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**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CRUINIÚ DE COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ
A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR
AN LUAN, 18 FEABHRA, 2019**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY,
18 FEBRUARY, 2019**

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

T. Barry	R. Beasley	M. Cahill
P. Connor-Scarteen	B. Cronin	J.J. Culloty
P. Daly	T. Ferris	J. Finucane
S. Fitzgerald		N. Foley
M. Gleeson	D. Grady	J. Healy-Rae
M. Healy-Rae	N. Kelleher	M. Kennelly
S. Locke	J. Lucid	D. McCarthy
P. McCarthy	T. McEllistrim	J. Moloney
N. Moriarty	T. O'Brien	B. O'Connell
M. O'Shea	L. Purtill	D. Quigg
J. Sheahan	G. Spring	A. Thornton

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive	Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. of Operations
Mr. J. Breen, Director Water Services	Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director Housing
Mr. M. Scannell, Dir. Job Cr/Sust. ED	Mr. C. O'Connor, Director Corp. Servs.
Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance	Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator
Mr. O. O'Shea, Press Officer	Ms. D. Griffin, SO Corporate Support
Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corporate Support	Ms. J. O'Sullivan, CO Corp. Support
Mr. G. O'Brien, A/SEO Environment	Ms. J. McCarthy, SEO Tourism Dev.
Mr. D. Ginty, A/Senior Planner	Mr. T. O'Connor, County Librarian
Mr. D. Doyle, SE Operations	Mr. J. Kennelly, SE Operations
Ms. M. West, AO Operations	Mr. M. Boyce, SEE Environment
Ms. E. O'Donnell, AO Environment	Mr. L. Brosnan, AO Planning

The meeting commenced at 10.35 a.m.

Cllr. N. Foley, Cathaoirleach, took the Chair.

Vote of Sympathy

Cllr. M. Gleeson proposed a vote of sympathy to the McSweeney family in Killarney on the passing of Mrs. Peg McSweeney.

Cllr. N. Kelleher supported this vote of sympathy.

18.2.19.01 Cathaoirleach's Report on CPG meeting held on 12 Feb 2019

The Cathaoirleach's report on the CPG meeting held on 12 February 2019, which had been circulated, was noted by the Members.

It was noted that following a request arising from the Quality of Life SPC meeting held on 28 January 2019, a presentation on "The Role of Hemp in the Environment" will be made to the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC meeting scheduled for 1 March 2019 and thereafter at the April Full Council meeting subject to the availability of the speaker.

Cllr. M. Gleeson proposed that the recommendation to hold a Killarney Municipal District Civic Reception for Nicky and Anne McAuliffe be further reviewed by CPG.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae seconded this proposal.

Cllr. J. Lucid added his congratulations to Nicky and Anne McAuliffe on being awarded the Lifetime Achievement at the Gradam Ceoil Awards 2019.

It was unanimously agreed that a Killarney Municipal District Civic Reception be held for the Kilcummin GAA team on winning the Intermediate Club Championship All-Ireland Final.

It was unanimously agreed that a South & West Municipal District Civic Reception be held of the Beaufort GAA team on winning the Junior Club Championship All-Ireland Final.

Cllr. B. Cronin said requests for Civic Receptions/honours should be considered by a body other than the CPG.

Cllr. T. Ferris asked for advice regarding the legislation relating to the operations of the CPG and implementation of that legislation.

The Chief Executive said the relevant section of the Local Government Act would be circulated to the Elected Members.

18.2.19.02 Confirmation of Minutes

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. B. Cronin, it was resolved that the minutes of the January Ordinary Meeting of Kerry County Council held on 21 January 2019 be confirmed.

18.2.19.03 Chief Executive's Report to Council

The Chief Executive's report for the month of January 2019, which had been circulated, was noted by the Members.

Cllr. S. Locke congratulated all involved in securing a silver award in the Best Disability Access and Inclusion Initiative category at the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards for The Mall Shared Space project in Tralee. This is a national award and is a great boost for the town of Tralee.

18.2.19.04 County of Kerry (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2019

Mr. J. Breen, Director of Service, referred Elected Members to report dated 13 February 2019, which had been circulated. He outlined the report, including that Kerry County Council originally adopted waste presentation bye-laws in 2005 to deal with relevant issues around the presentation of household and commercial waste for collection. The current Regional Waste Management Plans include a policy (Policy C.2.1.) that new revised bye-laws should be developed and adopted by each local authority. To this end, a national draft template for these bye-laws was developed by the Regional Waste Management Offices and a recommendation was forthcoming that new bye-laws should be adopted by all local authorities to provide a more effective framework to deal with waste presentation issues.

The draft bye-laws would apply generally to the kerbside collection of both household and commercial wastes collected by authorised waste collectors. However, certain aspects of the management of waste which is deposited directly at authorised waste facilities are also covered. The bye-laws would not apply to waste deposited in skips for collection or, in general, to the storage of waste prior to its presentation for collection.

The making of these bye laws is a reserved function and, therefore, is a matter for determination by the elected members of the Council. Subject to the approval of the members, it is proposed that the bye-laws should come into force on the 1st April 2019 and this date will be specified in the bye-laws.

Cllr. B. O'Connell PROPOSED that when a tenancy is being offered by Kerry County Council, that the tenancy agreement would contain a requirement that the tenant will provide proof of how they will dispose of their refuse. There could also be a waiver scheme in place.

Cllr. D. Grady asked that consideration be given to alternative ways to store refuse bins as they are an eyesore.

Cllr. S. Locke asked how the Bye-Laws will be enforced and will enforcement of the Bye-Laws require recruitment of staff. He also asked that the storage of commercial waste refuse bins be addressed. He said new Local Authority tenants should be provided with free bins and a waiver system should be in place for the elderly and those on welfare payments.

Cllr. M. Gleeson called for strict implementation of the Bye-Laws, in particular with regard to the times during which commercial waste bins can be presented for collection. He asked that refuse collectors ensure that they do not leave empty bins in a manner which obstructs disabled parking bays and said there must be a penalty for those who place their rubbish in another person's bin.

Cllr. P. Daly referred to provision 2(c) of the Bye-Laws which requires that documentary evidence of compliance with the Bye-Laws be presented to an authorised person within a time specified in a written request and said a private operator, authorised by Kerry County Council, could seek this information within a short period of time. He also referred to the fines set out in the Bye-Laws and said the Bye-Laws are not focused on those that illegally dispose of waste.

Cllr. J. Finucane said specific times should be included in the Bye-Laws in relation to the times during which commercial waste bins are collected, to ensure collections do

not result in traffic congestion during busy morning periods, as well as a requirement that bins are removed from the streets within an hour of collection.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty said the use of covert cameras at litter blackspots is vital in order to address illegal dumping. He asked how many covert cameras are in operation across the county. He suggested that the Local Authority, in consultation with businesses, give consideration to underground storage of commercial refuse bins.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen asked how many Litter Wardens are employed in the county. He said more enforcement of litter regulations is required and a 'name and shame' policy should be used for prosecutions. He asked that the Bye-Laws be made available to all households when adopted and that there would be flexibility afforded to the elderly in implementing the Bye-Laws.

Cllr. P. McCarthy said the use of covert cameras is the only means by which illegal dumping in the county will be addressed.

Cllr. R. Beasley said there is an issue with back alleys behind businesses which are not maintained. Litter generated outside fast food outlets, especially in seaside areas is not acceptable. Dog fouling on our streets continues to be an issue.

Cllr. J. Lucid said better enforcement is key to illegal dumping and contractors must be advised that construction waste must be disposed of only at licenced areas. He said there would be benefit to providing further information and workshops promoting recycling. He said it has been suggested that householders provide their Eircode to their refuse collector and this could be used to ensure obligations to participate in a waste collection service are met.

Cllr. B. Cronin asked for clarification on how sharing of bins between households would work in terms of the second user of the bin providing proof that they are sharing a bin. He suggested that a communal storage area for bins may be of help and he supported the suggestion regarding underground storage of bins. The full rigours of the Bye-Laws must be implemented, along with the use of covert cameras, to address illegal dumping. He asked how many staff will be involved in implementing the Bye-Laws. He asked if a 'no dumping' sign could be erected at the Dromkerry Junction with Crohane Cross, Fossa.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae asked if Kerry County Council is entitled to request from the private operators the list of customers they cater for around the county. He agreed with the sentiments expressed by Cllr. Daly that more focus should be on those that illegally dump rubbish. He said since Kerry County Council is no longer in the refuse collection service, since the North Kerry Landfill closed and a charge has been introduced for the disposal of plastics, littering has increased. He added that the concentration of the Local Authority should be on litter blackspots.

Cllr. M. O'Shea asked what is the cost of this new project and if allowance has been made in the budget for same. He said people who use the Transfer Stations should not be fined. Littering is an issue on the county's beaches and covert cameras should be used to address illegal dumping. He said more funding and personnel will be required to implement these Bye-Laws.

Cllr. M. Kennelly said this policy must be implemented and people must be able to show how they are disposing of their waste. He said enforcement is required to address indiscriminate dumping and these Bye-Laws must be supported.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae asked, over 2017 and 2018, how many complaints have been received and how many of those have been prosecuted. She said dog fouling continues to be a problem and more disposal facilities should be provided.

Cllr. M. Cahill asked that Kerry County Council would work with more schools in the county on environmental awareness. He said refuse collectors are being selective about the routes they service and this is an issue for households trying to access refuse collection services. He said landowners should not be fined for rubbish dumped on their property by others.

Cllr. D. Quigg said refuse collectors should provide a smaller type collection truck to service households on side roads which are not accessible by larger refuse collection lorries.

Cllr. T. Ferris said of 140 On-the-spot fines issued, 60 were paid, 20 were prosecuted and there were only 14 convictions. As this Local Authority is struggling to convict those that are responsible for littering, provision 2(c) of the Bye-Laws attempts to address this. She suggested that the wording of provision 2(c) may be too broad and could be more specific in terms of the period of time for which householders should retain receipts.

Cllr. J. Sheahan said the installation of covert cameras is essential to address illegal dumping and secure convictions.

Cllr. A. Thornton asked for an update on the use of drones as part of an anti-dumping initiative.

Cllr. T. O'Brien said the only way to stop illegal dumping is by way of prosecuting and naming and shaming the offenders. He asked if the covert cameras in the county are actively being used.

Mr. J. Breen, Director of Service, said the Bye-Laws presented today relate to the collection/presentation of waste and he responded to queries raised as follows:

- There will be a communication strategy on the Bye-Laws to convey the message on what the Bye-Laws mean and how they will be implemented. Anybody utilising a refuse collection service or the transfer stations have nothing to fear. These Bye-Laws relate to presenting waste in a proper manner.
- There are six cameras in use at present. An application has been made for funding to upgrade those cameras. Kerry County Council must collect and present evidence for prosecutions, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure evidence. Cameras do not resolve everything as they can only gather certain information and GDPR is an issue. There is a litter hotline in place which people are using to report littering.
- A common sense approach will apply to households sharing bins.
- Times of collection are set out in the Bye-Laws, including a requirement that commercial bins are removed from the street by 10.00 a.m. every morning.
- Refuse Collectors licences are set nationally.

- Local Authorities are not entitled to access names of people using refuse collection services, however, they can access Eircodes as they are a geographical information point not personal information.
- The Environment Department is continually trying to secure prosecutions. Costs in the order of €500 are granted per prosecution.
- Customers of private refuse collectors can contact the Consumer Protection Commission regarding the collectors use of smaller lorries.

Mr. Breen said these Bye-Laws are about presenting waste in a proper manner and Kerry County Council will enforce them in a targeted and efficient manner. Kerry County Council will be meeting with the town Chamber Alliances regarding storage of commercial refuse bins.

Cllr. J. Finucane PROPOSED that the Bye-Laws be made.

Cllr. B. Cronin SECONDED this proposal.

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, said a vote would now be taken on the following:

“On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. B. Cronin, that this Council hereby resolves to make the County of Kerry (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2019 in accordance with the provisions of Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended), Section 35 of the Waste Management Act 1996 and any other enabling statutory powers as set out in Director of Service Report dated 13 February 2019.”

The result of the vote was as follows:

For: Cllrs. Barry, Beasley, Cahill, Cronin, Culloty, Ferris, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Gleeson, Grady, J. Healy-Rae, M. Healy-Rae, Kennelly, Lucid, P. McCarthy, Moloney, Moriarty, O’Brien, O’Shea, Sheahan, Spring, Thornton, Foley **(23)**

Against: Cllr. Daly **(1)**

Not Voting: **(0)**

Absent: Cllrs. Connor-Scarteen, Flynn, Kelleher, Locke, D. McCarthy, McEllistram, O’Connell, Purtill, Quigg, **(9)**

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, declared the resolution CARRIED.

18.2.19.05 County of Kerry Road Traffic Special Speed Limits Bye-Laws 2018

Mr. C. O’Sullivan, Director of Service, referred Elected Members to report dated 13 February 2019 which had been circulated. He outlined the report, including that the Draft Kerry County Council Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws, 2018, were prepared in accordance with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport “Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland” (March 2015 edition).

In the preparation of the Draft Bye-Laws, an extensive review of existing speed limits on the regional and local roads within the county was carried out in house by Kerry County Council and, where appropriate, recommended speed limit changes in accordance with the Guidelines.

A similar review was carried out by Traffic Infrastructure Ireland (TII) of all the national roads within the county and the TII recommended speed limit changes on the national road network.

The most significant change in the draft Bye-Laws provided for a 30km/h special speed limit in 424 housing estates, and in Tralee and Killarney town centres, which will promote sustainable transport measures, where there are alternative routes for vehicular traffic.

There was extensive consultation with An Garda Síochána, TII, and the elected members of Kerry County Council, in the development of the draft Bye-Laws, including a review of correspondence and representations made, since the adoption of the existing Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws.

Having considered the objections/submissions received following the public consultation period, and subject to the consent by Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to proposals for the national road network, the making of the “County of Kerry Road Traffic Special Speed Limits Bye-Laws 2018”, with the amendments as set out in report circulated dated 13 February 2019, is recommended.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae expressed his disappointment regarding the process whereby Transport Infrastructure Ireland dictates the speed limits to be applied on national routes, despite submissions made by Elected Members. He referred to the Poulgorm junction, where the R569 (Kenmare Road) intersects with the N22 and PROPOSED that traffic calming measures and streetlights be provided at this junction. He PROPOSED that a deputation be requested with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the Poulgorm junction. He PROPOSED an amendment to the Draft Bye-Laws in relation to the road at the Gap of Dunloe as follows:- The L-4041 road between a point 1108 metres (rather than 1243 metres) south of its junction with the L-4039 road and a point 1674 metres south of said junction. He asked that safety signage be erected in Sneem before the speed limit is changed.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae expressed her disappointment that the Elected Members were not provided with all submissions that were received on the Draft Bye-Laws, with many of the proposed speed limits within the Killarney area and with regard to the proposal that the road leading to the Holy Family National School in Rathmore will have a 60km/h speed limit. She SECONDED the proposal to request a deputation with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the Poulgorm junction. She opposed the proposal to remove the deceleration lane at this junction and said lighting and traffic calming measures are required. She asked that a continuous white line be re-instated on the Woodlawn Road to prevent overtaking and said additional traffic calming measures are required on that road. She SECONDED Cllr. J. Healy-Rae’s proposal regarding the amendment to the road at the Gap of Dunloe.

Cllr. M. Kennelly said local knowledge is vital and Transport Infrastructure Ireland should be taking this into consideration. He said he was opposed to a number of proposed speed limits within the Listowel area, e.g. the Six Crosses junction, the ferry road to Tarbert and the N69 at Lyons Funeral Home, Derra, Listowel.

Cllr. M. Gleeson supported the retention of deceleration lanes as they are vital to safety. He asked that the 50km zone from the N22 to Coolcorcoran Cross would be extended and that safety measures would be put in place at Muckcross.

Cllr. M. O’Shea referred to the N86 west of Lispole and said the proposed speed limit change will create an accident blackspot at this location. He PROPOSED that the 60km/h speed limit remain in place.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald SECONDED this proposal. He asked that platforms be raised on Strand Street, Dingle, to make the street more pedestrian friendly and alleviate concerns of the residents.

Cllr. M. Cahill expressed concern regarding a number of proposed speed limits within the South & West Municipal District area, e.g. the Iveragh Road exit road from Killorglin and the exit road from Glenbeigh to Caherciveen. He asked that the Road Design Office commence negotiations with land owners on the Killorglin to Killarney road to the old Liebig factory regarding the provision of a footpath. He also asked that planning applications would be accommodated for landowners who have always accessed lands with this speed limit area. He called for signage to be erected for buses turning at visitor attractions on the Ring of Kerry and signage for the viewing areas at Kells.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen said the way Poulgorm junction is being dealt with is unacceptable and issues have been brought to the attention of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland previously. He asked that speed indicator lights at schools and entrances to villages be erected now that the speed limit review is complete.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty said the Transport Infrastructure Ireland stance is quite rigid and there should be flexibility where a speed limit that is in place could result in planning permission being refused for a development that would result in employment being generated.

Cllr. A. Thornton asked that Listowel Municipal District members be provided with a written update on issues to be raised with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland following the Municipal District briefing on the speed limit review.

Cllr. D. Grady expressed his disappointment that the Lewis Road junction is being reduced to 80 km/h rather than the requested 60 km/h.

Cllr. N. Kelleher said every new estate taken in charge should be signed up to the 30km/h speed limit. He asked for a commitment that every school will have road markings and signage upgraded.

Cllr. B. Cronin said there is a difficulty for the Elected Members in that the Transport Infrastructure Ireland dictates the speed limit on many roads. The Elected Members should have the power to change the speed limit on a road where there is a history of accidents. He asked for safety measures or a double white line to be installed from Fossa Church to the Gap Cross to prevent overtaking in this residential area.

Cllr. G. Spring asked that road markings at all national schools be refreshed and flashing lights installed to give advance warning to drivers that they are approaching a school and should reduce their speed to less than the speed limit of 50 km/h.

Cllr. S. Locke asked for clarification regarding the speed limit to apply from the Dingle road entering Blennerville and on to Tralee town.

Cllr. J. Sheahan also supported the request for lighting, safety measures and a deceleration lane at the Poulgorm junction.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said there is no requirement to issue all submissions to the Elected Members. The statutory requirement with all Bye-Laws is

that submissions are summarised and presented to the Elected Members. He said planning issues cannot be considered as part of the speed limit review. Requests for signage and road markings will be reviewed and brought back to the Municipal District meetings. As advised at the Municipal District briefings, proposals to change speed limits on national roads must be referred to the Transport Infrastructure Ireland as there are strict requirements under legislation regarding national roads and such proposals cannot be adopted by the Elected Members at today's meeting. The proposed amendment regarding the Gap Road can be considered as part of the vote by the Elected Members to make the Bye-Laws as a submission was received on this area. He clarified that amendments can only be considered where a submission was received on non-national roads on the Draft Speed Limit Bye-Laws that went on display during the second round of public consultation which commenced in June 2018. Amendments cannot be made in relation to national roads. In relation to the 50 km/h speed limit at schools, motorists are required to have regard to conditions on the road no matter what the speed limit.

Cllr. B. Cronin PROPOSED that the Bye-Laws be made.

Cllr. J. Lucid SECONDED this proposal.

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, said a vote would now be taken on the following:

“On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. Cronin, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Lucid, that this Council hereby resolves to make the County of Kerry Road Traffic Special Speed Limits Bye-Laws 2018, in accordance with the provisions of Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended) Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act, 2004 (as amended) and any other enabling statutory powers subject to amendments set out in the Chief Executive's report dated 13 February 2019 and subject to the additional amendment that the L-4041 road between a point 1108 metres (rather than 1243 metres) south of its junction with the L-4039 road and a point 1674 metres south of said junction.”

The result of the vote was as follows:

For: Cllrs. Cahill, Connor-Scarteen, Cronin, Culloty, Daly, Ferris, Fitzgerald, Gleeson, Grady, J. Healy-Rae, M. Healy-Rae, Kelleher, Locke, Lucid, D. McCarthy, Moriarty, O'Brien, Quigg, Sheahan, Spring, Foley **(21)**

Against: Cllr. O'Shea **(1)**

Not Voting: Cllrs. Barry, Beasley, Kennelly, Moloney, Thornton **(5)**

Absent: Cllrs. Finucane, Flynn, P. McCarthy, McEllistrim, O'Connell, Purtill **(6)**

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, declared the resolution CARRIED.

Lunch break

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.30 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2.35 p.m.

18.2.19.06 Public Lighting Upgrade

Report dated 11 February 2019 on this item which was circulated was noted.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. S. Locke, it was unanimously agreed to approve the raising of a loan of €7.7m for the Public Lighting Upgrade Project.

18.2.19.07 County of Kerry Local Electoral Areas and Municipal Districts Order 2018
Details of the County of Kerry Local Electoral Areas and Municipal Districts Order 2018, which were circulated, were noted.

18.2.19.08 Proposed Reform of the Electoral Registration Process
Report dated 12 February 2019 on this item which was circulated was noted.

18.2.19.09 Audit Committee Kerry County Council
Report dated 7 February 2019 on this item which was circulated was noted.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Kelleher, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Gleeson, it was agreed to note the 2018 Annual Report of the Audit Committee of Kerry County Council and to approve the 2019 Audit Committee Work Programme.

18.2.19.10 Presentation from the Southern Regional Assembly on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Kevin Lynch and Mr. Robert Fennelly from the Southern Regional Assembly to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr. Kevin Lynch and Mr. Robert Fennelly made a presentation to the Elected Members on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy which included the following:

- RSES is a strategic policy document to set out a vision for the strategic planning and economic development of the region to 2031
- Overarching purpose of the RSES is to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) & Government Economic Policies
- Sets the framework for local planning and economic development
- Adoption of the RSES is a Reserved Function which requires the approval of the members of the Assembly
- Revitalising Rural Areas
- 14 Key Towns have been identified which include Tralee and Killarney
- High level attributes (e.g. FDI Advance Technology Building Tralee), strategic infrastructure (including relief roads, water and waste water, smarter travel plans) and specific regional objective of support of each Key town.
- Networks - Kerry Hub (Tralee, Killarney and Killorglin) and North Kerry (Listowel as a strategic settlement)/Shannon Estuary- strategic opportunities for regional economic growth.
- The Atlantic Economic Corridor as a key enabler for economic growth across the region
- Economic Strategy (Chapter 4) supports investment and innovation across a number of sectors which are strong in Kerry including Tourism, Agri-Tech, Fintech, Marine, Engineering, R&D centres of excellence, etc.
- Under Strong Economy- innovation and good practice in Kerry cited including Design and Innovation Hub Killorglin, Skellig Centre for Research and Innovation, Dingle Creativity and Innovation Hub, Sneem Enterprise Centre, potential projects such as Valentia Cable Station and Old Dingle Hospital etc.
- Fenit Port - R558 strategic route Tralee to Fenit.
- Kerry Airport- airport strategy for the region
- WAW Tourism Corridor
- Connectivity (Chapter 6) - digital, strategic road and rail connections between Kerry, Cork, Limerick and AEC.

- Specific objective in each MASP for strengthened economic interactions and connectivity between Kerry Hub and cities/metropolitan areas.
- Specific support for the role of IT Tralee and the Munster Technological University
- Support for the Kerry Gaeltacht
- Support for Greenway Corridors
- Energy hub potential Tarbert.
- Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of RSES

Cllr. J. Finucane said Kerry County Council's submission must include a request that incentives must be in place in the 14 key towns in order to attract industrial investment to those towns. The RSES must also include specific mention of the Shannon LNG Project which is a vital new energy source for the county.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald said investment is required to generate employment in rural towns and areas which are under decline. The planning system can be a frustration and hindrance to many investors as it can take quite a period of time to secure a decision on planning applications.

Cllr. M. O'Shea said connectivity is a fundamental aspect for this county in terms of broadband, the road and rail network as well as access via sea ports and Kerry airport. Improved access will lead to investment in the county and the creation of jobs.

Cllr. M. Gleeson asked if there is a time frame for projects within the strategy and if there will be finance available to ensure these projects are brought to fruition.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae said it is critical that planning decisions on applications for investment in the county are progressed quickly for new investors and existing businesses.

The Chief Executive said Kerry County Council has engaged in this process and has made two submissions through the Council Chamber to the Draft RSES, which was important in order to define our role within the strategic plan. The draft strategy acknowledges the Kerry Hub (Tralee, Killarney and Killorglin) and Listowel's linkage to the Foynes Port as strategic opportunities for regional economic growth. The draft strategy also focuses on connectivity via air, road, ports and broadband. Following today's presentation a further submission will be made by Kerry County Council to have a strategic focus for Kerry within the strategy and to ensure growth in the county. Important tourism projects are included in the strategy as well as the Munster Technological University, Innovation Hubs and Home Working. She thanked Mr. Kevin Lynch and Mr. Robert Fennelly for their engagement with Kerry County Council on the strategy.

18.2.19.11 Submission by Kerry County Council in relation to RSES

Mr. M. Scannell, Director of Service, outlined a presentation to the Elected Members which will form the basis of Kerry County Council's submission on the Draft RSES, including:

- Kerry outside influence of Cork / Limerick.
- Population growth for the County.
- Importance of the Kerry Hub & Knowledge Triangle.
- SIFP and importance of Ballylongford landbank.
- Importance of European connectivity nodes supported by interregional connectivity.

- Other necessary supporting infrastructure for growth: Digital connectivity/ broadband. Mobile phone network.
- County drivers of economic activity: Tourism, Agri-tech/Agri-food, Fintech, Large scale manufacturing
- Necessary tourism infrastructure to support visitor numbers: Water /wastewater infrastructure, Public amenities including car parking, Beach access, Wild Atlantic Way; route upgrade.
- Rural Development
- Compact Development
- Connectivity/Education

Cllr. J. Finucane reiterated his request that Kerry County Council's submission include a request that incentives must be in place in the key towns in order to attract industrial investment to those towns and include specific mention of the Shannon LNG Project.

Cllr. M. Cahill welcomed the inclusion of reference to the Greenways and said investment in the South Kerry Greenway is vital to revitalise the Iveragh/Caherciveen area.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen welcomed the inclusion of reference to remote working and asked that there be more emphasis on this as it is a means of revitalising rural areas.

18.2.19.12 LCDC Annual Report 2018

The Annual Report on the operations of Kerry's Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ending 31 December 2018, which was circulated, was noted and on the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. B. Cronin, was adopted.

18.2.19.13 Jobs Survey/Invest in Kerry Survey for Skills

This item was noted.

18.2.19.14 Reports on the Quality of Life SPC Meetings

Reports from Cllr. N. Kelleher on the meetings of the Quality of Life SPC held on 28 January 2019 and 11 February 2019 were noted.

18.2.19.15 Report on the Operations SPC Meeting

Report from Cllr. M. Kennelly on the meeting of the Operations SPC held on 1 February 2019 was noted.

18.2.19.16 Summary of proceedings at events

It was agreed to note the following report on proceedings at events on behalf of the Kerry County Council delegates that attended, in accordance with Section 142(5)(f) of the Local Government Act 2001:

- (a) AILG Training Module 6 on the theme 'GDPR Regulations & the Elected Member' held on 15 November 2018 by Cllr. B. Cronin.

18.2.19.17 Approval for the Opening of Tenders

- a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Kennelly, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Repairs to a section of the N71 Releagh Retaining Wall near the Caha Tunnel – Closing Date: 25 January 2019 at 4.00 p.m.

- b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Kennelly, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the Construction of 20 No. Housing Units, associated siteworks and site services at Marconi, Ballybunion – Closing Date: 19 February 2019 at 3.00 p.m.
- c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Kennelly, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the Construction of the Foiladuane Flood Relief Scheme - Closing Date: 27 February 2019 at 4.00 p.m.
- d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Kennelly, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Engineering Consultancy Services for Phases 5, 6 and 7 of the N86 Ballynasare Lower to Annascaul & Doonore North to Ballygarret Road Improvement Scheme – Closing Date: 5 March 2019 at 12.00 p.m.
- e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Kennelly, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N69 Mountcoal Pavement Improvement Project - Closing Date: 1 March 2019 at 4.00 p.m.
- f) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Kennelly, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N22 Garries Bridge Flood Study - Topographical survey – Closing Date: 28 February 2019 at 4.00 p.m.
- g) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Kennelly, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N22 Garries Bridge Flood Study – Ground Investigation Contract – Closing Date: 28 February 2019 at 4.00 p.m.

18.2.19.18 Notices of Motion

1. Saint Finian’s Hospital, Killarney

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Gleeson PROPOSED:

That the C.E. would update the members on the progress, if any, on discussions with the HSE in relation to the future of Saint Finian's Hospital, Killarney and its adjoining lands.

The following reply issued:

The Council continues to engage with the HSE in relation to lands surplus to it needs in Killarney. We will revert to the Members should here be any developments.

Cllr. M. Gleeson said since 1852 this great building has dominated Killarney skyline. Killarney Town Council members tried for many years to extract some answers from the SHB and later the HSE regarding the future of the building and its attached land. He said he has suggested that it could be an ideal location for apartments for the elderly and especially for people who might wish to move from the country closer to town. He said he also suggested that it could be transformed into a location for outreach 3rd level education by one of our Universities and that could be particularly relevant now with the proposed merger into a new University of Institute of Technology Tralee and CIT. It could become an umbrella location for many or all of the public service centres in the greater Killarney area. However, none of these suggestions can progress unless there is a decision from the HSE. He called on the HSE to make a positive decision now and save the building from dereliction and save itself from further ignominy. There is also the important matter of the adjacent land that is lying more or less idle and that has such rich potential for so many uses.

2. Late Payment of Parking Fines

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. P. Daly PROPOSED:

That this Council will allow those who wish to pay late parking fines to do so up to and including the date of court. This is in order to ensure that this revenue remains for use by Kerry County Council.

The following reply issued:

Fixed Charge Offence Notices for parking fines are issued under Section 3 (inserted by Section 12(1) of the Road Traffic Act 2002 and as amended by Section 15 of the Road Traffic Act 2006) of the Local Authorities (Traffic Wardens) Act 1975. In accordance with the Notice, if payment of a parking fine is received during the period of 56 days from the date of the Notice, whereby at this stage the initial fine has increased by 50%, then a prosecution will not be initiated. However, consideration to the introduction of a third payment option, which will require legal amendment, to allow for payment before a case is taken to court, is being reviewed nationally.

Cllr. Daly asked if there is a timeframe for the review and said Kerry County Council is being deprived of income as late payments go to a central fund.

Cllr. J. Finucane SECONDED this motion.

The Chief Executive said a national review is underway and the outcome of same is expected to be announced shortly.

3. Grants Scheme to Renovate Derelict Buildings

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Cahill PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council introduce as a matter of extreme urgency, a Grants Scheme from their own resources that will encourage property owners to renovate derelict buildings and bring life back to towns and villages of the County. The Council should also introduce a Grants Scheme for improving shop fronts as a matter of priority. Such incentives will ensure that Kerry is the Number 1. County in Ireland for the best streetscapes, the best shop fronts and the least number of derelict properties.

The following reply issued:

The improvement of town and villages centres is a key element of policy of the Council, and the various grant schemes have been targeted at improving the public realm and the appearance of these areas over the past number of years. The Council has worked closely with the tidy towns groups in this regard in all areas of the county.

The repair and lease scheme is a national incentive scheme to encourage the use of property for residential purposes and this may be an appropriate use of vacant property if a commercial activity is not deemed warranted.

The council has prepared a Business Incentive Scheme for long term vacancies and this will be piloted in Tralee commencing at the beginning of April. Once this pilot has been assessed it can then be considered for other areas of the county.

Consideration could also be given in 2020 for the strategic element of the Community Support Fund to be utilised for such a grant scheme.

Cllr. M. Cahill said this is a scheme Kerry County Council could put in place and could be specifically targeted to improve vacant properties in the county's towns and villages.

Mr. M. Scannell, Director of Service, clarified that the pilot scheme relates to properties that are vacant for a long period. It is a grant for the refurbishment of such properties based on a rates rebate.

4. Local Improvement Scheme

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Kennelly PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council give an update on the LIS Grant Application Scheme.

The following reply issued:

As previously agreed, priority for funding under the Local Improvement Scheme is being given to applications on the previous LIS list (the 2007 list). Based on advance funding received in late 2018 and on the likely 2019 funding allocation from the Department, it is probable that all schemes on the 2007 list will be funded this year and that there may be a small surplus to fund schemes under the new LIS list (the 2018 list). There are currently over 800 applications on the 2018 list, which all need to be individually assessed.

As discussed and agreed at the Operations SPC meeting in February, the assessment of LIS applications will now be accelerated by conducting an initial desktop validation, assessment and ranking of applications. The top-ranking applications will then be assessed on the ground and will be given a final ranking based on the on-site assessment. Following the final ranking exercise, the highest placed applications will be proposed for available Local Improvement Scheme funding, once all applications on the 2007 list have been completed.

Cllr. M. Kennelly asked how many applications are on hand from the previous scheme and asked if all applications for the Local Improvement Scheme have been successful.

Cllr. T. Ferris moved Notice of Motion No. 11.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. T. Ferris PROPOSED:

That an update be provided on the status of all post April 2011 LIS applications.

The following reply issued:

As previously agreed, priority for funding under the Local Improvement Scheme is being given to applications on the previous LIS list (the 2007 list). Any applications received since the closing of the 2007 list have been included with the list of applications in the new LIS List (the 2018 List) There are currently over 800 applications on the 2018 list which all need to be individually assessed.

As discussed and agreed at the Operations SPC meeting in February, the assessment of LIS applications will now be accelerated by conducting an initial desktop validation, assessment and ranking of applications. The top-ranking applications will then be assessed on the ground and will be given a final ranking based on the on-site assessment. Following the final ranking exercise, the highest placed applications will be proposed for available Local Improvement Scheme funding, once all applications on the 2007 list have been completed.

Cllr. T. Ferris said a number of applications have been on hand since 2007 and it seems they will be assessed with all new applications. She said the criteria for assessment should include the length of time an applicant waiting to get on the Local Improvement Scheme.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae moved Notice of Motion No. 7.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Healy-Rae PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council would prioritise Local Improvement Scheme applications that were made before last year's call for new applications as these applications were accepted by Kerry County Council.

The following reply issued:

As previously agreed, priority for funding under the Local Improvement Scheme is being given to applications on the previous LIS list (the 2007 list). Any applications received since the closing of the 2007 list have been included with the list of applications in the new LIS List (the 2018 List).

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae said applications made between 2007-2012 were accepted by Kerry County Council and while they were not assessed they were held on file. He proposed that the first applicants to be assessed and allocated funding under the terms of the new Local Improvement Scheme would be those applications that were on hand from 2007-2012.

Cllr. R. Beasley seconded this proposal and said applications from 2007-2012 should be considered for the first assessment and allocation of funding.

Cllr. M. Cahill said he accepts that the applicants from 2007-2012 should be priority along with hardship and emergency cases. He said those applicants were told the scheme was closed.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said it was made quite clear after the scheme was closed in 2007 that any applications received would be assessed if the scheme was re-opened. This matter was discussed at the Operations SPC where it was considered that many did not submit an application prior to 2018 because it was understood that the Local Improvement Scheme was closed. When the new LIS was opened all application that came in before the closing date are now being assessed and that process was agreed through the Operations SPC and referred to Full Council. Preliminary assessment of the 800 application on hand is being done now, however, it will be a number of months before the priority list is finalised. He confirmed that no applications have been disqualified.

Cllr. M. Kennelly asked if new LIS applicants can be told that their application has been successful or unsuccessful and also asked how many roads will be done this year.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said the procedure, process and marking scheme for the assessment of LIS applications and how the older applications would be dealt with was considered by the Operations SPC in February 2018 and was subsequently adopted by Full Council, i.e. older applications were given an opportunity to be updated, however, they would not be given preferential treatment. A decision on applications will not be made until a full assessment of all applications has been done. Applications have not been ruled successful or unsuccessful. A preliminary desktop exercise is being done based on information to hand which will allow a preliminary priority of schemes to be compiled. Following this desktop exercise a full assessment of the top 40/50 applications will be undertaken and a submission made to the Department for funding. According to the level of funding provided by the Department, a report will be presented to full Council for consideration by the Members.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae said in 2007 the scheme was not closed completely, rather money was not allocated for the scheme. He asked if Kerry County Council has the power to accept those first applications made in 2007. Applications were made and they were accepted by Kerry County Council. The scheme was still there but the Department did not give money towards it. He proposed that the first 100 that had applied would get priority and be the first roads to be done. He asked if the age profile of the people on the road is taken into account in the assessment.

Cllr. R. Beasley seconded this proposal.

Cllr. T. Ferris said the advice she consistently gave, having spoken to the Director, was that while the 2007 scheme was closed, when funding would be made available a new list would be compiled. Applicants have been waiting on the understanding there would be some consideration given to the length of time since they applied. This was the understanding of the Elected Members. She said the 2007 scheme could not have been closed because Kerry County Council accepted applications and granted money under the Local Improvement Scheme for hardship and emergency cases.

The Chief Executive said this matter has come before Council on a number of occasions. In that respect, it was put to the Operations SPC to consider the matter. The decision of the Operations SPC was that the older applications would not have to reapply but that they could update their information. The scheme would then be drawn up on the basis of need. The engineering staff are doing the assessment on that basis for the last number of months.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae asked if the Elected Members have the power to direct a change of policy on the assessment of applications and he asked for a vote to determine the understanding of the Members on this matter.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, clarified that the Local Improvement Scheme was closed circa 2009/2010, i.e. there was not funding made available from the Department. From the Roads SPC of the time, a scheme was put together which supported 4/5 emergency cases, with the money being provided through the Councillors' Allocations. These applications still had to comply with the requirements of the Local Improvement Scheme.

The Chief Executive said the decision has been made through the rigours of the Operations SPC and full Council and the assessment will proceed on the basis of the decision adopted by full Council. She said she could not understand how this debate did not happen at the time when we were discussing the report from the Operations SPC. Staff are mid-assessment based on the decision taken by full Council and must proceed to determine a priority list in order to draw down funding from the Department.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae asked if a vote could be taken as he had proposed.

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, referred Elected Members to Standing Order No. 37 which he read out.

Cllr. J. Finucane moved Notice of Motion No. 5 on behalf of Cllr. B. O'Connell.

5. Refuse Collection Service for new Local Authority Tenants

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. B. O'Connell PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council do not sign tenancy agreements until proof of refuse collection is produced or that it is being arranged by a service provider through the Local Authority to all new tenants.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council's proposed new Waste Presentation Bye-Laws (item for consideration on today's Council Meeting Agenda) will require householders and businesses to be able to account for the disposal of their waste. In circumstances where proof of appropriate disposal is not available, then a fixed-penalty notice may issue. The proposed Bye-Laws will strengthen the powers available to Kerry County Council staff to deal with illegal dumping of waste, particularly where there is evidence or a suspicion that individual householders are not managing their waste appropriately.

As households may have alternative waste disposal means the inclusion of such a clause at this time may not be possible. However the responsibility of tenants is clearly outlined to them at pre-tenancy stage and this area will be kept under review given the much expanded powers available under the Bye-Laws.

6. Disposal of Compostable Materials

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Moloney PROPOSED:

In order to help with the reduction of single use compostable materials going for disposal, that Kerry County Council introduce a separate receptacle in the Council's public bins to collect such materials.

The following reply issued:

The Council will undertake a review of this proposal, which will also examine in greater detail the process and procedures for collection, segregation, screening and disposal of general, dry recyclable and organic waste collected in the public bins. Subject to the outcome of this review consideration may be given to piloting a scheme

Cllr. J. Moloney said materials which can be composted are going to landfill or are being placed in recycling receptacles which contaminates recyclables. The correct infrastructure must be in place to accept compostable materials.

Cllr. T. Ferris SECONDED this motion.

8. Rathscannell Dale Road R556

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. A. Thornton PROPOSED:

In circumstances where funding is granted for the statutory process i.e. design and planning of works on the Rathscannell Dale Road R556 - what is the Council's plan regarding the timeframe of this process.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council received a funding allocation of €300,000 for the R556 Dale Road as a Specific Improvement Grant under the 2019 Regional & Local Road Grant Allocations. This funding will enable the scheme to be designed and progressed through the planning process in 2019. Design work will include topographical surveys and ground investigation which will also determine the lands necessary to construct the scheme. Land Acquisition and Contract Document preparation will take place thereafter with a view to progressing the scheme to construction in 2020, subject to

approvals and funding. Regular updates on the progress of this scheme will be provided as part of the Directorate Report to the Listowel MD members.

Cllr. A. Thornton welcomed the funding allocation and said this is huge progress for North Kerry as many commuters, business and farmers are reliant on this road. She asked that the design process would be expedited. She asked how long the design phase will take, when the project will go to planning and when land acquisition will commence. She asked that resurfacing works be done on the alternative route to be used when works commence, if the R556 is to be closed.

Cllr. R. Beasley also welcomed the funding allocation and asked that Kerry County Council now progress this matter.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said the funding is welcome. Site investigation work is critical as bog will be dug out and specialists are being procured to do the site investigation over the next number of weeks. Disposal of the peat, as the road is being lowered, is another statutory process. It is understood the land acquisition will be by agreement and it is hoped to finalised that during 2019. Identifying alternative routes will form part of the design process. Existing roads will have to be maintained over the next 12 months until construction starts. It is intended to go to construction in 2020. Progress on this project will form part of the Director's bi-monthly report to the Municipal District.

9. Funding for the Irish Deaf Society

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. N. Foley PROPOSED:

This Local Authority calls on An Taoiseach and the Government to ensure appropriate core funding is put in place to guarantee the continuation of the excellent work of the Irish Deaf Society.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

The Cathaoirleach said it is reprehensible that Government funding is not being made available to the Irish Deaf Society.

Cllr. N. Moriarty **SECONDED** this motion and moved Notice of Motion No. 21.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. N. Moriarty PROPOSED:

That we write to all relevant parties urging the Government to provide core funding to ensure the survival of the Irish Deaf Society which will close in March unless it can source adequate funding. This advocacy group is crucial to the provision of training and support necessary for the implementation of the Irish Sign Language Act.

10. Establishment of a Film & Media Hub

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Finucane PROPOSED:

In welcoming the recent appointment of the Film Officer by Kerry ETB in conjunction with Kerry County Council that support would be given to the establishment of a Film & Media Hub to attract animation, sound recording and other specialists in the Film Industry.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council chairs the Kerry Film Advisory Group which is comprised of stakeholders from Agencies, Educational Institutions and the Film Industry. One of the key actions from this group was the recent appointment of the Film Development

Officer. This appointment is supported by Kerry County Council through Creative Ireland Kerry. As part of the work programme for 2019 an overarching strategy will be produced for the County. Various funding opportunities will be explored to develop key projects identified in the Strategy.

Cllr. J. Finucane said it is important that work continues to attract more film investment in the county and the development of a single Film & Media Hub space would allow for more collaboration and attract further investment.

Cllr. M. Cahill **SECONDED** this motion.

12. Payments to Private Landlords

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. R. Beasley PROPOSED:

How much has been paid to private landlords in the County through RAS, HAP, and other leasing arrangements each year for the past five years.

The following reply issued:

HAP has been in operation in Kerry since December 2016. There were no payments in the financial year 2016 so the two years of relevance for this Notice of Motion are 2017 and 2018. While some administrative work is undertaken at local level the HAP payment process is managed and delivered as a Shared Service through Limerick City and County Council. The payments to landlords therefore are not made by Kerry County Council and are paid centrally by the HAP administration unit in Limerick. There were 898 total active HAP tenancies in Kerry at 31/12/18 and this number continues to grow. The following are the details of the payment made through the central unit in Limerick;

HAP Payments 2017 - €1,060,592.92
HAP Payments 2018 - €3,972,925.05

In 2018, Kerry County Council issued payments in respect of 260 Availability Agreement Properties, 34 Long Term Leased Properties & 893 RAS Properties secured by either Kerry County Council or an Approved Housing Body. Payments made by Kerry County for the last 5 years are set out below:

	Availability Leasing	Longterm Leasing	RAS
2014	€239,541	€95,673	€4,947,383
2015	€534,060	€108,823	€5,639,481
2016	€1,221,842	€151,541	€5,621,262
2017	€1,561,600	€157,150	€6,357,420
2018	€2,121,917	€213,831	€6,731,672

Cllr. R. Beasley said it is a complete disaster that private Landlords are getting this level of money.

Cllr. T. Ferris said these figures are outrageous given that in 2014 when there was no construction programme there was €5m paid to private landlords and in 2018 when Kerry County Council was purchasing properties and building €13m was paid. She said there is no value to the Local Authority from this system and some RAS tenants are in open ended contracts.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Service, said national Government policy provides the RAS, Leasing and HAP models as housing options which are available to the Local Authority under the social housing programme. He said the views of the Members can be communicated to Government. In 2018 the Department set a target of 55 for Kerry

County Council house purchases, the outturn was 66 purchases. All purchases must meet Department requirements and not all properties are suitable for the purposes of social housing.

The Cathaoirleach asked that a letter issue to Government communicating the views of the Elected Members.

13. Placename – Daingean Uí Chúis/Dingle

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. S. Fitzgerald PROPOSED:

Will Kerry County Council write to Minister John Paul Phelan, TD and the Boundary Commission to outline that the placename - An Daingean no longer exists, has been replaced and should read Daingean Uí Chúis as Gaeilge and Dingle in English and that the name of the New Municipal District name in Kerry should reflect this.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald said the new Municipal District is referenced as An Daingean in the Boundary Commission report. This should be either Daingean Uí Chúis, Dingle or Chorca Dhuibhne Municipal District.

The Cathaoirleach SECONDED this motion.

14. New Hospital in Killarney

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J.J. Culloty PROPOSED:

That this Council write to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, TD, seeking confirmation, that the plans which are in progress for a new hospital to replace the two existing hospitals in Killarney, will not be cut due to the rapidly escalating costs associated with the new Childrens Hospital.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty asked that this letter issue as clarification is needed regarding progress on the new hospital in Killarney.

Cllr. N. Kelleher SECONDED this motion.

15. Probationary Period for new Local Authority Tenants

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. T. Barry PROPOSED:

That this Council will call on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to change the current Tenancy Policies and Procedures in place in order to include a probationary period when allocating Local Authority Houses.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

Cllr. T. Barry said a probationary period for new tenants would be of benefit to the residents already living in an area and would also help to address anti-social behaviour. The currently structure for allocation Local Authority houses, which includes garda vetting, is not enough.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED this motion.

16. Driving Tests

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D. McCarthy PROPOSED:

To ask Kerry County Council to write to the Minister for Transport to consider the possibility of allowing the Driving Instructor who carries out the 12 lessons required to be completed before a driving test with the Learner Driver to be allowed to carry out the test.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

Cllr. D. McCarthy said allowing the Driving Instructor to carry out the test would reduce the waiting list for driving tests.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED this motion.

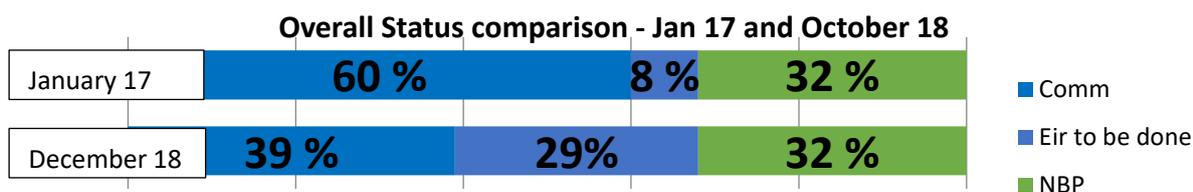
17. Progress Report on Rollout of Broadband

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. B. Cronin PROPOSED:

To ask for a progress report on the rollout of a proper Broadband Service to Rural Kerry, the provision of high speed Broadband is critically important for the survival of business, rural communities and the farming sector, particularly in Rural Kerry.

The following reply issued:

The following is the most up to date information available to the Council in respect of the roll out of broadband across the County.



Eir 300 K Roll Out

The Eir roll out has continued in Kerry. The most up to date figures are up to the end of September 2018. At that point a total 53,464 properties in Kerry have access to high speed broadband in the County (60% of all properties). Eir roll out to be completed by mid 2019 at which point 68% of properties will be covered.

National Broadband Plan Update

Final tender was submitted by bidding consortium on the 18th of September 2018. This bid is being evaluated by DCCA. On the 27th of November the Government noted and accepted the findings of the review by the National Broadband Plan Independent Process Auditor. The procurement process is now in its final stages.

Wifi4EU

EU announced results of the applications for funding for the provision of free public Wifi under the 'Wifi4EU' funding scheme on Friday, 7th December. Each LA was allowed to apply for a maximum of 4 vouchers (€15,000 each). Kerry County Council has been awarded 4 vouchers. The DCRD have committed to match funding of €15,000 per voucher, giving a total fund of €120,000. There is an 18 month time limit on the delivery of the sites. The following centres have been chosen for this initial pilot; Tralee, Killarney, Listowel and Killorglin (Smart town designation)

DIP Funding

The funding application for €32,000 under the Digital Innovation Programme 2018 for 'Digital Discovery Points' on the WAW was successful. This programme centres on a pilot for North Kerry to develop hardware and digital content in order to provide visitor

access to interactive digital mapping on mobile devices at each Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) 'Discovery Point'. This is seen as a most positive to the visitor experience along the WAW.

Digital Strategy

The council has previously been briefed in relation to the development of a digital strategy for the County. The Kerry Digital Stakeholder Forum has met on two occasions to date, the most recent on Wednesday 13th February, and as the strategy development progresses a full report will be brought before the Council.

Cllr. B. Cronin said it is critically important for home workers, rural communities and the agricultural sector that the broadband service is rolled out. He said there are areas where the roll out of broadband has stopped and promises given on the roll out must be honoured.

Cllr. N. Kelleher SECONDED this motion and said the roll out of broadband is most important for a peripheral county like Kerry and must be delivered.

18. Footpath Repair Programme

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Lucid PROPOSED:

To call on Kerry County Council to make the necessary resources available in 2019 to continue the Footpath Repair Programme that was initiated in 2018.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council received a funding allocation of €10,031,000 for Restoration Improvement Works under the 2019 Regional & Local Road Grant Allocations. Based on the current works programme for 2019, the Restoration Improvement allocation includes a funding provision of €472,500 for footpath repairs.

We are currently developing the Schedule of Municipal District Work Plans, having regard to the grant allocations and the funding provisions made in the Budget and will engage with the members on the development of the programme in advance of presenting same for adoption. Consideration can also be given by the members to increasing the funding for the Footpath Improvement programme from Councillors Allocations.

Cllr. J. Lucid welcomed the funding allocation and asked that a footpath be provided at the housing estates in Abbeydorney and Farran Hill, Causeway.

Cllr. D. McCarthy SECONDED this motion.

19. New Regulations for Air B&B Providers

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Healy-Rae PROPOSED:

To ask Kerry County Council and the relevant Government Department to provide a full clarification and guidelines on the new regulations for Air B&B providers. Are there planning implications.

The following reply issued:

The guidelines have yet to be published by the Department and as soon as they are available we will circulate same to members and publish on the council's website.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae said operators of Air B&B are anxious to receive these guidelines as it is expected that an application for planning permission will be required to be made by June, 2019.

20. Nurses and Midwives Pay and Conditions

Cllr. T. Ferris moved Notice of Motion No. 20 on behalf of Cllr. Quigg.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D. Quigg PROPOSED:

That this Council write to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, TD, calling on him to engage in meaningful dialogue with the INMO in relation to Nurses and Midwives Pay and Conditions. This is effecting the Nurses and Midwives and their families right across this County and indeed Country. We need and depend on these people so much and we as a Council must show leadership and solidarity and stand with them shoulder to shoulder as they seek only what they are entitled to, fair pay and fair working conditions.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

22. Master Plan of Áras Phádraig

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. N. Kelleher PROPOSED:

What's the update on the master plan of Áras Phádraig when will this stage be concluded.

The following reply issued:

A project team is now in place to advance the Aras Phádraig site. An application for funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund to prepare a masterplan for the Aras Phádraig site was successful. The council will now advance the preparation of this masterplan for this site and the adjoining Lewis road car park with a view to having it completed in 2019.

Cllr. N. Kelleher asked what is the brief for the project team and will the masterplan be presented to members in 2019.

The Chief Executive said the urban fund provided an allocations towards the Áras Phádraig masterplan design, to include a theatre and car parking. It is intended that the masterplan will be completed over 2019 and brought to the members as soon as it is ready.

23. Insulation on Local Authority Houses

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Gleeson PROPOSED:

Can Kerry County Council reassure residents of Council owned houses and of houses sold under Tenant Purchase Schemes that the insulation and cladding materials used are non- combustible and comply in all instances with the highest safety standards.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council has a number of properties which have been insulated using external insulation methods. This is not cladding and the insulation is fixed directly to the external of the building.

Kerry County Council has externally insulated properties in Tralee as part of the Mitchel's Regeneration project and Listowel Town Council had externally insulated a number of their properties.

Kerry County has received the Irish Agrément Board Certificates for these projects and the external insulation used conforms to the current Fire Regulations.

Kerry County Council has purchased some properties in Tralee with external insulation but these properties were insulated as part of the regeneration project and the aforementioned agreement cert applies to the material used.

Kerry County Council has purchased some properties in Tralee with external insulation but these properties were insulated as part of the regeneration project and the aforementioned agreement cert applies to the material used. All properties constructed by or on behalf of Kerry County Council are constructed to the building standards applicable at the time under the relevant Building Regulations. The council has an active supervisory presence on all construction projects that it is involved in to ensure that all relevant standards as per the relevant Building Control regulations at the time are fully complied with. Where the council purchases houses (including Part V properties) the relevant certifications are provided to us.

All houses sold under the tenant purchase scheme are subject to the statutory obligations regarding property conveyancing which would provide for the purchaser and their legal advisor to satisfy themselves as to the property condition at time of purchase normally by having an independent engineering survey undertaken. All properties sold under the tenant purchase scheme are conveyed in their condition at time of sale, as per the terms of the scheme and the purchaser accepts the property in its current condition and certifies such acceptance.

Cllr. M. Gleeson said the purpose of this motion is to seek re-assurance for all householders who live in Council owned houses or houses that were previously in Council ownership and he welcomed that the reply gives the necessary assurance.

24. Waiting Time for Driving Tests

Cllr. T. Ferris moved Notice of Motion No. 24 on behalf of Cllr. Daly.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. P. Daly PROPOSED:

That Council calls on the Minister, in the light of the recent legislation, to take immediate steps to reduce waiting times for driving tests.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

25. Villages requiring a Public Sewerage Scheme

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Cahill PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council prepare a list of villages throughout the County that are in urgent need of Public Sewerage Schemes and submit this fully costed list to Irish Water for funding. When drawing up such a list, I propose that priority is given to villages that are currently experiencing major issues such as Beaufort and villages such as Portmagee where the population dramatically increases during the tourist season.

The following reply issued:

Irish Water is the Water Authority responsible for the provision of all Water Services across the country.

Since the establishment of Irish Water, Kerry County Council has made numerous submissions and had frequent discussions seeking funding for both upgrades to existing Public Sewerage Schemes and for the provision of Public Sewerage Schemes in villages which do not currently have public wastewater collection and treatment facilities. In particular, in July 2018, following consideration by the members at the July Council meeting, Kerry County Council made a submission in relation to the Draft Irish Water Capital Investment Plan (2020 to 2024) highlighting the need for Public Sewerage Schemes in Unsewered Villages, allied to the seasonal loading variations.

The matter of the waste water infrastructure in our towns and villages will be reviewed as a constituent part of the review of County Development Plan.

Cllr. M. Cahill said in estates where there is no sewerage scheme, and in areas where the population increases during the summer season, interim measures must be put in place. There are also sewerage schemes, such as Glenbeigh, which are at capacity.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae SECONDED this motion and said there will be awful repercussions for these villages if the situation continues where they are without a sewerage scheme.

26. Drone Usage in Kerry

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Kennelly PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council discuss legislation in relation to Drone usage in Kerry.

The following reply issued:

This is a matter for consideration by the Aviation Authority.

27. Community CCTV Schemes

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. A. Thornton PROPOSED:

Can Kerry County Council please review the updated information available on Community CCTV Schemes and confirm that the Council will proceed with these schemes in certain critical estates and areas in our County as soon as possible.

The following reply issued:

The Council is in consultation with the Department of Justice and Equality in relation to the additional requirements relating to CCTV arising from the GDPR Regulations and the Data Protection Act 2018, and is awaiting additional guidance in relation the operation of future schemes so as to ensure the roll out of any new approved schemes in the county at an early stage.

Cllr. A. Thornton said guidelines have been published which confirm there is a legal basis for community based CCTV and there is no legal impediment under GDPR.

Mr. C. O'Connor, Director of Service, said while aware that guidance has issued, there remains an issue that Kerry County Council has highlighted with the Data Protection Officers Network, i.e. whereby CCTV recording equipment must be held in the Local Authority office because the Local Authority is the data controller and, therefore, any new CCTV cameras cannot be monitored by the Gardaí. An amendment to the guidelines is being sought to have simultaneous recording by the Local Authority and checking by the Gardaí, which would meet the joint data controller concept. CCTV schemes currently in place are being monitored by An Garda Síochána.

28. Scan Scandal at UHK

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. T. Ferris PROPOSED:

This Council sends it's solidarity to the victims and families of the most recent scan scandal at UHK and calls on the Minister and the HSE to ensure basic supports are provided and a settlement is offered to all affected.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

Cllr. T. Ferris said a number of people have been devastatingly affected by the scan scandal in UHK and it is outrageous the way families have been dealt with. She asked that a call issue to the Minister to ensure that no further families have to go through this again.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECONDED this motion.

29. Cost to Tax Vehicles Quarterly

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. R. Beasley PROPOSED:

That this Council calls on the Department to end the practice of penalising the less well off by imposing an extra cost for those who can only afford to tax their vehicles quarterly.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

Cllr. R. Beasley said it is appalling that penalties are applied to those who can only afford to tax their vehicles quarterly.

Cllr. T. Ferris SECONDED this motion.

30. Health Eating Awareness/Programmes in Schools

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. N. Foley PROPOSED:

That the Minister for Education ensure that healthy eating awareness/programmes become an integral part of wellbeing initiatives in our schools.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council under the Healthy Ireland Programme have recruited a Health and Wellbeing Officer to co-ordinate the implementation of the Healthy Ireland Well-being Programme in partnership with the Kerry LCDC. The preparation of a Healthy Kerry Plan is a key action in the Healthy Kerry Programme.

The Healthy Kerry Plan is currently being drafted and due for public consultation on 13th March 2019. This plan will facilitate and encourage inter-agency work, bringing together the many organisations in the County who are already working to address health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing of all in Kerry.

Childhood obesity is a concern in Ireland, with one in every four nine year old children in Ireland classified as overweight or obese (GUI, 2009). Wellbeing initiatives based in the school setting can reach a large audience as children aged 6-16 years must attend school and they spend a large proportion of their day in this setting.

One focus of the Healthy Kerry five-year plan will be to support and encourage school-based initiatives that focus on improving the health and wellbeing of students. Support for initiatives with healthy eating awareness/programmes as an integral part will be prioritised in the Healthy Kerry Plan.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the pro-active steps of Kerry County Council with the recruitment of a Health & Wellbeing Officer and partnership with the LCDC.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECONDED this motion.

31. Industrial Hemp

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J.J. Culloty PROPOSED:

In light of the fact that planting 5% of our farm land with hemp, would reduce our annual co2 emissions from agriculture by 20%, to call on the Minister to consider removing industrial hemp from the Misuse of Drugs Legislation, as industrial hemp is already listed as a forage crop in the EU.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty said in the EU hemp is deemed a forage crop. Licencing barriers and regulations are preventing Irish farmers from taking advantage of this industry.

Cllr. T. Ferris SECONDED this motion.

32. Allowance for Students on Work Placements

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D. McCarthy PROPOSED:

To ask Kerry County Council to write to the relevant Ministers to ask that students who are out on work placements be given an allowance.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

Cllr. D. McCarthy said a subsidy would be of great support to students on work placements.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED this motion and said families are experiencing extreme hardship with the cost of putting children through college.

33. Employment Regulations for Contractors awarded Public Contracts

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. B. Cronin PROPOSED:

When Kerry County Council award public contracts for works, what measures are in place to ensure that workers rights, entitlements and conditions are being maintained by the successful contractors.

The following reply issued:

In accordance with the provisions of the national Procedural Agreement on the Use of Contractors, all Contractors engaged by Kerry County Council are required to provide valid documentary evidence that their company is fully compliant with employment regulations governing pensions, sick pay and wage entitlements. In relation to sick pay and pension schemes, Contractors engaged are required to provide confirmation that any/all employees that will be involved in works on our behalf are members of, or have been offered membership of, those schemes. Confirmation of compliance also indicates that valid documentary evidence has been provided by the Contractor that where it is intended that work will be sub-contracted to other parties, those sub-contractors to be engaged are themselves fully compliant as above. To clarify, Kerry County Council does not require documentary evidence from the sub-contractor (we have no contractual agreement with them) but we require confirmation from the Contractor whom we have engaged that they will in turn ensure compliance themselves.

Cllr. B. Cronin said as a number of matters had been brought to his attention which gave him cause for concern regarding rights/entitlements of our work force, he welcomed that Kerry County Council requires confirmation of compliance from contractors to ensure proper standards and entitlements for our work force.

34. School Safety Lights

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Lucid PROPOSED:

To call on Kerry County Council to complete a Countywide review of School Safety Lights by May 2019, so that all lights currently not working are repaired or replaced prior to the start of the 2019/2020 School Year.

The following reply issued:

The TII has responsibility for the maintenance of school flashing warning lights on national routes and have a maintenance contract in place to ensure the continued operation of these lights. Kerry County Council has responsibility for the maintenance of school flashing warning lights on non-national roads and repairs are carried out by individual engineering areas as faults are reported.

All school flashing warning lights will be inspected and any necessary repairs undertaken, or advised to the TII where on the national road network.

Cllr. J. Lucid welcomed the reply and the fact that a review will be carried out.

35. Civics and Community Subject on Second Level Curriculum

Cllr. T. Ferris moved Notice of Motion No. 35 on behalf of Cllr. Quigg.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D. Quigg PROPOSED:

That this Council support my motion calling on the Minister for Education to make Civics and Community a subject on the School Curriculum at Second Level Education.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

36. LEADER Funding for Broadband

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. N. Moriarty PROPOSED:

That we write to the Department of Rural and Community Development and urge the Minister to make sensible adjustments to the latest circular 02/2019 that outlined overly restrictive guidelines/rules on how LEADER funding for Broadband can be used. They are missing an opportunity to allow meaningful interventions to support communities in the lead in time to the long over due roll out of the National Broadband Plan.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

Cllr. N. Moriarty circular 02/2019 sets out stringent restrictions which will leave us without broadband and with a fund which will be difficult to spend. She suggested that this fund should be available to assist people working from home and attracting businesses into employment units.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECONDED this motion.

37. Link Road from Lissivigeen to Muckross

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Healy-Rae PROPOSED:

To ask Kerry County Council and the TII to provide clarification as to why the link from Lissivigeen to Muckross isn't being prioritised or forming part of the overall design, planning and assessment for the Bypass from Killarney to Farranfore. This was part of the original scheme and has been called for repeatedly through motions, questions, deputations and representations.

The following reply issued:

The design of the Killarney – Farranfore Scheme commenced in 2000 and the study area for the original scheme included for the linkage from the N22 (Killarney -Cork Road) to the N71 (Killarney – Kenmare – Cork Road). A peer review was carried out by the TII, in 2008, which identified that the link from Lissivigeen to the N71 Muckross Road should be developed as a separate scheme. The N22 Killarney-Farranfore Scheme was suspended in 2010.

There have been numerous representations and deputations by Council to the TII over the past 8 years seeking to have the scheme reactivated and Kerry County Council received a grant allocation this year, of €500k, to undertake a review and appraisal of the scheme.

Consultants will be procured to undertake the various studies required as part of this appraisal, which will entail gathering information in relation to the problems on the national road network from the improved section of the N22 north of Farranfore to

the N71 south of Killarney. The studies will examine the engineering, environmental and economic factors. Data in relation to traffic volumes, journey times, traffic delays, accident history, environmental issues etc. will be updated and reviewed on all of these routes.

This information will then be used to progress the appraisal further to identify the Preferred Solution and to take the scheme through the Statutory Consent process. No elements of the Preferred Solution have been prioritised at this point.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae said the development of the link road from Lissivigeen to Muckcross is vital for the town of Killarney which is experiencing grid locked traffic. Lands are also frozen as they await a decision on the development of this link road. A recent deputation to the Killarney Municipal District from businesses in the town also supported the development of this link road. The link road from Lissivigeen to Muckcross could be done as a separate scheme.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae **SECONDED** this motion and said Killarney is of the utmost importance to a lot of activity in this county and it is also experiencing serious traffic congestion.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty said he agrees that this link road must be progressed and it would have a positive impact on the town of Killarney.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said 2019 is the first year, since suspension of the scheme in 2010, that funding has been allocated to undertake a review and appraisal of the scheme as there has been changes to governance regarding schemes. Kerry County Council is seeking to have the Lissivigeen-Muckcross link included in this appraisal as it is recognised that it is critical for Killarney. As the cost of the scheme will be significant, it may have to do the work in phases.

38. Wild Geese Gathering

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Finucane PROPOSED:

That this Council in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland would initiate a Wild Geese Gathering to whose purpose would be to bring together Irish descendants who have made a significant contribution, commercial and public life throughout Europe and beyond.

Mr. L. Quinlan stated this is a matter for resolution by the members.

Cllr. J. Finucane said the Flight of the Wild Geese was the departure of the Irish Jacobite army from Ireland as agreed in the Treaty of Limerick. Over 3,000 soldiers left from Dingle to join foreign armies. These people made a huge contribution and gave service to those countries in public life and in education. It would be an advantageous event to invite some of these families to an event that would acknowledge their contributions to other countries.

Cllr. T. Ferris **SECONDED** this motion.

39. UNESCO Status

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Healy-Rae PROPOSED:

Can Kerry County Council outline the full implications for any area in the County, should it be successful in getting UNESCO status, i.e. the advantages and the restrictions.

The following reply issued:

The World Heritage Convention (WHC) was concluded in 1972. It is designed to protect the world's outstanding heritage, as related to humanity's creative genius in cultural matters, and its rich resources of nature and is administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) based in Paris. Since 1972 over 1,000 sites have been designated as World Heritage (WH) sites. There are just three on the island of Ireland - Brú na Bóinne including Newgrange, inscribed in 1993, and Skellig Michael Monastic Site, inscribed in 1996. The 3rd site is The Giants Causeway, Co. Antrim, which is a natural World Heritage Site but this is on the UK list.

The factor which identifies either cultural or natural heritage as being of global importance is its possession of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

Less than 1% of national heritage sites qualify for consideration under the global importance category. This is not to denigrate other sites which may be unique nationally or regionally and deserve protection but to highlight outstanding properties that, from an international point of view, deserve special attention.

Kerry currently has one World Heritage site – Skellig Michael; having a second would be an extraordinary achievement and of considerable economic and social value to the region. The Valentia Trans-Atlantic Cable Project is a strong contender for UNESCO designation.

The move to have the Valentia Ensemble of Trans-Atlantic Cable sites considered for World Heritage designation was launched by the Valentia Island Development Company back in 2013. Kerry County Council has been a supporter since the outset and since then other state agencies, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, IT Tralee, professional institutions and global IT companies like Intel and BT have supported the community in its quest.

The UNESCO designation of the Valentia Trans-Atlantic Cable sites is a key objective of the Kerry County Development Plan, 2015-2021, The Kerry County Tourism Strategy, 2016-21, and linked regional and national plans.

The benefits of UNESCO designation are many and various: positive international profile for the area, global recognition, and additional overseas visitors. Studies reveal that up 20,000 additional international visitors come to a destination each year because of the presence of a World Heritage Site. The knock-on positive effects in terms of employment and economic activity to South Kerry and the County as a whole would be considerable. In Valentia's case, possible World Heritage Designation is linked to the island's pivotal role in global communication and innovation. This provides Valentia and Kerry with the opportunity to promote itself as a "first mover" in the global ICT revolution and this is a tag that can be used by the Innovation Hubs in the County as they seek to attract international investment and entrepreneurial skills from overseas.

The restrictions associated with UNESCO designation vary in relation to designation criteria and the overall status of the designation. World Heritage Monuments from the early pre-historic (Newgrange) and early medieval periods (Skellig Michael), and natural sites like the Giants Causeway, have large buffer zones associated with them. However, Industrial Heritage Sites of which Valentia would be a candidate are deemed to be in the Modern Era and are normally located in built up, lived-in and worked-in areas where life goes on as normal.

Kerry County Council has consulted with Cornwall County Council who manage a number of UNESCO designated industrial heritage sites (Cornish Mining Sites) in their administrative area. There is an understanding that an industrial heritage site has likely undergone many changes throughout its history, has other industrial buildings located adjacent to it that may be working sites so the planning restrictions beyond the UNESCO site perimeter are not as rigorous. It does involve a further layer of

compliance beyond the normal zoning, but the primary planning instruments remain the local area and county plan.

It is important to note that there is a comprehensive development phase prior to UNESCO designation which involves, being included in the Country's Tentative list, detailed evaluation and approval of the project at National level, department, local government and community involvement in the development of management plans for the sites, prior to submission for final ratification by UNESCO. This process can take up to 10 years.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae welcomed that Kerry County Council has supported this initiative, however, concerns have been raised by people from Valentia Island that there may be restrictions imposed with a UNESCO designation, e.g. what effect will it have on people working and living on the island? Will it have an impact on planning and farming practices? He asked that information meetings would be held in the area to explain the implications of a UNESCO designation.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae SECONDED this motion.

Cllr. J. Finucane said UNESCO status is a significant and positive designation. Kerry has one of Ireland's designated sites, i.e. Skellig Michael. The Valentia Cable Station is a landmark in communication and infrastructure.

The Chief Executive said this is a significant project for Valentia and there are a lot of steps before a site is designated. This site could become a tourism attraction and increase visitor numbers. Trinity College is interested in developing a space within the station. The process requires consultation with NPWS and it involves all the community.

40. Columbarium Walls

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. N. Kelleher PROPOSED:

When will the Columbarium Walls be installed in Killarney and Tralee.

The following reply issued:

The Columbarium walls for Killarney and Rathass Burial Grounds are currently at design stage and when the design is complete, the proposals will be brought to the members of the relevant Municipal District for planning approval. Further updates will be provided on timescales for delivery at that time.

Cllr. N. Kelleher asked that the design would be finalised and the Columbarium Walls installed.

18.2.19.19 Correspondence – Conferences and Seminars

a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Healy-Rae, it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen at the Irish Private and Public Bodies (Consulting) Conference on 'Register of Electors and Boundary Changes' to be held in Wexford from 22-24 March 2019.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen was nominated to report to Council on this Conference

b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Healy-Rae, it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllrs. R. Beasley, P. McCarthy, J. Sheahan,

P. Connor-Scarteen, J. Moloney and J. Lucid at the Irish Planning Institute Annual Planning Conference 2019 to be held in Leitrim from 3-5 April 2019.

Cllr. R. Beasley was nominated to report to Council on this Conference

- c) No members expressed interest in attending the Dundalk Chamber of Commerce 'Major Cross Border Tourism Conference 2019 - Learn from the Best' to be held in Louth on 10 April 2019.
- d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Healy-Rae, it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cllr. M. Cahill at the ITIC Tourism Industry Awards held in Dublin on 1 February 2019.
- e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Healy-Rae, it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cathaoirleach N. Foley at the LAMA IPB Council of the Year Awards held in Dublin on 9 February 2019.

18.2.19.20 Correspondence General

It was agreed to note the following items of correspondence which were circulated:

Date	From	Description
24-Jan-19	Minister for Health	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding CervicalCheck.
18-Apr-19	Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the reintroduction of a transport subsidy for the haulage of hay and straw.
21-Jan-19	CAO	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the HEAR Scheme.
22-Jan-19	Irish Universities Association	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the HEAR Scheme.
29-Jan-19	HSE	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding Hereditary Haemochromatosis.
31-Jan-19	Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding Ballylongford Post Office.
22-Jan-19	Leitrim County Council	Resolution adopted by Leitrim County Council calling on the Minister for Health and Minister for Education & Skills regarding the provision of Speech Therapy in Primary and Post Primary Schools for children with special needs.

Any Other Business

Historian in Residence

Cllr. T. Ferris asked if Kerry County Council could consider recruiting a Historian in Residence.

The Chief Executive said this matter is being considered by the SPC.

Letter of Congratulations

Cllr. D. McCarthy asked that a letter of congratulations issue to Shane Haran, Sligo, on his recent success in claiming the prestigious title of 'Fastest Kid in the World' of eight-year-olds at the Millrose Games in New York.

March Meeting of Kerry County Council

It was noted that the March Meeting of Kerry County Council will be held on Monday, 11 March 2019.

The meeting concluded at 5.30 p.m.

Liam Quinlan

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council