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## **AILG Plenary Members Activity Report**

**May 2020 edition**



Welcome Plenary Members to your new look monthly activities report from the AILG!

Our monthly report will bring you, our Plenary Delegates, up to date on the activities and service delivery of the AILG and will allow you the opportunity to report back to your council colleagues, as their AILG delegates, to keep them informed on the ongoing work of the AILG.

Throughout this Covid-19 crisis, the AILG has continued its work on behalf of our members across the country. Like all organisations, the AILG has adapted to using alternative methods to communicate with our various committees, elected members, government bodies and other local government stakeholders by Zoom, WebEx and other technological tools. However, we look forward to the day, hopefully not too far in the future, when we can meet all of our members in person once again.

It is a busy and exciting time here as the Association has just launched a new communications strategy which we will tell you all about. As part of this new strategy, we have a new AILG staff member on board who has just joined the Association and will be assisting the directors with new developments and ideas. We will also be launching our brand new website soon - stay tuned for more updates!

**We hope everyone is keeping well at this time and wish everyone good health and encourage you to follow the government's advice and directions to help protect your family and friends**

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So what's been happening at the AILG? Well...a lot!

- We've welcomed a new staff member to AILG headquarters!
- Our brand new website is in development and will be ready to launch in the coming weeks
- We have jumped into the world of Social Media, with our Twitter account in full flow (make sure to follow us!) and we have also created a private Facebook group which will be a useful resource for all our members to share their thoughts and ideas
- The AILG is launching a new Training and Policy Development strategy which will further develop the work that the Association is doing on behalf of it's members while also raising the profile of the Association. We will be updating you on this strategy in our June edition
- We are becoming Zoom experts (!), holding virtual meetings with each other as we continue to social distance from each other and we hope to see you all at our Plenary meeting webinar in June (more details will issue to you in due course)



### **Introducing our new Communications and Office Administrator!**

The AILG welcomed our newest staff member, Jenny Coonan, to the Association in May. Jenny is no stranger to Maynooth, having both studied and worked at the University here, and she will be assisting the directors with the new stage of the Association's development following on from its strategic review early in the year. We hope to introduce you to her soon (albeit virtually for now!) but we are delighted to have Jenny on board with us and wish her all the very best of luck in her new position!



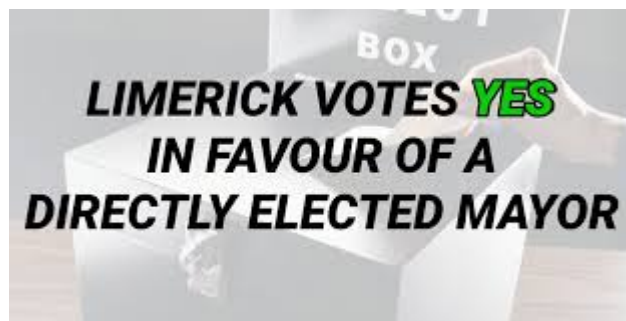
### **Communications Update**

We will be launching a brand new website in the coming weeks. The website will contain lots of new features such as videos, images and up to date news and will also include our new branding and logo. We look forward to sharing it

with you very soon.

We are gathering quite a following on Twitter and we hope to continue this by posting regularly on interesting articles, updates on legislation and policy and promoting the profile and work of the Elected Members. We will also be posting photos of our events and training. You will find our social media links at the bottom of this email so we look forward to having you join us!

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### **AILG receives a briefing on the progression of a Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick**

In early May, the AILG Officers received a detailed briefing from officials in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on the work of the Limerick Mayor Implementation Advisory Group, which has been tasked with advising the Minister about putting in place a Directly Elected Mayor with Executive Functions, in accordance with the outcome of last year's plebiscite on Directly Elected Mayors in Limerick City and County.

The briefing was very informative for the AILG to hear first-hand about the many issues that the advisory group have been tasked to examine, including the potential of the directly elected mayoral role into the future, the implications for the delivery of services and resourcing for Limerick City and County Council, the governance relationships between the new Mayor, the Council and the Executive and what possible extra functions the Mayor could take on.

The AILG delegation did stress to the officials that in the progression of a Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick and possibly for other city areas into the future, it is imperative that the existing powers of the Elected Members in any city adopting this governance model are not diminished. As the national representative members body, the AILG need to have the opportunity to contribute to the process of determining the way this role develops.

A commitment was given that the AILG will have the opportunity to submit relevant papers on various matters, in order to feed into the process prior to their final report being completed.

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### **June Plenary Meeting - Webinar**

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are still unable to hold physical meetings at this time. We plan to host an online webinar in June to facilitate the next Plenary Delegate meeting. We will be giving you advance notice of this and will also be emailing you instructions on how to join the meeting.

We hope then that, after the final two phases of the Government's current 'Re-opening' Roadmap on the 28<sup>th</sup> July & 10<sup>th</sup> August, we will be able to resume our physical meetings and once again get to meet our delegates in person.

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### **AILG Participation on Department Bodies**

The Association is currently represented on a number of Department advisory groups on planning and waste management. Our President, Cllr. Mick Cahill, is representing our members on the Department's Development Plan Guidelines Advisory Group. The purpose of the Advisory Group is to enable core stakeholder representatives to inform and input strategic thinking to the preparation of updated Development Plan guidance for planning authorities.

Our Vice-President, Cllr. Anne Colgan, is representing our members on the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment Advisory Group which will advise the Minister on a new National Waste Policy Plan which is due to be in place later this year. This new national waste plan will inform future cycles of waste policy and resource management plans and will provide a coherent framework in which sectoral policies, targets and objectives can be realised.

The AILG will keep our members informed of the work of our members on these important advisory groups.

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### **AILG submission to National Marine Planning Framework**

The Association made a submission to the National Marine Planning

Framework in late April. Nineteen of our member Councils have coastlines or deep water ports and it is vital that local authorities be fully involved with planning decisions for off-shore and near-shore developments. The submission built on the AILG's ongoing campaign to expand the remit of local government to incorporate more functions and services which impact on the public.

Historically near-shore developments have been permitted through an old foreshore licensing system which is operated by central government. The AILG argued in its submission that, in future, such developments should be channeled through the local authority planning system which is suitably resourced to incorporate marine planning considerations.

In compiling its submission, the AILG invited inputs from Councillors throughout the country. Earlier in the year, the AILG President, Cllr Michael Cahill, and Director, Liam Kenny, attended a Department workshop seeking views on the draft Framework.

The Association will monitor the progress of this policy and report to members when the finalised Framework is published.

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We hope everyone is keeping well at this time.

Go n-eirí an t-ádh libh go léir!

Kind Regards

Mick

Cllr. Mick Cahill  
President AILG 2019/2020





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