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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 SAMHAIN 2017**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR**

**Councillors/Comhairleoirí**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR**

<b>Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive</b>	<b>Mr. J. Breen, Director Water Services</b>
<b>Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance</b>	<b>Mr. M. Scannell, Dir. Job Cr/Sust. ED</b>
<b>Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Dir.Hsg.&amp;Corp.S.</b>	<b>Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Operations</b>
<b>Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator</b>	<b>Mr. J. Kennelly, SE Water Services</b>
<b>Mr. D. Ginty, A/SE Planning</b>	<b>Ms. J. McCarthy, SEO Tourism</b>
<b>Mr. J. Griffin, Tourism Officer</b>	<b>Ms. K. Moriarty, AO Human Resources</b>
<b>Mr. G. O'Brien, A/SEO Environ. Serv.</b>	<b>Mr. O. O'Shea, Press &amp; Comm. Officer</b>
<b>Ms. B. Reidy, SSO Corporate Support</b>	<b>Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corporate Support</b>
<b>Ms. J. O'Sullivan, CO Corp. Support</b>	

The meeting commenced at 10.40am.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Sheahan took the Chair.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated Tralee on winning the Regional Category for Munster in the Bank of Ireland National Enterprising Town Competition.

As Mayor of Tralee, Cllr. N. Foley welcomed this recognition for Tralee and she acknowledged the tremendous work that went into it by Kerry County Council staff and the Chamber Alliance. This is a huge boost for the town and there was a

phenomenal response from the town for this competition. Cllr. Foley also acknowledged Listowel who were runners up in their category.

The Chief Executive acknowledged this accolade that was bestowed on Tralee and to come first from over 70 entries was a tremendous achievement. She also congratulated Listowel on being the regional runner up in their category.

Cllr. P. McCarthy also highlighted that Tralee was awarded a Purple Flag recently.

Cllr. M. O'Shea congratulated Vodafone, College Street, Killarney on being awarded Electronic & Tech Store of the Year at the Retail Excellence Annual Awards recently.

Cllr. A. Thornton congratulated Tralee and Listowel on their success in the National Enterprising Town Competition.

### **17.11.20.01 Cathaoirleach's Report on the CPG Meetings held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

#### **10<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

##### **"Meeting Update on Trip / Promotion**

Mr J Griffin briefed the group on the details of the upcoming trip / promotion to Berlin from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Mr Griffin stated that the announcement by Ryanair of a new direct service between Berlin and Kerry, starting at the end of October, is a major boost for the county and is warmly welcomed.

Germany is Ireland's major Continental market and Kerry is their preferred regional destination. The potential for growth of German business to Kerry, both tourism and general, on the back of the new air service is considerable. As the Irish county most dependent on tourism, it is important that this opportunity is maximised.

Kerry County Council, in conjunction with Destination Kerry Tourism Forum, Kerry Airport, local tourism trade, Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and the Irish Embassy in Berlin, is planning a major promotion in Berlin from November 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>. The delegation will be led by Minister Brendan Griffin and the Cathaoirleach and will include tourism trade representatives from every region of the county. The schedule includes trade and consumer promotions in the Irish Embassy and the Europa Centre and an engagement in Berlin City Hall.

A considerable amount of advance work is being done reaching out to Berlin schools, sports and social clubs and business groups. The aim is to attract new business into Kerry especially over the winter months.

It was agreed that a review of the trip would be undertaken with a view to establishing longer term benefits for Kerry that this new route can potentially bring.

Cllr Kelleher commended all involved in ensuring a very successful TBEX event, recently held in Killarney, which was supported by the other CPG Members.

### **Agenda for the October Council**

Mr. L. Quinlan briefed the meeting on the Agenda for the October Council Meeting.

In relation to the proposed National Planning Framework Item, Cllr. Finucane expressed serious concerns with regard to the urban/rural divide that the Plan would generate and the substantial implications for Kerry.

Mr. O'Sullivan stated that the concerns of the members had highlighted in our submission to the draft Plan. It will be critically important that the Council engage actively with the Southern Regional Assembly on the development of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, which will influence development and capital investment in the county.

### **SPC update**

It was noted that *(name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the unedited minutes is available on request)* has replaced *(name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the unedited minutes is available on request)* on the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

It was noted that the Tourism, Culture, Arts & Recreation SPC and the Quality of Life SPC will have a report for next CPG meeting.

It was noted that the next Operations SPC meeting will include funding programme priorities. Mr O'Sullivan updated the members on the Speed Limit Review. It is proposed to give briefings to the members at Municipal District level by the end of the year in advance of the public consultation phase. However, it will be early in the New Year before the proposed Bye-Laws are drafted in a format to go on public consultation.

### **Review of request for presentations to Council**

It was recommended that a presentation by the Union of Students of Ireland and a presentation by the Central Statistics Office be made to the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

### **Annual Awards / Civic Honours Conferral**

In respect of the following outstanding requests, the following was agreed:

Annual Award at County Level: Kerry Minor team on winning the All Ireland minor championship.

Annual Award at Tralee Municipal District: *(name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the unedited minutes is available on request)*.

Annual Award at Killarney Municipal District: Killarney Ladies senior golf team and Ladies Crew of the Workmen rowing Club, Killarney.

Annual Award at Listowel Municipal District: Ballybunion Golf Club, *(names withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the unedited minutes is available on request)*

Annual Award at South & West Municipal District: *(name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the unedited minutes is available on request)*

It was also agreed that the Marian Players, Rathmore will be afforded a Killarney Municipal District Civic Reception.

The Municipal District Meetings Administrator will be in contact with the respective Cathaoirleach / Mayor to make arrangements for the hosting of these Annual Award events and Civic Receptions as per the adopted Civic Conferral Protocol.

### **Any other business**

Mr. Liam Quinlan advised, that, under existing policy in relation to the flying of the National Flag, we observe the Guidelines of the Department of An Taoiseach. Also, the only other occasions that flags are flown outside County Buildings is when visiting Dignitaries are afforded Civic Welcomes. Following a discussion, CPG recommends the European Union, National and County flags are flown at all times. CPG recommends that, in the event of a visiting Dignitary from a foreign country, that the European Union Flag be replaced by the flag of that country.

### **14<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

#### **Agenda for the November Council Meeting**

Mr. L. Quinlan briefed the meeting on the Agenda for the November Council Meeting and he advised that as agreed at the Special Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October only 1 speaker per motion would be permitted due to the large number of motions to be considered given the motions carried forward from the October cancelled meeting.

In relation to the Corporate Plan Mr. M. O'Donoghue advised the meeting that following the Local Elections in 2014 an interim Corporate Plan was adopted and a commitment was given to revisit it following the establishment of the LCDC and the adoption of the LECP. The new Plan will be in place until the next Local Elections.

#### **Update from the Chairs of SPCs**

Cllr. S. Locke advised that a meeting of the Tourism, Culture, Arts & Recreation SPC was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October and he outlined the items considered at that meeting. His report will be circulated and considered at the November Meeting.

The remaining Chairs indicated that a meeting of their SPC would be held in the coming few weeks.

#### **Review of requests for Municipal District Awards**

The CPG agreed that Paula Murrphy would be honoured at the Annual Awards Event for full Council.

#### **Civic Welcome – West Springfield**

The CPG agreed that the West Springfield delegation would be afforded a Civic Welcome at the December Council Meeting in accordance with the adopted Protocol for Civic Honours Conferral.”

### **17.11.20.02 Confirmation of Minutes**

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen it was resolved that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Kerry County Council held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 be confirmed.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. Grady, SECONDED by Cllr. S. Locke it was resolved that the Minutes of the September Ordinary Meeting of Kerry County Council held on the 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 be confirmed.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Moriarty, SECONDED by Cllr. B. O'Connell it was resolved that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Kerry County Council held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017 be confirmed.

### **17.11.20.03 Chief Executive's Report to Council**

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

"The report below has been prepared for the November 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 3 Financial report will be included in the December 2017 report.

#### **Infrastructure, Operations, Health & Safety Directorate**

##### **Ex- Hurricane Ophelia and Storm Brian**

As previously advised to the Members, Kerry County Council implemented its Severe Weather Response Plan on the 13th October 2017, following notification from Met Eireann and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management of the Red Weather Alert predicted for Monday 16th October associated with Ex-Hurricane Ophelia.

The co-ordinated response resulted in a positive outcome in terms of public safety, with no reported serious injuries and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the public for heeding the advice given. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our own staff, Garda Siochana and Chief Superintendent Tom Maher, the Chief Fire Officer and the principal response agencies for dealing with the events. In particular, I would like to thank the Civil Defence and their volunteers for their excellent work throughout this major weather event.

The full extent of any damage caused is currently being assessed and we are seeking to recover the exceptional costs incurred from the Department.

The Severe Weather Response Plan was also implemented on Friday 20th October, following the issuing of an Orange Weather Alert from Met Eireann for strong winds on the Friday night and Saturday morning.

### **CPO Scheme Burial Ground Killarney**

The CPO for the acquisition of lands for a new burial facility in Killarney was approved by An Bord Pleanála on the 1st November. The Council is now issuing the relevant notices to give effect to this decision and intend to commence works on site before the end of the year.

### **CPO & EIS Listowel ByPass**

The CPO and EIS for the Listowel By-Pass were approved by An Bord Pleanála on the 9th November. The Council will be liaising with TII to secure the relevant funding to allow the scheme to progress through detailed design, tender and construction.

### **LIS Scheme**

The Department of Rural and Community Development have allocated €727,000 in funding under the LIS scheme. The Council currently has 120 applications on hand for funding under the scheme. 30 applicants have confirmed acceptance of the offer and works are now progressing on these roads.

### **Additional T.I.I. Funding**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland has allocated a further €306,520 to Kerry County Council for pavement repairs and safety improvement works, including €80,000 for safety works at the N86 Ballymullen junction; €35,000 for safety works at Killtallagh National School; €50,000 towards the cost of the repairs on the N22 at Minish Railway crossing and the balance for repairs on the N21, N70 and N72. Full details of the works will be given to members at the relevant MD meetings.

### **N70 Kilderry Bends**

Kerry Council has issued tenders for the construction of 3.5 km improvement works on the N70 Kilderry Bends between Castlemaine and Killorglin. It is expected to have contractors appointed for the €10 million scheme by the end of the year, with all pre-contract works, including archaeological testing and fencing now substantially complete.

### **Funding for Drainage Works**

The OPW has approved funding of €148,370 towards flood relief works in Clieveragh, Listowel. This funding will allow the Council to proceed with the procurement of Consultants to complete the detailed design of the Scheme, to progress the scheme through the planning process, and subject to securing planning consent, acquire the lands necessary for the scheme. The estimated cost of these elements of the project is €164,855 and the grant allocation will cover 90% of the costs.

## **Economic & Community Development Directorate**

### **Economic Development Unit**

### **Kerry Prosper Series**

The Kerry Prosper Series inaugural event was held in the Guinness Enterprise Centre in Dublin on the 9th November. The mission for these events is to support counties' business diaspora to enhance the prosperity in a county through co-operation, knowledge sharing, creativity, inspiration and an entrepreneurial ecosystem. This business linking event was developed by Kerry County Council in partnership with the IT Tralee, Enterprise Ireland, along with the Kerry working group based in Dublin.

### **Kerry Local Enterprise Office**

The core training programmes are now nearing completion. "Start Your Own Business Programmes" have now been completed in Killorglin and Listowel. A series of online marketing programmes incorporating Facebook and Twitter are scheduled over the next month. Other funded programmes are reaching conclusion. These include the Local Enterprise Innovation and Investment Fund and Kerry's Best Young Entrepreneur. There has been strong interest in both programmes. The KCC LEO has supported local food events including Blás na hEireann and Listowel Food Fair. The office is also sponsoring a number of Craft producers to attend the Craft Showcase event in the RDS in January 2018. The office has commenced its 2017 Employment survey to determine employment in grant assisted businesses.

### **Tourism Department**

#### **Kerry Tourism Promotion in Berlin**

A three-day Kerry tourism promotion was held in Berlin on the first weekend of November. A group of 35 participants, led by Minister Brendan Griffin T.D. and Mayor of Kerry, Cllr. John Sheahan, held a series of engagements with tourism trade, media and consumer groups. A high level political meeting with State President Mr. Ralf Wieland in the Berlin Parliament was arranged, to promote closer economic ties between Kerry, Berlin and the State of Brandenburg. The visit was in support of the new direct Ryanair flight from Berlin to Kerry and was organised by Kerry County Council, Destination Kerry and Kerry Airport and supported by Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and the Irish Embassy. Trade representatives from all over Kerry formed part of the delegation with the main events being hosted by the Irish Ambassador, Mr. Michael Collins, at the Irish Embassy. Over 70 Berlin trade and media attended the Kerry Tourism Showcase event at the Embassy and a consumer promotion was also held at Ring Shopping Centre in Berlin. The promotion received extremely positive feedback and was deemed a very successful initiative.

### **Community Department**

#### **RAPID - (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development)**

On the 2nd of November 2017, Minister Michael Ring TD and Minister Pascal Donohue TD launched the revamped RAPID Programme. The Local Community Development Committees will be responsible for targeting and allocating funding in line with the County's Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The Programme will fund projects that address disadvantage and seek to enhance communities in Urban Areas. Details of the scheme will be available in the coming

week on Kerry County Council's website and a total of €64,500 has been allocated to Kerry County Council under this Programme.

### **LEADER Programme**

A meeting of the Kerry LCDC led Local Action Group (LAG) was held on Thursday, 26th October, 2017. 12 Enterprise Development Projects, supported by North East West Kerry Development Company, were presented for approval at the meeting. Following a detailed consideration of each of the projects, 11 no. projects were approved for funding with a cumulative value of €134,898.

### **SICAP 2018 – 2022**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018 – 2022 (SICAP) has taken into account feedback from a national consultation process which took place in the first half of 2017. One tender was received for each of the 3 Lots within Co. Kerry following the Request for Tenders. The Evaluation Team met to evaluate the tenders on 9th October, 2017. Following the evaluation process the recommendations made to the LCDC in respect of the appointment of the preferred tenderer per Lot were approved at its meeting held on 9th November, 2017

### **Comhairle AGM**

Over 100 young people from 25 secondary school in Kerry attended Kerry Comhairle na nÓg's AGM on Friday the 13th of October in the Rose Hotel, Tralee at which facilitated workshops took place where those present identified and discussed issues of importance to them. A number of recommendations were made and voted upon and new topics and actions were agreed. Also, an election process took place electing young people to the Kerry Comhairle na nÓg for the next two year term. Those elected are afforded opportunities to attend national events and to represent young people on a number of policy making bodies both at county level and nationally. Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council Cllr. John Sheahan presented certificates to members.

### **Housing & Corporate Directorate**

There is a separate report on Housing Delivery Activity included on the Council Agenda."

Cllr. A. Thornton asked that local communities would be encouraged to get involved in biodiversity. Kerry LCDC is one of the front running Committees in drawing down funding and she called on the all local groups to consider the funding that is available.

Cllr. D. Quigg stated while he welcomed the €727,000 for LIS there was a reduction in LEADER funding and he called for the reinstatement of this funding to previous levels. It is very difficult for smaller groups to apply for LEADER funding as the application process is very detailed and they would need an administrative person to complete the application for them. He suggested that one collective application could be made for 5 or 6 groups in an area. In conclusion Cllr. Quigg welcomed the funding for Kilderry Bends.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen welcomed the funding for the LIS and he asked when new applications will be invited. Kerry County Council is leading the way in tourism



promotion and he paid tribute to all involved. Cllr. Connor-Scarteen also welcomed LEADER funding but he agreed that the application process is very onerous. In conclusion Cllr. Connor-Scarteen complimented the LCDC on their work.

Cllr. N. Foley also asked when new applications for LIS would be accepted and she asked how many roads remain on the current list. She welcomed the additional funding received for safety works on the N86 and she asked when the works would be completed. Cllr. Foley referred to RAPID funding and asked if there is a limit to the number of projects that can avail of this funding. In conclusion Cllr. Foley acknowledged the work of Comhairle na nÓg and the input of Mr. A. Smith.

Cllr. M. O'Shea welcomed the €10m allocated for Kilderry Bends. He expressed concern at the poor condition of the road from Milltown to Killorglin and he asked that it would be better maintained. There are serious concerns at the condition of the Laune Bridge and if it had to be closed it would have serious consequences for traffic going to and from South Kerry. He asked that consideration would be given to identifying an alternative route to South Kerry.

Cllr. P. McCarthy requested that the list of projects approved for LEADER funding would be circulated to members. Community groups can apply for funding from the Community Support Fund and from LEADER. However, they will not be considered for funding from the Community Support Fund yet LEADER funding is allocated later in the year.

Cllr. M. Cahill also welcomed the funding for Kilderry Bends and the flights to and from Berlin. There are hundreds of private roads in the county that need LIS funding and residents on these roads are paying motor tax and LPT yet the potholes are not filled on their roads. It is unacceptable that LIS funding cannot be used to fill potholes on these roads and he called on the Department to amend the terms of the Scheme to allow for this.

Cllr. M. Gleeson welcomed the confirmation of the CPO for Killarney burial ground and added that this site will cater for the needs of Killarney for years and there will be onsite parking. He called on everyone to work in harmony to achieve this objective.

Cllr. N. Moriarty highlighted there have been significant changes in LEADER funding since the first round. Expressions of interest are being sought at present and the changes have been outlined. She complimented all involved in the LCDC as Kerry is to the fore in the roll out of LEADER funding in the country. Cllr. Moriarty emphasised the need for an increase in LEADER funding. Development Officers are exceptionally good at working with groups to assist them in applying for LEADER funding. Cllr. Moriarty then moved Notice of Motion No. 23 on the October list.

### **23. Call to reopen the Local Improvement Scheme**

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

That in light of the announcement of funding for the LIS Scheme, that we now reopen the Scheme in order that additional roads in need of repair can be added.

**The following reply issued:**

**Kerry County Council welcomes the recent announcement by the Department of Rural and Community Development of €727,000 towards LIS scheme, which will allow for approximately 27 schemes to be constructed.**

**However, there are currently 120 applications, assessed and approved under the Department's guidelines, on the Council's scheme. Unfortunately, the Council had to close the scheme for new applications in 2010, initially due to the discontinuation of the scheme and also taking in to consideration the low level of funding available when some discretion was allowed to use part of the grant funding for public roads.**

**One of the criteria in prioritizing applications for funding is based on the length of time since an application was approved for funding. On this basis it is unlikely that any new application could realistically expect to be approved for construction within the next 3 to 4 years, which is conditional on a similar level of funding being provided in the coming years.**

**Consideration could be given to re-opening the scheme in 2018, if a similar level of grant aid is made available next year.**

Cllr. T. Ferris SECONDED the motion.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae advised that in 2016 he requested that a survey of the Laune Bridge would be carried out. He welcomed the funding for Kilderry Bends and Mountain Stage. Cllr. Healy-Rae asked that funding would be sought for Phase 2 of the Kenmare By-Pass as the town badly needs it. Applicants for LEADER funding are waiting a long time for a decision on their application but he hoped this will improve in subsequent rounds.

Cllr. D. Grady welcomed the allocation of €306,520 for pavement repairs and safety improvement works but he expressed his disappointment that there has not been progress on the Lewis Road Junction.

Cllr. S. Locke welcomed the restoration of funding under the RAPID Programme and he called on management to advertise this Programme in the local papers.

Cllr. M. Gleeson then moved Notice of Motion No. 36.

**36. Request for a delegation to meet with the TII**

**Pursuant to notice duly given the Members of Killarney Municipal District PROPOSED:**

In reference to correspondence dated 20th September, 2017 received from the TII regarding meeting arrangements, we the Members of Killarney Municipal District request Kerry County Council to organise a delegation from the Elected Representatives of the Council and the TII as soon as possible.

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

Cllr. M. Gleeson advised that the primary reason for moving this motion was concern regarding the Lewis Road Junction with the By-Pass. Over 20 years ago he proposed that traffic would be permitted to turn left only at this Junction. Cllr. Gleeson accepted that officials are aware of how dangerous this junction is but nothing is being done to address it. The fact that there has been a number of accidents at this Junction suggests there is a problem with it. If the TII, who are well aware of the problems with this Junction, fail to meet with the Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council and the Killarney MD they will be culpable.

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

The Chief Executive assured members that management are taking this issue seriously and are trying to agree a solution with TII. A Feasibility Study has been submitted and approval was granted to proceed to design and planning.

Cllr. Gleeson asked that the members for the Killarney MD would be invited to attend a meeting with officials from the TII.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty highlighted if the 60km sign was moved to the other side of this Junction it would help.

Cllr. T. Ferris then moved Notice of Motion No. 6 on the November list.

## **6. Reduce delays in accessing LEADER funding for community groups**

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

That this Council calls on the Minister for Rural and Community Development to take immediate action to reduce the delays in accessing LEADER funding for community groups; to make a commitment that no LEADER programme funding will be diverted to other projects and to make a commitment that the funding for LEADER will be restored as soon as possible.

### **The following reply issued:**

**The Department of Rural and Community Development hosted a forum with representatives from all Local Action Groups (LAG's) and their Implementing Partners on the 17th of May 2017 to explore issues of concern and to identify potential solutions aimed at streamlining the current administration and application procedures under the current LEADER Programme. On the basis of the feedback at the Forum, a total of 31 Action points were drawn up to improve procedures for LAG's and project promoters. Most of these actions have already been delivered, with the remaining actions in train. In Kerry a total of 102 applications have been approved funding by the Kerry LAG to the value of €1,672,303.**

Cllr. T. Ferris stated in light of the article in the Irish Examiner the previous week and the fear that Irish Water will transfer from Kerry County Council the suggested reduction of 25% in the number of staff is a cause for concern and she did not believe this reduction could be achieved through retirements only. She called on the Chief Executive to give reassurances in this regard.

Cllr. R. Beasley SECONDED the motion.

Cllr. J. Moloney highlighted that member's concerns regarding Irish Water could be discussed when Item 11 was being considered.

The Chief Executive assured members that quarterly inspections are carried out on Laune Bridge and there has been no change in recent times. She agreed that the Killarney By-Pass is vital given the volume of traffic it takes. The Chief Executive confirmed that Kerry County Council has a Service Level Agreement with Irish Water until 2025 and she understood Mr. Grant from IW had clarified his comments through correspondence with Unions who then wrote to their members.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan referred to comments on the LIS and he welcomed the funding received to-date. This will allow 30 schemes to proceed and there are 85 applications on the list. It will cost approx. €1.5m to clear the list and the level of funding for 2018 must be assessed before new applications are invited.

#### **17.09.11.04 Disposal of Property**

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Kennelly, SECONDED by Cllr. P. McCarthy it was agreed to dispose of a plot of ground consisting of approx. 0.021 hectares in an unregistered folio at St. Anne's Road, Kilcoolaght in the DED of Killarney Urban to *(name and address withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the unedited minutes is available on request)* in accordance with the terms of notice issued 29th September 2017 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. O'Connell, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Kennelly it was agreed to lease a plot of ground consisting of House No. 59 at Doirín Álainn, Ballydribeen, Killarney for 6 years to Ballydribeen Residents Association, Killarney, Co. Kerry in accordance with the terms of the notice issued 2nd November 2017 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

#### **17.11.20.05 Date for December meeting**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Kennelly it was agreed that the December Ordinary Meeting would be held on Monday 11th December 2017 in Killarney House commencing at 11am.

#### **17.11.20.06 Approval of the incurring of overdraft accommodation**

Ms. A. McAllen referred members to her report dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 on this item which was circulated and she briefed them on the report.

On the PROPOSAL OF Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. T. O'Brien it was agreed to approve the incurring of overdraft accommodation not exceeding €10m for the 12 months ending 31st December 2018.

#### **17.11.20.07 Raising of a loan for the provision and development of Burial Grounds**

Ms. A. McAllen referred members to her report dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017 on this item which was circulated and she briefed them on the report.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. O'Connell, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Lucid it was agreed to approve the raising of a loan of €1m for the provision and development of Burial Grounds.

#### **17.11.20.08 Presentation on proposed Kerry Brand**

Mr. M. Scannell welcomed Mr. Martin Gaffney and Mr. Rocky Grennel of Design Works who would make a presentation to members on the proposed Kerry Brand. Management and members were always aware of the need to professionally market Kerry from a tourism point of view. The Kerry Brand will be extremely important to showcase Kerry positively and the Brand is multi-faceted and can be used for a number of purposes.

#### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

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

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Foley, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Finucane it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue.

#### **17.11.20.08 Presentation on proposed Kerry Brand (Cont.d)**

Mr. M. Gaffney then addressed the meeting.

Mr. Gaffney highlighted that both he and his colleague Mr. Grennel were delighted to work with the Tourism Office to come up with a tourism Brand for the county. He commended the Tourism Office for their excellent input and added that following the establishment of the Destination Kerry Tourism Forum and the setting up of a dedicated Tourism Unit in Kerry County Council, it was deemed in order to create a new Destination Brand which will serve to promote Kerry on a national and international level, across the full media platform. Mr. Gaffney briefed the meeting on the Project Process/Stages.

Mr. R. Grennel then briefed the meeting on the creation of the Kerry Tourism Brand under the following headings:

- Introduction
- The Log
- Logo Variations

- Sample Advertising
- Sample Collateral
- Sample Collateral – Irish Language
- Digital Applications
- Sample Displays
- Overview
- Tourism Brand Architecture.

In conclusion Mr. Grennel advised that it is intended to prepare Guidelines to ensure consistency when the Brand is rolled out.

All members welcomed the Kerry Brand and complimented Mr. Scannell, Mr. Gaffney and Mr. Grennel on a professional product.

Cllr. N. Moriarty welcomed the beautiful collage of images presented and she suggested that any project that receives grant aid should be required to use this logo. She looked forward to a more cohesive marketing of the county going forward.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated on first viewing the Brand is very vibrant and he believed it would be an important tool going forward. The fragmentation that exists needs to be brought together under this logo.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald concurred with the views expressed by previous speakers. However from a West Kerry perspective agriculture is very important and he asked that some images of sheep would be incorporated into the logo.

Cllr. D. McCarthy agreed with the sentiments expressed by Cllr. Fitzgerald in relation to the importance of agriculture to the county and that it should be reflected in the Kerry Brand.

Cllr. A. Thornton stated the Brand beautifully encapsulates what Kerry is about. She suggested that community groups should be consulted on how they can feed into the County Brand.

Cllr. P. McCarthy confirmed that the Brand says all that needs to be said about Kerry and the experience a tourist can expect.

Cllr. T. Ferris highlighted that the choice of font makes the Brand stand out and while the Brand captures the beauty of the county it does not reflect the medieval features which should also be marketed.

Cllr. J. Sheahan stated tourism is the life blood of the county and it is vital that it is professionally promoted. He commended the Chief Executive and staff for commissioning the new Brand and the way the Skelligs, the MacGillycuddy Reeks and Beaches are incorporated in it. He suggested that Scotch sheep should be included in the logo as low land sheep were only introduced to Ireland a few decades ago.

Cllr. N. Foley welcomed the new Brand which suggests a natural environment which should be the tourists' automatic choice of destination. The green and gold are nice

but she asked that the gold would be manipulated as it is hard to see at a distance. Cllr. Foley acknowledged the work of Ms. J. McCarthy and Mr. J. Griffin on the Brand and she asked that the logo would be used as extensively as possible.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty welcomed this positive development for tourism in the county and he added that the Killarney Lakes, Muckross House and the red deer are a huge selling point.

Cllr. M. Cahill stated the new Brand is very impressive and he commended all involved in developing it.

Cllr. D. Quigg concurred with the views expressed by Cllr. Thornton and asked what guidance will issue for the use of the Brand and Logo.

Ms. J. McCarthy thanked members for their compliments and advised that an action in the Tourism Strategy was to create a Brand for the county. Tourism partners were consulted and it will be up to them to take it on board and to use it when promoting the county both nationally and internationally. A roadshow will be organised to advise how the brand can best be utilised. It will be launched in Killarney on the 8<sup>th</sup> December by Minister Griffin and following this contact will be made with the tourism sector to advise them how it can be used. Community groups will also be included as it is important that the Brand and Logo are used as presented.

#### **17.11.20.09 Update on the Draft National Planning Framework**

Mr. M. Scannell informed the meeting that the Draft National Planning Framework "Ireland 2040 – Our Plan" sets a sustainable long term strategic planning and development context for Ireland and its regions from now until 2040. The Plan will have legislative backing and it will be underpinned by a new 10-Year National Investment Plan. The NPF objectives and spatial outcomes will be fully supported by the Government and its implementation will be overseen by the Office of the Planning Regulator.

Mr. Scannell briefed members on this item under the following headings:

- Regional Implementation
- Regional Growth
- Growth Projections 2040 ESRI
- Urban Population Growth Targets
- Large Regional Towns
- Strengthening Urban Fabric
- Rural Development
- Kerry in a Regional Context
- Investment in Infrastructure – Alignment with 10 Year Capital Investment Plan

All members complimented Mr. Scannell on his detailed presentation and Kerry County Council's submission on the NPF.

Cllr. B. O'Connell highlighted that the emphasis in the NPF is on the development of the Tralee/Killarney Hub and towns with a population in excess of 10,000 but he was

concerned that this policy would not serve smaller towns. The NPF should encourage regeneration and allow smaller towns to develop. Cllr. O'Connell added that the NPF would not support the countryside.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated that in reality Kerry is dependent on the spin off from growth in Cork, Limerick and Galway. There is no reference to rural decline and population diversity in the Plan. The Shannon Landbank is owned by Shannon Properties while road access to the county is controlled by two other local authorities. It is vital that an IDA officer would be based in Tralee and he asked what incentives do the IDA offer to bring investment from Cork to Kerry. The Plan does not address how employers can be encouraged to locate outside of the East coast. There should be an emphasis on bringing communities together with a view to getting emigrants to return home. In conclusion Cllr. Finucane stated the NPF is not business driven and we need guarantees that our region will be allowed to develop.

Cllr. P. McCarthy highlighted that this is a Draft Plan and the growth in the East will be massive in comparison to growth in the West.

Cllr. M. O'Shea concurred with the views expressed by Cllr. Finucane and emphasised the importance of access from Kerry to the Atlantic route. If this does not happen development will not materialise. Cllr. O'Shea called on all TDs and Senators to lobby at a national level to ensure that Kerry has access to the Atlantic Corridor.

Cllr. M. Gleeson advised under the NSS the Killarney/Tralee Hub was intended to inspire growth but this did not happen. If that happens again there will be dissolution on the entire western half of the country. While the Plan is aspirational the policies must be more specific. Unless communities are planned, even in Dublin, with proper linkages further social problems will be created.

Cllr. D. Quigg pointed out that the IDA do not have a plan for development in Kerry and we are raising children for export. Kerry must lobby to be included in the Atlantic Corridor but it should automatically be included. Kerry County Council must lead the way and pursue investors for the county otherwise we are going nowhere.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae expressed his disappointment in the Plan as Kerry is dependent on access from other counties. In the past he called on the Council or the IDA to purchase the Ceann Mara site in Kenmare which is on the market at a very reasonable cost. Cllr. Healy-Rae called for the provision of a footpath from Killorglin to the Liebig site to facilitate workers. Housing is a major issue and he asked would land be dezoned in the Municipal District Plans and what is the current status of the MD Plans.

The Chief Executive advised that the National Planning Framework is a high level strategy for the country. It is vital that Kerry County Council makes a strong submission to ensure the county is strategically connected with both Limerick and Cork. It was not intended that the Killarney/Tralee/Killorglin area is the only area that will grow but from research there is evidence that there is enough vibrancy in these areas to justify the inclusion of Kerry in the Atlantic Corridor. The Chief Executive stressed that investment will be based on the Plan. The Killarney/Mallow and



Mitchelstown roads are very important for Kerry as is the Foynes road. Expertise will be engaged to assist in putting the best case possible forward for Kerry. In Budget 2018 the members of Kerry County Council provided €600,000 for economic development in the county and this is a very strong statement from the Council. The IDA are trying to secure a client for the advance unit in Tralee and she supported members calls to have an IDA officer based in the county.

Mr. M. Scannell thanked members for their contributions and he stated the National Spatial Strategy was not a success as it was not supported by policies. Specific policies must be in place before growth will happen. Mr. Scannell again stressed the importance of having adequate infrastructural linkage and in Kerry we maintain that the capacity of Tralee, Killarney and Killorglin is a sufficient economic base to contribute to the economic development of the region.

#### **17.11.20.10 Update on Wind Energy Policy**

Mr. D. Ginty made a presentation to members on recent developments on Wind Energy Policy. The Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 are being reviewed by the Department. The Guidelines are subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Department aim to complete the SEA and finalise the Guidelines in early 2018. The proposed set back is 4 times the turbine height with a mandatory minimum distance of 500m. The maximum noise limit permitted will be 43dB(A). Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change issued by the Minister in July 2017 pursuant to Section 28 and planning authorities must have regard to Section 28 Guidelines.

Mr. Ginty briefed the meeting in detail on the various Plans, Strategies and Policies that must be taken into account by planning authorities. A development plan, local area plan or variation must indicate how the plan/variation will contribute to realising overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation and in particular wind energy production (in megawatts). Any proposal to introduce a mandatory setback distance for wind turbines into development plans must demonstrate compliance with national policy seeking to realise overall national targets.

Circular letter PL5/2017 which issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 stated that local authorities should defer amending their existing Development Plan policies in relation to wind energy and renewable energy generally as part of either the normal cyclical six-yearly review or plan variation processes and should instead operate their existing development plan policies and objectives until the completion of a focused review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006. However, Mr. Ginty confirmed that a review of the Landscape Character Assessment has begun and he outlined the process involved.

Cllr. M. Gleeson asked if the new Wind Energy Guidelines are being prepared without reference to solar energy.

Cllr. J. Moloney expressed his frustration that the new Wind Energy Guidelines have not yet issued. When the current County Development Plan was being adopted in 2014 members were informed they could not review the Renewable Energy Strategy

until the new Guidelines issued. He expressed concern at the current Landscape Character Assessment and its reference to North Kerry and he highlighted that the landscape has changed due to the level of development of wind farms. Cllr. Moloney also highlighted that the LCA has been referenced in decisions issued by An Bord Pleanála. In Ballyhorgan permission was granted for 158m high turbines and permission was refused in Ballylongford due to the proliferation of turbines in the area. 15% of wind turbines in the country are located in Kerry. Cllr. Moloney asked when will the draft Landscape Character Assessment be presented to members.

Cllr. A. Thornton welcomed the review of the Landscape Character Assessment. The last LCA stated that Ballybunion was not a scenic area and this must be amended in the new LCA. An Bord Pleanála have referenced the LCA in their decisions therefore it is important to get it right. Cllr. Thornton also asked when the draft LCA would be presented to members. The difficulty is that the infrastructure in North Kerry has been damaged hugely as a result of the development of wind farms.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty moved Notice of Motion No. 28 from October.

## **28. Minimum set back distance of wind turbines from dwelling houses**

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

That this Council insert into the County Development Plan, a minimum set back distance of ten times the blade tip height of wind turbines from any dwelling house.

### **The following reply issued:**

**Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change issued to Local Authorities by the Minister in July 2017 pursuant to Section 28 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 - 2017. Planning Authorities must have regard to guidelines issued by the Minister in exercising functions under the Planning Code.**

### **These guidelines state that:**

**Planning authorities shall, in particular, have regard to (the following) national plans, policies and strategies when making, reviewing, varying or amending development plan or local area plan policies or objectives that relate to renewable energy, and in particular, wind energy developments.**

**These Ministerial guidelines state that any development plan, local area plan or variation to these policy documents must indicate how the proposed plan / variation will contribute to realising overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation, and in particular wind energy production and the potential wind energy resource (in megawatts).**

**The guidelines state that any proposal to introduce or vary a mandatory setback distance for wind turbines from specified land uses or classes of land use into a development plan or local area plans must demonstrate compliance with national policy seeking to realise overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation.**

**Any mandatory setback distance will also be a consideration in SEA, when taking into account likely significant effects on climatic factors, in addition to other factors such as landscape and air, if such a mandatory setback would create a significant limitation or constraint on renewable energy projects, including wind turbines.**

**Circular Letter PL5/2017 was issued to Local Authorities on the 3rd of August 2017 and advised that:**

**local authorities should defer amending their existing Development Plan policies in relation to wind energy and renewable energy generally as part of either the normal cyclical six-yearly review or plan variation processes and should instead operate their existing development plan policies and objectives until the completion of a focused review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006. The content of Circular letter PL 20-13 continues to be the advice of the Department.**

**The Department has advised that the revised Guidelines will be available in the first Quarter of 2018.**

**In that context in anticipation of the finalised Guidelines a review has commenced of the Landscape Character Assessment. The work being undertaken includes a significant quantum of background research, analysis, field and preparatory work. This analysis and revised landscape character assessment will best position the Council to consider a planning policy review once the 2006 Ministerial guidelines with respect to Wind Energy Development are finalised.**

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated unfortunately we are reactive rather than proactive. Rural areas have been commercialised where wind farms have been or are about to be developed without regard for health issues or the value of homes. There should be a minimum set back distance of 10 times the height of the turbine from homes as people's homes and health should be protected. Some of the existing wind turbines are relatively small but when they reapply for permission it is likely they will seek an increase in the height of the blades. The Renewable Energy Strategy cannot be reviewed until the new guidelines issue yet turbines are still being erected. In conclusion Cllr. Culloty highlighted that roads and bridges have been damaged during wind farm developments but there is no funding to repair them.

Cllr. B. Cronin **SECONDED** the motion and added that Kerry County Council adopted the RES and identified suitable locations for wind energy development and subsequently permission was granted for wind farm developments. However as a result of some developments communities have been devastated. He asked if the new Guidelines will restrict local authorities as they have no concept of the reality for communities where these developments take place. In conclusion Cllr. Cronin pointed out there are no guidelines in place to regulate solar energy developments.

Cllr. J. Lucid highlighted that one of the main concerns about wind farm developments is that they operate for just 30% of the time and they need thermal stations to support them.

Cllr. Thornton then moved Notice of Motion Nos. 20 and 35 from October.

## **20. Review of renewable energy in Kerry.**

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

Can Kerry County Council conduct a review of renewable energy in Co. Kerry including a review of the Landscape Character Assessment and the Renewable Energy Strategy.

### **The following reply issued:**

**Circular Letter PL5/2017 was issued to Local Authorities on the 3rd of August 2017 and advised that:**

**local authorities should defer amending their existing Development Plan policies in relation to wind energy and renewable energy generally as part of either the normal cyclical six-yearly review or plan variation processes and should instead operate their existing development plan policies and objectives until the completion of a focused review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006. The content of Circular letter PL 20-13 continues to be the advice of the Department.**

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

## **35. Terms of a licence on renewal for wind turbines**

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

Can Kerry County Council confirm whether it is possible to change the terms of a licence on its renewal in the case of wind turbines.

### **The following reply issued:**

**Section 42 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2017 allows the Planning Authority to extend the duration of a planning permission for a period not exceeding 5 years provided the application is made before the permission expires and subject to the following conditions: (a) Where no works have been carried out.**

**The planning authorities are satisfied that:**

- I. There were considerations of a commercial, economic or technical nature that mitigated against the commencement of the development.**

- II. There have been no significant changes in the Development Plan since the date of the permission.**
- III. The development will remain consistent with any Ministerial guidelines issued pursuant to Section 48.**
- IV. An EIA and / or an AA was carried out on the development if required.**
- V. The application is made before the expiration of the permission.**
- (b) Where substantial works have been carried out.**

**The planning authorities are satisfied that:**

- I. The development commenced before the expiration of the permission,**
- II. Substantial works were carried out and**
- III. The development will be completed within a reasonable time.**

**Where the duration of permission is restricted by a planning condition, a new grant of permission is required in order to allow the development to be in place beyond the specified period.**

Cllr. A. Thornton stated the reason she put down the motion was that in her opinion the roads in North Kerry are in an appalling condition following the development of new wind farms and funding is not available to restore them to the condition they were in prior to the development. She suggested that a condition should be imposed on permissions that a financial contribution would be required to repair the local infrastructure. She asked if that is the position at present.

Cllr. M. Gleeson **SECONDED** this motion and added that he has never known anything about which attitudes have changed so much over the past 20 years. Councillors pleaded to have their areas zoned for wind farm development but now there is a universal outcry against this type of development. This is because companies moved into areas with disregard for communities. If we continue to allow hillsides to be desecrated our tourism industry will suffer. The vast majority of wind farms are not locally owned and they invested in prime locations with little or no respect for communities but the interest of communities should be our primary concern.

Cllr. R. Beasley highlighted that when you drive from Foynes to North Kerry there is a saturation of wind turbines in Clare as well as in the Tarbert/Asdee area. Wind farms were permitted in prominent areas in North Kerry and they impact on the Wild Atlantic Way. Cllr. Beasley asked when the new Guidelines would issue. The disruption and damage caused to the road network where wind farm developments have taken place is dreadful and he called on the Council to ensure these roads are repaired. He asked what rates are payable on wind turbines and he highlighted that wind farm developments have not benefitted the consumer where they are located.

Cllr. T. Ferris advised that members were aggrieved at the reference to North Kerry in the Landscape Character Assessment and stated that the value of the landscape in all parts of the county should be recognised. She thanked management for being proactive and reviewing the LCA and asked that the new LCA would clearly recognise the scenic value of the entire county.

Cllr. D. Grady stated he was opposed to wind farm developments as they have desecrated East and North Kerry. He acknowledged that in many instances Kerry County Council refused permission but An Bord Pleanála granted it on appeal. However, these developments are having a negative impact on our tourism industry.

Cllr. M. O'Shea highlighted that wind turbines have increased in size and it is difficult to understand why the new national Guidelines have not issued long ago.

Cllr. M. Kennelly welcomed the review of the Landscape Character Assessment as it was an insult to Ballybunion to state in the last LCA that it had no scenic value. North Kerry has enough wind turbines and no further developments should be permitted. The vast majority of rates paid for wind turbines come from developments in North Kerry.

Cllr. P. Daly stated that the local authority should consider developing wind farms with local communities on a smaller scale.

The Chief Executive stressed that local authorities are precluded from reviewing their Renewable Energy Strategy until the new Guidelines issue. However it is logical that the LCA would be reviewed as this will take a few months to complete. There are no national guidelines on solar energy and she would not rule out developing a local policy when an indication is received from the Department whether they plan to issue guidelines or not. When the new Guidelines issue it will be necessary to vary the County Development Plan to incorporate the new RES.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated he understood the RES was reviewed in other counties and those he represents want the policy reviewed. Wind farm development companies are still being granted permission and it is unfair that local authorities are not permitted to amend the County Development Plan. Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated the new Guidelines must issue in the first quarter of 2018.

The Chief Executive pointed out that there was ministerial intervention in some counties. Any change to policy must be in accordance with the new Guidelines as it would not stand up to scrutiny otherwise.

Cllr. J. Finucane requested that a letter would issue to the Minister asking him to indicate the date on which the Guidelines would be published.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.55pm.

The meeting resumed at 2.30pm.

**17.11.20.11 Presentation on Draft River Basin Management Plans -  
Feedback from public consultation and prioritisation of Water  
Bodies**

Mr. J. Breen briefed the meeting on this item under the following headings:

- New approach to management of our Rivers, Lakes and Coastal waters
- EU Water Framework Directive 2000
- The draft River Basin Management Plan
- Why prioritise “areas for action”?
- Vulnerable Waterbodies (Surface Waters)
- How were areas prioritised?
- How were priority “areas for action” selected?
- What does the prioritisation mean for people living within these areas?
- What happens next?

Cllr. J. Finucane stated that a lot of scientific data was compiled for the Plan and he suggested that a dedicated unit should be established to take responsibility for water course.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald highlighted that he lives in one of the pressure zones and in his opinion the closing date for the spreading of slurry is causing problems. Farmers should be allowed to spread it when the land is suitable. A lot of the farmers in his area are suckler farmers and there should be a 100% grant to upgrade storage facilities.

Cllr. J. Moloney called on Mr. Grant of Irish Water to withdraw his recent comments as he is blaming staff for water outages. This is very unfair and staff did an excellent job recently when the water supply was interrupted in Listowel.

Cllr. N. Moriarty highlighted there are two areas of particular concern in South Kerry and they are the Inny River and Lough Currane. Work has been undertaken by the Waterville Trust as they value the importance of angling for the area. She agreed with Cllr. Fitzgerald that 100% grant aid should be available to farmers to upgrade storage facilities as water courses must be protected.

Cllr. N. Foley agreed that the quality of our water courses is hugely important. She asked if the 12 key areas identified are sufficient. She supported the request by Cllr. Moloney calling on Mr. Grant to withdraw his comments and she asked that he would do so in public. Workers believe that his comments reflect badly on them and this is unfair.

Cllr. M. Gleeson welcomed the inclusion of the Flesk River of which the Finow is a tributary. He had witnessed the degeneration of the Flesk and he remembers the freshwater pearl in that river years ago but it is no longer there. He welcomed the prioritisation of certain areas and he asked if adequate staff are available to supervise and implement policies. He commended home owners who empty their septic tanks regularly and he asked if it is possible to ensure that the material removed is treated properly. In conclusion he asked if material removed from septic tanks is brought to the Killarney Treatment Plant for treatment.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae acknowledged that a River Basin Management Plan must be in place but he highlighted that the pearl mussel has a strong presence in the rivers in his area. The Area Engineer was arranging to have shores cleaned but this work was stopped but an active drain cleaning programme should be put in place. While he welcomed the Plan it is vital that farmers and others are not hampered in carrying out their work. In 2017 it rained for 22 days after the slurry spreading season opened. Farmers should have the discretion to decide when is the most suitable time to spread slurry. There was a recent break in the water pipe network at Farranfore and it was repaired within 7 hours. Mr. Grant's comments were unfair on staff who are very professional and diligent.

Cllr. B. Cronin expressed disappointment that the River Maine or the River Gweesten are not included in the priority areas and he requested that they be included as part of the river catchment analysis. He concurred with the views expressed by previous speakers in relation to the spreading of slurry and he added that it should be spread when the weather is suitable. Recent reports indicated that 50% of septic tanks inspected failed the test and this has a bearing on water quality. He highlighted that grants should be available to all those who want to replace or upgrade their septic tank. Cllr. Cronin advised that Mr. Grant's recent comments were an insult to staff. He lives in a problematic area and staff work day and night to restore the water supply to customers. The repair crews are experts at their job and he rejected the recent comments by Mr. Grant. There is an urgent need for investment in the pipe network which is in a very poor condition in some areas.

Cllr. M. Cahill agreed that grants should be available to all to upgrade their septic tanks. He condemned Mr. Grant's comments which were unfair on staff. The Mid Kerry Regional Water Supply Scheme is problematic and adequate funding should be allocated to replace the remaining pipe network.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty concurred with the views expressed by previous speakers in relation to Mr. Grant's comments and the spreading of slurry. In France they have smaller sites but they are very strict on desludging.

Cllr. M. O'Shea asked if funding is available to clean waterways. He concurred with the views expressed by Cllr. Moloney in relation to Mr. Grant's comments. Water Services staff are excellent and they are out in all types of weather fixing breaks. He understood that repairs to water schemes going forward will be advertised and he asked if Kerry County Council can tender for this work. While the Service Level Agreement is up to 2025 staff need assurances.

Cllr. R. Beasley also objected to Mr. Grant's comments regarding staff. The recent break in the water supply in Listowel was fixed in a short time by staff. In conclusion Cllr. Beasley agreed that farmers should be permitted to spread slurry when the weather is suitable and not by the calendar as is the case at present. Mr. J. Breen acknowledged the compliments by members for the water services staff and he advised that the spreading of slurry is being considered at a national level. He highlighted that septic tanks should be emptied annually and checks are carried out to ensure they are emptied by those who are licensed. At present grants are only available to those whose septic tanks have been inspected and require upgrade



or replacement. Members comments in relation to the various rivers will be referred to the relevant body.

The Chief Executive again highlighted that she clarified her position in relation to the recent article by Irish Water and she understood Mr. Grant provided clarification to the Unions who will notify their members.

### **17.11.20.12 Housing Delivery Activity Report**

Mr. M. O'Donoghue referred members to his report on this item which was circulated and he briefed the meeting in details on it under the following headings:

- Housing Construction
- Housing Maintenance
- Planned Maintenance Programme
- Voids
- Replacement Demountable Programme
- Acquisitions
- Buy & Renew
- Turnkeys
- Housing Assessment, Allocation & Transfer
- Housing Assistance Payment
- Private Rented Inspection

Cllr. T. Ferris requested for the following meeting that a report would be presented to members on the findings of the inspections carried out and on the Council's housing maintenance programme. Local authorities are tasked with inspecting private rented houses yet there is inadequate funding to maintain the Council's housing stock. Cllr. Ferris welcomed the funding for demountable units but added that progress is very slow on the Improvement Works in Lieu Programme. She asked that priority would be given to applicants for this scheme as it means they will not have to be rehoused. Kerry County Council received offers from up to 20 developers in response to requests for Turnkey developments. However, in Kerry only 10% upfront is offered to the developer while Cork County Council offer 30%. She asked why that cannot be the case in Kerry.

Cllr. D. Grady expressed his disappointment that there is not enough staff to repair Council houses and he asked that additional staff would be taken on for this purpose. He welcomed the 40 properties purchased in 2017 and he requested an update on proposals received for turnkey developments.

Cllr. J. Finucane acknowledged that progress is being made in relation to housing and he welcomed the 360 new tenancies. One of the issues with turnkey developments is that developers find it hard to get builders. Cllr. Finucane asked that an advertising campaign would be undertaken over Christmas encouraging our emigrants to return home permanently in 2018 as there are job opportunities in Kerry and Dairymaster had such a campaign at Kerry Airport.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty then moved Notice of Motion No. 13 on the October list.

**13. Single rural dwellings which remain vacant for more than 12 months**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. JJ Culloty PROPOSED:**

To ask this Council to provide details of all single rural dwellings which remain vacant for more than 12 months and why they remain vacant. Also, to provide all information regarding actions taken to overcome any difficulties related to these dwellings.

**The following reply issued:**

**Kerry County Council has an extensive programme of work in Housing to provide for persons qualified on our Housing waiting list. In the first 2 years of the 2015 to 2017 programme 791 units across all the various Social Housing delivery schemes available were delivered. It is intended that by the end of 2017 a further 686 units will be delivered bringing a projected delivery of 1477 units under the 3year programme (which can be broken down as follows: 290 new units either constructed or purchased, 326 refurbished voids, 912 socially leased or HAP units and 47 units delivered by the voluntary housing sector). This represents a 40% increase over our original allocation of 1058 units.**

**It is anticipated that our 2018 programme will deliver an additional 1122 units under and the various delivery schemes, therefore the combined total from 2015-2018 is expected to be 2599 units in total. DHPCLG approval will be required for the various proposals. We are continuing to press ahead with all programmes and develop them further into 2018.**

**There are currently 22 vacant Single Rural Cottages across the County. Works are ongoing on 10 of these properties.**

**For the remaining 12 a range of issues exists affecting the ability of the Council return these to productive use - e.g. poor condition of some which would warrant demolition rather than refurbishment, legal issues with regard to Rights of Way and ownership of sites. These issues are currently being worked through to attempt to secure resolution of the cases.**

**We have made progress in relation to resolving a number of other cases in recent times.**

Cllr. J.J. Culloty highlighted that there is a vacant dwelling in his area for a number of years. This house is 15 minutes from Killarney and a decision should be taken on what will be done with it. If there are legal or right of way issues with it then it should be resolved.

Cllr. D. Grady **SECONDED** the motion and he confirmed that he also enquired about the house referred to by Cllr. Culloty when he was informed it would be put up for sale.

Cllr. T. Barry asked how many vacant Council houses are in the Listowel area and he asked when will they be allocated.

Cllr. M. Kennelly asked if there is a shortage of staff in North Kerry as it is taking a long time to turn around voids. He acknowledged that there is a skilled labour shortage in North Kerry and one house in particular will be vacant for 12 months before it is allocated.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae welcomed the Replacement Demountable Programme and he added the most that would be required in a year is 2. The tendering process for the repair of voids is too complicated and as a result builders are not bothering with this work. He asked how this can be addressed and will the Council approach builders who have done this work in the past.

Cllr. P. Daly highlighted that some applicants are sleeping on couches with families and friends. There is an urgent need for accommodation for single applicants and the Council should have an extensive building programme.

Cllr. N. Foley advised that there is a severe shortage of accommodation for single people. She acknowledged that the staff in the Housing Department are excellent and they deliver a first class service. The Investigating Officers cover very large areas and this makes it very difficult for them to do their job.

In response Mr. M. O'Donoghue referred to member's comments on turnkey developments and assured them that his Department is doing what is allowed by procurement and Departmental guidelines. It was confirmed at a meeting that the model operated by Kerry County Council is the only model available. Mr. O'Donoghue asked members to discuss individual cases directly with him as he could not discuss them in a public forum. If repairs to a vacant house are estimated to cost in excess of €30,000 Department funding is required. An application for funding for a number of these was made to the Department and funding was allocated. Mr. O'Donoghue advised that detailed housing reports are provided at MD meetings. The problem with the repair of houses is not necessarily a direct labour issue but rather the capacity of the private market. On occasion where sanction is received to proceed it can be difficult to get someone to carry out the work. Mr. O'Donoghue undertook to discuss this issue with the CIF representative at the next SPC meeting.

#### **17.11.20.13 Kerry County Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019**

Mr. M. O'Donoghue referred members to his report dated 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 on this item which was circulated and he briefed them on the report.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. S. Fitzgerald, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Kennelly it was agreed to adopt the Kerry County Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 in accordance with Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

#### **17.11.20.14 Nominee to the JPC**

Cllr. N. Foley PROPOSED that Cllr. J. Finucane be nominated to the JPC following the resignation of Cllr. Spring.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald SECONDED this proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

**17.11.20.15 Duine a ainmniú ar Thascfórsa Ghaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh  
To agree a nominee to the Task Force of the Uibhrathach  
Gaeltacht**

Cllr. J. Finucane PROPOSED that Cllr. N. Moriarty be nominated to the Task Force of the Uibhrathach Gaeltacht.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald SECONDED this proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

**17.11.20.16 Report by Cllr. S. Locke on the meeting of the Tourism, Culture,  
Arts and Recreation SPC held on the 4th October 2017**

It was agreed to note Cllr. Locke's report on the meeting of the Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation SPC held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

**17.11.20.17 Summary of proceedings at events**

It was agreed to note reports on the following events on behalf of the Kerry County Council delegates that attended in accordance with Section 142(5)(f) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

- (a) AILG Training on "The National Planning Framework 2040" held in Waterford on the 11th February 2017 by Cllr. D. Quigg
- (b) Conference on the theme "The Fair Deal Scheme" held in Carlingford, Co. Louth from the 10th to 12th March 2017 by Cllr. J.J. Culloty.
- (c) AILG Annual Training Conference 2017 held in Ennis, Co. Clare on the 6th and 7th April 2017 by Cllr. N. Moriarty.
- (d) AILG Training Event on the theme "Urban and Rural Development" held in Ballina/Killaloe, Co. Tipperary on the 18th May 2017 by Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen.
- (e) Irish Planning Institute Autumn Planning Conference held in Dublin on the 6th October 2017 by Cllr. J. Lucid.

**17.11.20.18 Approval for the opening of Tenders**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was agreed to approve the opening of the following tenders:

- (a) Construction of a Single Rural Dwelling and associated site works at Cahernaboshina, Ventry - Closing date: Friday 15th September 2017 at 3pm.
- (b) N22 Coolgarriv HD28 Resurfacing Scheme - Closing date: Wednesday 25th October 2017 at 4pm.

## November Ordinary Meeting

- (c) Engineering Consultancy Services for Phase 6 (Construction and Implementation) and Phase 7 (Handover, Review, 7 Closeout) of N70 Kilderry Bends Improvement Scheme - Closing date: Friday 27th October 2017 at 2pm.
- (d) 2017 HD28 Pavement Resurfacing / Retexturing Works - Closing date: Wednesday 1st November 2017 at 4pm.
- (e) N21 Pavement Defect Repair Works - Closing date: Thursday 2nd November 2017 at 3pm.
- (f) Lough Leane Amenity Trail - Supply and Installation of Deer Fencing at Lismongane, Fossa, Killarney - Closing date: Wednesday 8th November 2017 at 4pm.
- (g) Construction of one housing unit and associated site works at Pinewood, Killarney - Closing date: Tuesday 14th November 2017 at 3pm.
- (h) RFID Self Service System for Kerry County Council Library Service - Closing date: Friday 17th November 2017 at 3pm.
- (i) Provision of training and consultancy services for Accessible Tourism - Closing date Friday 17th November 2017 at 3pm.
- (j) Kerry County Council 2017 Public Lighting N22 Killarney By-Pass LED Upgrade - Closing date: Wednesday 22nd November 2017 at 12pm.
- (k) Consultancy Services for the construction of 20 Housing Units at Marconi, Ballybunion - Closing date: Wednesday 22nd November 2017 at 3pm.
- (l) Conversion of Kerry County Council's existing library stock from barcode enabled to RFID enabled - Closing date: Friday 24th November 2017 at 3pm.
- (m) N71 Port Road Improvement Scheme - Closing date: Tuesday 28th November 2017 at 4pm.
- (n) Electrical Upgrade Works, North Kerry Landfill, Muingnaminnane, Kielduff, Tralee - Closing date: Thursday 30th November 2017 at 4pm.
- (o) Consultancy services for the construction of Community Facility - Boxing Club and Youth Project, Deans Lane, Tralee - Closing date: Friday 1st December 2017 at 12pm.
- (p) Consultancy services for the construction of 28 Housing Units at Balloonagh, Tralee - Closing date: Friday 1st December 2017 at 3pm.

## 17.11.20.19 Notices of Motion deferred from October

### 1. Lack of broadband connectivity

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

In view of the social, economic and educational deprivation being inflicted on many in our County because of lack of broadband connectivity or because of the wholly inadequate level of the broadband service, that Kerry County Council in cooperation with other similarly afflicted counties would initiate a major campaign towards achieving equality of treatment for all citizens of the state.

#### **The following reply issued:**

**The availability of High speed broadband in all parts of Kerry will be key infrastructural element to the continued economic and social development of the County. The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is a Government policy initiative which aims to deliver high-speed broadband to every household and business in Ireland within 3-5 years of commencement of the large scale rollout. The Department of Communication, Climate Action and the Environment is responsible for procuring a contractor to deliver the NBP. Current indications are that the contract will be awarded in 2018. Kerry County Council have appointed a broadband officer as recommended in the recent 'Report of the Mobile Phone and Broadband Task Force'. The Broadband officer will act as a single point of contact for engagement with operators within the local authority and will assist with accelerated rollout of the National Broadband Plan when the contractor is in place.**

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

“In 1967 the then Minister for Education Donagh O Malley gave equality of opportunity to all young student when he introduced free 2<sup>nd</sup> level education. It was seen as levelling the playing field or the classroom. It ensured that many thousands received a quality education that prepared them for life and enriched its quality. Strange then, indeed almost perverse that the arrival of Broadband technology has re-introduced inequality of educational opportunity.

Much modern education is done on line and that is wonderful for those with access to quality broadband. But it isolates and discriminates against the person who has limited or no access. In instance, Hibernia teacher training through which many young men and women qualify for their chosen profession but sadly there are some who are denied because of inequality of opportunity to access Broadband.

Decent and reliable Broadband would transform this country especially rural and so called isolated areas. But the promise of 2012 to provide high class Broadband to all has been totally reneged upon. A recent report found that our Broadband speeds are very poor – 36<sup>th</sup> in Europe.

The present situation is a failure that guarantees failure for individuals and communities. I call on all counties deprived in this regard to unite and demand equality.”

## **2. Social houses to be provided in 2017/2018**

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

How many social houses can we expect to see commencing in Kerry in 2017/2018?

#### **The following reply issued:**

**Kerry County Council has a strong housing construction and acquisition programme in place with 99 units intended to be commenced or purchased by the end of 2017. A further 197 units are planned to be commenced or purchased in 2018 subject to DHPCLG approval and compliance with Planning requirements. In addition, the Council is currently reviewing our Housing lands with a view to finalising future plans and proposals for the next phase of the Housing Programme. This work is expected to be completed in coming weeks and will be brought to Council before year end.**

Cllr. R. Beasley welcomed the 20 houses to be constructed in Ballybunion. He expressed concern at the Government's plan for housing which seems to be an acceptance of homelessness. There were negative comments in the media the previous week regarding volunteers who help the homeless but his only concern is the lack of co-ordination between all the groups involved.

## **3. Retained Fire Service.**

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

How come Kerry County Council stop Firemen being Firemen when they get a full time job in the Council. How are private companies and businesses expected to leave employees answer a fire call when the Council won't.

#### **The following reply issued:**

**There is no absolute requirement that an employee cannot hold another employment with the Council as well as that of Retained Firefighter. Indeed Kerry County Council continues to employ a number of persons who hold positions both as members of the Retained Fire Service and in other separate employments within other Council. In these cases Council management has determined that their release to attend to Fire Service duties would not potentially create an unacceptable level of risk in terms of their duties and responsibilities in these other positions while absent on their fire service duties, that their absence would not negatively impact on the delivery of Council services, and that they remain eligible for continued membership of the Fire Service( e.g. availability to respond at all times, proximity to their respective Fire Station, etc. ). Where an existing member of the Retained Fire Service, who applied for and following competition was offered a position with Kerry County Council and any of the foregoing criteria cannot be guaranteed in respect of the dual roles, then he or she would be required by council management to choose whether to accept the position offered and resign from the Retained Fire Service or decline the position and remain in the Retained Fire Service. This requirement would be absolute in such circumstances given the emergency/ critical nature of the fire service and to avoid any potential conflict into the future between both roles.**

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae highlighted that this issue has been ongoing for some time. If a part time fireman gets a full time job they must decide between that or being part time in the Fire Service. They have been trained at a cost to the local authority and when an opportunity arises to get a full time job on the roads etc. they cannot stay in the Fire Service. It is unfair of the Council to expect private businesses to allow staff to respond to a fire call when they do not allow it. The absence of staff on fire calls also impacts on the delivery of services by the private sector. Cllr. Healy-Rae PROPOSED that staff who have been fully trained would not be forced to leave the Fire Service when they get full time work with the Council.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae SECONDED the motion and this proposal.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue advised that this proposal could not be accepted as staffing is an executive function. There is no absolute embargo on full time staff remaining in the Fire Service and where appropriate it is allowed. However, when staff work in remote areas it would not work. Kerry County Council has employees working in other areas who are members of the Fire Service where it is compatible and he pointed out that the response time is critical for this service.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae stated he was referring to staff who remained in their area and they have been told they cannot continue in the Fire Service.

#### **4. National Pension Fund**

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

That this Council calls on the Government to establish as a matter of urgency a National Pension Fund for state employees and Local Authority workers, the present situation where pensions are paid out of income is not sustainable into the future.

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

Cllr. J. Finucane pointed out that €7.9m is provided in the Council's Revenue Budget for pensions. In the US and the UK Police Departments have their own pension funds and they go to the market every 3 years. The State has made no provision for funding pensions and he requested that a letter would issue to the Minister for Finance asking as the economy improves that such a fund could be utilised to fund infrastructure projects. The fund could be managed by the National Treasury Management Agency.

Cllr. N. Moriarty SECONDED the motion.

#### **5. Draw on the artistic/creative talents of people throughout the County**

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

Drawing on the artistic/creative talents of people throughout the County, that Kerry County Council seek to co-ordinate volunteers who will donate their talents to improve/enhance areas in our towns and villages that are currently in decline/disrepair. The enhancements of such areas will do much to improve the visual aspect of our towns/villages.



**The following reply issued:**

**The Arts Office will look at how this proposal can be advanced and will carry out preliminary enquiries as to the availability of such volunteers with appropriate skills and of suitable projects to work on.**

Cllr. N. Foley highlighted that there are incredibly talented people in the county and they could enhance some areas. She welcomed the involvement of the Arts Office to co-ordinate this project and suggested that a small allocation could be made from the Community Support Fund for one or two projects.

Cllr. T. Ferris SECONDED the motion.

## **6. Behy Bridge on the Ring of Kerry**

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

That Kerry County Council/Transport Infrastructure Ireland give a detailed progress report in regards to the dangerous S-Shaped Behy Bridge on the Ring of Kerry in the vicinity of Glenbeigh N.S. where numerous accidents have occurred and where lives have been lost. When will work commence on the construction of a new bridge, how long will this work take and what is the estimated cost.

**The following reply issued:**

**The proposals for the N70 Glanbehy Bridge Road Project, involves the construction of a new bridge and comprises a combination of both off-line/on-line realignments. The options appraised vary between 900m and 1850m in length and overall costs range from c. €3m to €4.5m. A Draft Route Selection Report has been prepared and submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (T.I.I.) for consideration.**

**Subject to any comments from the T.I.I., the Council is proposes to commence in a public consultation process in November 2017 before finalising the Route Selection Report. It is our intention to have the final Route Selection Report complete and submitted to T.I.I. in December 2017.**

**Approval from T.I.I. will then be sought to proceed with the Part 8 Planning Process and subject to planning consent, funding will be requested to progress the scheme in 2018. Updates on the progress of the scheme will be given to members at the South & West MD meetings.**

Cllr. M. Cahill welcomed the reply and added that this is a very important project for Mid Kerry and the Ring of Kerry. He complimented the Road Design Office on the preparation of the design which will be submitted next month.

Cllr. D. Quigg SECONDED the motion.

## **7. Proposed skate park for Tralee**

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

What progress has been made on the proposed Skate Park for Tralee since April last.

**The following reply issued:**

**All initial consultations have been complete and a preliminary design has been completed.**

**Discussions are at advanced stage in respect of lease / licence for the proposed site. It is intended to proceed to Planning Stage thereafter.**

**As with all such projects the progression of same will be dependent on identifying a source of funding in respect of same.**

Cllr. T. Ferris advised that an application for grant aid must be submitted by February and she did not want to see a third generation of skaters have to articulate what facilities they want. She called on the Chief Executive to ensure planning is in place so this project will be shovel ready by February in time to apply for a Sports Capital Grant.

Mr. M. Scannell replied that the planning application is ready to be lodged but the agreement of the landowner is needed.

### **9. Survival of the Valentia Island Ferry**

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

That we arrange for a delegation to meet with all relevant Ministers in relation to ensuring the survival of the Valentia Island Ferry.

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

Cllr. N. Moriarty advised that the Valentia Island Group sent a number of letters requesting grant aid but unfortunately the response was not great. They need to secure the funding now as it takes a year to build the ferry. They sought Fáilte Ireland Capital funding but they were refused. She asked that a delegation would be arranged with the relevant Minister with a view to identifying funding streams for the new ferry.

Cllr. M. O'Shea SECONDED the motion.

### **10. Lyme Disease**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J Sheahan PROPOSED:**

To write to the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, that he would acknowledge the people who suffer from Lymes Disease before it becomes an epidemic.

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

Cllr. J. Sheahan stated there is a serious issue with the number of people infected with Lyme Disease in Kerry. The Minister for Health must acknowledge how serious this is and he called on the Minister to fund their treatment abroad.

Cllr. B. Cronin SECONDED the motion.

## **11. Lyme Disease**

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

That this Council write to the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris calling on the need for the standardisation of testing across the EU in relation to Lymes Disease.

### **Mr. L Quinlan said this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. D. Quigg moved his motion and added that Ireland must comply with EU regulations which is the norm but not in this situation. He asked how there can be a positive result from a test conducted in Germany while that is not the case with the test carried out in Ireland. If tests were standardised people would be diagnosed faster and get the appropriate treatment.

Cllr. J. Finucane SECONDED the motion.

## **12. Industry for Kerry**

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

To ask the CE what is the up to date position with the IDA's interest and intentions to date of directing any form of industry to Kerry.

### **The following reply issued:**

**Kerry County Council has established a County Working Group focused on Economic Development. The Partners include, The IDA Regional Manager, The Enterprise Ireland Regional Manager, The Institute of Technology, President & Vice President and The Chief Executive & The Director of Economic Development in Kerry County Council.**

**The Group is established with a specific focus of co-ordinating and having updates from all Partners on activities within the County.**

**During 2017, the co-ordinated approach has delivered the following:-**

- IDA & Kerry County Council "Invest in Kerry" promotion which forms part of the international selling for Kerry.**
- Kerry County Council has worked closely with the IDA to identify investment ready sites across the County. This has involved a high level, research & analysis by Kerry County Council.**
- Kerry County Council, Enterprise Ireland and the IDA, as part of its commitment to the South West Regional Action Plan for Jobs, prioritised the establishment of two pilot Enterprise Hubs within the County, to promote rural employment. The Sneem Digital Hub and Skills Audit and the Dingle E-Hub – both funded under the Kerry County Council Town & Village Renewal Programme – will also have significant support from the IDA & Enterprise Ireland, which is critical to their future success.**

**The IDA Ireland has reported the following activity levels within the County:-**

- **13 IDA Client Companies in Kerry employing 2,083;**
- **This represents an increase of 586 over 5 years;**
- **Borg Warner €10m investment in capital equipment/€1.5m facility renovation in Tralee;**
- **The establishment of Starwood Hotels and Resorts Hub in Kenmare;**
- **Expansion of JRI America in Tralee;**
- **VT iDirect announced 30 new jobs in Killarney;**
- **Provision of Advanced Technology Building in Tralee;**

**IDA Ireland has also advised that they are engaged in a strong marketing campaign in relation to the advanced Technology Building in Tralee.**

**As Chief Executive, it is very important that Kerry County Council works closely with the IDA and also that the investment needs of the County are put forward to the IDA on an on-going basis, as part of this engagement.**

Cllr. M. O'Shea expressed his disappointment in the IDA and added that but for indigenous companies who have trebled their work force there would be very little employment in the county. 600 jobs were announced last week by the IDA but none of these were in Kerry. In April the new Advance Unit was opened but no tenant has been secured for it to-date. Cllr. O'Shea called on the IDA to appoint a permanent officer in Kerry. Members supported economic development in the Budget by providing €600,000 but the IDA have not delivered for the county.

Cllr. J. Finucane **SECONDED** the motion.

#### **14. Inspection of bridges for the build-up of debris**

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

To ask Kerry County Council to inspect all bridges for the build-up of debris.

**The following reply issued:**

**The Council is currently carrying out a visual inspection of approximately 250 bridges on National, Regional and local roads in advance of the winter season, to ensure that there are no blockages or immediately potential blockage to the roads. These are prioritized having regard to the scale of the bridge, traffic volumes on the routes, areas where there has been a history of flooding to properties in the past and cognizant of the need to maintain access to critical infrastructure. Any debris identified, which could restrict river flows, will be removed.**

Cllr. D. McCarthy welcomed the reply.

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

## **15. Programme for footpaths**

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

To request that this Council compile a defined programme for footpath construction similar to our Roads Programme as new footpaths are required in our towns and villages when in many cases the surfaces are very poor and uneven with water ponding in wet weather.

### **The following reply issued:**

**The Council is currently developing a 3 year programme of prioritized footpath repairs in each Municipal District, which will also identify critical locations where new footpaths may be required, and which will be brought to the members for approval.**

**The Council recognizes that there is a need for a footpath improvement programme, and the funding of this programme will be a matter for the members, through the road grant allocations, our own resources and the General Municipal Allocation.**

Cllr. B. Cronin pointed out that many footpaths are cracked and are unsuitable for people with mobility or disability issues. Members are advised that the only way footpaths can be improved is if they allocate €2,000 or €3,000 to improve a section each year. He welcomed the 3-year programme and added that footpaths in Killarney town need improvement.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECONDED the motion.

Cllr. T. Ferris moved Notice of Motion No. 16 in Cllr. Daly's absence.

## **16. Support for a Referendum to keep water provision in public ownership**

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

That this Council supports a Referendum to keep water provision in public ownership.

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

## **17. Introduction of a composting service**

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

To ask Kerry County Council to consider introducing a composting service to address the problem people in estates are facing with nowhere to dispose of their grass and foliage.

### **The following reply issued:**

**Green waste is accepted from domestic customers at the Dingle Civic Amenity Centre which is a purpose built facility. The Councils other Waste Facilities do not have a composting facility available. The proposal as outlined would have significant cost and licensing implications and for these reasons the council**

**will not be in a position to introduce such service. There are many options available to dispose of green waste through composting, and mulching etc. In fact grass clippings left on a lawn can add back up to 25 % of the nutrients that growth removes from soil. These clippings also encourage beneficial micro-organisms and earthworms that digest this grass and maintain healthy soil. The Council is also encouraging community groups such as Tidy Towns to switch to mulching of the grass which does not then require off-site disposal and we have assisted some groups in acquiring the necessary attachments for their grass cutting equipment.**

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated the reply does not address the difficulties people who live in estates have. People should be encouraged to maintain their homes and if the facility is available in Dingle it should be rolled out to the rest of the county.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae SECONDED the motion.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty then moved Notice of Motion No. 12 for November.

## **12. Green waste permits**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. JJ Culloty PROPOSED:**

As the regulations currently in place to secure a green waste permit are not reasonable for a sparsely populated County, I ask this Council to discuss options which would help make it feasible to set up such a necessary facility.

### **The same reply issued for this motion as for no. 17 above.**

Cllr. J.J. Culloty highlighted that these facilities are very expensive to set up and he asked if a system could be provided to accept small amounts of waste. In many instances people who cut trees cannot mulch them.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae SECONDED the motion.

## **18. New levy on tyres**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. F Flynn PROPOSED:**

The new tyre levy introduced from the 1st October, has both the retailer and the public confused in relation to the allocation of the levy and how Repak ELT is going to enforce the new system. Are the public once again expected to foot the bill of €14 approx. per full change of tyres.

### **The following reply issued:**

**This notice of motion refers to the new National Waste Tyre Regulations which were recently signed into effect by the Minister, thereby replacing the previous regulations in this area. As per the regulations, a new visible environmental management cost (vEMC) will apply from the 1st October to certain types of tyres at the point of sale : €2.80 per car tyre and €1.50 per motorbike tyre, both ex-VAT (it is intended that the charging regime will be expanded to include other types of tyres in the future). The charge will be used to offset the costs of managing waste tyres into the future and the Producer Responsibility Initiative**

**model is similar to those already in place for other products including batteries, electrical equipment etc. A new national compliance scheme is also now in place, operated by REPAK ELT, and it will their role to manage the collection and disposal of waste tyres into the future on behalf of the industry. All producers, suppliers and retailers are required to sign-up to this compliance scheme. Information on the new system is currently being disseminated to the industry and consumers via a number of outlets and agencies.**

Cllr. J.F. Flynn highlighted that the new levy is approx. €2.80 per tyre plus VAT. There is now a tracker on every tyre and they must be collected by Repac. If a tyre is bought online Repack cannot collect it so it will be dumped. It is expensive enough to run a car without having to pay an additional €14 on top of the cost of a new set of tyres. Cllr. Flynn asked that a letter would issue to the Minister calling on him not to impose this tax.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED the motion.

## **21. Requirements for appointment of nurses and doctors from other countries**

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

As large numbers of our eminently qualified young doctors and nurses leave Ireland for more attractive positions abroad, that the Department of Health, the Medical Council and An Bord Altranais would ensure that (a) those doctors and nurses who come to work in Ireland from other countries have adequate fluency to communicate with patients (b) that only those with the required qualification would be appointed as Consultants.

### **Mr. L Quinlan said this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. M. Gleeson clarified that he was not specifically referring to Kerry or Munster. He then read the following statement into the record of the meeting.

*“The first part of my Motion deals with a lady who suffers from arthritis. When she developed a severe pain the locum in the GP practice advised her to visit the local University Hospital.*

*The Doctor who examined her in the hospital could not communicate with her nor she with him. So a third party had to be brought along to try and interpret. The diagnosis was wholly incorrect and a few days later following a visit to her own GP the lady was admitted to a major Dublin Hospital for a heart procedure.*

*It is wrong that a person with inadequate language skills would be in such a position just as it would be wrong for such a person to be in a classroom position. I am asking that as well as Medical knowledge being a pre-requisite for a HSE appointment so too should language skills. The sick and concerned deserve no less.”*

Cllr. Gleeson added that there cannot be another country in the world that has higher entry requirements for young people to get into Medical School than applied in Ireland. There are so many richly talented young Doctors that training sufficient as

Consultants should be relatively straightforward. His motion was submitted quite some time before the recent Annual Conference of the Irish Hospital Consultants Association but the points made there reinforce the concerns expressed in the Motion. He quoted the following excerpts from that conference:-

- “1. *Public patients are being treated by 81 doctors working as consultants who do not have full specialist training.*
2. *The President of the IHCA warned that critically ill patients are dying because they are forced to stay in A&E when they should be in Intensive Care.*
3. *Patients with commonplace medical and surgical problems are waiting years to see a Consultant.*
4. *In 2016 we performed about half the number of hip replacements and much less than half of the knee replacements.”*

Cllr. Gleeson added that it is quite incredible in a country that trains so many superbly qualified people that our system is so repulsive to them that they choose to emigrate and leave their parents, families and friends to the mercy of a system that for far, far too long has failed dismally to relieve the normal pains, aches and disabilities of life's journey.

Cllr. Gleeson stated we should be ashamed of our ongoing failures particularly in light of the enormous money allocated annually to Health. He highlighted these two situations in the hope that someone will Shout Stop to the ongoing malaise that condemns and ignores.

Cllr. J. Sheahan SECONDED the motion.

## **22. The Old Pier at Blennerville**

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

That Kerry County Council begin a process to bring the Old Pier at Blennerville into public ownership given its Tourism potential for the County.

### **The following reply issued:**

**The development of the Old Pier at Blennerville has not been identified in the Kerry Tourism Strategy 2016 – 2020 and the Kerry County Council LECP. Consideration was given by the former Tralee Town Council to compulsorily acquire the site over 20 years ago, but there were significant legal constraints.**

**The Council also has responsibility for the operation of 59 piers and slipways located around the County. Kerry County Council cover the cost associated with all these piers including maintenance, the provision of tourist moorings, aids to navigation and pontoon maintenance within limited resources.**

**Therefore, the Council could only give consideration to this proposal, if there was a specific tourism potential and the reasonable prospect of a funding stream.**



Cllr. J. Finucane advised that Tralee Town Council had commenced the process of taking the Pier at Blennerville into public ownership as the bulk of all emigrants that left the county left from Blennerville. It was planned to develop an emigrant's walkway and he asked that this would be considered.

Cllr. D. McCarthy SECONDED the motion.

#### **24. Footpath at Ard Bhearna, Kenmare**

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

Why hasn't a footpath been included in the tender for 20 houses in Ard Bhearna, Kenmare to join up with the town and to ask that funding be sought from the Department of Housing and the TII for this purpose as a matter of urgency.

**The following reply issued:**

**A submission was made to the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government for the funding of the footpath, as part of the tender for the 20 houses in the Ard Bhearna scheme, but was not approved as part of the cost of the scheme. The Council has made a further request to the Department, to reconsider the decision and requesting a contribution towards the cost of the works.**

**Separately, the Council has engaged further with Transport Infrastructure Ireland on the feasibility of providing the footpath, particularly as the N71 Molls Gap / Killarney Road, Kenmare has been identified for pavement improvement works.**

**The section of the route from Ard Bhearna Estate towards the town centre has also been identified by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (T.I.I) for further examination under T.I.I.'s Network Safety Ranking process, and the Council has been requested to submit a Feasibility Report, which we expect to have completed and submitted by the end of the year.**

**The case will be made in the Feasibility Report that there is a need for a full traffic calming scheme which would include the provision of footpath linkage to Ard Bhearna estate. The current cost estimate to provide 440m of footpath is €206,000, including for public lighting and a pedestrian crossing.**

**There are economic benefits in having all of the works identified to be constructed under both schemes completed under a single contract and we are hopeful of favourable consideration from the T.I.I. to this proposal.**

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae welcomed the reply and stated there are in excess of 80 children in this estate. He asked that priority would continue to be given to the provision of this footpath.

Cllr. D. McCarthy SECONDED the motion.

## **25. Location of ESB poles**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J Sheahan PROPOSED:**

To ask Kerry County Council to write to the ESB and ask them if a risk assessment has been done to the location of their poles which may be in dangerous locations and which may cause Health and Safety issues.

### **Mr. L Quinlan said this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. J. Sheahan stated in his electoral area at Leam, Gneeveguilla a new ESB pole was erected and in his opinion it is in a dangerous location. It is located on a hill and where traffic veers right and in his option there is a real risk that vehicles could crash into it. He hoped the ESB would recognise this danger and remove the pole.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae SECONDED the motion.

## **26. Post Office management at Lauragh**

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

That this Council write to An Post asking for an extension to the timeframe that they have issued to the people of Lauragh to put new Post Office Management in place.

### **Mr. L Quinlan said this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. D. Quigg highlighted that this Post Office has now closed which is very disappointing. Communities like this need help if they are to survive and it was suggested that a co-op would be set up but guidelines are needed.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn SECONDED the motion.

## **27. Update on Tenant Purchase Scheme**

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

To ask the Housing Director what is the up to date position with the success of the Tenant Purchase Scheme regarding purchases and refusals.

### **The following reply issued:**

**The following describes the progress to date on the tenant Purchase scheme in Kerry County Council.**

**289 Applications received  
136 Eligible at the income stage  
116 Not eligible  
37 had further Information requested**

**79 have reached the Valuation stage  
57 have had Letters of Offer issued  
31 have accepted the Offer and are securing finance  
5 have begun the legal process to complete the purchase.**

Cllr. M. O'Shea advised that the criteria for the Tenant Purchase Scheme is very frustrating. Cllr. O'Shea requested that a letter would issue to the Department calling for the Scheme to be amended to allow more tenants to purchase their houses.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion.

### **29. Education of young people on the use of defibrillators**

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

That Kerry County Council request the HSE to put a programme together on educating young people on how to use defibrillators through schools.

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

Cllr. D. McCarthy highlighted that all towns and villages have defibrillators and he called on the HSE to fund the training of young people to use them.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae SECONDED the motion.

### **30. Housing estates waiting to be taken in charge**

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

Can Kerry County Council clarify how many housing estates are waiting to be taken in charge in each Municipal District.

**The following reply issued:**

**Kerry County Council currently has 48 Taking in Charge applications on hand. The breakdown per Municipal District is as follows:**

**Municipal District No. of Estates**

**Killarney 12**

**Listowel 12**

**South & West Kerry 15**

**Tralee 9**

**Kerry County Council has made substantial progress over the past number of years in addressing issues identified in unfinished housing estates across the County. Works have been completed in many of the more problematic estates which has greatly improved the quality of life for the residents living in these estates. Since 2009, 127 housing estates have been taken in charge across the County. 15 estates have been taken in charge to date in 2017 and the statutory process to take a further 5 in charge will commence shortly. We are also working closely and pursuing outstanding bond sums with the various financial institutions. Good progress is also being made in this regard.**

**Many of the remaining estates to be taken in charge are historic estates where there is no bond in place. We also require formal approval from Irish Water before proceeding to commence the TIC process in accordance with our Memorandum of Understanding and in many cases, site resolution plans are required to be prepared.**

Cllr. B. Cronin complimented the Taking in Charge unit on how helpful they are to residents who want to apply to have their estate taken in charge. He expressed concern that the approval of Irish Water must be received and this is slowing down the process where minor work must be undertaken. One estate in Killarney applied to be taken in charge in 2013 and it has still not been finalised. Cllr. Cronin asked that the procedures would be streamlined where only minor works are required.

### **31. Fencing at Fenit Island**

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

That Kerry County would remove the illegal fencing at Fenit Island as a matter of urgency as permitted under Legislation in light of An Bord Pleanála decision.

**The following reply issued:**

**Kerry County Council has already commenced enforcement action in respect of this matter and is currently actively engaged to ensure adherence with the An Bord Pleanála decision regarding this fencing. Kerry County Council are very mindful of advancing this case as quickly as possible. The Council is satisfied that the process being followed is the appropriate course of action.**

Cllr. T. Ferris highlighted that the public are frustrated at the lack of progress in the enforcement of the Order. On the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015 An Bord Pleanála ruled that the fences were unlawfully erected and Kerry County Council has the legislative power to remove them. She PROPOSED that specific queries would be forwarded for reply in the next 2 weeks. Cllr. Ferris asked that the Council would act as they are entitled to and to enforce the decision of An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr. T. O'Brien SECONDED the motion.

### **32. Update on Single Rural Dwellings**

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

To ask Kerry County Council the following in relation to rural cottages - how many applicants are there currently in Kerry; how many are currently being built; when will they be completed and how many are in the ownership of Kerry County Council that are vacant.

**The following reply issued:**

**Kerry County Council has an extensive programme of work in Housing to provide for persons qualified on our Housing waiting list. In the first 2 years of the 2015-2017 programme 791 units across all the various Social Housing delivery schemes available were delivered. It is intended that by the end of 2017, a further 686 units will be delivered bringing a projected delivery of 1477 units under the 3 year programme (which can be broken down as follows: 290 new units either constructed or purchased, 326 refurbished voids, 912 socially leased or HAP units and 47 units delivered by the voluntary housing sector). This represents a 40% increase over our original allocation of 1058 units.**

**It is anticipated that our 2018 programme will deliver an additional 1122 units under the various delivery schemes, therefore, the combined total from 2015-2018 is expected to be 2599 units in total. DHPCLG approval will be required for the various proposals. We are continuing to press ahead with all programmes and develop them further into 2018.**

**There are currently 28 applications for single rural dwellings on the Kerry County Council housing waiting list.**

**Kerry County Council's Capital Construction Programme to 2019 has a target to build twelve single rural dwellings.**

**There are no single rural dwellings currently under construction but Kerry County Council intends to commence construction of two dwellings in Nov/Dec 2017 and these should be completed by mid 2018.**

**There are five SRD applications which are in the approval process and subject to completion of the legal transfer of the land, Departmental approval etc., Kerry County Council expects that it will be in a position to commence building on these five sites in the 1st quarter 2018.**

**There are a further five SRD applications identified on which site suitability assessments will have to be completed and subject to these being deemed suitable then the Part 8 planning process etc. will commence. The Council anticipates that it will have contractors on site in late 2018 subject to site transfer etc. being completed.**

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae asked if funding is in place to build 28 single rural dwellings. She added that her query regarding the number of vacant single rural dwellings was not addressed in the reply and she asked if funding is in place to repair them.

In response Mr. M. O'Donoghue advised that there are 12 single rural dwellings included in the current construction programme. A number of single rural dwellings are vacant as there are particular problems with them including legal issues. Any house that costs in excess of €30,000 to repair requires Departmental approval. Mr. O'Donoghue undertook to revert to members with details of vacant single rural dwellings at the next meeting.

#### **34. Cost of all feasibility studies/consultant reports**

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

That Kerry County Council give a detailed breakdown on the cost of all feasibility studies/consultant reports carried out during the past 3 years. How much is being spent on feasibility studies/consultant reports to date this year and what will be the final cost of on-going feasibility studies/consultant reports that have not yet been finalised.

**The following reply issued:**

**The attached schedule gives the details of the sums paid to Consultants engaged by Kerry County Council on County Council projects and the jobs**

between 2014 and 2016. The information for 2017 can be made available to Council early in 2018.

The majority of the funding for consultants on roads schemes (approx. 95%) relates to the construction of major capital projects, funded entirely by T.I.I. and managed by a dedicated Road Design Office in Castleisland. The Council also has an extensive housing capital programme, managed by a dedicated design team. It is necessary to retain specialist consultants to ensure the delivery of these projects. The Capital Infrastructure Unit also manages major projects such as our greenways, the redevelopment of the Mall and the Denny site.

The total cost of consultancy services for 2014 to 2016 is set out in the following table:

	2014	2015	2016
<b>Totals</b>	€	€	€
<b>Consultancy</b>	<b>2,086,965</b>	<b>1,678,091</b>	<b>1,951,564</b>
<b>Recoupable</b>	€	€	€
	<b>1,854,360</b>	<b>1,419,040</b>	<b>1,511,788</b>

Across the three-year period approx. 84% of the total payments to consultants was recoupable. Appendix One details this expenditure by division.

#### APPENDIX ONE

Revenue & Capital Expenditure	Consultants Expenditure	Consultants Recoupable
2016:		
A: Housing	46,617	44,649
B: Roads	1,262,861	1,194,006
D: Development Mgmt.	214,437	36,113
E: Environment	38,834	-
F: Recreation & Amenity	189,933	187,190
G: Agri, Educ, Health & Welfare	195,559	49,831
H: Misc. Services	1,046	-
J: Central Management Charges	2,277	-

**2016 Total** **1,951,564** **1,511,788**

#### Revenue & Capital Expenditure 2015:

A: Housing	13,388	6,487
B: Roads	1,219,145	1,201,862
C: Water	8,733	8,733
D: Development Mgmt.	93,456	1,600
E: Environment	51,277	1,845
F: Recreation & Amenity	180,265	175,893
G: Agri, Educ, Health & Welfare	93,984	20,357
H: Misc. Services	5,830	2,263
J: Central Management Charges	12,013	-

**2015 Total** **1,678,091** **1,419,040**

Revenue & Capital Expenditure

## November Ordinary Meeting

2014:

A: Housing	112,065	21,372
B: Roads	1,680,161	1,668,544
D: Development Mgmt.	31,569	19,126
E: Environment	11,094	3,075
F: Recreation & Amenity	131,894	128,480
G: Agri, Educ, Health & Welfare	83,609	6,974
H: Misc. Services	6,790	6,790
J: Central Management Charges	29,784	-
<b>2014 Total</b>	<b>2,086,965</b>	<b>1,854,360</b>

Cllr. M. Cahill welcomed the reply and noted that €5.7m has been spent on consulting services since 2014. He also noted that a substantial portion of this was recoupable. While he did not have an issue with any of the companies involved it would be preferable if there was an in-house consultancy unit. He believed that savings could be achieved and he asked if the Council can select the consultants or does the Department select them.

The Chief Executive advised that much of the expenditure is in the Capital Roads Programme that is driven by the NRDO which is an agent of TII. Much of the work for housing is done in-house but with a substantial Housing Programme some of the design work must be done by consultants.

### 17.11.20.20 Notices of Motion 1 – 18

#### 1. South Kerry Greenway

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

I propose that all the Members of Kerry County Council fully support and endorse the South Kerry Greenway from Glenbeigh to Caherciveen which has the potential to be one of Ireland's biggest and best Tourism Projects and will play a massive contribution to the local economy here in Kerry and job creation in the South West, an area that has been ravaged by emigration and is subject to continuous population decline. It is imperative that this project is supported and progressed by all to fruition and that the Greenway receives the political leadership it deserves from within the County.

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

Cllr. M. Cahill highlighted that the South Kerry Greenway is the next major tourism project for the county and it is imperative that it is constructed as soon as possible. This will transform South Kerry and in particular the Caherciveen area needs this stimulus. The onus is on all politicians to support this project.

Cllr. M. Gleeson then moved Notice of Motion No. 8.

## **8. Update on the progress in the development of the South Kerry Greenway**

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

That the Council would give an update on the progress made thus far in the development of the former railway line from Glenbeigh to Reenard as a Walkway cum Cycleway and would further give a hoped for completion date for the overall project. This scheme has the potential to transform the economy of the Iveragh Peninsula and give vibrancy to communities that have endured much from unemployment and depopulation.

### **The following reply issued:**

**The final public consultation on the South Kerry greenway was held in the Ring of Kerry hotel on 30th and 31st August. The route which went on public consultation is available to view on the Council's website under the Project and Schemes section of Latest News.**

**The preferred route selection process has now been completed and this route is being subjected to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Any recommendations arising from the EIA process will be incorporated into the final design.**

**The EIA is a very complex and exacting assessment process, particularly given the scale of the project, and which ultimately will have to be considered by An Bord Pleanála, as well as the application for the Compulsory Purchase Order for the lands required to construct the scheme. At this stage it is envisaged that the EIA will take approximately 4 months for substantial completion. Following this process, the Council may engage in pre-planning consultation with the Board.**

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated he recently met a lady from Waterford who informed him that the development of the Greenway in Waterford has transformed the area. If the South Kerry Greenway was developed it would be the greatest tourism attraction in Northern Europe. Cllr. Gleeson called on all involved to put aside their previous entrenched positions and to work to get this project over the line.

## **2. Request meeting with Minister Shane Ross regarding the Dale road**

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

As the Rathscannell/Abbeydorney Road (also called the Dale Road) has been confirmed as the priority road in North Kerry, I am asking for the members support in requesting an expedited meeting with Minister Shane Ross to highlight the danger this road poses in our county to residents, commuters, businesses and tourists. We cannot tolerate this road trundling around in a system and being left in such a grave state for so many years.

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

Cllr. A. Thornton highlighted that a delegation from the Dale Road was received at a Listowel MD meeting and while deputations are not received at full Council she believed there are issues of such priority that they should be permitted to come



before full Council. Priority should be given to the Dale Road as it is the top priority for North Kerry. Cllr. Thornton suggested that there should be four priority roads, one from each MD and these should be discussed with the Minister.

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

The Chief Executive confirmed that she and the Director of Operations met with Department officials to discuss the Dale Road in the past 12 months and the Minister can be requested to meet with a deputation from Kerry County Council to discuss it further.

Cllr. Thornton stated that the members for the Listowel MD had requested a meeting with the Minister previously. This is the most dangerous road in North Kerry and she asked why it has not been prioritised. Funding has not been secured to-date and she again requested that four priority roads, one per MD, would be identified with a view to applying for funding for them.

The Chief Executive informed members that both she and the Director of Operations met with Department officials on two priorities over the past 12 months. The first was in relation to the Fenit road and €400,000 was allocated for this road. The second was in relation to the Dale Road and she understood from the Department that roads of economic benefit are receiving priority.

### **3. Set up a Rural Affairs Strategic Policy Committee**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. T McEllistrim PROPOSED:**

To call on Kerry County Council to set up a Rural Affairs Strategic Policy Committee for the enhancement of Agriculture and Rural Villages and Parishes throughout County Kerry.

#### **The following reply issued:**

**The statutory basis for Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) is set out in Section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 41 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The primary role of the Strategic Policy Committees is to assist Kerry County Council in the formulation, development and review of policy. The experience and expertise of relevant external Bodies on our 4 existing SPCs help enhance the overall role of Councillors by providing a platform for an input into policy formulation at an early stage. As you are aware the existing Kerry County Council Strategic Policy Committee Scheme was adopted in July 2014 following the election of the existing Council and will be reviewed again following the 2019 local elections. Rural development is core to the functions, operations and delivery of all sections of Kerry County Council as outlined in a recent reply to a Notice of Motion. The existing sectorial representatives on the various SPCs bring the knowledge and expertise of people working with social, economic, cultural and environmental bodies throughout the county into the operation and strategy of Kerry County Council and transcend many aspects of rural affairs in the county. Therefore, it is considered that the existing SPC structure which was developed in accordance with this adopted scheme already facilitates a strong**

**focus on the development of policy and assessing its impact on rural affairs in the county.**

Cllr. T. McEllistrim stated that a Rural Affairs SPC would promote and facilitate long term economic and social progress across rural Kerry. A Rural Affairs SPC could co-ordinate an action plan for rural development and Jobs.

A Rural Affairs SPC could co-ordinate an Action Plan for Rural Development and Jobs. A Rural Affairs SPC could aid the delivery of the Rural Regeneration Scheme, the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme, the Clár programme, the development of the Post Office Network, and the speed up and roll out of Broadband which are key priorities in Kerry. Agricultural issues could also be brought forward in a Rural Affairs SPC including farmers concerns and BREXIT.

Cllr. D. McCarthy SECONDED the motion.

**4. Total expenditure for the 2016 Count A Fresh/Re Count in Listowel**

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

Can Kerry County Council confirm what the total expenditure/cost and breakdown to the tax payer was as a result of the 2016 Count A Fresh/Re Count which took place in the Listowel Municipal Area.

**The following reply issued:**

**While a significant portion of the costs related to this matter have been submitted and dealt with, there remains a number of outstanding costs claims which have not been submitted to date.**

**When the matter has been finalised we will come back to the Council with a final position.**

Cllr. M. Kennelly stated it is 2 years since the Judgement on the Listowel Local Election Count and he wanted a breakdown of the costs involved in the County Afresh and what is the liability to Kerry County Council.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue advised that the Court Order was clear in that certain costs were payable by Kerry County Council. An insurance policy was in place but some costs have not yet been submitted and he undertook to revert to Council when the matter is closed.

Cllr. T. Ferris moved Notice of Motion No. 5 in the absence of Cllr. Daly.

**5. Solution to sewage at The Big River**

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

That this Council, in light of the recent announcement from Irish Water that the dumping of raw sewage into waterways will not be eliminated until 2020, will take steps to find an alternative solution to the sewage issue at The Big River.

**The following reply issued:**

**Irish Water has made €500,000 available for the investigation of the Tralee Sewerage Scheme, including the Oakpark road sewer, having regard to its condition and capacity to deal with existing and future loading. Irish Water has recently tendered for this work and it is anticipated that consultants will commence work in early 2018.**

**7. Call to address the unfairness in selling off our energy from the grid outside this country**

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

That this Council write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr. Denis Naughten, asking him to address the unfairness in selling off our energy from the grid outside this country while electricity bills in Ireland are the second highest in the EU.

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

Cllr. D. Quigg advised that wind turbines are a blight on the landscape and to make matters worse the cost of energy has not reduced for the consumer. Energy costs in Ireland are the second highest in Europe and he asked that a meeting would be sought with Minister Naughten to discuss this issue.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED the motion.

**9. Lyme Disease**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J Sheahan PROPOSED:**

To ask the Irish Blood Transfusion Service are they testing donated blood for Lyme's disease. Are they asking their clients if they are affected by the Lyme's disease virus. A Campaign must be organised for T.V. to make people aware and what to do to keep the tick / unique flea at bay.

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

Cllr. J. Sheahan stated he has been reliably informed that if someone infected with Lyme Disease donates blood then the recipient becomes infected. The Blood Transfusion Service should be aware of this problem.

Cllr. D. Quigg SECONDED the motion and added that this issue was raised at a recent HSE Regional Forum Meeting and a presentation will be made by a doctor on it at the next meeting.

**10. Implement a new system for the upcoming Local Electoral Area Boundary review**

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

That Kerry County Council call on Minister Eoghan Murphy to implement a new system for the upcoming Local Electoral Area Boundary review whereby the Boundary Review Committee show their proposed changes on a draft map which is

then put out for public consultation for a six week period inviting the public and affected communities for their views, observations and submissions in advance of any final decision.

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

Cllr. B. Cronin highlighted that he had first-hand experience of how an independent boundary review changed DEDs from Killarney to Killorglin without consultation with those affected. Some DEDs were in an electoral area that they had no connection with and they felt disenfranchised. The general public should be given the opportunity to comment on the draft proposals. Cllr. Cronin asked that the motion would be referred to all local authorities for their support.

Cllr. D. Quigg **SECONDED** the motion.

### **11. Full banking licences for Post Office and suitable Credit Unions**

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

To ask the Minister for Finance to instruct the Central Bank to give full banking licences to the Post Office and its networks and also suitable Credit Unions.

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

Cllr. J. Finucane highlighted that there is no valid alternative to the banks and he suggested that either new banks from outside the country would be introduced or that licences would be granted to Credit Unions and Post Offices. The level of suffering caused to people who have lost their homes is unacceptable and people have lost confidence in the banks.

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

### **14. The lining programme on national routes in the County**

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

To ask the Director of Operations to make immediate contact with the TII to readdress the current lining programme that is currently taking place on the national routes in the County of Kerry as this is causing mass confusion for all road users and will result in fatal accidents in the County of Kerry.

**The following reply issued:**

**This issue was raised with Transport Infrastructure Ireland recently and they have advised as follows:-**

**Transport Infrastructure Ireland commissioned surveys and designs for the lining of all National Routes in the Country. These have been rolled out since 2010 with works being implemented on the ground since 2011. The outstanding routes are now being finalised this year which include the N69, N70 and N72.**

**All delineation markings are designed in accordance with the Department of Transport's Traffic Signs Manual 2010, which are the current design standards.**

Cllr. M. O'Shea highlighted that in Tinnahalla prior to 2010 there were 7 accidents but from 2010 to 2014 there were 4 accidents. TII had no information on these but he contacted the local Garda who confirmed these stats. Cllr. O'Shea asked that TII would be requested to replace the broken line with a continuous white line at (a) Kennedy's Cross and (b) the Golf Course entrance junction.

### **15. Overhanging trees on roads**

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

In light of Storm Ophelia, Kerry County Council should insist that all trees overhanging onto roads, should be cut back.

**The following reply issued:**

**Following the recent storms, the Council advised all landowners, on local radio and other media platforms, of their obligation to inspect any roadside trees on their lands and to take reasonable steps to ensure that they are not a hazard to road users. The Council also wrote to Coillte, NPWS and known owners of other large land holdings with extensive sections of roadside trees, in relation to this matter.**

**The Council are also carrying out a preliminary visual inspection of the national routes and regional routes where there are extensive sections of roadside trees and will take any necessary measures as prescribed under current legislation.**

**The Council also inspects specific roadside locations, where it has received complaints or concerns from elected members or the general public.**

Cllr. D. McCarthy called on management to ensure that overhanging trees are cut back in the interest of public safety.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion.

### **16. Call to connect College Road, Tullig, the Black Road and the Brosna Road to the public sewer in Castleisland**

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

To ask Kerry County Council and Irish Water to connect residents from College Road, Tullig and the Brosna Road to the public sewer. Many people are suffering as a result of this.

**The following reply issued:**

**This matter has been referred to the Irish Water for a response.**

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae highlighted that this issue has been ongoing for in excess of 40 years. Residents were promised they would be connected to the public sewer but it has not happened and they must empty their septic tanks a number times a year.

There is a shortage of 4 and 5B houses in Castleisland and unless the land can be connected to the sewer further development cannot take place.

Mr. J. Breen undertook to pursue this matter with Irish Water.

### **17. "Pay Per View" exemptions to nursing homes, day care centres and hospitals**

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

To ask the Minister for Communications and the GAA to direct SKY to grant "Pay Per View" exemptions to nursing homes, day care centres and hospitals, as people who have watched GAA matches all their lives, cannot watch some of them now.

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

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae advised he was contacted by a number of people in a nursing home and in a hospital who expressed their disappointment at the Pay per View. With Pay per View the elderly miss one or two of the televised matches but if they were at home they could pay to view them. Cllr. Healy-Rae called for an exemption from this charge for nursing homes and hospitals as it is exorbitant. This would be a very minor thing to do to respect the elderly who supported the GAA all their lives.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion and read the following statement into the record of the meeting.

*"Tradition is its foundation, continuity its essence and community its ongoing objective. The Gaelic Athletic Association, since its foundation in Hayes Hotel, Thurles in 1884 has to a very considerable extent formed and defined Ireland and in a special way rural Ireland. The GAA has its roots deeply set in every parish in the country and is the ongoing epi-centre of social and sporting interaction.*

*Each time that I visit Dublin, most recently 3 weeks ago, I make a fraternal visit to Fingal Cemetery. When my private visit and clean-up is concluded I always call to the grave of Michael O'Hehir and his wife Molly.*

*Through the medium of the then very scarce radio his voice brought the story of distant games into young lives. He inspired thousands to see vision and to dream dreams. He was to many of us an idol and inspiration. I'm proud to have known him, I am glad that I was in Croke Park on the day that the GAA saluted the great man in his wheelchair. A cruel Stroke stopped him one short of broadcasting his 100<sup>th</sup> All Ireland Final. Michael O'Hehir, through radio and latterly through television was for 40 years (1938-1985) or more the inspirational voice of the GAA for people at home and abroad.*

*If radios were scarce then, SKY Sport is now not to be found in every home. Maybe not in up to 40% of homes – for many and varied reasons. But calling into a home down the road is not as much an option now as it once was.*

*As a result, some people are un-willingly forced to go the Pub, where children are not always welcome, not should they be.*

*The truth is that many people are deprived of the opportunity to see their favourite county and for children, of their chance to watch their local heroes on the Big Day.*

*Local clubs and indeed counties need to maximise the glamour of their local Star players if the next generation is to be inspired.*

*Many who are now aged, infirm and unable to travel to games have given many years of loyal and devoted service to the GAA games and cultural pursuits. It seems very harsh to deprive them of the joy of seeing their county teams on the big day.*

*I ask that the GAA would re-examine this entire matter and in consultation with the Clubs seek to maximise the viewing potential of the games free of charge. Guaranteeing the future right to see the inter-county games and taking cognisance of the social needs of community are deserving of priority over the generation of immediate profit.*

*For 132 years the people of Ireland and the GAA have been almost synonymous. It would indeed be sad if the generation of finance is to alienate and deprive people who have served and those who will or may serve in the years ahead”*

In conclusion Cllr. Gleeson highlighted that he was calling for an end to the Pay per View for GAA matches.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae asked that a letter would issue to Uachtarán CLG and that the resolution would be circulated to all local authorities.

#### **17.11.20.21 Correspondence – Conferences and Seminars**

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.F. Flynn, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cllrs. B. O’Connell and N. Kelleher at the Conference on the theme “What does a Hard BREXIT mean for Ireland” held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.

Cllr. Kelleher was nominated to report back to Council on this event.

- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. Quigg, SECONDED by Cllr. D. McCarthy it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cllrs. Beasley, Lucid and Moloney at the Conference on the theme “Housing in Crisis – Defining the Role of the Councillor” held in Wexford from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Cllr. Beasley was nominated to report back to Council on this event.

- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.F. Flynn, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cllrs. Foley and Lucid at the Bank of Ireland National Enterprising Town Awards Dinner held in Tullamore, Co. Offaly on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017.



(d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. McCarthy, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cllr. P. McCarthy at the Purple Flag Awards Ceremony held in Norwich, England on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

(e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. McCarthy, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cllr. Connor-Scarteen at the Housing Conference 2017 to be held in Dublin on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

Cllr. Connor-Scarteen was nominated to report back to Council on this event.

(f) This event is the same as (e) above.

(g) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. J.F. Flynn it was agreed to authorize the attendance of Cllr. J. Healy-Rae at the Conference on the theme "Invasive Exotic Species of Wildlife in Irish Rivers, Canals and Lakes" to be held in Clonakilty from the 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae was nominated to report back to Council on this event.

(h) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Moriarty, SECONDED by Cllr. D. McCarthy it was agreed to authorize the attendance of Cllrs. O'Connell, Kelleher and O'Shea at the Conference on the theme "Audit Committees in the Irish LG System" to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017.

Cllr. O'Connell was nominated to report back to Council on this event.

(i) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Moloney, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was agreed to authorize the attendance of Cllrs. Kennelly, J. Healy-Rae, M. Healy-Rae and Moriarty at the Conference on the theme "A Practical Guide to Budget 2018" to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

(j) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Healy-Rae, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cllr. O'Connell at the Conference on the theme "A Practical Guide to Budget 2018" held in Carlingford, Co. Louth from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

(k) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.F. Flynn, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Healy-Rae it was agreed to approve the attendance of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Sheahan at the Kerry London Association Annual Dinner held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

(l) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. McCarthy, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Gleeson it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cllrs. Sheahan, Finucane, Kennelly, Kelleher and Moriarty on a delegation to Berlin from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

(m) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Healy-Rae it was agreed to authorise the attendance of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Sheahan at the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2017 to be held in Dublin on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017.



### 17.11.20.21 Correspondence General

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

1.	Letter dated 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from the RSA in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the process for renewing driving licenses.
2.	Letter dated 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from the Car Rental Council of Ireland in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council that all rented cars would have a spare wheel.
3.	Email dated 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from Irish Water in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the taking over of group water supply schemes.
4.	Letter dated 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from Irish Rail in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council calling for a pedestrian bridge linking the bus and train stations in Killarney.
5.	Letter dated 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council calling for an increase in the income threshold for social housing.
6.	Email dated 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council calling for the enacting of legislation to abolish water charges.
7.	Letter dated 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council calling for a reduction in the commission charged by Booking.com.
8.	Letter dated 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from the Fáilte Ireland in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council calling for a reduction in the commission charged by Booking.com.
9.	Letter dated 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from the Department of Rural and Community Development in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the use of the Pobal Deprivation Index for the next iteration of SICAP.
10.	Letter dated 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from the Department of Health in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the trafficking of human organs.
11.	Letter dated 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2017 from Irish Water in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council calling for the opening of an office by Irish Water in Kerry.
12.	E-mail dated 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2017 from the Department of Education in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding training for the Hospitality sector.
13.	Email dated 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 from Irish Water in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council calling on them to discontinue their policy of billing farmers for non-domestic water that has not been utilised.
14.	Letter dated 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 from the Minister of State for Tourism and Sport in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding Booking.com commission charges.
15.	Letter dated 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 from Coillte in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding information for the public on Lyme Disease.
16.	Letter dated 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 from Tourism Northern Ireland in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the Booking.com commission charge.
17.	Letter dated 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2017 from the Secretary to the Firearms Consultative Panel in response to resolutions from Kerry County Council regarding a proposed ban on night time shooting.

18.	Letter dated 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 from KETB in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding Culinary/ Hospitality/Tourism Programme and Training in County Kerry.
19.	Email from Deputy Danny Healy-Rae in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council asking Oireachtas members not to support the proposed Fixed Penalty Drink Driving Bill 2017.
20.	Email from Senator Ned O’Sullivan in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council asking Oireachtas members not to support the proposed Fixed Penalty Drink Driving Bill 2017.
21.	Letter dated 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from Monaghan County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling for a review of legislation regarding school transport.
22.	Letter dated 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 from Offaly County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling for an overhaul of how the Social Housing Programme is administered by the Department.
23.	Email dated 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 from Ballina MD regarding a resolution adopted by that authority calling on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to address the problem of ragwort.
24.	Letter dated 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 from Monaghan County Council regarding a resolution adopted by that authority supporting the SIPTU Big Start/Early Years Campaign objectives.
25.	Email dated 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2017 from Kilkenny County Council regarding a resolution adopted by that authority calling for the introduction of a compulsory training program of occupational first aid training for all teachers and SNAs.

#### **17.11.20.23 Any Other Business**

Cllr. J.F. Flynn PROPOSED that Kerry County Council would take a table at the Kerry London Association Annual Dinner in future.

Mr. L. Quinlan advised that this proposal would be referred to the CPG for consideration.

The meeting concluded at 4.55pm.

**Liam Quinlan**  
**Meetings Administrator**

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**Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council**