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**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CRUINNIÚ DE COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ
A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN
LUAN, 16 MEÁN FOMHAIR 2019**

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

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR
Councillors/Comhairleoirí

Tom Barry	Robert Beasley	Michael Cahill
Charlie Farrelly	Brendan Cronin	Pa Daly
Breandán Fitzgerald	Toiréasa Ferris	Jim Finucane
John Francis Flynn	Fionnán Fitzgerald	Seamus Fitzgerald
Michael Gleeson	Michael Foley	Norma Foley
Johnny Healy-Rae	Donal Grady	Jackie Healy-Rae
Mike Kennelly	Sam Locke	Niall Kelleher
Jimmy Moloney	Marie Moloney	Dan McCarthy
Terry O'Brien	Niall O'Callaghan	Norma Moriarty
Michael O'Shea	Mikey Sheehy	Bobby O'Connell
		Aoife 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. C. O'Connor, Director Corp. Servs.	Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance
Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator	Ms. D. Griffin, SO Corporate
Mr. O. O'Shea, Press Officer	Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corporate Support
Mr. J. Downes, CO Corp. Support	Ms. K. Lynch, SEO Housing
Mr. G. O'Brien, A/SEO Environment	Mr. G. Riordan, SE Operations
Ms. B. Fitzgerald, Ec. Dev. Officer	Mr. T. Hayes, Local Enterprise Officer

The meeting commenced at 12.00 noon.

Cllr. Cllr. Niall Kelleher, Cathaoirleach, took the Chair.

Vote of Sympathy

The Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy to the wife and family of the late John Rohan.

The Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of the Chief Executive on the passing of her mother. May she rest in peace.

All Elected Members wished to be associated with these votes of sympathy.

Vote of Congratulations

The Cathaoirleach extended a vote of congratulations to the Kerry Junior Camogie team and their Manager, Ian Brick, and backroom team, including Roy Guerin, on winning the All-Ireland Junior Camogie championship final on 8 September.

The Cathaoirleach extended his admiration to the Kerry Senior Football Team and the Kerry Manager on their performance in the All-Ireland football final.

Cllr. Sam Lock extended a vote of congratulations to Tralee swimmer, Elaine Burrows Dillane who succeeded in swimming across the English Channel.

Cllr. Norma Moriarty extended a vote of congratulations to Monika Dukarska and Aileen Crowley who secured qualification for next summer's Olympic Games in Tokyo after winning second place in their B final at the 2019 World Rowing Championships.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris said she had submitted a request for a civic reception for the camogie team and asked when this would be held. She expressed disappointment that there wasn't an opportunity to host a homecoming for the Kerry football team in Tralee. She asked that a letter issue to the Kerry County Board in this regard.

Cllr. Terry O'Brien also expressed disappointment that a homecoming for the Kerry football team was not held in Tralee and asked that contact be made with the Kerry County Board on this matter.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson offered congratulations to the Dublin Football Team on achieving five All-Ireland wins in a row.

The Cathaoirleach said the CPG will be deciding on all requests for civic honours that are on hand at their October meeting. He said a letter will issue to the Kerry County Board regarding the homecoming for the Kerry Senior Football Team.

16.9.19.01 Cathaoirleach's Report on CPG meeting held on 10 Sept 2019

The Cathaoirleach's report on the CPG meeting held on 10 September 2019, which had been circulated, was noted by the Members.

Mr. C. O'Connor, Director of Service, in response to a query from Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris, said S.I. 244 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 specify that the nominations for appointment to an Audit Committee shall be made by the CPG following consultation with the Chief Executive.

16.9.19.02 Confirmation of Minutes

a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael Gleeson, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was resolved that the minutes of the July Ordinary Meeting of Kerry County Council held on 15 July 2019 be confirmed.

16.9.19.03 Chief Executive's Report to Council

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

Cllr. Donal Grady said that while housing applicants are being allocated houses within Approved Housing Body (AHB) housing development, and this is reducing the housing waiting list, he said as tenants of the AHB they can never purchase their home. He asked that landbanks in Killarney would be considered for housing development. He expressed concern regarding the proposal to build 10 no. apartments near the Grotto in Killarney and said houses are required, not apartments.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson asked that a 'Mattress Amnesty Day', which was so successful at the North Kerry Landfill in August, be held in other parts of the county.

Cllr. Michael Cahill welcomed the decision of An Bord Pleanála to hold an Oral Hearing in relation to the South Kerry Greenway CPO and planning application on 8 October 2019. He called on all Elected Members and Oireachtas Members to support the South Kerry Greenway project which has the potential to be the biggest tourism project for the county. He called for engagement with the AHBs to provide additional housing in Killorglin and Glenbeigh. He asked that Kerry County Council would assist communities that do not have lands available for a playground by purchasing lands for playground development. He acknowledged the success of the Seafest festival held in Cromane over the weekend.

Cllr. John Francis Flynn complimented the staff of the Local Enterprise Office for their work in facilitating business start-ups, however, unless a person is long-term unemployed they do not qualify for much support for business start-ups and this needs to be reviewed. He asked of an update on Kerry County Council's landbank and what progress has been made since that list of lands issued to the Elected Members. In relation to Japanese Knotweed he said there is an issue regarding lands where the landowner is not in the county and it is spreading from their lands; private landowners must be required to deal with Japanese Knotweed within their own lands. As next month is rutting season for deer he asked that it be highlighted to motorists to take caution on the county's roads. He referred to increasing insurance costs for charity fund raising events resulting in events not going ahead and which will have a devastating effect on funding charities. He asked that a letter issue to the Department to highlight this matter.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris welcomed the housing development provided at Killeen, Tralee, and said one of the greatest successes is that it has been built by local contractors. She said the delay between the time planning is granted for Kerry County Council developments and the time the development goes to tender, e.g. the public toilets in Ardfert which has not yet gone to tender, must be addressed. The allocation of spaces to charities for clothes bring banks is an issue that is still outstanding, a matter that should have been before the SPC for a policy to be adopted. A temporary permission could have been granted until such time as a policy is adopted on this matter. She supported the work of the Local Enterprise Office and welcomed the addition of a LEO item on the Municipal District Agenda to highlight the resources available to new businesses, it is a valuable resource and it must be exposed through our meetings. She asked when the result and findings of the Fire Service investigation, and notification of any changes to policy/procedures, will be provided to the Elected Members.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae welcomed the provision of housing and echoed the concerns expressed by Cllr. Grady that tenants of an AHB property can never purchase their home. He said there is also the issue that the criteria of the Tenant Purchase Scheme disqualifies many tenants from purchasing their Local Authority property despite having the financial ability to purchase it. He asked if it is planned to hold another 'Mattress Amnesty Day' given the success of the event held in August. He expressed concern that, despite the work of the Local Enterprise Office in preparing businesses for Brexit, many businesses are not prepared for its impact. He welcomed the progression of the Chorca Dhuibhne Local Area Plan.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin supported comments made by Cllr. Ferris regarding the delay in progressing Kerry County Council developments and projects, e.g. hedgecutting must be done when it is identified and he asked that Kerry County Council would tender early in the year to have contractors selected to do this work when it is required. He welcomed progress on the AHB acquisition of a housing turnkey development in Killarney, adding that their role is important when Kerry County Council is not building houses. He said Kerry County Council has valuable lands on hand and consideration should be given to developing them in conjunction with the AHBs. In relation to the provision of apartments, he said the age profile has changed and many housing applicants would be delighted to get an apartment. He complimented the work of the Local Enterprise Office and said the work of this office must be advertised widely as businesses do not realise how beneficial it is to interact with this office, with excellent advice and guidance available. He asked for an update on the issue of allegations regarding applications to the supplementary register in the Killarney area prior to the Local Elections 2019.

Cllr. Pa Daly said he considers the Tobar Naofa housing development in Tralee to be the most successful social housing project in the country with regard to finish, location and addressing the need of the residents. He said Kerry County Council should consider the purchase of the Convent for sale in Balloonagh, Tralee, as it is a great location and would help address the housing list.

Cllr. Norma Foley said the funding under the Community Environment Action Fund is very low despite this being such an important area. She acknowledged the work of the Local Enterprise Office and its incredible role in mentoring and advising businesses. She acknowledged the work of the Tourism Department and the publication of the Activity Brochure in French and German. She asked if it is planned to print the Activity Brochure in other languages. She said the Gardens and Parks Brochure is a fabulous publication and there is tourism potential in relation to holidays in Kerry revolving around the gardens, parks and woodlands of the county. She referred to the Healthy Kerry Plan and asked for a presentation from the Council's Wellbeing Officer. She welcomed the age friendly initiatives under the Community Enhancement Programme.

Cllr. Jim Finucane moved notice of motion No. 27.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Jim Finucane PROPOSED:

"To call on the Minister for Housing to allow each Local Authority in the Country the flexibility to respond to the Housing Crisis specific to their own areas."

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

Cllr. Jim Finucane said many Government initiatives in response to the housing crisis are Dublin-focused schemes to address the cost of housing. It is imperative that each Local Authority respond to the housing crisis in a way that is specific to their own area. With regard to the Local Enterprise Office, he said he would like to see a marketing campaign and a high profile presence for the LEO within Credit Unions and Post Offices highlighting the LEO as a contact point, because often the first point of call for businesses for advice and assistance is to a financial institution.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris SECONDED this motion.

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy said with announcement that the Ryder Cup 2026 is to take place at Adare Manor, Limerick, we must get ahead in terms of marketing Kerry as the county has an opportunity to benefit given that Kerry has five of the top 100 golf clubs in the country.

Cllr. Marie Moloney welcomed the AHB acquisition of a housing turnkey development in Killarney. She said apartments would be very welcome in Killarney for single people on the housing waiting list and Kerry County Council housing developments must be progressed. She said areas of need indicated on housing applications do not always reflect where people want to live. She referred to The Big E tourism exposition in West Springfield, Massachusetts in September and said it is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Kerry.

Cllr. Tom Barry welcomed housing developments in Ballybunion and Tralee. In commending the success of the 'Mattress Amnesty Day' he asked that more of these events would be held. He asked that the potential danger from bonfires and fireworks at Halloween be highlighted again this year. He welcomed the provision of funding for Men's and Women's Sheds in Kerry under the Community Enhancement Programme.

Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald complimented the work of Kerry County Council on the success of the 'Mattress Amnesty Day', it was great initiative and should be held again. He suggested that a more permanent use for the site used for this event would be considered.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae welcomed housing provided by AHBs and acknowledged the downfall whereby tenants cannot purchase their AHB property. He welcomed that the construction of 14 houses in Kenmare is going to tender. He said he would like to see Kerry County Council buying more land for housing and developing housing in areas such as Sneem because offering housing to people outside of the Sneem area will not sustain the village of Sneem. He expressed his frustration that applications for Single Rural Dwellings cannot be made until the current programme is exhausted. He said SRDs should be developed alongside the group housing schemes and not secondary to them. He referred to Demountable Units and said there is a need for 2-3 demountable units per year to be provided as they are suitable in some cases. He asked that the six cases on hand requiring demountable units would be resolved. He said he supports the development of the South Kerry Greenway, but it is unfortunate it went to CPO. He asked the Kerry County Council would go back to the landowners and try to deal with the issues as this project going ahead is dependent on the good will of these people.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton asked for an update on the Housing Programme targets.

Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan referred to an app that Elected Members in another Local Authority have which shows houses that are available in their county. He asked why paper documents continue to be issued to Elected Members. While welcoming the tourism brochures that have been published he said Kerry must be marketed properly online and by those who can do it best.

Cllr. Norma Moriarty agreed with the sentiments that the Mattress Amnesty Day would be extended to each Municipal District. She said while the Tenant Purchase Scheme is very restrictive she did not think Kerry County Council should be reducing

its housing stock. We must ensure sufficient stock is on hand and only sell where there is a replacement property purchased. She said she would like to see significant movement in security of tenure which is most important to tenants. She referred to the Rebuilding Ireland mortgage and said it is restrictive and people who qualify for social housing should qualify for that mortgage, e.g. Carer's Allowance should be considered as income, with the security that the property would fall back to the Local Authority should repayments on the mortgage fail. She welcomed the decision of An Bord Pleanála to hold an Oral Hearing in relation to the South Kerry Greenway CPO and planning application.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea said the Repair and Leasing Scheme has failed to address the dereliction that is across the county. He said there has to be shared and balanced regional development. Kerry County Council must attract high tech funding and twin within this industry to develop employment.

Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald complimented Kerry County Council on its support of Dingle's representation at The Big E exposition, which is a very important event in North America and will be of benefit to Dingle and the county. He asked for an update on land pressure zones in the county. He said an issue that is affecting families is the switch from long term to short term accommodation and leasing.

The Chief Executive said the target for the county was 1,750 units to be provided across the various housing pillars. Kerry County Council has a major housing construction programme and welcomes the turn-key developments of the AHBs in achieving this target. Kerry County Council will continue to work closely with the AHBs to maximise the number of units provided through this sector. With regard to the landbank an update will be provided on any development since the last update. In relation to Kerry County Council developments, once planning is made, it takes a period of within 48 weeks to go through various processes with the Department before the development commences. She said she is satisfied that the in-house team is monitoring progress and we are hitting housing targets. With regard to the fire service, she said she gave an undertaking to do a health and safety review, and this has been done. It is an internal formal process and we have engaged with the unit staff and members. She undertook to provide an update and correspond with the members regarding any recommendations to come out of the review and any action taken. A Chief Fire Officer is being recruited for the county and implementation of recommendations will be part of that role. In relation to voting registration, she said the last correspondence she read to the Members was a letter from the Gardaí advising they were undertaking an investigation into the matter. She said she will not be engaging with the Gardaí once they have commenced an investigation. With regard to the parks brochure, she took on board the comments regarding providing the brochure in other languages. In relation to The Big E, Kerry is the only county and Ireland is the only country outside the U.S. to be represented at the event. Regarding Single Rural Dwellings, a number were committed to under Rebuilding Ireland and the aim is to reach the target of 12 SRDs. Kerry County Council's focus is to get a number of high quality housing schemes developed. She said as Kerry County Council is in the CPO process for the South Kerry Greenway she can make no comment on that. In relation to tourism, over the period of the last Council the County Tourism Strategy was adopted; it drives the work programme and is monitored by Destination Kerry. She took on board the point in relation to twinning linkages created through the former Town Councils. With regard to rent pressure

zones, if Killarney and Tralee are designated as rent pressure zones the Elected Members will be advised. She said a campaign will be run in relation to fire safety at Halloween.

In response to a query from the Cathaoirleach, Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Service, clarified that rent pressure zones are designated by Local Electoral Area.

16.9.19.04 Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Jim Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. B. O'Connell, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 in accordance with Section 12 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998.

16.9.19.05 Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme

Mr. C. O'Connor, Director of Service, referred members to report dated 12 September 2019 on this item which was circulated.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris asked that page two be amended to include "CPG has no decision making powers".

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, said the Draft SPC Scheme has been developed on the basis of the 2014 Departmental Guidelines for establishment and operation of the SPCs. The role of the CPG is set out in legislation.

Cllr. Ferris asked that "CPG has no decision making powers" would be explicitly stated on page two of the SPC Scheme. She asked for clarification regarding page eight and Elected Members membership on the SPCs.

Cllr. Pa Daly seconded this request from Cllr. Ferris.

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, said page two of the SPC Scheme will be amended to include "While having no decision making powers in relation to the operation of individual SPCs its role is strategic and it links and co-ordinates the work of the different SPCs". He clarified that, similar to the 2014 SPC Scheme, members on the LCDC would not be included on the SPCs, however, it is proposed that one of the four LCDC members would be represented on the Economic Development, Enterprise and Community SPC.

The Cathaoirleach said the four members on the LCDC have agreed this nomination.

Cllr. Ferris asked if there is provision to ensure that there is representation from all political voices on all SPCs where possible.

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, said the Elected Members membership of the SPCs is being finalised and will be presented to the October Council meeting.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Jim Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. B. O'Connell, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Scheme for Kerry County Council in accordance with Section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014) and Departmental Guidelines, subject to page two of the SPC Scheme being amended to include "While having no decision making powers in relation to the operation of individual SPCs its role is strategic and it links and co-ordinates the work of the different SPCs".

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Cathaoirleach indicated that it was 1.30 p.m. and it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Norma Foley, SECONDED by Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue.

16.9.19.06 Draft Kerry County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024

Mr. G. Riordan, SE Roads and Transportation, made a presentation on Kerry County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which included the following:

- Definition of Climate Change
- What is causing Global Warming
- Action on Climate Change consists of two complementary elements
 - Mitigation: the causes of global warming
 - Adaptation: the impacts of a changing climate
- The format of the CCAS is set out in the LA Adaptation Strategy Guidelines (Dec 2018):
 - Step 1: Assessing the current adaptation baseline
 - Step 2: Assessing future climate risk
 - Step 3: Develop adaptation actions
 - Step 4: Monitoring and reviewing the adaptation strategy

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said one of the key things is to emphasise the difference between mitigation and adaptation. A lot of voluntary groups are working on mitigation measures in the community. Kerry County Council is supporting these groups to continue working to address the challenges of climate change. Under the Government Climate Action Plan there is a recommendation to create a Climate Action Charter which will include mitigation. This will be developed through the SPC over the coming months.

Cllr. Michael Cahill said the importance of climate change cannot be emphasised enough. The impact and cost of climate change can be seen in Glenbeigh and Cromane with families residing in these areas having to consider relocating as their homes are destroyed. We as a Council and as a people need to be more educated on climate change. There has been erosion of the sand dunes at Rossbeigh and throughout the county flooding has been experienced. We must liaise with the experts in this area. He welcomed the strategy and thanked Mr. Riordan for this work in this area.

Cllr. John Francis Flynn asked for an update on the survey for the Cromane area, when it is hoped to be finished and when can an application be made for funding. He asked for an update on his request to set wild flowers.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton welcomed the strategy and said it will assist funding applications.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson said climate change is an enormous challenge facing the world. He suggested that Mr. G. Riordan would address schools on climate change. He said there is a corporate level of work to be done, but there is also work to do at local and household level.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea welcomed the strategy and said the world must speak in one voice on this matter. Major rivers across the county and country are full of silt and debris which affect their flow. A call has been made to the EU to allow dredging of our rivers, e.g. the Dutch Room for the River Programme, the goal of which is to give the river more room to be able to manage higher water levels rather than enlarging river embankments.

Cllr. Sam Locke said while rivers must be dredged, the life stock of our rivers must be sustained.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae said he would have expected more than 19 submissions and added that documents like this must be put in front of people during public consultation periods. Many people will not have seen this draft strategy. A different approach must be taken during public consultations, e.g. going to the schools to listen to what the young people have to say.

Cllr. Robert Beasley supported the call for dredging rivers as silt is choking the rivers. The river flow is stalling and lands and roads are being flooded. Dredging rivers would be better than building up river embankments.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly said lands are being eroded from flooding and supported the call for dredging rivers.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin agreed with the comments regarding rivers and referred to regular flooding of the River Gweestin, on which the landbank requires clearing and cutting back. When the River Gweestin floods, four major roads are being damaged and flooded. Property and the road network must be protected.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said the draft strategy went to public consultation through local media and the Public Participation Network. There is now a specific SPC on Environment and Climate Change, being a significant issue to be addressed by this Local Authority. The purpose of the strategy is to embed that climate adaptation and climate change must become a key factor. In relation to the coastal surveys, consultants were appointed for the Tralee Bay survey and they are 50% of the way through the survey, with results expected in early 2020. We are close to awarding a tender for the second survey, which is also a 12 month survey process. The relevant Municipal Districts and SPCs will be briefed on the outcome of the surveys.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Jim Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. B. O'Connell, it was agreed to adopt the Kerry County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.

16.9.19.07 Appointment of external members to the Audit Committee

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Mike Kennelly, SECONDED by Cllr. Sam Locke, it was unanimously agreed to appoint the following external members, Mr. Gene Boyd, Ms. Catherine Moylan and Mr. John Crowe as nominated by the CPG, to the Audit Committee of Kerry County Council as per Chief Executive's report dated 12 September 2019 which had been circulated.

16.9.19.08 Nominee to Kerry Community Transport CLG t/a Local Link Kerry

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, said Kerry County Council has been requested to nominate one Elected Member to the board of Kerry Community Transport CLG t/a Local Link Kerry.

Cllr. Norma Foley PROPOSED Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald for this position.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney SECONDED this proposal.

The Cathaoirleach declared Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald as Kerry County Council's nominee to the board of Kerry Community Transport CLG t/a Local Link Kerry.

16.9.19.09 Nominee to Uíbh Ráthach Action Plan Implementation Steering Group

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, said Kerry County Council has been requested to nominate one Elected Member to the Uíbh Ráthach Action Plan Implementation Steering Group/Ghrúpa Stiúró na Feidhmitheoireacht (GSF) do Phlean Gníomhaíochta Uíbh Ráthaigh.

Cllr. Norma Foley PROPOSED Cllr. Norma Moriarty for this position.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney SECONDED this proposal.

The Cathaoirleach declared Cllr. Norma Moriarty as Kerry County Council's nominee to the Uíbh Ráthach Action Plan Implementation Steering Group/Ghrúpa Stiúró na Feidhmitheoireacht (GSF) do Phlean Gníomhaíochta Uíbh Ráthaigh.

16.9.19.10 Update on Brexit Preparedness

Ms. B. Fitzgerald, Economic Development Officer, and Mr. T. Hayes, Local Enterprise Officer, made a presentation on Brexit which included the following:

- Economic Officer appointed Brexit Officer for Kerry County Council
- Kerry County Council liaising with Central Government Departments
- Kerry County Council liaising with External Agencies
- Risk Analysis carried out in each directorate of Kerry County Council
- Risk Assessment carried out on operation of Local Government Operational Procurement Centre
- Local Enterprise Office:
 - Brexit Advice Clinics
 - Brexit Loan Scheme
 - Kerry County Council and Department of Tourism and Sport Industry Briefing workshop

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae moved notice of motion No. 31.

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

That Kerry County Council outlines in the event of a No-Deal Brexit their plans to make Kerry Brexit ready and what has been done to date.

The following reply issued:

An update on Brexit Preparedness by way of a presentation is listed as a separate item on the Council Agenda.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae welcomed that Brexit Advice Clinics have been held and said there remains to be a lot of confusion and unknown in relation to Brexit. Businesses must make themselves Brexit-ready and be aware of its potential impact in as much as they can.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris welcomed the pro-active approach of the Local Enterprise Office. She referred to the incentive to go to trade fairs abroad and asked if funding is ring-fenced for particular types of businesses and in the event of Brexit not happening what happens that funding.

Mr. T. Hayes, Local Enterprise Officer, said the funding is tailored for the micro-business sector, with 10 employees or less. A case has been made at the national network for funding for businesses with 10 employees or more. It is proposed to launch a productivity voucher to work with such businesses and look at alternative markets outside the UK. There is a limited amount of funding for this pilot scheme which will target businesses with up to 50 employees.

16.9.19.11 Dates for Meetings

- a. On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Norma Foley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae, it was agreed that the November Ordinary Meeting would be held on Monday, 11 November 2019 at 10.30 a.m.
- b. On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Norma Foley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae, it was agreed that the Budget Meeting of Kerry County Council would be held on Monday, 18 November 2019 at 10.30 a.m.

16.9.19.12 Tenders opened since the July Council Meeting

- a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Kennelly, it was agreed to note the opening of tenders for Speed Limit Road Signs, Poles and Accessories – Closing Date: 14 August 2019 at 12.00 noon.
- b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Kennelly, it was agreed to note the opening of tenders for Archaeological Consultancy Services for the N70 Brackaharagh, N72 Stagmount Bends and N86 Ballynasare Lower to Annascaul & Doonore North to Ballygarret Road Improvement Schemes – Closing Date: 19 August 2019 at 12.00 noon.
- c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Kennelly, it was agreed to note the opening of tenders for Tarbert Pier Remedial Works Phase 2 – Closing Date: 23 August 2019 at 4.00 p.m.
- d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Kennelly, it was agreed to note the opening of tenders for Traffic Lights - Supply, Installation, and Commission of Traffic Lights, with associated civil works, at Basin Rd, Tralee – Closing Date: 2 September 2019 at 12.00 noon.
- e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Kennelly, it was agreed to note the opening of tenders for GPS Vehicle Telematics and Fleet Management System for Kerry County Council – Closing Date: 3 September 2019 at 3.00 p.m.
- f) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. M. Kennelly, it was agreed to note the opening of tenders for Construction of a Single Rural Dwelling House including all associated siteworks at Ballinakilly Lower, Glenbeigh – Closing Date: 10 September 2019 at 3.00 p.m.

16.9.19.13 Approval for the Opening of Tenders

- a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, SECONDED by Cllr. Dan McCarthy, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Construction of a Single Rural Dwelling House including all associated siteworks at Drom West, Glenbeigh - Closing Date: 17 September 2019 at 3.00 p.m.
- b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, SECONDED by Cllr. Dan McCarthy, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Architect Led Design Team Consultancy Services for the construction of 22 No. Housing Units and associated Siteworks at Woodview Place, Tarbert, - Services Stages (ii) (iii) (iv) & (v) – Closing Date: 17 September 2019 at 3.00 p.m.
- c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, SECONDED by Cllr. Dan McCarthy, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Construction of 14 No. Housing Units and all associated siteworks (Phase 4) at Ard Bhearna, Gortamullin, Kenmare – Closing Date: 26 September 2019 at 3.00 p.m.
- d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, SECONDED by Cllr. Dan McCarthy, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Refurbishment Works, Carnegie Building, Castleisland – Roof and window replacement – Closing Date: 23 September 2019 at 2.00 p.m.
- e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, SECONDED by Cllr. Dan McCarthy, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Construction of 61 No. Housing Units and all associated siteworks at Lohercannon, Tralee – Closing Date: 27 September 2019 at 3.00 p.m.
- f) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, SECONDED by Cllr. Dan McCarthy, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Appointment of an Architect Led Design team for the Áras Phádraig site and adjoining Car park, Killarney – Closing Date: 11 October 2019 at 12.00 noon.
- g) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Robert Beasley, SECONDED by Cllr. Dan McCarthy, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Ashe Memorial Hall, Denny Street, Tralee – New Fire Alarm System - Closing date: 4 October 2019 at 2.00 p.m.

Lunch break

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 2.00 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2.40 p.m.

Emergency Motion

Cllr. Sam Locke PROPOSED:

That we the members of Kerry County Council write to the Minister for Finance and Minister for Health to consider extra funding to be provided to St. John of Gods, to enable them to continue the good service they provide in Kerry for people with special needs as they are operating now with a deficit of over €1.2m. If this continues, services like St. Mary of the Angels and the housing that facilitates independent living for people with social needs will have to cease to cope. With these services they need an increase in staffing levels for the requirements that HIQA have put on them at this point in time.

Cllr. Sam Locke said there is a need for this service with long waiting lists for children's disability supports, significant shortages of residential support, many parents are providing supports into their 70s/80s, there is a significant unmet need for respite and minimal capital and multi-disciplinary support funding available.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson SECONDED this motion.

Emergency Motion

Cllr. Mike Kennelly PROPOSED:

To call on Kerry County Council to contact the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Minister Josepha Madigan, as a matter of urgency, to issue the Netting Licence to all Coursing Clubs in Kerry and in Ireland.

Cllr. Mike Kennelly said concerns were expressed at a public meeting that the current ban on hare netting is stopping the coursing schedule of the year and this will affect many livelihoods given that it worth over €450m to the economy.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly SECONDED this motion.

16.9.19.14 Notices of Motion

1. Japan Style 'Shinkansen' High Speed Train

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Gleeson PROPOSED:

That this Council calls on Iarnród Éireann to actively pursue the possibility of providing Japan style ' Shinkansen' high speed trains [Bullet Trains] from Dublin to various locations in order to facilitate people who wish to work in Dublin but do not necessarily wish to live in that chaotic and overcrowded city.

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

Cllr. Michael Gleeson said Dublin has become grossly expanded and has become, for many, a lonely place of internal exile, especially so for people of rural Ireland who are forced to work and live there. Government should seek to set a limit to that Dublin growth and promote rural Ireland, particularly the west coast as places with the potential to be vibrant economic and social communities. There are many who would dearly love to live in the countryside even if they had to work in Dublin. There are many in Dublin and even from Dublin who would love to relocate their families to rural parts if only travel made it possible. This re-location can never be realistically achieved using cars or airports. The only really viable way to do so would be through the development of super-fast trains. The only constraints on such a development are an inability to think Positively and think Big. Millions and Millions of euro are being spent on travel infrastructure in Dublin, much of it seeking to undo inadequacies in the original development. It would be far better to think of projects, such as that proposed, that would keep pace with what is really needed in Ireland as an entire country. The provision of Super-Fast Trains would not only make travel faster and easier but it would also help to revitalise rural Ireland and maybe help save Dublin from itself.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae SECONDED this motion.

2. Hedgecutting on lands owned by Kerry County Council

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

That Kerry County Council would cut all hedges on land they own and make a real effort to get hedges cut on all roads.

The following reply issued:

Each of the Municipal Districts maintain a database of lands in the Council's ownership, including lands acquired for junction improvements. Arrangements are in place for the cutting of these hedges, particularly where it may restrict sight lines for road users. Kerry County Council spent €161,600 on hedge cutting these lands in 2018.

The vast majority of roadside lands owned by Kerry County Council are on improved sections of national roads, where the lands were purchased in order to construct the schemes and in most of these cases, there is improved forward visibility with wide verges and roadside hedges do not pose a hazard to traffic. The Council has recently received additional funding from the TII for the cutting of hedges and trees on the N70 and the N72, where particular issues have been identified.

Under the provisions of the Roads Act, it is the responsibility of the landowner to maintain roadside hedges and the majority of landowners carry out these works, within the timeframes permitted under the Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended).

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae said Kerry County Council is not cutting all the hedges on their own land, e.g. the Kenmare road needs to be cut back. Cutting hedges each year requires a minimum amount of work versus leaving hedges uncut for a number of years. He asked each Area Engineer to address hedge cutting issues, on national secondary roads and particularly at junctions for safety reasons.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae **SECONDED** this motion.

3. Roll Out of 5G

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Norma Foley PROPOSED:

In light of a recent appeal to the EU from 180 scientists and doctors from 36 countries warning about the dangers of 5G, which will lead to a massive increase in involuntary exposure to electromagnetic radiation, that Kerry County Council call on the Minister for Communication, Climate Change and the Environment to establish a working group to establish the facts about the radiation impact of 5G on the environment and human health due to the current questionable scientific knowledge.

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

Cllr. Norma Foley said doctors and scientists have made appeals and warn of the dangers of 5G leading to a massive increase in involuntary exposure to electromagnetic radiation. It appears there are risks to human health and our natural environment. The roll out of 5G has been halted by regulators in other countries. The Guidelines are 26 years old and more information is needed. Advances in technology are welcome, but in the same respect we need proper information and an independent health and safety assessment must be carried out.

Cllr. Tom Barry moved notice of motion No. 12.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Tom Barry PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council will address the concerns raised by members of the public in relation to the roll out of 5G in Kerry.

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

Cllr. Tom Barry said people are concerned about the impact of 5G and while we all want the best connectivity, not with potential health risks. Many phone providers have abandoned plans to develop their phones for 5G technology. It is important we get as much information as we can before making a decision on any policy going forward.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris **SECONDED** this motion and said Clare County Council included a ban in their County Development Plan. We are being asked to do the same by our constituents. Many academics are highlighting the risks and more information is needed.

4. Electric Cars and Charging Points

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Cahill PROPOSED:

In regard to Electric Cars and in the interest of reducing our carbon footprint, I propose that:

- (a) Kerry County Council include in all future Grants of Planning Permission, the requirement to install an Electric Car Charging Point at each new build
- (b) Lobby the Department of the Environment to change the criteria to qualify for SEAI Grants to install said Charger to include all new builds even if they do not yet own an Electric Vehicle and
- (c) That Kerry County Council lobby the Department of the Environment to ensure all Electric and Hybrid Vehicles be fitted with a device that creates an engine sound to warn pedestrians and cyclists of their approach.

The following reply issued:

- (a) It Is an Objective of Kerry County Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Objective 2(6) Land Use and Development), to support the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure on:

Sites owned and occupied by the Council and Private sites through supporting policies and development control standards of the County Development Plan.

As part of the forthcoming review of the County Development Plan the current Development Management Guidelines and Standards will be reviewed and additions to these standards supporting the roll out of electric vehicles charging infrastructure will be considered.

- (b) This is a matter for consideration by the members.
- (c) This is a matter for consideration by the members.

The Cathaoirleach SECONDED this motion.

5. Incentive through the Commercial Rates Scheme

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris PROPOSED:

To help develop a truly inclusive County, that this Council would complement the efforts of Employability Kerry and others by considering an incentive to those who employ staff with a disability through the Commercial Rates Scheme.

The following reply issued:

Commercial rates are a statutory charge on the owners and occupiers of commercial premises. At present, the current commercial rates legislation does not include a provision for a reduction or waiver of rates for businesses for special circumstances, such as employment of staff with a disability. Any such provisions would have to be introduced through national legislation.

Schedule 4 of the Valuation Act 2001 outlines that an exemption applies to “a charitable organisation that uses the land, building or part exclusively for charitable purposes and otherwise than for private profit. As a result, Kerry County Council does not levy rates on charity shops operated by charities that support people with disabilities.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris said she accepts the guidelines are developed at a national level, but Kerry has often undertaken pilot projects. Under equality legislation there should not be discrimination against people accessing employment because of a disability. She said the Finance Department could give consideration to developing

an incentive to ensure as many people as possible have access to employment and the employer could be given a write down of rates to compensate for the cost implications that may occur. Many disability advocates are seeking this.

Cllr. Marie Moloney **SECONDED** this motion and said it is very important that people with disabilities have access to employment. This would assist employers as there may incur a cost to adapt their building to suit the disability.

6. Kerry County Council Tenancy Handbook

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Sam Locke PROPOSED:

That this Council would address the anti- social behaviour legislation in the Tenancy Handbook to change the wording from possible eviction to automatic eviction in the handbook as this would enable us to enforce the full legislation and evict people that create an anti- social behaviour from our Local Authority Housing.

The following reply issued:

The Tenants Handbook gives a detailed definition of Anti-Social behaviour and outlines Kerry County Council's expectations of its tenants in this area. It also references the implications of failure to adhere to our Anti-social behaviour policy including possible eviction.

In general terms as a landlord the Council has certain statutory powers it can rely on in appropriate circumstances, to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour. Ultimately this can and does lead to action being taken and, in some cases, this has seen matters ultimately being dealt with through the Courts. However, such an ultimate action can only be a final resort and the Courts do not view sympathetically any Housing Authority bringing cases without a lengthy and fully exhausted history of attempting to deal with the matters by alternative means. Pursuing such action through the Courts requires a significant evidential basis and at a very minimum the expectation is that the matter would have been dealt with in the first instance by An Gardaí and would have resulted in convictions before the Court.

In this context automatic eviction is not an option for any Housing Authority, is not sustainable in law and therefore cannot be included in The Tenants Handbook. Our Housing management team meet with residents association as part of our on-going tenancy/ estate management programme and discuss a broad range of issues with the representatives. Our tenancy managers are also very active and continue in partnership with An Gardaí to deal with any issues arising.

In addition, many of the issues arising are primarily a matter for An Gardaí. It is important to acknowledge also that the vast majority of Kerry County Council tenants behave in a very appropriate manner and respect their tenancies and our properties and estates.

Cllr. Sam Locke said anti-social behaviour in our tenancies is a repetitive issue and the Tenant's Handbook is not working. Kerry County Council is the Landlord and it may be the vetting procedure that is at fault. There are serious problems in many communities and there is a loophole in the Tenant's Handbook that needs to be addressed with stronger wording. Prospective tenants going into a Local Authority house must understand they cannot create anti-social behaviour and upset other residents.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae **SECONDED** this motion and acknowledged the end of the reply which states that "the vast majority of Kerry County Council tenants behave in a very appropriate manner and respect their tenancies and our properties and estates". The majority of tenants are so happy to get a house and treat it as their own and

potentially purchase that property. There is a minority of tenants who cause a lot of trouble and this behaviour cannot be tolerated by the Local Authority. He supported the request to change the wording in the Tenancy Handbook and suggested that it would read 'will face eviction' instead of 'may face eviction'.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris opposed this motion and said we have a responsibility when developing a policy to do so within the law. Any punishment should be proportional. When someone is convicted of a crime, they are not entitled to reside in a Local Authority house until two years after the sentence. There is no appreciation or understanding of some of the reasons behind the behaviour in the first place. Punishing children because of the behaviour of their parents is not something this Local Authority should be advocating. Families should not be made homeless because of the behaviour of a member of their family.

Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan supported Cllr. Ferris's comments.

Cllr. Tom Barry said he previously highlighted anti-social behaviour and changing one word in the current policy will not make a difference. A decision is made by a Judge when evicting a tenant. He said he has asked for a review of legislation regarding anti-social behaviour.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Service, said it is not possible to insert an automatic sanction into the Tenant's Handbook. This would not be tolerated in court, where a Judge will ultimately make a decision, and there must be a fair process. There must be proportionate sanctions. The policy currently says up to and including eviction are possible. The wording suggested has no basis in law and cannot be inserted to the Tenant's Handbook. The matter can be taken through the Housing SPC and a national Tenant's Handbook is expected to be issued shortly.

Cllr. Sam Locke said it is his view that the vetting procedure must be reviewed and he hopes the Tenancy Handbook will be further enhanced.

7. Work Permits for Medical Personnel

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Norma Moriarty PROPOSED:

That we make contact immediately with all relevant agencies, departments and the Minister for Enterprise and Trade with a view to making sensible amendments to the rules around work permits which are currently hampering the recruitment and retention of medical personnel urgently required in our Out of Hours GP Service. South Doc, in Cork and Kerry are facing an amalgamation of some centres due to a shortage of work permits.

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

Cllr. Norma Moriarty said GPs contracted to work with South Doc have a 90-day working visa, but when it expires, they must return to their home country and cannot re-apply for another work permit for 30 days. It then takes 30 days to process this application. This system must be simplified with an automatic renewal of the work permit. The potential consequence of this situation is that South Doc services will be amalgamated and become less accessible across the county.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris **SECONDED** this motion.

8. Zoning of Lands in Lispole for Residential Development

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael O'Shea PROPOSED:

As the housing crisis in Dingle has reached dire levels in terms of either renting or purchasing a family home, I am calling on Kerry County Council to zone lands within the village hub of Lispole as an alternative location for people to reside and to acquire family homes at an affordable rate. It affords all the services & amenities to create a residential hub i.e. – Bar, shops, church, school, crèche, GAA field.

The following reply issued:

The Village of Lispole is not, at present, a targeted settlement for growth under the Current County Development Plan and consequently lands were not zoned for Residential Development purposes in the Dingle Functional Area Local Area Plan. However, a review of the County Development Plan is due to commence within 13 weeks of the finalisation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. A revision of the CORE strategy and settlements targeted for growth will be under taken as part of this process.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea said it is next to impossible to get housing accommodation in Dingle. As it is a tourism town, a lot of the accommodation is used for tourism purposes. He asked that when the County Development Plan and the Local Area Plan for Dingle are being reviewed that consideration be given to residential zoning in Lispole to alleviate the housing pressure in Dingle.

Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald SECONDED this motion and said people from an area must be given an opportunity to live in their home area. It is not acceptable that people working in Dingle have to travel 30km to their accommodation.

9. Phase 2 of the Greenway into Listowel

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Jimmy Moloney PROPOSED:

When will the planning for Phase 2 of the Greenway into Listowel commence, incorporating a public realm plan for former Neodata site and Town Park. This public realm plan should also include:

- (a) Review of parking facilities.
- (b) Development of Greenway and Blueway trailhead.
- (c) Connectivity of Greenway to Town Park and Town Centre.

The following reply issued:

The Council was informed by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, on the 21st June 2019, of grant funding of €3.5m for the Listowel to Limerick Greenway and €3m for the Tralee-Fenit Greenway, subject to specific terms and conditions, including a commitment on the timeframe for the completion of the planning process for the Tralee to Listowel Greenway.

The length of the Tralee to Listowel Greenway is 31km, with over 330 adjoining landowners. The Council is committed to substantially progressing the planning for this scheme this year and have advised the Department accordingly. However, in accordance with national guidelines, this will require consultation with affected landowners and the timeframe for the planning application is also contingent on the upcoming Oral hearing for the South Kerry Greenway.

There are other significant issues to be addressed in the development of the Greenways, including own financial resources, which will have to be considered by the members in the 2020 Budget.

The planning for trailheads, parking facilities, and connectivity to the town centre will be developed in due course but the commitment at present is on progressing those schemes for which grant funding has been provided and having regard to the terms and conditions specified by the Department for the grants.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney said he was not aware of the terms and conditions “including a commitment on the timeframe for the completion of the planning process for the Tralee to Listowel Greenway” attached to the funding. He said the Public Realm Plan is also needed.

The Cathaoirleach **SECONDED** this motion.

The Chief Executive said the applications for the two greenways, as presented, were accepted by the Department as one strategic greenway. A condition originally attached to the greenway funding was that planning would be in place for the connector between Tralee and North Kerry by the end of 2019 which was not achievable. Following discussions with the Department, Kerry County Council reiterated its commitment to the project and it was agreed to have planning in place for the connector by the end of 2020. As this is a major piece of work a Greenways Department has been established within Kerry County Council’s Capital Unit with a work programme to be developed for 2020-2021.

10. IDA Site Visits to Kerry

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Marie Moloney PROPOSED:

In light of the fact that Kerry had the lowest number of site visits in Munster over the past decade that Kerry County Council would invite the IDA to address the members of Kerry County Council and explain why the site visits were so low and what further steps we as a Local Authority can take to promote Kerry as a place for direct foreign investment.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council and the IDA are strategic partners in both the development and marketing of Kerry as a location for investment. The Inter-Agency Stakeholder Group which includes representatives from Kerry County Council, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and the Institute of Technology Tralee convenes regularly at least three times per year to collaborate on various initiatives to develop the Kerry offering for both the domestic and global market.

The IDA have collaborated with the Council on a number of initiatives including the “Invest In Kerry promotion, Investment Brochures and media clips, strategic and opportunity site proposals and they will be an important contributor to the Economic Conference being hosted by the Council. The Council has also collaborated with the IDA and other stakeholders in the development and marketing of the Local Hubs and the development of homeworking in the county.

The Council is aware of a number of site visits to the County in recent times and will continue to be in discussions with the IDA in relation to the number of and the preparation for these site visits. Kerry County Council has significant work done in preparing the County for such visits and in positioning Kerry as an attractive location for investment. Kerry County Council will continue to work with the IDA, our strategic education and industry partners in ensuring that a cohesive positive portrayal of the County’s economic assets is consistently delivered to attract both investment and talent to the county.

Cllr. Marie Moloney said Kerry has the lowest number of site visits, with visit numbers in 2018 representing less than 2% of the over all visits to Ireland. Kerry can compete with other counties for investment, with the Institute of Technology in Tralee graduating highly qualified students and the county has airport access.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris SECONDED this motion.

The Cathaoirleach said a letter will issue to the IDA asking them to address Kerry County Council.

13. Seniors Alert Scheme

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Foley PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council will request the Minister for Rural and Community Development to extend the Seniors Alert Scheme (SAS) to vulnerable people under 65 with Disabilities living alone.

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

Cllr. Michael Foley said the Senior Alert Scheme (SAS) has been established to encourage community support for vulnerable older people in communities. It provides funding for a personal monitored alarm, connected to a contact centre to enable older person of 65 or older of limited means, to continue to live securely in their homes with confidence, independence and peace of mind. The Scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development via Pobal with equipment made available through community, voluntary and not for profit organisation registered with Pobal under the SAS. He called for this scheme to be made available to persons under 65 living alone with disabilities whether physical or through ill health as they are also vulnerable people living in our communities, however, because of their age they do not qualify under this scheme.

Cllr. Marie Moloney SECONDED this motion.

14. Local Improvement Scheme

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Brendan Cronin PROPOSED:

To request the Director of Roads and Transportation to explain why his Department has not yet made the priority list of Local Improvement Schemes available, people all over the county are very frustrated asking where is the list and when will it be available.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council has provided elected members with a list of Local Improvement Schemes that have been approved for funding under the 2019 LIS allocation announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development in February 2019. The funding of €669,371, received this year, allows for the construction of 27 schemes.

Having regard to the level of funding available this year, a 2 year programme is being developed with approximately 60 qualifying applicants. Details of this programme will be issued to the members by the end of October

Cllr. Brendan Cronin said it is shocking that a priority list for the Local Improvement Scheme is not yet available. 18 of the 27 schemes referred to were applied for in 2008. He said he was not aware of the changed managerial decision that following the assessment of the 800 applications on hand that the priority list is to be created.

At April 2018, there was 800 applications on hand and 17 months later the assessment has not yet been finalised and this is another kick at rural people. He said he could not accept a list of 60 qualifying applicants on a two year programme which would leave 740 applicants without an answer on their applications and he asked that a priority list be put in place so applicants know where they are on the list.

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy **SECONDED** this motion.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris said the Local Improvement Scheme process has been an unmitigated disaster and an undemocratic process. It was understood that time served on the application would be the means of prioritising.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly asked if it is only one engineer that is assessing these applications.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said a process was brought through the SPC and into the Council Chamber regarding the marking scheme for the Local Improvement Scheme applications. There is no issue about changing the scheme. It is a capacity issue regarding assessing applications. There is an engineer assigned to this project of applications. At this point $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of applications have been assessed. A paper exercise was carried out on all applications and this is being followed up by a visit to the area to do a detailed examination. It is expected that funding for 25-30 schemes will be provided in 2020. As soon as all 800 applications are assessed a full list will be provided to Elected Members.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin said he is concerned for the 740 remaining applicants because $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of applications have been assessed and the top applications will be chosen from those. It is not acceptable that 17 months later a priority list is not in place. It does not matter when the funding comes, but it is important to have a priority list in place.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said a preliminary assessment was done based on information provided. The initial prioritisation has been done by visiting the road.

15. Defibrillator Mapping Project

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Charlie Farrelly PROPOSED:

To call on Kerry County Council to fully support the Defibrillator Mapping Project that Kerry Public Participation Network is undertaking and that the final report will be forwarded back to the County Council.

The following reply issued:

As part of the Community Support Fund Process, the Elected Members of Kerry County Council recognised the need to map the location of defibrillators across the County. Kerry County Council has been working in partnership with Kerry's Public Participation Network and the National Ambulance Service to ensure the location of all defibrillators are identified, mapped and notified to the National Ambulance Service. This is an extensive piece of work and once the final report is complete it will be presented to Full Council.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly welcomed the reply and that a report will be presented to Council.

Cllr. Marie Moloney **SECONDED** this motion and said it is continually being highlighted in social media where defibrillators are located and Eircodes have been provided to the ambulance service.

16. Dash Cameras

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

That Kerry County Council in association with the Minister of Transport and the Department of Transport to legislate to make Dash Cameras in all vehicles compulsory.

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

Cllr. M. Kennelly said currently insurance companies do not require owners of vehicles to have dash cameras, nor do they offer discounts for using them. Having a dash camera has been seen as having an insurance policy and having one could prevent a serious legal or financial loss. Having a dash camera installed in your vehicle could protect you in the event of fraudsters claiming for pre-organised 'Crash for Cash' accidents which are resulting in extortionate insurance premiums. Recently Gardaí investigating road accidents have asked for the public to assist by providing dash camera footage.

Cllr. Michael Foley **SECONDED** this motion.

17. Financial Resources for County Kerry

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council make adequate provision in the allocating of resources in the County of Kerry due to the increase in population that tourism brings to Kerry and for Kerry County Council to request additional funding from the Minister for Finance or other relevant Minister such as Health, Local Government, Environment, Tourism etc. for the provision of all extra resources needed to provide those services due to the substantial revenue that Tourism in Kerry brings to the Department of Finance.

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

Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald said County Kerry sees a significant increase in population with visitors to the county. There is a shortage of funding for operations and central government must be asked to allocate further resources to this Local Authority given the increased income generated by the recent VAT increase in the tourism sector.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea **SECONDED** this motion.

18. Development and Amenity Levies

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly moved Notice of Motion No. 18 on behalf of Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae.

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

That Kerry County Council carry out a review of the Development and Amenity Levies being applied for successful planning applications in the county with a view to reducing them.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council's Development Contribution Scheme, adopted on 25 July 2017, is linked to a scheme of capital priorities for the County. A number of these key infrastructural capital projects are currently coming to fruition with the allocation of significant grant monies received, or grant applications applied for. Each of these key

capital projects require a significant own resource matching sum. Given the lack of buoyancy in the Councils revenue income streams, Development Contribution Income is critical to progress these capital projects.

This Council has been successful in securing significant Central Government Grant funding from schemes such as the Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF), Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF), Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, (ORIS), Fáilte Ireland funding and Enterprise Ireland Funding. These schemes typically require a material, multi annual financial commitment from this Council. Many of the projects successful in attracting grant funding are transformative in their nature to the County e.g. the Greenway Programme, Development of Opportunity Sites throughout the County, Public Realm Development Plans, Development of Tourism Infrastructure etc. Development Contributions are an essential source of income to enable this Council to fund current and future development of key capital infrastructural projects throughout the County.

19. N21 Tralee to Limerick Road

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Mikey Sheehy PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council, as a matter of urgency, seek to have the road infrastructure from Limerick to Kerry prioritised so that the county is in a position to reap the benefits from the recent Ryder Cup 2026 announcement to take place at Adare Manor.

The following reply issued:

The upgrading of the N21 Tralee to Limerick road from Abbeyfeale to Adare, including the Adare By-Pass, is being progressed by Limerick County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. Kerry County Council strongly supports the need to improve this route, which has been highlighted in a number of submissions made on national policies, including the National Planning Framework and Project Ireland 2040. This is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy said Kerry has five of the top 100 golf clubs in the country which are unique and offer a huge opportunity for the lead up to the Ryder Cup in 2026. We must get ahead with upgrading the road network links to the county and marketing Kerry so the county can benefit from this event.

Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald SECONDED this motion and said it is a unique opportunity for the county.

Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan supported this motion and said the county could be proactive by promoting the county at the annual golf event held in Orlando every January as well as connecting with the county's twinned towns.

20. Bicycle Theft

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Gleeson PROPOSED:

That this Council as part of its promotion of cycling as a healthier option calls on Government to classify bicycle theft as a very serious offence punishable by heavy fines and ultimately by incarceration.

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

Cllr. Michael Gleeson said when he was elected Mayor of the Killarney Municipal District he committed to trying to progress the provision of bicycle parking, covered if possible, in order that cycling would be promoted among the public and would inform

visitors that cycle tourism is a high priority. He welcomed the progress made since June as regards the provision of bicycle parking facilities. It is of vital importance that cyclists have confidence that their bicycles will be safe from theft or vandalism and he called on Government to introduce severe penalties, up to and including imprisonment, for any person or persons found guilty of large scale organised bicycle theft. It is only by so doing that cycling as a very healthy and worthwhile pursuit will grow and prosper among locals and visitors.

The Cathaoirleach **SECONDED** this motion.

21. Small Farm Families

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly moved Notice of Motion No. 21 on behalf of Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae.

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

That this Council would write to the Minister for Agriculture to highlight that small farm families are now at breaking point.

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

22. Hedgecutting

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Norma Foley PROPOSED:

In the interest of a fresh approach to a very serious but recurring issue, that Kerry County Council dedicate a specific month every year to the cutting of trees, overhanging branches, hedges etc., both urban and rural. A concerted PR campaign, press/radio will be required, emphasising civic duty, community responsibility, health and safety.

The following reply issued:

Under the Wildlife Act, 1976 as amended, hedgecutting is not permitted during the period from 1st March to 31st August each year. The Roads Act, 1993 as amended, permits the cutting of trees and hedges at any time where there is a risk to public road users. In September each year a Public Information Campaign is launched by Kerry County Council highlighting the fact that the cutting and maintenance of roadside trees, hedges and other vegetation is the responsibility of the landowner on whose land they are growing. This information campaign is advertised on local media as well as on the Council's social media platforms. The information campaign for 2019 was published in local media earlier this month.

Cllr. Norma Foley said hedgecutting is a recurring issue and what we are currently doing is not working. Landowners have a responsibility, and while many landowners comply with hedgecutting requirements, many do not. There should be a clear timeframe within September-March and appeal to the landowner's civic duty and the issue of health and safety. A new approach with a concentrated social media campaign is required.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin **SECONDED** this motion and said the PR campaign is critically important as the enforcement of hedgecutting has failed completely. No one is looking at the legal liabilities if something happens because a hedge is not cut and they may be very serious for landowners. This should also be highlighted.

23. Vacant Housing Units

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris PROPOSED:

That a detailed report would be given of works carried out in vacant units for each MD level over the last 12 months (how long they were void, whether works were completed by contractor or in-house and time taken to complete works).

The following reply issued:

A Void is where a Kerry County Council owned house is vacated, usually as a result of the tenant being transferred or, as is often the case, the tenant passes away. In many cases the house has been tenanted for many years and works are required to bring the house to the standard required before re-letting. Currently 33% of vacancies arise following the death of the tenant. In such cases, it is common that family require a reasonable period to remove personal effects and be in a position to hand over possession of the property to the Council. In some case this can take 4-8 weeks and given the circumstances the Council does not require an earlier handover. Clearly this does have an impact on re-letting times and the turnaround times for properties. For other properties even where the house appears to require little works, the Council is obliged to ensure that the house is at the required standard and in some cases, this requires undoing works carried out by tenants, while they lived in the property.

For older stock which has been under the same tenancy for a lengthy period the opportunity is taken to do a general upgrade of the property as in many cases little or no refurbishment may have been done through the tenancy.

For many of the properties the scale of the works will require a formal procurement process – preparation of tender/ specification documentation, formal procurement period, tender/ quotation evaluation, construction period.

A. During the period 1st July 2018 and 30th June 2019, (previous Municipal District structure) works were carried out in 112 units which were vacant under our Voids works programme. These are broken down per MD as follows:

- Tralee MD - 43 units
- Listowel MD - 31 units
- Killarney MD - 19 units
- South & West MD - 19 units

In terms of the length of time that the units were vacant, the countywide average is 34.3 weeks and these averages are broken down per MD as follows:

- Tralee MD - 27.4 weeks
- Listowel MD - 40.9 weeks
- Killarney MD - 36.1 weeks
- South & West MD - 37.5 weeks

B. The refurbishment works to the 112 units were carried out by a combination of Kerry County Council Operations/Housing outdoor staff as well as the utilisation of contractors which were procured through frameworks or a separate tendering process. In all 61 units were refurbished by Contract and 51 units were refurbished in-house directly by KCC staff. These are broken down by MD as follows:

- Tralee MD - 28 units by Contracts & 15 units directly by in-house staff
- Listowel MD - 6 units by Contracts & 25 units directly by in-house staff
- Killarney MD - 19 units by Contracts
- South & West MD - 8 units by Contracts & 11 units by in-house staff

C. With regard to the time taken to complete the physical works on each unit, the countywide average is 21.35 weeks with the breakdown by MD as follows:

- Tralee MD - 14.8 weeks
- Listowel MD - 32.1 weeks*
- Killarney MD - 23.6 weeks*
- South & West MD - 16.5 weeks

* It is worth noting that in both Killarney and Listowel, several properties required substantial works to enable them to be re-let. These properties required a formal procurement process – preparation of tender/ specification documentation, formal procurement period, tender/ quotation evaluation and lengthy construction period. The time to complete all of this is included in this category and adversely affects the overall average “time to complete the works” in these areas.

The refurbishment costs for Voids are funded jointly by Kerry County Council and the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government. These funds are limited, and the Government has already indicated that the current level of funding for Voids will decrease going forward. The future and on-going approach to vacancy management, refurbishment and preventative maintenance is currently being reviewed and management will be coming back to Council on this issue over the coming months.

Kerry County Council is committed to ensuring that any property in our ownership, which becomes vacant, is re-tenanted as soon as possible subject to available finance.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris said houses that are vacated are being ripped out and thousands of euro are being wasted in materials and staff resources. The requirement to meet standards is not always a reason to rip out a house. Excessive time is being spent between a void occurring and the new occupancy starting which is not acceptable.

The Cathaoirleach **SECONDED** this motion.

24. Passenger Ferry between Renard and Dingle

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Cahill PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council examine the feasibility of providing a Passenger Ferry between Renard and Dingle, thus connecting both peninsulas and which will provide a new means for visitors to enjoy our spectacular scenery and take the following factors into consideration:

- (a) That Kerry is the premier Tourist County in Ireland.
- (b) The fact that Caherciveen and Iveragh are on the Ring of Kerry and the Wild Atlantic Way.
- (c) The fact Glenbeigh, Waterville, Sneem, Kenmare and Killarney are on the Kerry Way.
- (d) The fact that Dingle and West Kerry and the Gaeltacht are on the Wild Atlantic Way.
- (e) The fact that the Dingle Way from Tralee to Dingle and West Kerry has been inaugurated into the Spanish Camino Way and
- (f) That the proposed South Kerry Greenway, when developed will attract several hundred thousand visitors into our county every year by examining the feasibility of providing a Passenger Ferry between Renard and Dingle, thus connecting both peninsulas and also by providing a new means for visitors to enjoy our spectacular scenery.

The following reply issued:

The proposals as set out in this Notice of Motion can be reviewed and considered as part of the next Tourism Strategy 2022.

Cllr. Michael Cahill said these two peninsulas have great visitor numbers with potentially increased visitor numbers to South Kerry should the greenway proceed. We should be the specialists in tourism services in the country. He asked that if any funding becomes available during the lifetime of the Tourism Strategy that this project would be considered.

The Cathaoirleach SECONDED this motion.

25. Caravan Parks on the Wild Atlantic Way

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael O'Shea PROPOSED:

In view of drawing up and adopting the LEA plans for the County of Kerry, that Kerry County Council would create designated caravan parks with full facilities along the Wild Atlantic Way in line with our European partners.

The following reply issued:

There are 27 of Caravan parks on or adjacent to the Wild Atlantic Way licensed under the Sanitary Services Act 1948 providing facilities for caravans, mobile homes and motorhomes. In addition, the recently adopted Tralee, Killarney and West Iveragh Local Area plans have zoned land in appropriate locations as C5 Tourism and Related. Caravan parks may be permitted on lands zoned as C5 and may be considered, on a case by case basis and subject to other planning criteria, on other land use zonings. The Council are favourably disposed to suitably designed caravan park developments on appropriately zoned lands as outlined and offer a pre-planning service should any landowner seek to develop these facilities.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea Many small villages along the Wild Atlantic Way do not have parking sites with facilities for camping vans. He asked that consideration be given to providing transient camping points where there is a charging point and toilet facilities in villages.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson SECONDED this motion.

Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan said while he agreed with the premise of the motion he expressed concern that these points would not be monitored and managed.

26. Tenant Purchase Scheme Criteria

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Marie Moloney PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council would write to the Minister and the Department requesting changes to the criteria of the Tenant Purchase Scheme whereby a portion of the funds with which to purchase the house has to be earned income.

The following reply issued:

The terms of the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 are set out in legislation under the Housing (Misc Provisions) Act 2014. The Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 requires the tenant's income to be over €15,000 per annum as one of the qualification criteria. The legislation authorising the scheme states that the primary source of that income has to be from employment.

The need for employment income has been raised previously with the Department. Kerry County Council does not have any discretion on the matter.

A review of the Scheme has been undertaken by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and we are awaiting the outcome of that review.

Cllr. Marie Moloney noted that Kerry County Council does not have discretion on this matter and asked that a letter issue to the Department requesting a change to this restrictive rule of the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris **SECONDED** this motion.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Service, in response to queries in relation to the difference between units provided by an Approved Housing Body and the Council directly when it came to qualifying for the Tenant Purchase Scheme, clarified that a number of properties have been excluded from the Tenant Purchase Scheme – including all properties built or purchased by the Council since 1st January 2015.

28. Recruitment of Nurses at University Hospital Kerry

Cllr. T. Ferris moved Notice of Motion No. 28 on behalf of Cllr. Barry.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Tom Barry PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council will call on the Minister for Health to immediately lift the embargo on the recruitment of nurses at University Hospital Kerry.

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

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris asked that a letter issue to the Minister to ensure all graduate nurses are offered positions in UHK to help alleviate the issues there regarding staffing levels.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson **SECONDED** this motion.

29. Japanese Knotweed

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Charlie Farrelly PROPOSED:

To ask Kerry County Council what measures are being undertaken this September to control and eradicate Japanese Knotweed that is growing out of control along the roads in the County. Also what budget is envisaged to be spent this year on the control and eradication.

The following reply issued:

Transport Infrastructure Ireland piloted a 4-year programme for the treatment of roadside Japanese Knotweed on the N70 (Tralee to Kenmare) Road and the N86 (Dingle to Camp) Road in 2016, which was subsequently extended to the entire national road network in the county in 2017. The cost of the contracts to date is approximately €285k.

There is no specific funding available from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, for a similar programme on the non-national road network. However, the Council has provided support, information and advice to land owners and local community groups on the treatment of this invasive species. The Council will assess the non-national road network, where there is known infestations of Japanese Knotweed, and bring a report to the members at MD level on the extent of the treatment required. The Council has previously worked with local community groups on a treatment programme and members may wish to consider funding for such an initiative in the 2020 Budget.

If there are particular locations known to the members, you can advise the local MD office.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly said this is not an acceptable reply. This is the time of year for the control and eradication of Japanese Knotweed. He said there is no point in contacting the local Municipal District office when there is no funding available to address this issues.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson said since he first highlighted the existence of Japanese Knotweed it has spread exponentially throughout the county, along roadsides and into private property. Work done so far has had little impact on the spread of Japanese Knotweed. Strong and decisive action must be taken to address this matter.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney said he had a notice of motion at the Listowel Municipal District regarding the banks of the River Feale which, over his lifetime, has gone back 15 feet. Something must be set aside to target specific locations that are in public ownership and try to eliminate Japanese Knotweed.

The Chief Executive said it is proposed that in each Municipal District there would be a small community funded programme that would look at areas where there is Japanese Knotweed to develop an eradication programme.

30. Scéim na mBóithre Áise

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council request that the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht restore the infrastructure grant schemes for Gaeltacht Areas such as Scéim na mBóithre Áise as the funding provided to Kerry County Council under such schemes as the Local Improvement Scheme is inadequate to meet the demand within the County of Kerry and especially within our Gaeltacht areas.

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

Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald asked that funding for the Scéim na mBóithre Áise be restored as it helped the repair of small roads.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea SECONDED this motion.

32. Mobile Phone Service

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Norma Moriarty PROPOSED:

That we ask mobile phone providers for the county to meet with councillors and explain the clearly deteriorating levels of service being experienced by many and outline specific remedial actions they are to take and timelines for same.

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

Cllr. Norma Moriarty said there has been a significant decrease in mobile phone service over the summer months and it is an ongoing problem. Service providers should also respond to representations made on behalf of constituents. She acknowledged the work of the Broadband Officer, but said she would like a meeting with the service providers.

The Cathaoirleach SECONDED this motion.

33. Housing Grants

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Mikey Sheehy PROPOSED:

To ask Kerry County Council what practices are currently in place that allow people in receipt of letters of approval for various Housing grants to be told at a later date that funding is not available to meet those grants.

The following reply issued:

Private House Grants – All grants allocated are honoured once the terms of the scheme are complied with. All grant approvals normally have an expiry date within which they must be taken up/availed of, to maximise the benefit of the annual grant allocations. Requests for extensions to the allowable time period allocated are dealt with on a case by case basis but favourable consideration is normally given in such cases. We are aware of a limited number of cases where Grant applications initially approved subsequently involved changes which rendered them non-compliant with the terms of the scheme but for Private House grants there has been no occasions where grant were subsequently withdrawn due to funding difficulties.

LA Houses DPG Grants – applications for works that have been approved remain on the housing work programme with the timing of works being undertaken dependant on overall funding available. In addition the timing of the works is dependent on availability of contractors.

We have carried out an assessment of the current approved applications, a review of the current programme/ financial commitments and a request for additional funding was submitted to the Department.

The Council are committed to all approved works where household circumstances have not changed.

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy asked if there is an issue regarding funding for DPG Housing Grants.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Service, said Kerry County Council was notified of the grant allocation for 2019 which showed a reduction. We have been in negotiation with the Department for extra funding. Applications that have been approved for grant assistance by Kerry County Council remain approved.

16.9.19.15 Correspondence – Conferences and Seminars

- a) No members expressed interest in attending the “Creating Economic and Business Opportunities from Climate Change 2019 - Climate Change Conference 2019” to be held in Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Offaly on 9 October 2019.
- b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald, it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cathaoirleach Cllr. Niall Kelleher, Cllr. Bobby O’Connell and Cllr. Jimmy Moloney at the Celtic Conferences ‘A Practical Guide to Budget 2020’ conference to be held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Louth from 11-13 October 2019.
- c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald, it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher at the induction of John McShain of Killarney House into the Irish America Hall of Fame in New Ross, Co. Wexford, on 4 September 2019.

- d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald, it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher at “The Local Authority – Champion for Disability Inclusion” event in Leinster House, Dublin on 24 September 2019.
- e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald, it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. Jimmy Moloney Cathaoirleach, Listowel Municipal District at the Entente Florale Prize-giving Ceremony in Haus, Austria from 26-29 September 2019.

16.9.19.16 Correspondence General

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

Date	From	Description
15/07/2019	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to pension provision for Community Employment (CE) Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors.
17/07/2019	Minister for Health	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to carer's wages.
19/07/2019	Minister with responsibility for Defence	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the Defence Forces pay and conditions
1/08/2019	Minister for Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the purchase of lands in Tomies, Beaufort by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
6/08/2019	Minister for Health	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the flu injection
6/08/2019	Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the Shared Ownership Scheme.
6/08/2019	Minister for Education & Skills	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding having CPR training as part of the school curriculum.
7/08/2019	Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, HSE	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding hospital beds in Dingle and Kenmare Community Hospitals.
7/08/2019	Tánaiste & Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the persecution of Christians around the globe.
14/08/2019	Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the establishment of an international PSO service from Kerry Airport to Amsterdam.
19/08/2019	Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the EU Mercosur Political Agreement.
9/09/2019	Minister for Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding staffing levels in Killarney National Park.
9/09/2019	Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding an exemption from water and wastewater charges for local Voluntary Groups such as Sports Clubs who are not charitable organisations.

16.9.19.17 Any Other Business

Report on Payments to Elected Members from Outside Bodies

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris asked for an update on her request for a report on Payments to Elected Members from Outside Bodies.

Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator, said this body of work is being finalised for the Council term 2014-2019.

Housing Repairs

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris asked that her requests for housing repairs on behalf of two elderly housing tenants would be dealt with.

The meeting concluded at 4.45 p.m.

Liam Quinlan
Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council