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MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE MHIOSIÚIL DE COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN LUAN , 20 FEABHRA, 2017

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

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

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive	Mr. J. Kennelly, A/Dir. Water Services
Mr. C. O'Sullivan Dir. Ops H & S	Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance
Mr. M. Scannell, A/Dir. Job Cr/Sust. ED	Mr. M. O'Donoghue, A/Dir.H.&Corp.Supp.
Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Admin.	Ms. H. O'Carroll, Kerry County Museum
Mr. O. O'Shea, Press & Comm. Off.	Ms. K. Moriarty, AO Human Resources
Mr. M. Ó Coileáin, Env. Aware. Officer	Ms. B. Reidy, SSO Corporate Support
Ms. C. Carrig, Sports Co-ordinator	Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corporate Support

The meeting commenced at 10.30am.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. M O'Shea took the Chair.

At the outset the Cathaoirleach PROPOSED that a Civic Reception would be held at a meeting of the South & West Kerry MD to honour Glenbeigh/Glencar football team who won the AIB All-Ireland Junior Club Football Championship the previous day.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED this proposal.

17.02.20.01 Cathaoirleach's Report on the CPG meeting held on 14th February 2017

The Cathaoirleach read the following report into the record of the meeting:

"Item 1 Agenda for the February Council Meeting

Mr. L. Quinlan briefed the meeting on the Agenda for the February Meeting.

Item 2 Training and Development Programme for Councillors 2017

Mr. L. Quinlan stated a letter issued to all members setting out the requirement to adopt a Training and Development Programme for Councillors each year. Members were requested to submit their comments/suggestions on the Programme. The Draft Programme will be brought to March CPG Meeting following which it will be presented to full Council at the March Meeting for adoption.

Item 3 Update from the Chairs of SPCs

Cllr. R. Beasley briefed the meeting on the items considered at the Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation SPC held on the 31st January 2017 under the following heading:

- Use of Irish in Gaeltacht areas
- Language Planning Process
- Arts activities
- 'Creative Ireland' initiative
- Update on 2016 Commemorations
- County Museum accreditation

Cllr. N. Kelleher briefed the meeting on the items considered at the Quality of Life SPC meeting held on the 19th January 2017 and stated his report would be circulated to all members for the February Meeting.

Item 4 Requests for Civic Receptions

The CPG agreed that a Civic Reception would be hosted by the Listowel MD for the Listowel RFC U18 Girls team on Monday 22nd May 2017.

Having regard to Kerry County Council's Adopted Protocol for Civic Honours Conferral the CPG also agreed that the Marian Players Rathmore Panto Group and the Spa GAA Dance Team would be honoured either by way of Certificates of Recognition at the proposed Killarney MD Annual Awards Event later in the year or the hosting of separate Municipal District Civic Receptions. A decision by the CPG in that regard will be made in light of other proposals which may be received later in the year.

Item 5 Any other business

Kerry Airport

Cllr. J. Finucane welcomed the flights to and from Berlin which were recently announced. He asked that Kerry County Council would have a presence at Kerry Airport for the inaugural flight from Berlin and that a meeting would be arranged between Kerry County Council, Kerry Airport and the Ryanair Operations Manager with a view to promoting these flights. Cllr. Finucane also asked that consideration would be given to the Cathaoirleach and officials meeting with Berlin City Council.

The Chief Executive stated that she and Cllr. T. O'Brien represent Kerry County Council on the Board of Kerry Airport and one of the most important developments has been the assignment of a Route Manager. She welcomed the new route from Berlin and highlighted that senior officials in our Tourism Unit went on a promotional visit to Germany recently. She agreed there should be enhanced promotional advertising from a Kerry tourism perspective at the airport.

Non National Roads Grants

Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated the non-national Road Grants were announced in late January and details were circulated to members. It is intended to bring a report to the Operations SPC in the next 2 weeks following which a Schedule of Municipal District Work Plans will be presented to members before the end of March.

Standing Orders

Mr. L. Quinlan highlighted that a letter issued to members in relation to Standing Order No. 30 as a number of motions continue to be submitted to full Council which appear more appropriate to Municipal District meetings. In the correspondence he set out Standing Order No. 30 and reminded members, in accordance with the Standing Orders to discuss with him, as Meetings Administrator in advance of submitting any proposed Notice of Motion which may be more appropriate for consideration or had already been considered at MD Meetings.

Kerry County Councils' Treasurer

In response to an enquiry from Cllr. J. Finucane, the Head of Finance advised that a review was undertaken in 2014 following the amalgamation of the Town Councils and while existing arrangements are very competitive they are kept under constant review.

Hosting of a Conference on the Wild Atlantic Way

Members of the CPG requested that a Conference on the Wild Atlantic Way would be held preferably in Kerry which the CE agreed to advance.

Non domestic water billing

Ms. A. McAllen advised the meeting that non domestic water bills have migrated to Irish Water and Irish Water intend to issue bills in the coming weeks.

Mr. J. Breen stated that officials from Irish Water would be in County Buildings to deal with members queries on Monday next.

Civic Reception

Mr. L. Quinlan stated that a Civic Reception would be held at 1.30pm on Monday 20th February for the Defence Forces. This Reception was approved by CPG and full Council prior to the adoption of the Civic Honours Conferral Protocol.”

17.02.20.02 Confirmation of Minutes

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Foley, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Gleeson it was resolved that the minutes of the following meetings be confirmed:

- (a) Meeting held on the 12th September 2016 to consider the Report of the Chief Executive on the setting of a Local Adjustment Factor for Local Property Tax for 2017 and the Council’s Budget Strategy for 2017.
- (b) Budget Meeting held on the 14th November 2016.
- (c) January Ordinary Meeting held on the 23rd January 2017.

17.02.20.03 Chief Executive’s Report to Council

The Chief Executive read the following report into the record of the meeting:

“Introduction

Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 places an obligation on the Chief Executive to prepare a report, to be known as the Management Report, in relation to the performance of his or her Executive Functions during the preceding calendar month, including implementation of policy or other matters required by the Council in the exercise of its Reserved Functions and the provision of services by the Council.

As agreed by the Members, the report will be forwarded to you on a monthly basis along with the documentation for the ordinary monthly meetings.

Members will also be aware that an update report is provided at each Municipal District Meeting on the work of the Directorates within Kerry County Council. These very detailed reports, the templates of which have been recently revised, provide updates on the main activities per directorate at Municipal District level on such matters as the Housing Programme, the Roadworks Programme, Water and Wastewater projects, , Environmental Services etc. Please note in particular that the revised Municipal District Housing Report presented at the Municipal District Meetings includes updates across all social housing activity at municipal district level for the information of Municipal District members. As previously advised in order to avoid duplication of reporting, updates on these matters are not included in the Chief Executive's Report.

The report below has been prepared for the February 2017 Council Meeting.

Finance Directorate

As agreed with the Members, a Financial Report for Members will be provided on a quarterly basis in line with the Quarterly Reporting Process for Income and Expenditure already in place to the Department of Housing, Planning Community & Local Government. The Qtr 4 Financial report will be set out in the Chief Executive's Report presented at the April Council Meeting.

Infrastructure, Operations, Health & Safety Directorate

Non- National Road Funding

The Department of Transport Tourism and Sport announced the 2017 Road Allocations for Regional and Local Roads on the 24th January 2017 and copy of the correspondence was circulated to you. The overall allocation is €15.273 m which is an increase of €3.3m (approximately 18% on last year's allocation). In particular, I welcome the funding of €400,000, for improvement works on the Tralee to Fenit route and a commitment of €25,000 to recommence the design of the Tralee Northern Relief Road, following my meeting with the Department, on which I briefed you in my last report. As I have previously highlighted these routes are of strategic importance in the growth of Fenit port and to support the economic development of the county.

A funding commitment of €550,000 for Rossbeigh Coast road in 2016 has been re-affirmed and we are now in a position to award the contract for the works. €500,000 has been allocated for the Dingle Relief Road Phase 4. The €7.737 m allocated under the Restoration Improvement Grant, represents an 11% increase on last years allocation. The Department has allowed some discretion in the transfer of some of this allocation towards Discretionary Maintenance, which is being considered, given the damage caused to bridges in the Cahersiveen area

as a result of the storm in October 2016. The Operations SPC will be consulted before the draft roadworks programme is complete. When the work programme is finalized, we are targeting the presentation of the schedule of Municipal District Work to the MD members before the end of March.

South Kerry Greenway

We have initiated the CPO process by making the application to the board to confirm that an EIS is required for the scheme. The Board has advised that a decision will be made by the 29th May 2017. We are proceeding on the basis that the EIS is required and subject to confirmation by the Board, we intend to seek a meeting with them and to progress the submission of the final CPO and EIS documentation as soon as possible after we get the direction.

Tralee Active Travel - Redevelopment of The Mall

The contract for the redevelopment of The Mall in Tralee was signed on Friday 10th February, with John Craddock Ltd., who previously carried out works on the Square. These works are grant aided the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, under the Active Travel Towns Scheme, with matching funding from Kerry County Council. Advance works are on-going at present to allow for the implementation of two way traffic flow on Denny Street by early April.

Housing Directorate

Minister Simon Coveney's Visit to Kerry

As the members are aware Mr Simon Coveney T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, visited Kerry on 23rd January, 2017 in order to further promote the Government's Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness & launched the next phase of the Mitchel's Regeneration Project in Tralee which consists of the construction of 15 houses.

Housing Capital Construction Programme

As part of the Council Capital Construction Programme two projects have now progressed to construction in Killarney & Lixnaw within the last week.

The Park, Killarney

The Park project will deliver 20 x 3bed, 2 storey semidetached units with associated site works at the Park, Killarney. This development is due for completion in February 2018.

Lixnaw

The Lixnaw project will deliver 4 x 2bed semi-detached units with associated site works at Ballingarry, Lixnaw and is within an existing Local Authority estate. This development is due for completion in December 2017.

Balloonagh Land Purchase

Kerry County Council has agreed the purchase of 1 hectare of land from St. Brendan's Trust at Balloonagh, Tralee. This is a very central location and it is intended to use the land for the provision of social housing for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Transitional Properties For Homeless Persons

As part of our strategy to deal with homelessness, Kerry County Council has designated a number of properties throughout the County as Transitional Properties. These properties will only be used as a short term measure for families and also for those who have been in long term emergency accommodation for the past number of years. These properties will be viewed as 'half way houses' to a degree with a short term stay of 3-6 months at the very most. The properties are fully furnished and are well maintained.

Additionally there is need to identify properties for young people who are coming out of long term care and who will be seeking accommodation in their own right. We are in the process of identifying specific short term transitional properties for these people and will need to work very closely with other agencies to ensure that the needs of these young people are met and that they are assisted greatly in the transitional phase of moving from a care background to independent living.

If these transitional properties are to be a success, continuous outreach support from all necessary and required Agencies will be vital to assist tenancy sustainment and to provide wrap around support to the clients going forward. Inter Agency Homeless Action Teams have been established and meetings have now also commenced and are proving to be very beneficial in identifying potential solutions for specific clients who have been in long term emergency accommodation. This continues to be a very complex and difficult area to secure long solutions but some progress is being made.

Traveller Accommodation Plan 2014 -2018 review

The draft mid term review up to the end of 2016 was considered at the December Council Meeting. The final mid term review report is being forwarded separately to Members & the Quality of Life SPC members. This report is a review of progress under the plan up to the 31st of December 2016. Kerry County Council is committed to working with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, Traveller households, the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and the wider community in providing housing for Travellers in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme.

Economic & Community Development Directorate

Development Contribution Scheme

Work continued on the Development Contribution Scheme. It is proposed to bring the draft DCS to SPC in early March.

Two Year review of the County Development Plan

Section 15(2) of the Planning Act requires that a report be prepared outlining the progress achieved in securing the objectives contained in the Plan. This review is presently underway.

Killarney Municipal District Plan

Planning policy relevant to the Killarney Municipal District is at present contained in the following Plans:

1. Killarney Town Development Plan.
2. Castleisland Functional Area Plan.
3. Tralee / Killarney Hub Functional Area Plan.
4. Rathmore Local Area Plan.

The preparation of a local Area plan for Killarney Municipal District has commenced with the initial phase of public consultation in December 2016 seeking pre-draft submissions.

Approximately 40 submissions have been received. Preparation of Environmental reports has also commenced including:

- Strategic Environmental Assessments.
- Habitats Directive Assessment.
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Kerry County Heritage Plan

A review of the Kerry County Heritage Plan has commenced. This plan is due for completion by the final quarter of 2017. It is envisaged that there will be significant interaction between the Council and local interest groups during the preparation of this plan.

South Kerry Innovative & Research Centre- WEAVE Project

A satellite University Innovative & Research Initiative is advancing for the Iveragh area. Clíodhna O'Callaghan, UCC has been seconded to develop the project and she is based in the Kerry County Council Library in Caherciveen. A launch will be advised in due course.

Invest in Kerry Promotion

Kerry County Council & the IDA have completed the Kerry Welcome Promotion and Members will be circulated with details shortly

Dingle Creativity & Innovative Hub

Kerry County Council supports and continues its involvement in this project. Members will be updated on its progress.

Kerry Local Enterprise Office

Promotion and advertising

The Local Enterprise Office continued to run a promotional campaign in January on radio, newspapers and social media. This targeted individuals thinking of starting a business and those expanding their businesses. Further contacts have been made with accountants and banking officials highlighting the services of the office. The office is presently engaging with the main banks also.

Training

The 2017 Programme has commenced and 4 courses commenced in January including “Start Your Own Business” and “Digital Marketing” for small businesses. Recruitment is ongoing for the 2017 Food Academy Programme and the Killarney Retail Programme.

Kerry’s Best Young Entrepreneur

The office is pleased to report that one local winner has progressed through the Regional Finals and will now participate in the national Final scheduled for Google HQ in Dublin on March 5th. Derek Counihan of the business “Harpoon Connect” will represent the Mid West region and Co. Kerry. His business monetises online marketing and is a strong prospect.

Kerry Enterprise Month

March has again been designated as Kerry Enterprise Month and the office is working closely with enterprise parties in drawing up the schedule of events. The first week of the Enterprise Month is designated Local Enterprise Week running from the 5th-10th March with the Kerry County Council LEO events.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme

Work continues on the Trading Online Voucher Scheme and a new allocation of 59 vouchers has been confirmed. Information sessions are being developed.

Evaluation Meetings

The first evaluation Meeting of 2017 was held on 9th February and 5 projects were evaluated. These projects have the potential to generate up to 15 new jobs in the short term.

Grads for Micro Scheme

The LEO has been approved funding support for a Grads for Micro Scheme where undergraduates will be placed within participating microbusiness with funding approved for the placement. Recruitment of interested businesses is ongoing.

LEO Work Plan 2017

The LEO Work Plan has been completed and a draft has been submitted seeking 2017 funding allocation.

Community Development

Community Support Fund

The closing date for the 2017 Community Support Fund was the 13th of January 2017. A total of 462 applications were received:

The following are the proposed dates for the Special Meetings with the Elected Members to consider & approve allocations from the 2017 Community Support Fund:

Killarney MD - 1st March
Tralee MD - 6th March
Listowel MD - 9th March
South & West MD - 10th March

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The LCDC, as the contracting authority, continues to oversee the delivery of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and established a subgroup specifically to assist in this process. As previously advised, the Programme is being delivered at a local level by three Local Development Companies; SKDP, NEWKD and IRD Duhallow (i.e. SICAP Programme Implementers).

2016 was both a challenging and productive year in terms of delivering 12 actions across three Goals supporting SICAP target groups. Each PI met the targets for the key performance indicators and also demonstrated a strong performance in relation to the other 13 Headline Indicators. All budget parameters were adhered to and all financial information was in order. The entire 2016 budgets were spent in all cases. The PIs indicated that their working relationship with the LCDC has been enhanced by regular strategic discussions with the LCDC SICAP Subgroup and the relationships built with the Local Authority Staff. A total of €1.6 million was invested in social inclusion activities in 2016.

LEADER 2014-2020

The closing dates for the first call for project submissions under LEADER were Friday 20th January and Friday 27th January for areas covered by South Kerry Development Partnership (SKDP) & North, East & West Kerry Development (NEWKD) respectively. At the Local Action Group meeting of 16th January the evaluation committees for the three implementing partners SKDP, NEWKD & IRD Duhallow were ratified. The evaluation committees bring experience from business, tourism, agriculture, environment, local government and the community sectors.

Tourism Development Unit

Taste Kerry

The Taste Kerry Food Trail, which includes several food and drink producers, bars, restaurants, accommodation providers, retailers, farmers markets and food festivals throughout the county, where local Kerry produce can be enjoyed, will be officially launched on the 8th March 2017. The Tourism Unit has worked closely with Taste Kerry on their re-branding, website launch and food trail development to ensure an enhanced experience for visitors to the county.

Skellig Coast Visitor Experience Development Plan

The Skellig Coast Visitor Experience Development Plan and Skellig Coast Tourism Network were launched in Ballinskelligs in January 2017. Kerry County Council's Tourism Unit will be working closely with the network to develop a strategic plan to broaden appeal and increase dwell time in the region by developing compelling and motivating attractions/experiences for our national and international visitors.

Water, Environment, Fire & Library Services Directorate

Water Services

Breanlee Water Supply Scheme

In January Irish Water approved funding of €900,000 to replace 7.5Km of 150MM diameter old and deficient water mains from Glencuttane to Ardmoniel on the Breanlee Water Supply Scheme.

Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme

Irish Water have lodged a planning application to develop a new Sewerage Scheme for the village of Kilcummin, Co Kerry which will have major benefits for the local environment whilst also facilitating future development in the area.

The project involves the construction of a new pumping station and all of the additional infrastructure needed to connect Kilcummin to the Killarney Wastewater network at Derreen. This project will ensure that the local environment is protected by improving the quality of groundwater and facilitating an improvement in the quality of water in the River Deenagh and Lough Leane. It will also allow for future residential and commercial development within the area.”

In conclusion the Chief Executive highlighted that works are ongoing at Plunkett Street, Killarney. This involves a significant investment from own resources by the Council. She advised members that Kerry County Council is acquiring a hectare of land from St. Brendan's Trust at Balloonagh for the provision of social housing for the elderly and people with disabilities.

Cllr. D. Quigg extended his good wishes to the Glenbeigh/Glencar football team on their All Ireland success. The construction of 12 houses at Ardmoniel, Killorglin was included in the Housing Capital Programme and it was decided to add an additional 2 houses and this has delayed construction. He expressed concern that this development is not mentioned in the Chief Executive's Report as there are a large number of people in Mid Kerry on the housing waiting list. Cllr. Quigg then referred to the South Kerry Greenway which is vital for South Kerry and stated he hoped it would be fast tracked as this area needs regeneration.

¹Cllr. P. Daly welcomed the purchase of land for social housing at Balloonagh and added he understood there would be a housing element to the development of the Denny site. He welcomed the transitional properties for homeless persons as some people have been living in Arlington Lodge for between 5 and 8 years and this is not suitable accommodation for more than 6 months.

Cllr. D. Grady welcomed the increase of €3.3m in funding allocated for non-national roads together with the commencement of construction of the 20 houses in Killarney and the transitional properties for the homeless. He asked that appropriate accommodation would be provided in Killarney to ensure when families become homeless children do not have to be taken out of school. In conclusion Cllr. Grady welcomed progress on Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen welcomed the increase in funding for local and regional roads and he called on the Department to allow local authorities to use discretionary funding to repair bridges. He asked that Killowen Bridge and the bridge at Caherciveen in particular would be repaired as they were damaged by flooding. Cllr. Connor-Scarteen welcomed progress on the South Kerry Greenway and he asked that the CPO process would be accelerated if possible.

Cllr. N. Foley welcomed the acquisition of land at Balloonagh for social housing and the funding of €400,000 for the Tralee/Fenit route. Progress on Taste Kerry has been hugely important and she acknowledged the commitment to it. Cllr. Foley stated the recent Annual Awards Event was a fantastic success and she acknowledged the substantial work by the staff of Corporate Services that went into it.

Cllr. B. Cronin welcomed the contract signing for the 20 houses at Park, Killarney as these houses are vital for the Killarney MD. He welcomed progress on the Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme and noted that the planning application was lodged with the Planning Department the previous week. He understood from official for Irish Water that it is planned that this project will be completed by February 2018. Cllr. Cronin asked that any homes on the route would be given the opportunity to connect to the new scheme. In conclusion Cllr. Cronin

¹ See Page 9 of March Minutes for clarification

complimented the elected members for the Killarney MD on approving the Part VIII for the new cemetery for Killarney.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae welcomed the progress on Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme and she asked that the road would be improved once the scheme is completed. She welcomed the signing of the contract for the 20 houses in Killarney where there is a serious housing crisis and it is virtually impossible to get houses to rent.

Cllr. N. Kelleher welcomed the proposed 20 houses for Killarney and the fact that construction will commence shortly as it is very difficult to get rental properties in Killarney. He asked when the new Killarney MD Plan would be presented to members and will it be brought to MD or full Council.

Mr. M. Scannell stated the Killarney MD Plan will involve a variation of the Kerry County Development Plan and the Draft Killarney MD Plan must be adopted by members of Killarney MD. It is planned to bring the Draft Plan to members in May.

Cllr. M. Gleeson welcomed the allocation of €120,000 from Government for the Cultural Centre in Killarney and the matching funding from Kerry County Council. This facility together with Áras Phadraig will bring great enrichment to the town. He also welcomed the proposed enhancement works to Plunkett Street which will add to the enjoyment of the town and he asked that these works would be completed as speedily as possible with the minimum disruption. In conclusion Cllr. Gleeson stated he hoped the South Kerry Greenway would progress speedily.

Cllr. J. Sheahan congratulated Glenbeigh/Glencar on their fantastic victory in the AIB All-Ireland Junior Club Football Championship the previous day. He welcomed progress on Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme and stated he hoped it would proceed without delay. Cllr. Sheahan welcomed the signing of the contract for the 20 houses at Chestnut Drive and added that a lot of social housing is required in Killarney to meet demand. He asked if the Council owns other land in Killarney. The granting of permission for the new burial ground at Knockeenduv is welcome but he believed there is still scope to have a burial ground at Aghadoe.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae asked when the LCDC will meet to allocate the first round of LEADER funding as applications were submitted a number of months ago and applicants want to know if they have been successful or not. He asked when work will commence on the road in Rossbeigh. Cllr. Healy-Rae stated his views on the South Kerry Greenway are well known and in Waterford and Mayo they did not resort to CPO. In his opinion the CPO could delay the project for a long time and the project will not have the good will of the landowners.

Cllr. R. Beasley welcomed the construction of four houses at Lixnaw but highlighted that more houses are needed as there are over 600 qualified applicants on the housing list in the area.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty welcomed the additional allocation of €3.3m for local and regional roads even though it falls far short of what is required. He asked if any additional funding was received for bridges. Cllr. Culloty also welcomed the funding for the Tralee/Fenit route which will accommodate Liebherr Cranes. The preparation of the new Killarney Municipal District Plan is welcome and the fact that it will be presented to members by May. There is a serious shortage of housing in Killarney and the 20 houses at Park will go some way to addressing this problem. Cllr. Culloty thanked St. Brenan's Trust for their dealings with the Council to-date. In conclusion Cllr. Culloty welcomed the proposed enhancement works at Plunkett Street.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the construction of houses at Ardmoniel, Killorglin is included in the Capital Programme and it is hoped to go to tender early in 2018. Progress on the South Kerry Greenway has been significant and it is being given priority due to its importance for the county. She advised members that it was a difficult decision to proceed to CPO. She welcomed the passing of the Part VIII for the new burial ground in Killarney which is very important for the Killarney MD.

17.02.20.04 Dates for Meetings

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Moloney, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was agreed to hold the March Ordinary Meeting on Monday 27th March 2017.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. P. McCarthy, SECONDED by Cllr. B. Cronin it was agreed to hold the April Ordinary Meeting on Monday 24th April 2017.

17.02.20.05 2015 Performance Indicator Report for Kerry County Council

Mr. M. O'Donoghue referred members to his detailed report dated 13th February 2017 on this item which was circulated.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney it was agreed to note the 2015 Performance Indicator Report for Kerry County Council.

17.02.20.06 Change to nominee to the Regional Health Forum South

Mr. L. Quinlan referred members to his report dated 14th February 2017 on this item which was circulated.

On the PROPOSAL OF Cllr. N. Kelleher, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney it was agreed that Cllr. J.F. Flynn would replace Cllr. M. Kennelly on the Regional Health Forum South.

17.02.20.07 Change to nominee to the Southern Regional Assembly

Mr. L. Quinlan referred members to his report dated 14th February 2017 on this item which was circulated.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. N. Kelleher it was agreed that Cllr. T. McEllistram would replace Cllr. M. O'Shea on the Southern Regional Assembly.

17.02.20.08 Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership Draft Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022

Mr. M. Scannell referred members to the Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership Draft Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022 which was circulated. This 5 year Plan sets out the structure of Kerry Local Sports Partnership and he added that it is a sub structure of the LCDC. He briefed the meeting in detail on the Draft Plan under the following headings:

- Structure
- Vision
- Role
- Strategic themes and goals
- Actions
- Key principles
- Partnership
- Key strengths

In conclusion Mr. Scannell informed the meeting that Mr. Jimmy Deenihan was recently appointed Chair of the Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership and the Draft Plan is presented to Council for approval.

Cllr. M. Gleeson welcomed Mr. J. Deenihan as Chair of the Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership and stated he has a life long commitment to sport. He referred to Page 13 of the Draft Plan where it stated it aims “To assist primary school children to learn how to cycle on road in a safe and appropriate manner” and he highlighted that the vast majority of roads outside schools are dangerous. He called on all Sports Partnerships in the country to address this problem.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty complimented Ms. C. Carrig and Ms. M. Lane who manage the Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership and he welcomed Mr. J. Deenihan as its Chair who is very enthusiastic and appreciates the importance of the work done by the Partnership.

Cllr. P. Daly stated the Swim a Mile programme represents excellent value for money and the run in the Park which they organise is very successful with over 500 people taking part each week in the Town Park. Cllr. Daly called for the development of additional walkways around the town for the benefit of the local community.

17.02.20.09 Approval of strategic policies and plans for Kerry County Museum for accreditation purposes

Mr. M. Scannell referred members to the report, policies and plans for the Kerry County Museum which were circulated.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. R. Beasley it was agreed to approve the strategic policies and plans for Kerry County Museum which were presented for accreditation purposes under the Museum Standards Programme. These are the Mission Statement, Collection Policy, Disposal Policy, Loan Policy, Strategic Management Plan, One Year Implementation Plan and Two Year Financial Plan, Disaster Plan, Care of Collections Strategy, Exhibition Policy and Education Policy.

17.02.20.10 Report on the Quality of Life SPC

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Kelleher, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Kennelly it was agreed to note Cllr. N. Kelleher's written report on the Quality of Life SPC which was circulated.

17.02.20.12 Summary of proceedings at Conferences/Seminars and Training Events

On the PROPOSAL OF Cllr. J. Moloney, SECONDED by Cllr. S. Locke it was agreed to note the following reports on behalf of the Kerry County Council delegates that attended in accordance with Section 142(5)(f) of the Local Government Act 2001:

- (a) Conference on the theme "Auditing & Governance in Local Government Part 2" which was held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 10th to 12th June 2016 by Cllr. N. Kelleher.
- (b) Meeting of the Policing Authority & Chairpersons of Joint Policing Committees held in Dublin on the 13th July 2016 by Cllr. N. Kelleher.
- (c) Meeting of the Policing Authority held in Dublin on the 8th September 2016 by Cllr. N. Kelleher.
- (d) Annual Meeting of the Irish Public Bodies Insurance Forum held in Kilkenny on the 5th October 2016 by Cllr. N. Kelleher.

- (e) Tourism Economic Forum held in Killarney on the 25th November 2016 by Cllr. N. Kelleher.

17.02.20.13 Approval for the opening of Tenders

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Kelleher, SECONDED by Cllr. P. McCarthy it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Dingle 2017 – Adult Exercise Equipment at Dingle Harbour – Closing date: Friday 3rd February 2017 at 4pm.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. McCarthy, SECONDED by Cllr. P. McCarthy it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Kenmare 2017 – Outdoor Fitness Equipment at Kenmare Pier – Closing date: Friday 10th February 2017 at 4pm.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. T. O’Brien, SECONDED by Cllr. T. Ferris it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the construction of Housing Scheme (15 units) as Part of the Mitchel’s Boherbee Regeneration Area, Tralee – Closing date: Monday 20th February 2017 at 12 noon.
- (d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. R. Beasley, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Lucid it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the Supply, installation and commissioning of pipe network and ancillary works at Clanmaurice GWS at Feans, Causeway – Closing date: Monday 20th February 2017 at 1pm.
- (e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. Quigg, SECONDED by Cllr. P. McCarthy it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Tenant Purchase Scheme Programme 2016 – Panel of Valuers – Closing date: Friday 24th February 2017 at 4pm.

17.02.20.14 Notices of Motion

The Cathaoirleach called on Cllr. R. Beasley to move Notice of Motion No. 27.

27. Availability of respite care in North Kerry

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

To ask Kerry County Council to call on Minister McGrath, to immediately address the issues facing families in the North of the County, who have neither access to residential nor respite care for their loved ones. This Council also calls on the HSE to immediately make available respite at a property purchased for that purpose last July.

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

Cllr. R. Beasley called on all members to support his motion regarding the lack of respite services in North Kerry for people with an intellectual learning disability. It is beyond comprehension that in 2017 parents are still experiencing emotional, mental and physical exhaustion due to the lack of respite services. Parents who feel they are getting older and are worried about their children who need 24 hour care 365 days a year need facilities while buildings are lying idle because staff have not been employed. This will not solve this problem and if it was not for the volunteers, all the voluntary services provided in this country and those who fundraise and provide services which the statutory services have never provided the situation would be worse. HIQUA are closing down older facilities that need renovation and these are never replaced. These facilities should never be closed until alternative accommodation is provided.

Many parents are still very concerned regarding what will happen with St. Mary of the Angels in the coming years. Cllr. Beasley called for the staffing and opening of all premises that are available from funding that has been collected by volunteers and voluntary groups. All Kerry TDs were meeting with Minister Finian McGrath the following day to impress on him the importance of providing more respite beds in Kerry as this affects all of Kerry and not just North Kerry. In conclusion Cllr. Beasley asked what plans the HSE have for St. Mary of the Angels in the long term.

Cllr. Kennelly **SECONDED** the motion and stated Kerry Parents and Friends who deal with people with intellectual disabilities across the county have recently held public meetings to demonstrate that the lack of funding in the respite sector is causing unreal heart break for these families. In Kerry there are currently only 12 respite beds and this is not enough. In Killarney alone there is only one respite bed available over the weekends and 20 people are looking for this one bed. In July 2016 the HSE bought a 4 Bed house in Kilmeany, Kilmorna in Listowel but they cannot operate this wonderful service due to a lack of State funding. This house would alleviate the issues that these people face. At a recent meeting parents wept while expressing their fears for their loved ones into the future. The meeting held the previous Thursday night was very emotional and very moving. These people are being cared for at home by their families saving the State large amounts of money.

Minister Finian McGrath has acknowledged that there is a problem with respite care in Kerry. Cllr. Kennelly called for the support of all members for this motion and that Kerry County Council would call on Minister McGrath and the Minister for Health, Simon Harris to provide emergency funding for this 4 Bed house in Listowel to operate as a Respite Care Centre for the whole of Kerry. He asked that a letter would issue to the Ministers immediately as all TDs were meeting with Minister McGrath the following day in Dublin. The correspondence from

Kerry County Council will show that the members and management of Kerry County Council fully support that funding has to be secured for this vital service.

The Cathaoirleach also supported the motion and commended both councillors on their motions.

1. Provision of a Stroke Unit at Kerry University Hospital

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

That the HSE would inform the Council if University Hospital Kerry has, in compliance with the National Clinical Programme, put in place a Stroke Unit in order to standardise care provision for patients and that it would further inform if the full complement of Geriatricians and Allied Health Profession resources are in place. As I have been highlighting the need for a fully developed and adequately staffed Stroke Unit for well over a decade it is high time that the HSE put in place a Unit capable of affording equality of treatment for Stroke sufferers in Kerry that is on a par with what is available elsewhere in Éire.

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

Cllr. M. Gleeson read the following into the record of the meeting:

“For many years I have been seeking to have a Stroke Unit established in University Hospital Kerry. I have been doing so because Stroke is an ever-present reality and one in 5 of the population will endure Stroke. The effects of Stroke can be devastating for an individual and for the person's immediate relatives.

It is only fair to state that there has been considerable advances made in that regard in Kerry University Hospital since I first spoke on the matter over a decade ago. But there is still some way to go before the ideal is achieved.

The long- term effects of Stroke can very often be determined by 3 factors [1] the speed in which the victim is got to hospital and [2] the speed with which treatment begins plus and [3] the nature of the treatment available in the hospital. Depending on Stroke type the availability of Thrombolysis clot bursting capacity in the hospital then much possible long- term damage can be prevented.

I am by way of this motion asking the HSE and Kerry University Hospital the following:

A: Has the Hospital got the required number of Geriatricians?

B: Has the hospital got a Clinical Nurse Manager for Stroke?

C: Has the hospital got all of the necessary Allied Health Professionals namely Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language experts?

D: Are there adequate Physiotherapy services?

E: Has the Median Time from presentation to admission significantly improved to nearer the National average? How many patients over the past year have waited longer than 3 hours for the commencement of treatment i.e. from the time the Stroke was suffered- presuming fairly prompt admission time?

Has Staffing Resource levels reached the required level to allow for the establishment of a Dedicated Stroke Unit? If not are there any real prospects of that becoming a reality.

Colleagues Stroke will unfortunately be a personal reality for at least 7 of us and of our community. It is important that that we have standards of care in our county that accord with the very highest International Standards. We in Kerry are entitled to a level of post Stroke care that is on a par with the very best that is available elsewhere in the country and we have to continue to strive to ensure that it is available 24 hours per day and 365 days per year.”

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECONDED the motion.

Notice of Motion No. 3 was moved by Cllr. J.J. Culloty.

3. Compilation of a skills database

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

That Kerry County Council under the leadership of our Economic Development Officer and in co-operation with any other necessary agencies, seek to compile a skills database unique to the towns and villages in our County to be used as part of a marketing tool to attract potential companies and businesses to our County.

The following reply issued:

The availability of a suitably skilled workforce is one of the key drivers in attracting employers to cities and regions throughout the world. It is also one of the major attractions of major cities which have a large existing pool of talent employed in similar industries and which have a pipeline of new graduates from universities within the area. The compilation of a skills data-base has been used to good effect in both Sneem and Dingle and has resulted in attracting employers to look at these areas as potential locations for home working or as a more significant base of employment. Starwood Hotels is an example of how the existence of a skills audit attracted an industry initially to Sneem, which eventually found a permanent base in Kenmare. Kerry County Council continues to work with the Sneem community together with SKDP in the provision of a permanent hub for future employment opportunities.

The development of comprehensive current skills data-bases across the County is extremely challenging and will require significant inputs across a range of agencies. The Council are exploring, through the local interagency

task group in conjunction with ITT, Kerry ETB, the Local Development Agencies, the IDA and EI, all the avenues that can be pursued in identifying potential talent available to employers.

There are significant programmes currently underway in the county in ensuring that the necessary skills are available to existing employers within the county, through partnerships between employers and both the ITT and Kerry ETB. These training programmes are essential to ensure the continued growth of established industry in the county. The Regional Skills Forum, covering both Cork & Kerry, currently being chaired by Brid McElligott from ITT is working in partnership to facilitate structured dialogue between enterprise sectors & education & training providers focused on identifying skills requirements and building customised solutions responsive to regional business needs.

Kerry must use this model to market itself not only on a village, town or even county basis but as a regional location, that has access to a comprehensive regional skills base, which includes the graduates of Universities and Institutes of technology both in Cork and Limerick as well as the Institute of Technology Tralee. Equally important for the long term sustainable development of the County is attracting graduates back to the county, who may have Kerry links, or a wish to live in a high quality environment. The establishment of the Kerry SciTech portal to showcase science and technology jobs and employers in County Kerry is an important tool in this area. The marketing campaign for the County in conjunction with the IDA will also be a critical in both attracting skills and companies to the county.

4. Call to suspend consideration of all solar farm applications until regulations or specific planning guidelines are in place

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

That this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, Simon Coveney, to suspend consideration of all solar farm applications, until regulations or specific planning guidelines are put in place.

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

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated it is unfair that guidelines for solar farm developments are not in place so that if there are problems it can be proved whether or not the development meets the criteria set out in the Guidelines.

Cllr. M. Kennelly **SECONDED** the motion.

5. Lodging of applications for planning permission for proposed urban walkways

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

That this Council will appoint an Engineer immediately to lodge applications for planning permission for proposed urban walkways in the County.

The following reply issued:

The Capital Infrastructure Unit within Kerry County Council is the section responsible for the design, planning and procurement of walkways throughout the County including the urban areas. The section is currently involved in progressing the South Kerry Greenway, Tralee Smarter Travel, The North Kerry Line from Listowel to the County Bounds and also Tralee to Fenit. Once these projects are completed through the design and planning stage other identified projects will be progressed and subject to identified national funding programmes.

Cllr. P. Daly noted that a decision on the CPO for the South Kerry Greenway will not be made until 29th May 2017 and he asked in the interim that planning applications for proposed urban walkways would be prepared and lodged. Local communities want walkways and pupils attending secondary schools should be encouraged to use exiting walkway to travel to school. The planning applications for the Tralee Fenit walkway, the walkway to Ballyseedy and also the Big River walkway have not been lodged but there is huge demand in the area for these facilities.

Cllr. D. Nolan SECONDED the motion.

6. E-Parking in Kerry

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

That Kerry County Council introduce E-Parking in Kerry whereby motorists can pay for parking by using their phones.

The following reply issued:

It is proposed to examine alternative options for the payment of parking charges, including by mobile phone, in 2017.

Cllr. B. O'Connell welcomed the reply and pointed out that it has been rolled out by other local authorities and it is a success.

Cllr. D. Grady SECONDED the motion.

7. Call to introduce a national Taking in Charge Scheme for estates

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

To call on the Minister to reintroduce this year a National Taking in Charge Scheme for estates which are critically in need of being fully finished and completed.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council has made substantial progress over the last number of years in addressing issues identified in unfinished housing estates across the County. Works have been carried out in the most problematic estates which have greatly improved the quality of life for the residents living in these estates. We will continue to work with developers and pursue outstanding bonds in order to address issues in the remaining estates.

The introduction of a National Taking in Charge Initiative for Residential Estates (NTICI) in 2016 to accelerate the taking in charge process was most welcome. Kerry County Council spent our allocation of €362,652 to carry out works on 18 estates under this initiative in 2016.

We are currently preparing a submission for funding for 2017 should such a fund become available again this year. In addition to this we work with developers and bondsmen to ensure that works continue to be carried out in estates and that they are brought up to the required acceptable standard. It is expected that a further 15 estates will be taken in charge during 2017.

Cllr. J. Finucane welcomed the reply and added that the county benefitted from the €362,000 received in 2016. This was not seen as a roll on scheme but it is important that it is continued. He called on the Department to provide funding for this scheme in 2017 and to notify details of allocations early in the year.

Cllr. L. Purtill **SECONDED** the motion.

8. Call to make Kerry the safest county in which to drive

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

That Kerry County Council's Management and Members would take the lead and put in place initiatives to make Kerry the safest County in which to drive on the roads, to work to radically reduce the number of road accidents and fatalities and to work closely with all other agencies to make the County's roads the safest in Ireland.

The following reply issued:

The Council adopted a Road Safety Strategy 2016-2020 at the December meeting, which is an inter-agency plan, targeted at reducing the number of serious injuries and fatalities from road traffic accidents in the county. The Council is the lead authority on 28 of the 49 actions identified in the Plan for implementation, in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, the Road Safety Authority, the T.I.I. and the H.S.E.

Cllr. M. Kennelly read the following into the record of the meeting:

“I am asking that Kerry County Council would initiate a media campaign either on our own or with all other stakeholders to make Kerry’s roads the safest in Ireland. Everyday we meet all different kinds of road users, car, bus, trucks, motor cyclists, cyclists and pedestrians and all of these are vulnerable road users. In our own Road Safety Plan 2016 – 2020 our Mission Statement is to reduce the incidence and severity of crashes, road user fatalities and injury on Kerry roads by education, engineering, enforcement and evaluation.

From 2011 to 2015, 49 people died on our roads in Kerry. This number is just too high, so with a media campaign lets get every person that goes on our roads in Kerry AWARE of all the dangers facing them. We need to highlight the most common distractions that cause accidents. Driving a vehicle is a lot of responsibility especially where there are passengers and other road users at risk. Mobile phone usage is now one of the highest causes of distraction-related car accidents, speed, drink driving and one of the top distractions is actually eating and having a beverage while driving.

In relation to speed camera signs I am proposing that these signs be painted in highly florescent and reflective colours. The object of this exercise is to make it really obvious that there is a Camera there so there is no excuse for speeding through that area. Overall we as drivers need to understand that we are not the best drivers around, that we do make mistakes and that we share the roads with others that also make mistakes. Anything we can do to make the results of these mistakes less fatal is a good thing. These are a few statistics that if addressed by all road users in this county we can become the safest county in Ireland for all our road users.”

Cllr. L. Purtill SECONDED the motion.

9. Call for installation of noise monitors near windfarms

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

In light of the High Court ruling made late last year in favour of the residents affected by noise pollution from wind turbines in Banteer Co. Cork will Kerry County Council be installing noise monitors near windfarms in Kerry.

The following reply issued:

All planning permission granted for wind farm developments contain a condition that requires the carrying out of noise monitoring by the developer. Members have recently been circulated with a copy of our newly developed protocol for dealing with noise complaints. This has been prepared having regard to the National Protocol for Dealing with Noise Complaints for Local Authorities. Any complaints received in respect of noise pollution from wind farms will be dealt with in accordance with this protocol.

Cllr. J. Moloney stated in Banteer residents took a case against a developer who admitted liability. He asked if Kerry County Council has equipment and personnel to monitor these developments. There are a lot of wind farm developments in Kerry and he hoped the Council is in a position to protect local residents.

Cllr. M. Kennelly SECONDED the motion.

Mr. M. Scannell stated it is a condition of planning that all operators of wind farms are required to monitor noise and to make the information available to the local authority.

10. Call for the provision of facilities for skate boarders

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

Considering the numbers of young Kerry teenage skate boarders travelling to Cork and Limerick each month to make use of facilities provided by Local Authorities there, can Kerry County Council commit itself to developing appropriate facilities in this County.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council has been actively involved with local community groups in identifying potential sites and funding opportunities for Skate-Board Parks at a number of locations throughout the county. The costs associated with the development of these parks are considerable. It is proposed to submit an application under the current round of sports capital funding for a feasible project.

Cllr. T. Ferris stated over 20 years ago a plan for a skate park was developed and funding of €150,000 was allocated yet it was not developed. She met a representative group of young people from the county on this issue recently and they outlined that there are 20 skate boarders in Killarney, 20 in Tralee and a further 15 in Ballybunion who are pursuing their interest in this sport even though they don't have a suitable facility. They practice in underground car parks until they are moved on and they travel to Limerick and Cork to pursue their sport. Cork plan to develop their third such facility and she forwarded an image of what

the young people are looking for to management. They met with the Manager of the Sports Complex and the young people want an out of town centre venue. The Sports Complex has been identified by them as being a suitable location as there is a sports facility there already. They estimate it would cost €20,000 to €30,000 to develop a small facility and she asked that this would be actively pursued this year. There are a lot of facilities for young children and adults but there is nothing for teenagers.

Cllr. R. Beasley **SECONDED** the motion.

The Chief Executive stated the facility she had suggested would cost approximately €250,000 but if the young people want to develop a smaller facility she suggested they should apply for LEADER funding.

Cllr. Ferris stated the standard price for a skate park is €150,000 to €200,000 but Phase 1 could be a smaller project costing in the region of €30,000. If such a facility was in place they could then apply for LEADER funding as they could quantify the demand as it is difficult to quantify that when those involved use private property.

11. Provision of adequate facilities at Inch Beach

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

To ask the Operations Department are there any contingency plans in place for Inch Beach for 2017 in relation to:

- a) Increased parking
- b) Recreation and Amenity facilities
- c) A full time caretaker to observe the toilets and clean the beach on a daily basis.

The following reply issued:

As previously advised at the South & West MD meetings, parking facilities are being reviewed at Inch beach in advance of the 2017.

We are currently drafting a Beach Management Plan for Inch Beach, which will include optimizing existing car parking facilities, whilst complying with our requirements under the Blue Flag designation. This will also examine facilities for pedestrians gaining access to the beach, and measures to consolidate the existing sand dune system.

Options for the development of additional car parking will also be examined but members will be aware that there are significant constraints with the designation of the surrounding lands under the EU Habitats Directive.

The toilets on Inch beach will be open daily from the 21st March 2017 to the 23rd October 2017, as well as from the 16th to the 19th March (St. Patrick's Bank holiday weekend), over the October bank holiday weekend and from the 19th December to the 1st January 2018. Outside of this 33 week period and the 2 bank holiday weekends, the facilities will be opened on Sundays. The staffing requirements to manage the facility over this period are considered adequate.

Given the large number of such facilities in the county and other services that have to be provided, any proposals to extend such services can only be considered where it is cost effective, possibly with community engagement.

Cllr. M. O'Shea stated Inch beach is utilised every day of the year and in the summer adequate parking is not available making it dangerous. He called on management to liaise with the local community to put a plan in place for the beach. There is a lot of rubbish on the beach from the back wash and Cllr. O'Shea asked that a full time caretaker would be assigned to Inch for the summer season.

Cllr. D. McCarthy **SECONDED** the motion.

12. Call to make public services more user friendly

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen PROPOSED: That Kerry County Council call upon Government Agencies to make their services more user friendly, especially for older citizens. People also have concerns about the implementation of a multitude of services online in terms of confidentiality and fraud.

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

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen stated it is great to see progress in technology and innovation; however it should not come to the detriment of people that have difficulty coping with the changes. Older people often call to him seeking assistance in getting through to Government Departments or registering online for state services. Some people are embarrassed that they cannot cope with the technological changes and some get confused and forget Passwords etc.

So many services are now being pushed online it can be difficult to get to speak to an operator to resolve a problem over the phone. He was aware from his own work if he has an IT problem and he rings for assistance he is put through to a call centre in India and it is difficult to understand them and for them to understand him which is very frustrating. Whether it is to pay Motor Tax, LPT, ESB or accessing the services of various Government Departments he asked that public services are more mindful of service users and customers.

Cllr. Connor-Scarteen also called on organisers of the Dublin Tech Summit, which brings together global leaders in innovation technology and business, to make participants aware of the need to make their innovations more user friendly especially for older people.

13. Call to provide specialised footwear for a disabled constituent

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

That Kerry County Council call on the HSE and Minister for Health to grant without further delay, the necessary shoes for (details with Kerry County Council) which will significantly improve her quality of life having regard to her ongoing disability.

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

Cllr. R. Beasley stated he submitted this motion out of desperation at the failure of the HSE to supply custom made shoes for a 62 year old lady who applied for them in 2015. This specialized footwear is required by this lady to help with her mobility in carrying out everyday tasks. Cllr. Beasley called on the Minister for Health and the HSE to ensure these shoes are provided to this lady immediately.

Cllr. T. Ferris SECONDED the motion.

14. Call to implement a “National Post Office Support Week”

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

That the Government implement a "National Post Office Support Week" where everybody would be encouraged to visit their local Post Office on that week and explore the services that are available to the public. This Council in conjunction with An Post should lead the way by establishing one in Kerry this year. I suggest the week before St. Patrick's Day.

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

Cllr. P. McCarthy stated Post Offices are businesses and they survive on turnover and this depends on their customers. He asked if members and staff support their local Post Office as much as they can or indeed as much as they should. A National Post Office Support Week would allow people to familiarise themselves with the services provided by their local Post Office and with a publicity campaign it would bring more people into Post Offices and help maintain employment. Cllr. McCarthy called on all members to support his motion and he asked management to liaise with An Post to progress it.

Cllr. J. Finucane SECONDED the motion.

15. Call for a percentage of the National Broadcasting Licence to be ring fenced for local Radio Stations

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

That Kerry County Council write to the relevant Minister to request that a percentage of the money collected for the National Broadcasting License be ring fenced for local Radio Stations.

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

Cllr. D. McCarthy stated it is unfair that local Radio Stations do not get a percentage of the income from licence fees as they provide a vital service.

Cllr. D. Grady SECONDED the motion.

16. Granting of planning permission in rural areas

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

To ask Kerry County Council to review and rectify the Planning process that's constantly depriving applicants from getting Planning Permission in rural areas even though they are renting or living in the same area for a number of years. These people want to build a home which would be their permanent place of residence.

The following reply issued:

The assertion that the planning process is constantly depriving applicants from getting Planning Permission for dwellings in rural areas does not reflect the position on the ground.

In 2016 Kerry County Council granted Planning Permission for 193 out of 216 applications for one off rural housing. The remaining 23 applications were refused for a number of reasons including: traffic, visual amenity, effluent disposal and lack of local need.

As outlined in previous replies to similar notices of motion, the Planning Authority implements the rural settlement policy in the County Development Plan in accordance with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines issued by the Minister. The rural settlement policy as outlined previously characterises the county into three rural area types which reflect the ability of these areas to absorb additional one off houses.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae outlined the details of two cases she was familiar with and asked that the issues she raised would be reviewed having regard to the length of time the applicants were resident in the area.

Mr. M. Scannell advised members as stated in the reply 23 applications were refused in 2016 for a number of reasons including traffic, visual amenity and effluent disposal but just 3 of these related to the Settlement Policy. In weaker rural areas applicants must confirm that the house will be their permanent place of residence whereas there are stricter criteria for areas under strong urban pressure and these areas must be retained for people who need to live in the area.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae advised that the applicant was from the area yet he could not get permission.

The Cathaoirleach asked Cllr. Healy-Rae to discuss these cases further with Mr. Scannell after the meeting.

The Chief Executive highlighted that Mr. Scannell made an important point in that just 3 applications were refused on settlement grounds in 2016 and that the Settlement Policy had been debated at length by Council.

17. Call to open discussions with property/landowners in rural towns and villages to provide housing

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

Following the recent visit of Minister Simon Coveney, can the Management of Kerry County Council open discussions with property/landowners in our rural towns and villages with suitable qualified people in order to provide housing/apartments from vacant properties, particularly to cater for the vast amount of single applicants on our housing waiting lists.

The following reply issued:

At the recent Stakeholder Event the Minister outlined details of a 'Repair and Lease Scheme' which is currently on pilot in Waterford and Carlow County Councils. This Scheme is not yet available in Kerry but Government have committed to a national roll-out of this scheme at an early date in Q2 of 2017.

The final terms and conditions of the scheme remain to be determined so it is premature at this point to engage with potential property owners. When the Scheme is launched in Kerry appropriate advertisement of the Scheme will take place.

Currently there are a number of Schemes available to property owners who may have properties available - RAS (Rental Accommodation Scheme), Leasing and HAP.

The Council is willing to examine any property that may be available to Kerry County Council to use under the Leasing or RAS Schemes. However, currently these houses must satisfy the Minimum Standards for Private Rented Dwellings and the property owner must be able to provide a current Tax Clearance Certificate, BER Cert and relevant insurance. Any property owner who is interested in considering any of these options can telephone Ciara Keenan at 087-2258919 to discuss the matter further. Further details are also available under the Housing Section of our website.

The Housing Department is also interested in persons contacting us who have properties for sale throughout the County and these will be assessed on a case by case basis depending on our housing need in the area, the Purchase Price of the House and the cost of any repairs required to bring it up to our current standards. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has set unit ceiling costs for the acquisition of 1, 2 3 & 4 bedroom properties in Kerry and the Council cannot exceed these costs.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated existing properties should be renovated and this presents an opportunity to provide social housing in rural towns and villages. There is a substantial number of single applicants on the housing waiting list yet there is no construction programme to facilitate them. At the meeting with Minister Coveney he believed there was a strong possibility his Department would consider such a proposal to renovate derelict/unused houses and suitable serviced sites also. He asked what exactly is involved with the Repair and Lease Scheme and how can people benefit from it.

Cllr. M. Gleeson **SECONDED** the motion.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue advised members that the Repair and Leasing Initiative is an integral delivery mechanism and will enable local authorities, having identified appropriate vacant privately owned properties in their functional area, to enter into long-term lease arrangements with property owners. The RLI will be a new mechanism for local authorities to provide up-front grant aid to prospective landlords to meet reasonable renovation works to upgrade the properties to current rental standards. In return, such landlords will enter into cost efficient contractual arrangements under the Social Housing Current Expenditure Programme (SHCEP).

18. Call to introduce a Pension Scheme for CE Scheme supervisors

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

That we call on Minister Varadkar in the Department of Social Protection to ensure that there is a long overdue Pension Scheme introduced for CE Scheme supervisors.

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

Cllr. N. Moriarty stated the Labour Court recommended that CE Scheme supervisors should benefit from a Pension Scheme but this recommendation was not implemented. This is a critical issue for supervisors and should be pursued.

Cllr. N. Kelleher SECONDED the motion.

19. Call to reinstate a Dura Patcher to each Engineering Area

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

That Kerry County Council urgently reinstate a Dura Patcher to each Engineering Area.

The following reply issued:

The Council currently has 3 Dura – Patchers in operation, which are over 20 years old. Two other units have been taken out of operation in recent years, due to the significant repair costs required. The 3 units are used on a county wide basis but are not cost effective for use in some parts of the county, due to issues with bitumen storage and relatively long haulage distances, particularly in the south west.

We are carrying out an efficiency review of the Machinery Yard Operations, which includes a review of some of our ageing plant and our patching operations. It is envisaged that the review will be completed by March 2017.

The replacement of plant will require a substantial capital investment, with modern self propelled velocity patchers costing in excess of €250,000, and any investment will be subject to the procurement and operation of such equipment offering effective value for money.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae stated there was a dura patcher in each engineering area up to a few years ago and having regard to the needs in the areas and current practices due to lack of dura patchers he called on management to purchase additional dura patchers.

Cllr. J. Sheahan SECONDED the motion and Cllr. Healy-Rae's proposal.

The Chief Executive advised that an additional allocation of €700,000 was received for regional and local roads in 2017 and a dura patcher costs €250,000. She would like to be in a position to have a dura patcher for each engineering area but that is not possible. She highlighted that notwithstanding this, the Council has always completed the Roads Programme. While it would be desirable to repair all roads we must remain within Budget. In 2016 additional staff were employed from the additional €4m storm damage allocation but that was a once off allocation. Kerry County Council maintained its own resource contribution over the past number of years even though central Government

funding was reduced significantly. She also advised that adequate time must be given for the completion of the review of the Machinery Yard.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae acknowledged the good work done by the staff in the Operations Department but stated management should acknowledge the issues presented by elected members.

20. Condemnation of the trafficking of human organs

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

That this Council condemns the trafficking of human organs and calls for increased international co-operation to combat this.

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

Cllr. D. Quigg stated there is a black market for human organs. The EU has a policy on it yet the stories about vulnerable people being targeted and their organs being taken against their will are shocking.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion.

21. Call for further improvements to the N22

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

As the TII has recently excellently completed 3.5 Kms of resurfacing on the N22 from Darryraeg to the County Bounds, that it would now turn its urgently needed attention to the section of the N22 westwards from Glenflesk village to the turn off for Loughquittane [L.3015] where the surface continues to unravel rapidly and dangerously.

The following reply issued:

The selection of national road sections for pavement overlay is done by TII directly using a Pavement Condition System relying on test results to select priority areas. The TII will be contacted to establish where this section of road features on the priority list and every effort will be made to highlight the deficiencies in the current pavement with a view to expediting improvement works at this location.

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated at the May 2016 Council Meeting he presented photographs showed the poor condition of the N22. Following this 3½ km of the road was improved. However as you approach Killarney after the improved section the road is disintegrating and is a danger to all traffic and in particular cyclists. He called on TII to undertake improvements to the remaining 4km of the N22 as it is a vital link between Kerry and Cork/Waterford and Rosslaire.

Cllr. N. Kelleher SECONDED the motion.

22. Call to reinstate the second emergency ambulance in Killarney

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

That this Council write to the HSE, and the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, to request that the second emergency ambulance be reinstated in Killarney. At present, the ambulance service is constantly overstretched, and as a result, is putting people's lives at risk.

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

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated as a result of having just one emergency Ambulance in Killarney lives are being put at risk. The Killarney Ambulance covers Millstreet and Kenmare etc and while there is an Ambulance in Millstreet by day the Killarney Ambulance must cover North Cork by night. The Kenmare Ambulance is sometimes used for Killarney but that is too far away and as a result patients are waiting too long for an ambulance.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion.

23. Provision of safe drop off and collection at College Road, Castleisland

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

That Kerry County Council would prepare an application for 2017 Clár Funding for a Traffic Management Plan and provision of safe drop off and collection at College Road, Castleisland.

The following reply issued:

Unfortunately, Castleisland is not within the CLÁR designated area and therefore we are unable to make a submission for funding under this programme. However, we can examine the area to ascertain whether any specific measures can be utilised to improve traffic movements at school times in the area, and this will be considered in the development of the Municipal District Work programme for the coming year.

Cllr. B. O'Connell welcomed the reply and added that there is significant congestion in particular when the morning is wet at College Road. The Traffic Warden is not present at this time and he should be asked to be there at drop off and pick up times for the schools. He requested that a solution would be agreed with Gaelscoil Aogán where it may be possible to recess the wall. There are 3 schools within 150m on this road and it is imperative that the safety of children and parents is addressed at this location.

Cllr. J. Finucane SECONDED the motion.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae then moved Notice of Motion No. 32 as it also relates to this issue.

32. Call for funding for a Traffic Warden for the three schools at College Road, Castleisland

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

To ask Kerry County Council are they going to provide the funding for a Traffic Warden which has been promised for a long time for the three schools on College Road, Castleisland.

The following reply issued:

As previously advised to the members at the Killarney MD meetings, an additional traffic warden is being provided in the Killarney Municipal District, over the peak tourism season, particularly having regard to the effective management of parking in Killarney town and on the basis that such measures will be self financing. There are no plans to provide additional traffic wardens in Castleisland although a commitment was made to the Killarney MD members that consideration may be given to some random enforcement in the town, when the current traffic warden is not available.

Potential funding options for an extended traffic warden service in Castleisland can be considered and presented at a future MD meeting but this will require a commitment, in principal initially, from the members for the introduction of paid parking, as in Killarney town.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated in excess of 500 children attend the three schools on College Road and the speed of traffic on this road is frightening. In a reply to a notice of motion at a Killarney MD Meeting a commitment was given to provide a Traffic Warden.

Cllr. B. O'Connell **SECONDED** the motion.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan highlighted there is a Traffic Warden in Castleisland.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae again reiterated that a commitment was given to provide a Traffic Warden for the three schools.

Cllr. B. O'Connell stated it would be helpful if the existing Traffic Warden could be deployed to College Road in the mornings and afternoons.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan undertook to consider this option.

25. Demountable Units

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

That Management would confirm how many demountable units have been provided in the last two years and explain why such units remain as an option on Housing application forms when they are not being approved even where they are the most suitable solution.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council has provided no new Demountable Units in the last two years.

The Council has replaced 2 Demountable Units from existing stock in this period.

Kerry County Council has a number of demountable units in use in predominantly rural areas throughout the county. These have traditionally been used to meet a specific housing need in a particular area. They were generally used where no viable alternative housing option was available.

The principle of Social Housing is to provide sustainable social housing, to a specific standard, to meet the need of all our housing applicants and we continue to seek alternative long term solutions in all cases for occupants of demountable units provided by the Council.

Therefore, the provision of new demountable units, while they remain an option, are deemed appropriate only in very exceptional and limited cases.

Cllr. T. Ferris disagreed where there are exceptional needs that a demountable unit is provided. Because of the application form she felt she had misled people and they applied for a demountable unit when they are not available. If that is the case the option should not be included on the application form. Demountable units suit applicants of a certain age who will not move into a town or village yet they are living in properties that are below an acceptable standard.

Cllr. D. Nolan **SECONDED** the motion.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue stated he did not disagree with the views expressed by Cllr. Ferris. He pointed out that only in exceptional circumstances will a demountable unit be provided yet he agreed that in some cases it is the only option. Central government are not in favour of demountable units and as the funding for them is reduced they are not the ideal solution. He asked Cllr. Ferris to let him have the details of the specific case she was referring to.

26. Call to amend the Mortgage to Rent Scheme

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

To request the Minister for Housing, Mr. Simon Coveney to amend the Mortgage to Rent Scheme to ensure that no further evictions take place. This amendment to entail the compelling of all financial institutions to offer the home to the Local Authority at a discount price (minimum 25%) thus enabling the family to stay in their own homes, becoming Council tenants and if their circumstance change that they could purchase their home back under the Tenant Purchase Scheme. The discounted price would save these institutions legal costs but would give security of tenure to families in distress.

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

Cllr. J. Finucane stated for the months of December and January 88 applications for possession were before the Courts. He believed there was no need for repossession as the Banks sell the property for any price while an eviction costs the State €7,000. Even if the property was sold at a discounted price it would save the financial institutions legal costs. This represents an opportunity for the State to at least own an asset.

Cllr. N. Moriarty SECONDED the motion.

28. Funding for the Emergency & Hardship LIS

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

To ask the Director of Operations to make €150,000 available for the Emergency & Hardship Local Improvement Schemes and for this to be divided equally among the four Municipal Districts.

The following reply issued:

The allocation of funding for various work programmes is a matter for the members in the adoption of the annual Budget. There is no specific funding for such a programme and prior to the suspension of the Local Improvement Scheme in 2012, the monies were provided from the specific grant aid from the Department of Transport towards improvement works to private roads.

The current Emergency and Hardship scheme adopted by Council has been funded from Councillor's Allocations, initially because of the non provision of state funding in 2012, and since 2013, because of the very limited funding provided under the grants.

Taking into consideration the poor condition of the public road network, with over 52% of our local roads needing substantive grant aid to bring them up to a reasonable standard, and the very significant reduction in grant monies since 2008 (approximately 50% reduction), we are only in a position to provide €100,000 per annum towards the LIS programme.

The options that can be considered is to suspend the LIS scheme and allocate the funding for Emergency & Hardship cases only or for members to provide the funding from the Councillor's allocation, either at MD level or through a county wide provision.

This issue will be considered by the Operations SPC, where a more detailed report on the implications can be presented to the members.

Cllr. M. O'Shea stated there is no other source of funding for the Emergency and Hardship Scheme other than from discretionary funding and Councillors can no longer fund it. Improvement to some roads under this scheme cost upwards of €40,000. He called on the Director of Operations to make funding available for this scheme and if funding is not available that the Scheme would be suspended.

In response Mr. C. O'Sullivan clarified that the allocation of funding for the various roads programmes is a matter for the members. In the past funding was received under the LIS when a number of roads were improved each year. When this scheme was suspended the Transport SPC considered it and members agreed to fund the Emergency and Hardship Scheme from Councillors Allocations on a county wide basis as Dingle just had 3 members at that time. Mr. O'Sullivan undertook to bring this issue to the Operations SPC for further consideration. If members wish they can suspend the LIS and maintain the Emergency and Hardship Scheme but he highlighted that over half of local roads are in a bad condition.

Cllr. M. O'Shea agreed to refer this matter to the Operations SPC for review.

Cllr. D. Grady supported the motion and this suggestion.

Cllr. T. Ferris pointed out that some funding has already been committed for 2017.

Mr. O'Sullivan confirmed that is the case in some areas for Emergencies and Hardship only.

Cllr. B. Cronin suggested that the existing LIS should be suspended.

29. Delegation to meeting Minister for Justice and Court Services to demand the retention of a working Courthouse in Ashe Street

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

That this Council will lead a delegation, including some local business representatives and lawyers, to meet the Minister for Justice and Court Services in order to inform them that we demand the retention of a working Courthouse in Ashe Street, because we consider that the vibrancy of Tralee Town Centre is a priority for the whole County.

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

Cllr. P. Daly stated Tralee Town Centre is improving and there was excellent feedback following the Mayo Kerry game recently. The new Lidl Store will open in Edward Street shortly which will revitalise that area. The Courthouse should remain in Ashe Street as it has been there for 160 years. He PROPOSED that council officials would enter into discussions with local users/businesses with a view to arranging a meeting with the Minister for Justice regarding this very important issue.

Cllr. S. Locke SECONDED the motion.

30. Clarification on the regulations in place for tourists who travel to Ireland for hunting and shooting

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

That Kerry County Council seek clarification from relevant Government Bodies regarding the regulations that are in place for tourists who travel to this Country for hunting and shooting.

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

Cllr. D. McCarthy clarified that he was not opposed to hunting or shooting but he wanted clarification on the regulations governing tourists who come to the country for hunting and shooting. What can they shoot, what is prohibited and who regulates it.

Cllr. D. Grady SECONDED the motion.

31. Call to accommodate Cremation Urns in burial grounds

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council accommodate Cremation Urns in burial grounds throughout Kerry.

The following reply issued:

It is an objective of the Kerry County Development plan 2015 - 2021 to "Facilitate a special section for ashes, such as a garden or a wall of ashes type of development in burial grounds."

Facilities for Cremation Urns can be considered in any new graveyard developments in the County.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen stated he wanted Kerry County Council to provide memorial walls in burial grounds in the main towns of the county given the increase in demand for cremation nationally and the shortage of burial spaces.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty **SECONDED** the motion.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated it was intended that the Operations SPC would undertake a fundamental review of burial grounds and this proposal can form part of the review.

33. Request to officials of the NPWS to attend a Council Meeting

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

In light of the danger which deer from the National Park are causing on our public roads, and damage being done to fencing and property both in rural and urban areas, can I ask Kerry County Council to immediately request the Officials of the NPWS to attend a Council meeting.

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

Cllr. B. Cronin stated the situation is gone out of control in Fossa which is a national road and deer are causing accidents. The fencing at Tomies is destroyed and they are eating the grass in silage ground and damaging properties. He asked that officials from the NPWS would be invited to attend the March Council Meeting to account for the out of control deer numbers.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae **SECONDED** the motion.

The Cathaoirleach stated if the Officials from the NPWS will not attend a Council Meeting they should be requested to meet with a deputation from the Council.

Cllr. B. Cronin agreed with this suggestion.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae stated he wanted to be on that deputation.

34. Call for the OPW to address Council

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

That the OPW be invited to address us in the Chambers and that we have an opportunity to engage with them on the many aspects of their work in the County that impact on the economic and social life of all.

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

Cllr. N. Moriarty stated the OPW website is good but councillors or the general public have no input into decision making by the OPW. They should take the views of elected members on board as they represent the people of the county.

Cllr. B. Cronin SECONDED the motion.

35. Call for follow up with the Minister for Housing in relation to the Tenant Purchase Scheme

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

That Kerry County Council write to Minister Simon Coveney, to follow on from our meeting with him about the Tenant Purchase Scheme, where over 80% of applicants do not qualify.

The following reply issued:

The Department recently opened a public consultation process on the operation of the Tenant Purchase Scheme. The closing date for submissions was Friday 10th February.

The Council has made a submission to this Public Consultation Process. This submission was based on the views of the Housing SPC and submissions made by individual Members.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae welcomed the making of a submission by Kerry County Council and he added that he also made a submission. Some tenants have the finance to buy their local authority house but because of the criteria they do not qualify.

Cllr. S. Locke SECONDED the motion.

Cllr. D. Grady suggested that a deputation should be sought with Minister Coveney on this issue.

36. Implications of BREXIT

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

In light of Brexit, and what it may and may not mean for Ireland as a Country, that this Council supports a non return to hard border controls on this Island and calls on the Minister for Foreign Affairs to adopt a tough stance in this regard going forward and to hold an open conference where discussions can be held about uniting this Island that our friends, neighbours, relations and fellow Irish men and women laid down their lives for throughout the course of history to try and achieve.

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

Cllr. D. Quigg highlighted that he grew up in a border town where British soldiers patrolled the streets. That was not a normal childhood and children could not wear their GAA club colours. He asked that a Conference would be held around talks on a united Ireland.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen **SECONDED** the motion.

The Cathaoirleach informed members that he proposed to invite MEPs and Senators to attend a Council meeting and they can be asked to comment on the potential impact of BREXIT on the country.

Cllr. M. Gleeson asked that MEPs from Northern Ireland would also be invited to attend the meeting.

17.02.20.15 Correspondence – Conferences and Seminars

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. Cronin, **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Finucane it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cllr. N. Moriarty at the SICAP event held in Cork on Tuesday 14th February 2017.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, **SECONDED** by Cllr. B. Cronin it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. J. Sheahan at the Conference on the theme “Civic Leadership and the Councillor” to be held in Wexford from 24th to 26th February 2017.

Cllr. Sheahan was nominated to report back to Council on this Conference.

- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. Cronin, **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Lucid it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllrs. Beasley, Spring, O’Brien, Kennelly, P. McCarthy, Sheahan, Cronin, Culloty, Moriarty, Grady and Lucid at the Conference on the theme “The Fair Deal Scheme – What’s the deal with Nursing Home Care” to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth from 10th to 12th March 2017.

Cllr. Kennelly was nominated to report back to Council on this Conference.

17.02.20.16 Correspondence General

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

Letter dated 22 nd December 2016 from the HSE in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to St. Finian's Campus, Killarney.
Email dated 18 th January 2017 from An Post in response to a request from Kerry County Council to reopen the Post Box at Listry Cross.
Letter dated 19 th January 2017 from the Department of Social Protection in response to resolutions from Kerry County Council in relation to proposed changes to the Rural Social Scheme.
Letter dated 23 rd January 2017 from Iarnród Éireann in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the direct Kerry Dublin train service.
Letter dated 23 rd January 2017 from the DHPCLG in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to guidelines for solar farms.
Email dated 13 th February 2017 from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the delivery of high speed broadband services.
Letter dated 5 th February 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to LEADER funding.
Letter dated 20 th January 2017 from Tipperary County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling on the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to amend/increase the planning exemptions for Solar Photovoltaic energy production for residential and non residential buildings etc.
Letter dated 9 th February 2017 from Sligo County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling on the Taoiseach and Finance Minister to make a statement setting out a work programme on how it will implement its commitments to Credit Unions.
Letter dated 10 th February 2017 from Donegal County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority backing proposals to have the Irish Coast Guard recognised the same as the other main emergency services.

Cllr. M. Gleeson referred to the reply from the HSE in relation to the buildings and the lands at St. Finians in Killarney which states "*In relation to the remainder of the campus, the HSE has asked Kerry County Council if it offers any strategic opportunities to them in relation to Kerry County Council requirements.*" Cllr. Gleeson stated this merits a full discussion at a Council meeting.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated he submitted a notice of motion on this to the HSE.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue advised members that Ms. McAllen and he met the HSE in the past two weeks. They must consolidate their plans but there will be opportunities for Kerry County Council in relation to parts of the portfolio. He undertook to revert to the Killarney MD with an update in due course.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated he requested the HSE to provide a facility for Alzheimer patients on these lands and he presumed the remainder of the land would be sold.

Cllr. B. Cronin welcomed the update and stated the lands at St. Finians would be very suitable for housing. It is important that negotiations are progressed.

17.02.20.18 Any other business

Cllr. P. Daly moved the following Emergency Motion in support of Tesco workers who are on strike:

"That this Council fully supports Tesco workers who are on strike at present".

Cllr. T. Ferris SECONDED the motion.

Problem with water supply from Ballymalis Cross on the N72 towards Listry Cross

Cllr. B. Cronin stated there is a problem with a section of the water pipe from Ballymalis Cross on the N72 towards Listry Cross around the Woollen Mills and there has been ongoing disruption to the water supply. He asked that this issue would be pursued with Irish Water.

Mr. J. Kennelly undertook to contact Irish Water on it.

Assistance at Revenue Offices

Cllr. S. Locke stated there is no longer assistance for members of the public at Revenue Offices in relation to the claiming of medical expenses, tax credits etc. He asked that a letter would issue to Revenue insisting that support for individuals would continue to be provided at all Revenue offices.

Aghadoe Burial Ground

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae asked that the skip at Aghadoe Burial Ground is removed as there is illegal dumping at it and it should not be there.

17.02.20.11 Presentation by Foodshare Kerry

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated he moved the following Notice of Motion at the November 2016 Council meeting:

“That all retailers would be encouraged to refrain from dumping surplus perishable food and food approaching its Use By Date and that they would donate it to worthy causes. That Government would actively promote this project.”

Arising from this motion Mr. Robert Carey and Mr. Mícheál Ó Coileáin were present on behalf of Foodshare Kerry to make a presentation to members.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Carey and Mr. Ó Coileáin to the meeting and invited Mr. Carey to address the meeting.

Mr. Carey stated the proportion of children living in consistent poverty increased from 6.8% in 2008 to 11.5% in 2016 and the percentage of low paid workers is the 4th highest of the 29 OECD countries. Kerry has one of the lowest disposable incomes in the country.

Food poverty is defined as “inability to afford or access healthy food”. It impacts most on children, lone parent families, the unemployed, ill, people with disabilities and low income households. Food Poverty is on the rise in Ireland with over 600,000 people being affected in 2013. Affordability is a key issue with low income households spending up to a quarter of their income on food.

Food surplus occurs as a consequence of modern food production and distribution process and the cost of this waste is significant for the economy and environment. As outlined in the Southern Regional Waste Management Plan, the preferred strategy in terms of dealing with waste is prevention and with a particular emphasis on food waste. Foodshare Kerry is a not-for-profit organisation set up to help combat food poverty and food waste. They rescue surplus food from supermarkets and food producers and make it available to those in need. Kerry Foodshare has prevented 9 tons of food from entering landfill.

Foodshare Kerry is the only project in the County preventing this amount of food waste. The project delivers to 22 charities, collects from a number of suppliers and rents a fully equipped warehouse near the old Denny Site in Tralee. In further developing its Food poverty strategy the project has increased its food supply through the delivery of Food through the European Aid for the Most Deprived Fund (FEAD) which gives access to a range of staple food products free of charge. Foodshare Kerry is not one the biggest distributors of FEAD in the country. The project involves Saint Vincent de Paul, North East & West Kerry Development and Kerry County Council and has received funding through a range of sources including the Bon Secours Hospital and the EPA. However Foodshare Kerry has no core funding and it is staffed through schemes and volunteers. Therefore in acknowledgement of its contribution Foodshare Kerry are asking the Council to allocate €10,000 per year over three years from the Waste Prevention Fund towards running costs of the project.

All members commended Mr. Carey on his excellent presentation.

Cllr. M. Gleeson congratulated Foodshare on their work and stated it is a terrible indictment on our country that food poverty exists. Cllr. Gleeson strongly encouraged all other businesses who do not make food available at present to do so. He called on the Press to send out a strong message to ensure good food does not go to landfill. Cllr. Gleeson called on the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance to meet Mr. Carey and his colleagues with a view to making financial support available to Foodshare Kerry.

Cllr. S. Locke stated he has seen first hand the difference Foodshare Kerry makes to peoples lives in particular at Christmas. He called on shops not to waste food but to give surplus food and food nearing its shelf life to Foodshare Kerry. Cllr. Locke also called on Kerry County Council to provide financial support to them.

Cllr. T. Ferris stated the figures presented by Mr. Carey are stark and she added she had first hand experience of food poverty when a mother had to make a choice between turf for the fire and food. Almost 3,000 people in Kerry benefit from the work of Foodshare Kerry and they are seeking a contribution of €10,000 from Kerry County Council which is not a major commitment. This project is driven by volunteers and Cllr. Ferris requested that a letter would issue to the relevant Minister seeking funding to sustain this project with a view to creating at least one full time position. Cllr. Ferris congratulated all involved and she suggested that members could make a contribution to Foodshare Kerry at MD level. Too many children go to school hungry and because they do not achieve as a result career opportunities are closed to them.

Cllr. D. Grady stated Mr. Carey's presentation gave members a greater insight into what is happening with food poverty and Foodshare Kerry's efforts to address it. He commended them on their excellent work.

Cllr. J. Finucane concurred with the views expressed by previous speakers and he said the request for funding from Kerry County Council is very modest. He suggested that each Municipal District could allocate €2,500 each from their Community Support Fund.

The Chief Executive welcomed the presentation which was informative and added between the various bodies, LEADER and perhaps the Community Support Fund it maybe possible to support the project.

Mr. Carey thanked members for their support and added that any funding would be very much appreciated. Nationally funding is not available for the project and it is important to get this message out there.

The meeting concluded at 1.10pm.

Liam Quinlan
Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council