



# Connemara N&S Community Co-Op

Date:	Thurs 25th April '26 FF / Mon. 20th April 2026 AD	
Éire Community Council HO, Mermaid House, Liscannor, Clare, Éire		
Attendees		
John-Declan F (C)	Ultan C. (VC)	Patrick Manion (Trea)
Howard M. Hughes (Sec.)	John-Brian C. PRO	Michael Conroy
Colm Granahan	John Barrett	Tom Walsh
Liam Costelloe	Síle Philbin	Brian Clark

Attendees: Mike Conroy (via phone).  
The Secretary and PRO attend via Zoom.

Meeting starts 11:43 hrs IRT / 12:08 hrs GMT

## 1. Business Rates & Economic Strategy

- Local businesses in Connemara are currently being crippled by corporate rates and face imminent closures.
- The Community Council intends to seek delivery of rate reductions directly to mapped communities by confirming the economic position to the corporate council.
- The National Economic Council, a body rooted in the 1919 Constitution, was highlighted as the necessary representative organisation for all local businesses to join.

## 2. Seaweed Harvesting Rights & Licences

- A major issue was raised regarding seaweed harvesting rights, which are currently being threatened by Canadian companies applying for corporate licences through local proxy individuals.
- Local harvesters have faced intimidation, including direct visits from social welfare officers.
- A strategy to consider is to issue "sovereign licences" to the local harvesters to protect their historical rights, as these rights predate modern corporate legislation.
- This seaweed dispute will be used as the primary hook to rally the community and gather the required signatures to advance matters.



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## 3. Community Council Powers & The IRB

- The overarching goal is to establish three pillars of sovereignty for the people: community councils, community courts, and a community bank.
- A council requires a critical mass of 100 members, while a court requires 300, which subsequently gives the community the power to nullify unwanted legislation or corporate development.
- Within the community structure, every individual in a household has a vote, with parents automatically casting votes on behalf of their children under 16.
- The role of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) was clarified: the IRB founded the sovereign state and maintained its claim for over a century, but has formally deferred all local governance authority directly to the local community councils via Executive Order.
- It was stressed that this distinction must be clearly explained to the public during outreach to prevent any confusion between the IRB and the IRA. "B is not A".

## 4. Board Formation & Manifesto

- The meeting resolved to officially fill the executive board for the Connemara North and Connemara South Community Councils.
- Proxies from the IRB Connacht Council, including Howard Hughes and John Caulfield, will be utilised to reach the required 12 board members.
- Howard Hughes agreed to serve as the Secretary for both Connemara North and Connemara South for the foreseeable future.
- Ultan Curran was formally proposed and accepted as a sitting board member.
- The council's Manifesto and Code of Conduct were read into the record, outlining the duties of the executive (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer), voting rules, and the strict requirement that members act with absolute integrity and respect.



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## 5. Action Items

- **Gather Signatures:** Local organisers must gather 100 names, phone numbers, and dates of birth from community members to officially reach critical mass.
- **Call a Public Meeting:** Organise a public meeting under the banner of the newly formed Connemara North and South Community Councils to specifically address the seaweed licensing issue.
- **Distribute Minutes:** Produce and distribute the minutes of this current meeting to define the strategy going forward.

Meeting closes at 12:56 IRT/13:21 GMT

