

AILG

Association of Irish Local Government

Aontas Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann

AILG PLENARY MEMBERS ACTIVITY REPORT



October Plenary Report

Welcome Plenary Members to our monthly activities report from AILG for October 2020.

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

We hope this month's message continues to find you, your family, colleagues and your friends safe and well. October brought changes not only in our weather but also in Irish society and within our local communities, with the government making the decision to move the entire country to level 5 restrictions. *We are very conscious of the difficult situation that all our member counties find themselves in, having to experience these additional local restrictions.*

AILG continues our commitment to our ongoing work in support of our members and we continue to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19 to ensure continued service delivery to you.

October 2020 Highlights:

- AILG makes history as first Female President is elected
- Minister signs order to allow statutory council meetings to take place remotely
- AILG to hold Online Induction Training for New Councillors
- AILG partners with the Office of the Planning Regulator for third on-line training webinar
- AILG continues its rollout of our communications strategy

October was another busy month for AILG, which saw us make double history last week by not alone electing its first female President but also by holding our first online AGM due to current public health restrictions. We also hosted our third on-line training webinar, which was carried out in conjunction with the Office of the Planning Regulator on the 23rd October. Full details of these events can be seen below.

AILG makes history as first Female President is Elected

Galway County Councillor, Cllr. Mary Hoade, was elected President of the Association of Irish Local Government at its annual AGM which took place on the 28th October. Joining Cllr. Mary Hoade at the helm is Cllr. John Joe Fennelly from Laois County Council who was elected Vice President.

Speaking following her election, Cllr. Hoade said it was a huge privilege to assume the role of President for the Association for the year (2020-21) She said “I am humbled, honoured & privileged to assume the role of President for the Association for the year (2020-21) let alone become the first female member to hold the office of President of this new body. I am deeply grateful to my predecessor, Cllr. Mick Cahill, for his leadership and outstanding contributions to AILG during his presidency, and the members of the Executive Committee and Board of 2019-2020. I am inspired by their commitment to AILG and all of their achievements. Indeed, the growth of AILG has been propelled collectively by the individuals and all the past presidents and past members of the AILG Board and Executive Committee.



L-R: Cllr. John Joe Fennelly and Cllr. Mary Hoade following their election at AILG's annual AGM on the 28th October.

I look forward to continuing this important work towards fulfilling the mission of the Association. In this endeavour, I am joined by Cllr. John Joe Fennelly as Vice President and I look forward to working with him and the incoming Executive committee. I am confident that we will be steadfast in addressing the pressing challenges in local government, and in the next year our accomplishments will be many.

As we celebrate the 121st Anniversary of Local Government in Ireland, AILG and its predecessor associations have worked tirelessly to develop, support, and give a voice to Ireland's Local Authority Elected Members, helping them to respond to massive changes and challenges that have taken place in local government.”



Cllr. Mary Hoade following her election at AILG's annual AGM on the 28th October.

Minister signs order to allow statutory council meetings to take place remotely

The month of October saw Minister Darragh O'Brien sign an order under Part 5, Section 29 of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 which will allow County and City Councillors to hold meetings and vote remotely. It is also the Ministers intention to sign a separate order for regional assemblies which means that they can also convene remote statutory meetings.

However, AILG would like to stress to our members that regardless of the order signed by the Minister, *it is a matter for the Elected Members of each Local Authority to decide if they wish to avail of the additional option of being able to hold remote statutory meetings.* Therefore, it is entirely the prerogative of the Elected Members of each individual local authority, to decide by resolution of the elected council, if they wish to amend their own standing orders to provide for the option of remote statutory meetings.



Minister O'Brien signing order under Part 5, Section 29 of the Civil Law Act 2020.

It is the position of AILG, that the holding of meetings of the council in a physical location should always be the default and preferred option for meetings of the Local Authority where statutory decisions are being made. However, it is the prerogative of the elected members of each individual local authority to decide if they wish to avail of the additional option of remote statutory meetings. We have reviewed the Supplementary Standing Orders guidelines, recently published by the DHLGH and will be issuing a notification on this to all our members separately.

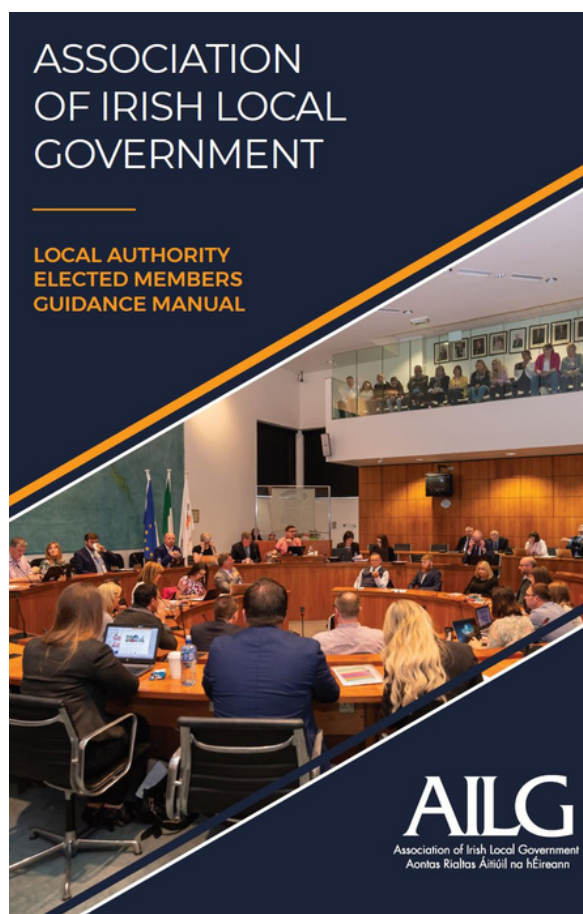
AILG to hold Online Induction Training for New Councillors

AILG is going virtual with our Induction training for new Councillors. Due to the latest public health measures, training for our newest members will now take place virtually on **Friday the 20th of November**.

There have been a total of 72 co-options since the local elections in May 2019, the majority of which were Councillors who stood down in order to take up seats in Dáil Éireann, Seanad Éireann or the European Parliament.

As all of our elected members are well aware, being elected as a local Councillor is a huge honour but also brings with it a great responsibility, with the last few months highlighting the important and busy role elected members have in representing & protecting their local communities. The AILG are committed to providing induction training to new councillors and to providing support and resource tools to help them fulfil their role as a public representative.

AILG will be contacting all newly co-opted councillors with further details next week.



AILG partners with the Office of the Planning Regulator for third on-line training webinar

AILG are delighted to continue our on-line planning training programme which saw another webinar delivered on 23rd October to our Elected Members.

Over 170 members joined us for October's webinar which was entitled "Consideration and Finalisation of the Draft Development Plan" which covered two principle topics, assessment of Submissions & making the plan.



AILG looks forward to continue building on our partnership with the OPR and we are pleased to announce that our **second module begins on Friday 27th November from 10am to 11.30am.**

The second training module will focus on the Development Management process. The first webinar of this module is entitled “*Implementation of the Development Plan and the Development Management Process*”. The individual presentations will deal with:

- The Role of the Elected Member in the Development Management Process. The Deputy Planning Regulator, Anne Marie O’Connor, will deliver this presentation.
- The Link between the Elected Members Plan-Making Function and the Development Management Process. Michael Mulhern, Director of Services for Land Use Planning & Transportation, South Dublin County Council, will deliver this presentation.

The poster features a dark blue header with the title "Training Webinar for Local Authority Elected Members". Below this is a light blue box with the main topic: "Implementation of the Development Plan and the Development Management Process". A dark blue section titled "Agenda" lists two topics: "The Role of the Elected Member in the Development Management Process" and "The Link between the Elected Members' Plan-Making Function & the Development Management Process". The date "27th November" and time "10:00-11:30am" are displayed, along with a registration link "Register: info@ailg.ie". Logos for OPR (Office of the Planning Regulator) and AILG (Association of Irish Local Authorities) are at the bottom.

The presentations will last 30 minutes each and they will be followed by a Q&A session. Niall Cussen will join Anne Marie and Michael for the Q&A session.

It is intended that the November webinar will confirm the legislative and regulatory position of elected members as regards input to the development management process. The webinar will highlight, when and where, it is appropriate for elected members to engage with such processes and how to maximise effectiveness. In addition, there will be information on how the elected members role in plan-making can, and should, take account of the practical operation of development management matters with the insight of a senior local authority official from one of the busiest local authorities in Dublin.

The webinar is being shared jointly by AILG & OPR and that there is no cost to your local authority for elected members. **To register for this webinar please email info@ailg.ie**

AILG continues its rollout of our communications strategy

We were delighted to finally be able to showcase our new AILG website to our Delegates at the online AGM and give them a sneak peek of the new design before we launch live!

The AILG held a focus group early this week with some of our members and also external stakeholders to get their insights and feedback on the new look. This feedback has been populated and the final few tweaks and amendments have been passed over to the website developers. Members will be notified as soon as we can go live with the website.

Our social media channels continue to perform strongly;



Since September we have increased our following on Twitter by 25% from 690 to 901 followers



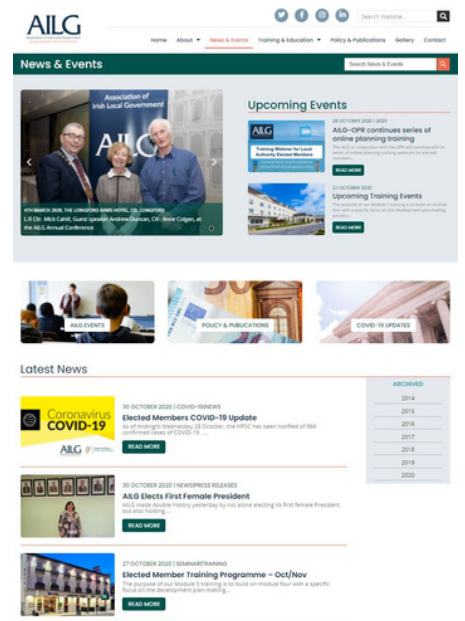
Since Sept we have increased our following from 670 likes to 861 likes



Since Sept we have 120 new followers on LinkedIn, total followers now 228



Since joining Instagram in October, we have 145 followers



We would like to remind Delegates that our private closed members group is also now up and running on Facebook with over 311 members joined so far. *We encourage all members to chat openly and share ideas in this closed group. It is an opportunity to discuss common issues and share best practice to support you in the vital role you play in your Local Authority.*

You will find our social media links at the bottom of this report so do make sure you join us!

Kind regards,

Mary



Cllr. Mary Hoade
AILG President 2020/2021
 Association of Irish Local Government



The AILG is a national representative body that represents and supports the role of our elected councillors. We are a strong voice for local communities through effective local government.

