis
Mary Fitzpatrick
Killian Forde
Mary Freehill
John Gallagher
Wendy Hederman
Nicky Kehoe
Liam Kelly
Sean Kenny
Dermot Lacey
Bronwen Maher

Comhairleoir

Sean Paul Mahon
Andrew Montague
Mary Murphy
Críona Ní Dhálaigh
Naoise O'Muirí
Aodhán Ó'Riordáin
Larry O'Toole
Mick Rafferty
Robert Sargent
Tony Smithers
Tom Stafford
Bill Tormey

Oifigigh

John Tierney
Matt Twomey
Michael Stubbs

Terence O' Keeffe
Ciaran Mc Namara
Jim Keoghán

Ciaran Dunne
Hugh Fitzpatrick
Oonagh Casey

Gnó an t-Ardmheara

1. The following emergency motion was moved by Councillor D. Lacey and seconded by Councillor W. Hederman
“ Noting the conflicting statements issued by the Ministers for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Minister for Justice, and Dublin City Council Management, in relation to the proposed Incinerator at the Poolbeg Peninsula calls for an immediate statement from the City Manager on the current situation in relation to that project.

The City Council further calls on the Managers of the four Dublin Local Authorities to use the opportunity afforded by this, “present period of doubt”, to investigate all alternative strategies to deal with the Dublin Waste problem and to report to Council on same

and

Finally calls on the Manager to make a statement on the reporting mechanisms that operate in relation to this project which led apparently to a situation in which two Government Ministers were informed of key aspects of this project prior to such information being conveyed to, the Corporate Policy Group, the Councillors for the area in which the proposed incinerator is to be located or the members, of the full City Council”

The Lord Mayor said that the Vetting Group for Emergency Motions had agreed to submit the emergency motion to the Council on a “without debate” basis but that he was allowing Councillor D. Lacey to say a few words by way of introduction. Councillor D. Lacey said that he was asking for 3 things :-

- Clarification on the matter
- Calling on the 4 Dublin Local authorities to consider alternatives to incineration
- Report on the mechanism for communication to Councillors in this regard

Mr Matt Twomey, Assistant City Manager, informed the Council that an issue had arisen in relation to the Public Private Partnership aspect of the Project insofar as the selected service provider, Elsam, had been taken over by the Danish Oil and Gas Company and that they had sought changes to the commercial terms approved in 2005. This was, he said, the subject of continuing negotiations with the company. It is expected to know the outcome of these discussions shortly. However, the statutory processes in relation to (1) the Planning Application and (2) the Waste Licence application with the EPA were continuing. He stated that despite recent media reports, the project was still very much alive.

The motion was then put and carried and it was agreed by the City Council that a written report would be presented to the Monthly meeting on the 5th March 2007 and that a copy of the motion would be sent to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

2. Submitted Report No. 61/2007 of the Executive Manager (*C. McNamara*) – Progress Report on Dublin City Development Plan 2005 – 2011. Following a short presentation on the Report by Mr Ciaran McNamara, Executive Manager of the Planning Department, the Lord Mayor threw the debate open to the floor. The following Councillors contributed to the debate - : Councillors P. Bourke, S. Kenny, C. Burke, E. Costello, Eric Byrne, T. Smithers, T. Stafford, N. O’Muiri, D. Lacey, N. Kehoe, G. Breen, W. Hederman, M. Murphy, M. Rafferty, C. Byrne, M. Freehill, M. Conaghan, A. Montague, B. Tormey, J. Gallagher and P. Donohoe. During the debate, among the more salient points made were, :-

Housing Strategy

- The Housing Strategy is not working
- Social/Affordable Housing Schemes need to be revised, lottery system is not working
- Ordinary People still cannot afford Houses
- Loan limits need to be increased
- Housing Schemes need to be reviewed
- Voids need to be relet as soon as possible – number of boarded-up houses in the city is unacceptable
- Good quality family-sized apartments required with adequate storage for bicycles, etc

- Issue of Management Companies in Apartment Complexes must be addressed
- Despite improvements in relation to Housing Maintenance. There is still room for further improvement
- People on the Housing List are waiting longer now than they were 10 years ago, in particular, the needs of senior citizens and single males must be catered for.

Transport

Concerns were expressed that some of the policies in relation to transport in the city were being dictated by the Dublin Transportation Office without any political mandate from the City Council e.g. proposals to restrict cars from the city centre without adequate public transport infrastructure.

Also :-

- Eastern Bypass should be pursued
- Should have cycle lanes in DCC Parks, O'Connell St and along the canals

General

- That an audit of green and brown-field sites be undertaken as soon as possible
- Lack of petrol stations between the canals – garages being sold for development. Need to get the balance right in that regard.
- Policy required for siting of mobile phone masts
- Industrial heritage being neglected – Old mill in Inchicore demolished, St Luke's Church, former Player/Wills factory in South Circular Rd - No Transport Museum – all of these issues need to be addressed
- Global warming - Building Regulations should be amended to increase energy efficiency, address emissions etc
- The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government should be asked to introduce measures that would allow Local Authorities to regulate "Adult shops"
- The appointment of a Biodiversity Officer was welcomed
- That there are residential areas where too many institutions are sited – that it is desirable that a database/register of institutions be compiled by the Planning Department
- That the Planning Department take cognisance of wildlife when granting permission in certain areas
- Planning for future school needs must be addressed
- Policy needed to promote the location of pubs, cafes, leisure facilities in residential areas

City Manager's Comment

The City Manager stated that the Dublin City Development Plan 2005 – 2011 was the best development plan one would find in the country and he praised the Officials and the Councillors for the extensive consultation process engaged in by them in the preparation of the plan and agreed that a lot of progress had been made. He pointed out that Housing was an issue for Dublin City, not only 'Affordable' but also for private housing clients. He stated that the target number of units would be met by DCC but the challenge for social/affordable was

considerable and that the Housing Department were working very hard to provide the maximum number of units under all the various initiatives. He would favour Family-sized apartments with good design quality but pointed out that this would have economic consequences.

He also advised that, on the energy issue, the best way forward would be to make haste slowly and bring forward sound practical proposals. He also said that the 1st priority on Transport is public transport.

It was agreed that a Report would be circulated to the Members of the City Council on the issues raised by the Councillors and particularly in relation to the following :

- Pubs, garages and football pitches being sold off
 - Affordable Housing – Volume and cost
 - Climate change – Development plan to address?
 - Conservation – villages, heritage sites etc
 - Political accountability of Transport planning
 - Densification (Land use intensification)
3. Submitted Report No. 50/2007 of the Executive Manager (*C. McNamara*) - Proposed Draft Variation (No. 14) Dublin City Development Plan 2005 -2011: Designation of Prospect Square/De Courcy Square & Environs as an Architectural Conservation Area. It was moved by Councillor P. Donohoe and seconded by N. Kehoe “ That Dublin City Council notes the contents of Report No 50/2007, agrees to adopt Variation (No 14) of the Dublin City Development Plan 2005 – 2001 and hereby designates Prospect Square/De Courcy Square & Environs as an Architectural Conservation Area” The motion was put and carried.

The meeting concluded at 9.20pm.

Correct.

LORD MAYOR

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR