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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 , 11 MEÁN FÓMHAIR, 2017

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

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

APOLOGY/LEATH SCÉAL

D. Nolan S. Fitzgerald

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive	Mr. J. Breen, Director Water Services
Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance	Mr. M. Scannell, A/Dir. Job Cr/Sust. ED
Mr. M. O'Donoghue, A/Dir.H.&Corp.S.	Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Operations
Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator	Ms. K. Lynch, SEO Finance
Mr. D. Ginty, A/SE Planning	Ms. B. Conway, AO Corporate Support
Mr. G. O'Brien, A/SEO Envir. Serv.	Mr. O. O'Shea, Press & Comm. Officer
Ms. T. Browne, AO Revenue	Ms. B. Reidy, SSO Corporate Support
Mr. P. O'Connor, SSO Finance	Mr. R. Tangney, SO Finance
Mr. J.J. Canty, A.S.O. Finance	Ms. G. Cotter, CO Finance
Ms. K. Kennelly-O'Driscoll, Arts Off.	Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corporate Support
Mr. S. Hussey, Corp. Support	Ms. A. Hogan, IT

The meeting commenced at 12.50pm.

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

17.09.11.01 Cathaoirleach's Report on the CPG Meeting held on the 5th September 2017

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

"Agenda for the September Council Meeting

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

The Chief Executive highlighted that it is intended that a draft Report on the National Planning Framework will be presented to Cabinet in a few weeks and this will be followed by a public consultation process. She said that linking Kerry to the proposed Western Corridor is of critical strategic importance for the county and she reminded members of Kerry County Council's submission on the National Planning Framework which was circulated earlier in the year which highlighted this. It is critical that Kerry is linked to the Western Corridor to ensure that funding can be secured for infrastructure into the future.

The CPG agreed that a meeting should be arranged with Minister of State Brendan Griffin T.D. to brief him on this matter.

Ireland Regional Enterprise Fund

The Chief Executive briefed the meeting on the Ireland Regional Enterprise Fund.

Springfield MOU

Mr. J. Griffin, Tourism Officer advised that Kerry County Council has been approached by the City of West Springfield, MA for a Sister City relationship with Dingle. A delegation, led by Mayor Reichelt, met with Mayor Michael O'Shea in Boston in March and there have been two follow-up Skype calls with the Chief Executive and Mayor John Sheahan. A delegation from West Springfield is planning a visit in October and to attend the Council meeting.

This Sister City relationship provides a great opportunity for the Council to raise the profile of County Kerry in Boston and Massachusetts, promote closer economic, cultural and educational ties. The current President of the University of Massachusetts is former Congressman Marty Meehan, who has strong West Kerry connections. Similarly Congressman Richard Neal is a former Mayor of Springfield. This Sister City Twinning is recommended by the executive.

The Chief Executive advised that she strongly supported such an initiative and highlighted the significant opportunity that entering into this relationship would bring to the region.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue highlighted that Twinning is a reserved function and a draft Twinning Policy will be formulated and presented to members at the October

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meeting. Council can agree in principle to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Springfield at the September meeting.

The CPG endorsed the Springfield MOU initiative.

Meeting with Norwegian Airlines

Cllr. J. Finucane requested that a meeting would be arranged with Norwegian Airlines as they now provide flights from Shannon, Cork and Dublin and they have the potential to be a major carrier going forward.

The Chief Executive agreed that it would be advantageous to arrange such a meeting through Kerry County Council and Kerry Airport given the importance of this new carrier to the county.

Update from the Chairs of SPCs

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

Request for Presentation to Council

The CPG agreed that a presentation by Early Years Educators in the County would be made to the Quality of Life SPC.

Request for a Civic Reception

The CPG agreed that Fr. Patrick Ahern, founder of Siamsa Tire, would be honoured at a Civic Reception by full Council for his outstanding contribution to the artistic, cultural and literary tradition of our county.

All outstanding requests for Civic Honours will be considered by CPG in October in accordance with the adopted Protocol for Civic Honours Conferral.

Any other business

Update on Mechanical Problems at Scartleigh Pumphouse, Listowel

The Chief Executive advised members that on Saturday evening last (2 September), severe mechanical problems were experienced at the Scartleigh Pumphouse near Listowel. Two pumps, which supply raw water to the Listowel Regional Water Treatment Plant, failed. As a result, the treatment plant was unable to supply water to areas including Listowel, Moyvane, Knockanure, Lisselton, Finuge, Lixnaw and surrounding areas. By early on Sunday morning, supplies were critically low.

Senior personnel from Irish Water and Kerry County Council met in Listowel at 9:00am on Sunday to assess the situation and the decision was taken to activate the Drinking Water Incident Response Plan and to begin preparations for a Red (High Severity) incident. A decision was taken to restrict supplies so as to maintain supply to vulnerable facilities such as Listowel Community Hospital and

local nursing homes. It was agreed that Irish Water would put in place a communications plan for customers and, in conjunction with Kerry County Council, our members and Oireachtas members were briefed throughout the day.

Water tankers and water stations were put in place at six locations including Listowel, Knockanure, Moyvane, Lixnaw, Lisselton and Finuge which were manned by Kerry County Council area staff. These were in place at all locations by 2.30pm and their locations were advertised. An information leaflet drop in Listowel town was coordinated by the Kerry Civil Defence as was the distribution of bottled water to vulnerable facilities and individuals.

The two pumps had been removed from Scartleigh on Saturday evening and taken to EPS Group in Mallow for repair throughout Sunday. Temporary repairs to one of the pumps were completed on Sunday night and it was made operational by Water Services Staff shortly after midnight. Substantive repairs are required to the second pump and are ongoing.

The restoration of the supply throughout the network was ongoing until late Monday (4September). Irish Water has been advised of the Listowel Races Festival beginning on next weekend and the urgency of having contingency plans in place to ensure continuity of supply. Such plans are currently in train and Irish Water will be updating us on the matter on a daily basis. It is intended that two submersible pumps will be in place by the weekend and a back up pump will be in place next week. Council staff are also working with Irish Water to develop a permanent solution for ScartleighPumphouse.

Update on LIS

Mr. C. O'Sullivan informed members that the Department of Rural and Community Development has notified local authorities of its intention to implement an LIS in 2017 subject to:

- The level of demand
- The level of resources available, and
- The capacity of the Local Authorities to complete the scheme by the end of 2017.

Submissions must be made by the 14th September and it is intended to submit all 120 applications remaining on the list.

Update on the Oral Hearing for the Listowel By-Pass

Mr. C. O'Sullivan highlighted that the Oral Hearing for the Listowel By-Pass commenced that morning in Listowel and it will take 3 days to complete.

Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2017 Measures 1 and 3

Ms. J. McCarthy briefed the meeting on the funding allocated for 13 Kerry projects under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2017.

Works at Minish Railway Crossing

Mr. C. O'Sullivan advised that works would commence on Minish Railway Crossing on the 9th October and the road will be closed for the duration of the work which is 3 days.

Housing allocations and homelessness

A discussion took place on housing allocations and the increase in the number of homeless people/families in the county. It was agreed that the Housing SPC would carry out a fundamental review of data protection issues around the notification of members of housing allocations and formulate a policy with regard to same. “

Cllr. J. Moloney referred to the interruption to the water supply in Listowel the previous weekend and commended all involved who worked late into Saturday night and early Sunday morning to resolve the problems. Members were kept up to-date and leaflet drops were arranged to update residents and businesses. Cllr. Moloney then moved Notice of Motion No. 5.

5. Notification of members when the purchase of new housing is complete

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

That the elected members of Kerry County Council be informed when any purchase of new housing is complete. Currently, members only become aware where the Council has purchased when the allocation is made.

The following reply issued:

Following a recent Notice of Motion at Full Council, the approach to data protection in respect of housing applicant information and related information is currently under review. This includes not only personal applicant data but information and data which would indicate a person's personal circumstances (specific addresses of Council owned units indicates that future occupiers are of a specific class or social/economic background).

Management will be bringing a proposed policy and procedure to the next Housing/ Quality of Life SPC.

This will come back to Full Council in due course.

Cllr. J. Moloney highlighted it can be a year after the Council buys a house before members become aware of it and he PROPOSED when the purchase of a house is complete that members would be informed.

Cllr. T. Ferris SECONDED this proposal.

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Cllr. N. Foley welcomed the Springfield MOU and added that there is potential for other towns and villages to enter into twinning agreements. She asked that members would be provided with a list of towns and villages in the county that are twinned and that future twinning plans would be outlined also. In conclusion she acknowledged the agreement of the CPG to the hosting of a Civic Reception for Fr. Patrick Ahern.

Cllr. M. Kennelly highlighted that it was an unfortunate set of events that led to the water outage in Listowel on the 2nd and 3rd September as the two pumps failed. He commended Council staff on their tireless work over the weekend to restore the water supply. Cllr. Kennelly advised that meetings were held recently with Irish Water with a view to getting the water main replaced in the Moyvane area as the road is opened by Gas Networks Ireland to bring natural gas to Listowel. He called on Irish Water to ensure they engage when major projects are being undertaken in future. Cllr. Kennelly highlighted a specific housing allocation where he made representations on behalf of the applicant and how a certain Deputy had got her contact details.

Cllr. M. Gleeson welcomed the proposed works on Minish Railway Crossing which will commence on the 9th October and he stated he wanted to place on record his gratitude to his colleagues and the executive for pursuing this matter. He also welcomed the return of funding for LIS.

Cllr. A. Thornton thanked the Council for their speedy response to the water outage in Listowel. At a recent Council meeting it was agreed that data protection issues in relation to housing would be reviewed by the Quality of Life SPC and she asked that this would happen as soon as possible.

Cllr. D. Grady objected to the suggestion that the Minister plans to send the homeless from Dublin to rural areas to be housed by local authorities. Every local authority has a homeless problem to deal with as it is.

Cllr. M. O'Shea commended the Council on hosting an excellent conference on the Wild Atlantic Way in Listowel recently. The inclusion of Kerry in the proposed Western Corridor is critical for the future of the county. Cllr. O'Shea suggested that a meeting should be arranged with Minister of State Brendan Griffin and the Taoiseach if necessary to ensure Kerry is included. In conclusion Cllr. O'Shea asked that housing allocations would be notified via email to members going forward.

The Chief Executive thanked the staff in the Water Services Department under John Kennelly, John McEniry and Freddie Bartlett for their work in Listowel to restore the water supply. She also acknowledged the involvement of Irish Water at that time. She advised members that no information has been received on the proposal to relocate homeless persons from Dublin to rural areas. In her report to council she outlined progress to-date on housing.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue highlighted that the allocation of housing is an executive function and a commitment was given to revert to CPG with proposals regarding the notification of councillors of housing allocations. At present all councillors are notified of housing allocations. Mr. O'Donoghue advised if a member of the public has concerns they can contact the Information Commissioner on it.

The Chief Executive assured members that the data held by Kerry County Council is private to that individual and private information is not given out to anyone. If an individual feels there has been a breach they are entitled to contact the Information Commissioner.

Cllr. T. Ferris stated she believed if there is a breach of data protection the person may not want to make a complaint and she highlighted one such case.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue clarified that he invited Cllr. Ferris to submit the relevant information to him but she did not do so and therefore the case could not be investigated.

Cllr. Ferris advised she asked the applicant for their permission to pass on their information but they refused.

Cllr. M. Kennelly asked if there is a breach in the system that it would be identified. If a Deputy does not make representations they should not be notified of allocations as it undermines the work of councillors.

The Chief Executive advised members if anyone has concerns they should submit them in writing to the Director of Housing. The staff in the Housing Department should be appreciated for their hard work and she assured members that good governance procedures are in place.

It was unanimously agreed to host a Civic Reception for Fr. Patrick Ahern.

Resignation of Cllr. D. Nolan

Cllr. P. Daly advised that Dianne Nolan has resigned from Kerry County Council and he paid tribute to her work both as a member of Listowel MD and full Council. She always advocated that the Council should have its own housing stock and she will be missed.

On behalf of the Fine Gael Party Cllr. J. Finucane stated Dianne was very constructive and he wished her well for the future.

Cllr. D. Grady wished Ms. Nolan well for the future and added that she was a very dedicated councillor and she will be missed.

On behalf of the Fianna Fáil members Cllr. N. Foley wished Ms. Nolan well for the future and added that she was an excellent, pro-active councillor. She acknowledged her work as a member of Kerry County Council.

Cllr. T. Ferris stated she wanted to be associated with the tributes to Dianne Nolan who has been an active member of Sinn Féin for many years.

17.09.11.02 Confirmation of Minutes

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Kennelly it was resolved that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 30th June 2017 be confirmed.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was resolved that the Minutes of the July Ordinary Meeting held on the 17th July 2017 be confirmed.

17.09.11.03 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 September 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 2 Financial report is included in this report.

Infrastructure, Operations, Health & Safety Directorate

N69 Listowel By Pass

The oral hearing on Kerry County Council's application for approval of the EIS and CPO for the Listowel By-Pass commenced on 5th September in Listowel. A decision on the applications is expected in early November.

Economic & Community Development Directorate

Kerry Local Enterprise Office

The Local Enterprise Office continues with core programmes and the full set of 17 training programmes has been scheduled for the Autumn throughout the county.

The promotion of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur has continued with 11 applications submitted to date. The closing date is September 29th, 2017.

The office has also promoted the LEO Investor Programme with an investment of €25,000 available to successful businesses. A further 11 applications have been received. Regional short listing is to proceed.

Mentoring activity has been very busy over the summer period with 81 assignments approved in the year to date. There has been ongoing engagement with clients throughout the county in relation to core financial incentives including feasibility, priming and business expansion grants.

Ireland Regional Enterprise Fund

A copy of my report circulated to CPG in relation to projects developed in this county under the Ireland Regional Enterprise Fund is attached.

Tourism Department

The Ring of North Kerry Cycle:

The Tourism Unit in co-operation with the Operations Unit, recently installed cycle gradient signage on Kerry Head with the aim of promoting cycling in the area (this is a medium term action, No. 2.5.2 in the Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016- 2022). The signage was in place in time for the very successful 'Ring of North Kerry Cycle', organised by Finuge Freewheelers Cycling Club, which was held over the August weekend in Ballyheigue and which saw in excess of 500 cyclists registering for the event.

2017 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme:

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and provides funding for the development of new infrastructure or maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure. Below is a breakdown of monies allocated to each application:

Kerry Activity Brochure (Tourism Unit)	€10,000.00
Tralee Municipal District	
North Kerry Way, Tralee to Kerry Head	€ 4,880.00
Killeen Woods Nature Walk, Tralee	€ 8,000.00
Killarney Municipal District	
Castleisland River Walk, Castleisland	€ 8,000.00
Old Road Walk, Derrynafinnia	€ 9,280.00
Old Road Walk, Rathmore	€ 9,280.00
Listowel Municipal District	

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Listowel Town Park, Listowel	€10,000.00
Kerry Head Walking Trail, Ballyheigue/Kerry Head	€ 8,172.00
Beach Wheelchairs, Ballyheigue	€ 8,695.00
South & West Municipal District	
Kerry Dark Sky Reserve Solar Trail, Caherdaniel	€ 9,319.00
Daniel O'Connell Heritage Trail, Caherciveen	€10,000.00
Doorus Nature Trail, Lauragh	€ 8,651.00

Community Department

LEADER

Meetings of the LAG were held in July, August and early September for the purposes of considering LEADER applications. Specifically, the LAG met on two occasions in July (i.e. on the 5th & 27th July), on one occasion in August, (i.e. 8th August), and on one occasion to date in September (4th September) for the purpose of considering LEADER applications received under the Rural Tourism; Enterprise Development and Basic Services Targeted at Hard to Reach Communities sub-themes. In total, 74 no projects with a monetary total value of €1,19m approx were approved by the LAG at these meetings.

Age Friendly Initiatives – Call for proposals under the Community Facilities Capital Grant Scheme

A total of €64,500 was made available under this fund to support local age friendly initiatives and projects in Kerry. The Kerry Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) recommended approval of funding for age friendly initiatives for each of the 4 municipal districts at its meeting of 5th July 2017.

Projects recommended by the LCDC were presented to the elected members at MD level for final decision at MD meetings convened during July/August 2017 and the successful applicants have been notified accordingly.

SICAP 2018 - 2022

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018 – 2022 (SICAP) is based on the previous SICAP 2015 – 2017 Programme. The new programme design has taken into account feedback from a national consultation process which took place in the first half of 2017.

The indicative budget for Kerry for 2018 (made up of 3 individual Lots) is €1.63 million. The Request for Tenders was published on 31st July, 2017 with a closing date of 29th September 2017.

Kerry Public Participation Network:

To encourage community participation, the PPN Secretariat have designed a user friendly brochure which will be available to all in the first week in September. The brochure is proposed to be launched at the Access for All - Disability Awareness workshop to be held in Killarney on Tuesday 5th September.

Water, Environment, Fire & Library Services Directorate

Water Services

There are a number of Water Mains Replacement jobs which will be carried out by Contract in Kerry in the coming months.

These include works of value €700,000 due to be commenced in September at Brewery Road, Lower Oakpark Road, Cloondara and Lisbeg in Tralee. Further pipe replacement works of total value €850,000 will be done, also by Contract, in the coming months at Ballykissane Killorglin (1.1 Km), Shannera(1.55 Km) and Cappagh North (1.75 Km) Kilgobnet, Droum Glenbeigh (0.75 Km) and Sneem South (0.7 Km).

Meanwhile, Council crews currently work on the further replacement of watermains at Baile An Fheirtéaraigh, Valentia, Cahersiveen and Glancuttaun Killorglin.

This is in addition to the 18.5 Km of pipelines (estimated cost €2.2M) replaced to-date in 2017 by the Council's own direct labour crews in Tarbert, Ballyheigue, Causeway, An Daingean, Baile An Fheirtéaraigh, Dún Chaoin, Valentia, Cahersiveen, Killorglin, Milltown, Mangerton, and Lauragh, and a further 0.75Km replaced by Contract at Glenderry Ballyheigue.

Housing Directorate

Housing Construction and Acquisition Programme

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 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 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. I intend to give quarterly updates to Council in the Chief Executive's Report in respect of the implementation of this programme.

Members may be aware that the Rebuilding Ireland Programme is currently under review by the Minister and it is expected that an update and a Strategy on Vacant Properties will be published during September. Following this Management will come back to Council with an update on the various programmes currently in place.

Tenant Purchase Scheme Progress Update

The Housing Department has received a total of 279 applications to date under the Tenant Purchase Scheme. At this stage 74 of these have reached the valuation stage of which 47 have now been issued with a Letter of Offer and 21 applicants have confirmed their offer of acceptance and have been advised to engage the services of a Solicitor once they have secured Finance to purchase the property.

Rent Supplement transfer to HAP process

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme has been in operation in Kerry since December 1st 2016 and is operated by Kerry County Council in close co-ordination with the Department of Social Protection (DSP). Phase One has concentrated on giving HAP to new applicants in need of social housing support. At the moment there are over 260 active HAP tenancies in Kerry.

Phase 2 of the HAP scheme involves the migration of existing rent supplement recipients to HAP and it has been agreed with the Department of Social Protection that this will commence on the 11th September 2017 on a phased basis.

Capital Assistance Scheme – Call for proposals

As in previous years, Kerry County Council will issue a call in September 2017 for applications for capital funding for the delivery, through either construction or acquisition, of housing accommodation, to cater for the priority groups under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) including:

1. elderly;
2. homeless persons (including "care leavers" exiting State care on reaching the age of 18);
3. people with a disability, with a particular emphasis on moving people with disability from a congregated settings into community based living."

The Chief Executive drew members attention to the item in her report on the Ireland Regional Enterprise Fund and briefed them as follows on the projects submitted under Stream 1.

1. Agri-Tech-Centre of Excellence

The proposal promotes the development of a Global Centre of Excellence in Agri-Tech with the objective of positioning Ireland at the fore-front of the international Agri-Tech Industry.

The project is collaboration between the ITT and the leading Agri-Tech Companies in the Country – including Dairymaster.

The intention is to locate the Centre of Excellence within County Kerry – the potential for economic benefit accruing to the County from such a development is very significant, as it would place the County as the national location for Agri-Tech Training, Research and Development. The potential for the 3rd Level College in the County, as a Centre of Excellence in the area of Agri-Tech will have a significant knock-on-effect and positive reputational impact for the County.

2. RDI HUB

Killorglin Centre of Excellence for Applied Research, Co-Working and Co-Learning – nurturing the high-growth and entrepreneurial segments of all the Regions' Industries.

The i-Hub application has the potential to develop the research capacity in the Region, accelerate knowledge transfer and the placement of researchers in industry.

The Hub will provide innovative and industry-Tech Education and Training opportunities – linking the Higher Education Authorities in the Region.

The ITT and FEXCO have lodged the application and Kerry County Council would propose to strongly support the project application.

The potential to bring increased employment to the County is a critical element of this application.

Financial Report

Kerry County Council

Major Expenditure & Income by Division with 2017 Adopted

1 Budget

Date as at end of Quarter 2 (June 2017) in accordance with EU / IMF return on expenditure and Income made to DOHP&LG on 24th August 2017

		EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
		Total Exp. To date	Budget	Budget Remaining	% Budget Spent to date	Total Inc. to date	Budget	Not Rec'd	% Rec'd
Service Division	Description	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
A	Housing and Building	12,544,623	24,160,868	11,616,245	52%	11,623,130	23,525,846	11,902,716	49%
B	Road Transport & Safety	13,872,501	31,144,636	17,272,135	45%	8,003,185	19,090,066	11,086,881	42%
C	Water Services	6,505,109	14,466,687	7,961,578	45%	6,035,710	13,690,847	7,655,137	44%
D	Development Management	5,571,427	10,896,467	5,325,040	51%	2,000,420	2,697,912	697,492	74%
E	Environmental Services	8,562,897	17,566,586	9,003,689	49%	1,427,716	3,915,986	2,488,270	36%
F	Recreation and Amenity	3,871,187	8,042,487	4,171,300	48%	401,994	507,971	105,977	79%
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,110,952	2,633,042	1,522,090	42%	759,177	1,993,332	1,234,155	38%
H	Miscellaneous Services	8,643,724	17,819,233	9,175,509	49%	2,906,534	6,375,070	3,468,536	46%
	Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant					6,888,380	13,776,761	6,888,381	50%
	Rates					20,566,991	41,156,215	20,589,224	50%
Grand Total		60,682,420	126,730,006	66,047,586	48%	60,613,237	126,730,006	66,116,769	48%

2 Performance of Local Authority Revenue Collection Levels

Major sources of Revenue Income - Collection levels as at 31st

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July 2017

	Total for Collection	Collected	% collected
	€	€	
Commercial Rates	49,569,311	22,010,935	44%
<i>Total for Collection - Full year rate demand plus arrears</i>			
<i>Rates demands were issued on 2nd March 2017</i>			
Housing Rent & Loans:			
	€	€	
Rents	8,016,985	6,868,090	86%
	€	€	
Loans	873,992	566,140	65%
<i>Rent and loans: Total for Collection - <u>Year to date</u> billed plus arrears</i>			

3 Recourse to Overdraft Facility

None

4 Emergency Capital works not provided for in the Budget

None

All members welcomed the two projects outlined by the Chief Executive.

Cllr. J. Finucane highlighted that it is regrettable that a tenant has not been identified for the new Advance Unit in the Kerry Technology Park in Tralee.

Cllr. M. O'Shea stated that FEXCO and Dairymaster are major international companies and he commended all involved with these two projects.

Cllr. D. Grady referred to the Tenant Purchase Scheme and stressed that 80% of tenants are not eligible to apply for the Scheme even though family members are in a position to buy the house for them. The number of successful applications is too low and the Scheme should be reviewed. Cllr. Grady pointed out that members are not notified of allocations under the RAS Scheme yet the applicants are removed from the housing list.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae highlighted that valuations for the Tenant Purchase Scheme are taking a long time and he asked that all applicants would be notified of a decision on their application prior to Christmas. The Scheme is very strict and families are willing to contribute to the purchase of a house but that is not acceptable. He asked that if possible the Scheme would be amended. Cllr. Healy-Rae referred to households where the couple separate and they have children. In many instances the man moves out of the family home and for years his name remains on the deeds of the family home while he maybe living in dilapidated accommodation. While he is a qualified housing applicant he will not be allocated a house while his name is on the deeds of another property and if there is a mortgage on the property his name will not be taken off the deeds. The Department has indicated that an applicant can be allocated a house in exceptional circumstances and Cllr. Healy-Rae asked that the circumstances of these housing applicants would be taken into consideration.

Cllr. T. Ferris asked if the executive can adopt a position that applicants under the Tenant Purchase Scheme will not be precluded because of non payment of water charges. She asked how many people are on HAP, how many properties have been inspected and how many passed inspection.

Cllr. S. Locke pointed out that a Notice of Motion was moved at a recent Council meeting calling on the Department, in light of recent developments on water charges, to allow applications under the Tenant Purchase Scheme to be considered where water charges were not paid. He understood the legislation must be amended to cater for this and he asked that a letter would issue to the Department calling on them to enact the relevant legislation as soon as possible.

Cllr. M. Cahill welcomed the two proposed Centres of Excellence and he asked that a letter would issue to Enterprise Ireland endorsing both applications and asking that funding would be allocated to both projects. Cllr. Cahill expressed disappointment at the Repair to Lease Scheme and he called on the Department to utilise both the Town Renewal Scheme and Tax Incentives in an effort to tackle the housing crisis. In conclusion Cllr. Cahill requested a breakdown of the 791 housing units provided by house size.

Cllr. R. Beasley expressed concern at the small number of applications that have gone to the valuation stage under the Tenant Purchase Scheme. While many tenants are on social welfare their families are willing to help them purchase their house. This option should be considered and if they fail to meet repayments they should be allowed to revert to renting. Some people on the housing list did not reply to correspondence that issued to them earlier in the year and he could understand why as they are on the housing list for years and this was more bureaucracy but they still need to be housed.

Cllr. P. Daly welcomed the focus on the housing construction programme by the Government but this Government made private landlords rich through their housing policies. He did not agree with the wholesale selling off of social houses as he had witnessed houses that were purchased being let soon after and there is no Garda vetting when private houses are let. He was in favour of the Tenant Purchase Scheme in certain cases. Cllr. Daly asked that the requirement to have paid water charges as part of the Tenant Purchase Scheme would be waived.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen then moved Notice of Motion No. 28.

28. Housing Crisis

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

The housing crisis is becoming more and more serious in Kerry- what plans have Kerry County Council in place to assist people in dire need of housing.

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 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 in units which will be delivered over the 3 year programme compared to Kerry County Council's 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.

Members may be aware that the Rebuilding Ireland Programme is currently under review by the Minister and it is expected that an update and a Strategy on Vacant Properties will be published during September.

Following this, Management will come back to Council with an update on the various programmes currently in place.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen highlighted that letting agents have indicated that there are very few properties available to rent as Airbnb is more profitable for landlords. He welcomed the 40% increase in the number of units delivered over a 3 year period in comparison to our original allocation of 1058 units.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue advised members that a review of the Tenant Purchase Scheme was undertaken by the Department but no changes were made to the Scheme. The processing of applications is ongoing and a number of applicants will require Council loans. Mr. O'Donoghue undertook to provide members with a breakdown of the number of units by bedroom size. Kerry County Council only took over HAP in late 2016. It has been agreed with the Department of Social Protection that Phase 2 of the HAP scheme would commence that month. It is proposed to increase resources to enable more inspections to take place.

17.09.11.04 Disposal of Property

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Gleeson it was agreed to dispose of a plot of land comprising 0.764 Ha. (1.888 St. Ac.) in area situated in the townland of Lissyviggeen/Clash in the DED of Killarney Rural and County of Kerry to St. Brendan's Trust, Bishop's House, Killarney, Co. Kerry in accordance with the terms of notice issued 26th July 2017 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Article 206 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Healy-Rae, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Kennelly it was agreed to grant a lease/licence agreement for 25 years to Valentia Island Development Company for the building and lands known as Cromwell Fort Lighthouse at Fort Point, Glanleam, Valentia Island in accordance with the terms of notice issued 3rd August 2017 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Kennelly, SECONDED by Cllr. A. Thornton it was agreed to grant a 99 year lease to Listowel Community Centre Limited in respect of a plot of land measuring approximately in total 0.3298 hectares situated at Listowel Town Park, Bridge Road, Listowel in the DED of Listowel in accordance with the terms of notice issued 23rd August 2017 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Article 2016 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

17.09.11.05 Update on the National Planning Framework

The Chief Executive highlighted that at the March Meeting members were briefed on Kerry County Council's submission on the National Planning Framework. This submission focussed on the knowledge triangle between Tralee/Killarney and Killorglin where there is a very strong economic cluster. It is intended that a draft Report on the National Planning Framework will be presented to Cabinet in the coming weeks. The linking of Kerry to the proposed Western Corridor is of critical strategic importance for the county and Kerry can add significantly to the Western Corridor as a link with both Limerick and Cork. It is reasonable to assume once a county forms part of a strategic corridor that strategic investment will follow. It is vital that submissions are made in support of the inclusion of Kerry during the public consultation. The Chief Executive advised members she would discuss this matter both with Departmental officials and Minister of State Brendan Griffin.

Mr. M. Scannell in his presentation displayed a map on the concept of Atlantic corridor cities. In both submissions Kerry was excluded. The Southern Regional Assembly carried out a survey of travel destinations showing where people travel into cities for work which demonstrated in Kerry that the development of a corridor without connecting Kerry would not be to the economic benefit of the county. The Council's submission introduced the concept of a knowledge triangle as previously outlined. Feniit is also very important for the economy of the county. Connectivity within the region through air, port and road access is also vital and Kerry would support the motorway link from Limerick to Cork with a connection to Kerry. Mr. Scannell highlighted that Kerry has a lot to offer to the Southern Region. He then outlined the objectives of the submission from Kerry County Council as follows:

- Target the inter-regional international access disparities for both passengers and freight through **significant policy change and investment** in both regional ports and airports.
- Develop the **strategic links** between the major cities and towns in the Southern Region to allow it to function as a cohesive economic region.
- Clearly target the **growth of sectors** that are currently performing well in the regions (Tourism, Fin-tech & Smart Agri in the South West region), leveraging on the exemplary tourism product & existing global leaders in these areas.
- Establish (around these sectors) **centres of excellence of a national and international scale** that will lead to increased economic activity within the regions and enhance Ireland's national reputation as a global leader in research and development.
- Support **population targets** with appropriate capital investment decisions from relevant state agencies including the IDA, TII and Irish Water.

- Seek to **strengthen large rural towns** like the Kerry hub and knowledge tri-angle outside the orbit of major cities to counterbalance overdevelopment and sprawl. This will require the setting of real and achievable population targets for these settlements.
- Realise significant benefits through **investment in servicing comparatively more modest priced land offerings** to achieve scalable commercial and residential developments.
- Support the **potential of brownfield** sites in major urban areas in order to assist Local Authorities in site assembly and to achieve sustainable development.
- Build on the extensive investments already made in the Kerry Hub towns with respect to road infrastructure, water and waste water.
- Build on the success of the Kerry Technology Park and similar sites through interagency support in acquiring additional lands adjoining the Technology Park.
- Achieve long term **Regional & National Energy security** through the implementation of the Shannon LNG project particularly in the regard to the uncertainty in energy supply resulting from BREXIT.

Mr. Scannell emphasised that the Council's submission is very important as it puts Kerry at the centre of the region and in an international context and any support the members can give to the submission would be greatly appreciated.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated the proposal to exclude Kerry from the Western Corridor epitomises central Government's approach to the decline of rural Ireland. He could not understand how the Atlantic Corridor would start in Waterford which is located in the South East of the country. While a Minister for Rural Affairs was appointed Government policy does not support rural Ireland and he PROPOSED that a meeting would be sought with Minister Ring on this critical issue. Cllr. Finucane welcomed the inclusion of Shannon LNG in the Council's submission. Members must insist that Kerry is included in the Western Corridor.

Cllr. M. O'Shea advised that the Kerry members on the Southern Regional Assembly tried to have Kerry included as part of the Western Corridor but they were not successful. It is vital that Kerry is linked to the Western Corridor and all contacts should be utilised to achieve this.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED Cllr. Finucane's proposal that a meeting would be sought with Minister Ring.

Cllr. M. Gleeson agreed that it is vital that Kerry is included in the Western Corridor if it is to grow and we must lobby to the highest level to ensure it is included.

17.09.11.06 Date for the Budget Meeting

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. B. O'Connell, it was agreed that the Budget Meeting would be held on Monday 13th November 2017 at 10.30am.

17.09.11.07 Nominee to the Board of KETB

Mr. L. Quinlan referred members to his report dated 5th September 2017 on this item which was circulated.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. T. Ferris, SECONDED by Cllr. R. Beasley it was agreed to nominate Cllr. P. Daly to the Board of KETB.

17.09.11.08 Ionadaí a chur fé bhráid an Aire Stáit le ceapadh ar Bhord Údarás na Gaeltachta

Aontaíodh ainmniú an Clr. S. Mac Gearailt do Bhord Údarás na Gaeltachta a chur fé bhráid an Aire Stáit, ar mholadh an Clr. B. Ó Conaill, cuidithe ag an gClr. L. Púirséal.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. O'Connell, SECONDED by Cllr. L. Purtill it was agreed to nominate Cllr. S. Fitzgerald for appointment by the Minister of State to the board of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

17.09.11.09 Summary of proceedings at events

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty 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) LAMA Spring Training Seminar held on the 28th and 29th April 2017 in Gormanstown by Cllr. J. Lucid.
- (b) Conference on the theme "Brexit, Regional Planning and EU Affairs" held on the 26th May 2017 in Newtownmountkennedy by Cllr. T. Ferris.
- (c) Visit to Frankfurt from 23rd to 26th June 2017 by former Cathaoirleach Cllr. M. O'Shea.
- (d) iRoute Integrated Rural Urban Transport Evolution Conference held on the 27th and 28th June 2017 by Cllr. S. Fitzgerald.
- (e) Visit to Rhode Island, USA from 6th to 8th July 2017 by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Sheahan.

17.09.11.10 Tenders opened since the July Council Meeting

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Moriarty, SECONDED by Cllr. S. Locke it was agreed to note the opening of the following tenders since the July meeting.

- (a) Fenit Dolphin and Viaduct Junction Repairs – Closing date: Friday 4th August 2017 at 4pm.
- (b) Construction of Single Storey Rural Dwelling House and Associated Siteworks at Callinafercey, Milltown, Co. Kerry – Closing date: Tuesday 8th August, 2017 at 3pm.
- (c) Bituminous Surfacing works on Regional and Local Roads in the South and West Kerry MD – Closing Date: Friday 18th August, 2017 at 4pm.
- (d) Ballinskelligs Pier Phase 2 Works – Closing Date: Thursday 24th August 2017 at 4pm.
- (e) Engineering Consultancy Services Dredging Permit – Fenit Harbour – Closing Date: Friday 25th August 2017 at 4pm.
- (f) Architect Led Design Team Consultancy Services for the construction of 5 housing units and associated site works at Pinewood Estate, Killarney – Closing Date: Wednesday 30th August 2017 at 3pm.
- (g) Refurbishment & Extension of No. 3 & 4 O'Connor Tce., Tralee, Co. Kerry – Closing Date: Thursday 31st August 2017 at 12pm.
- (h) Architect Led Design Team Consultancy Services for the construction of 8 housing units and associated site works at Bridewell, Milltown, Co. Kerry – Closing Date: Friday 1st September 2017 at 3pm.
- (i) Construction of 22 Housing Units and associated site works at Ardbhearna, Gortamullin, Kenmare, Co. Kerry – Closing Date: Tuesday 5th September 2017 at 3pm.

17.09.11.11 Approval for the opening of Tenders

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. Quigg, SECONDED by Cllr. R. Beasley it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the Supply, installation and commissioning of four new water booster stations on the Dawros/Bonane WSS for Bonane WSS, Kenmare, Co. Kerry – Closing Date: Friday 8th September 2017 at 3pm.

- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. O'Shea, SECONDED by Cllr. D. Quigg it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N70 Kilderry Bends Improvement Scheme Construction Contract – Closing Date: Monday 25th September 2017 at 4pm.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. Grady, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the Provision of Services in relation to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018 – 2022 – Closing Date: Friday 29th September 2017 at 3pm.
- (d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. R. Beasley, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Kennelly, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N71 Five Mile Bridge Pavement Scheme – Closing Date: Friday 6th October 2017 at 4pm.
- (e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. Cronin, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Gleeson it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for KCC – CCTV and Condition Surveys of Storm and Foul Sewer Networks and Water Audits of Watermains Networks in 17 housing estates in County Kerry – Closing Date: Friday 22nd September 2017 at 3pm.

17.11.09.12 Notices of Motion

1. Water harvesting in all schools

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

That Kerry County Council calls on Government to promote by means of grant aid the development of Water Harvesting in all schools. Such a programme would benefit the environment, reduce demand on public supply and serve as an inspiration to the young.

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

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

“Water has been much in the news in recent weeks and that is good because we saw both its destructive power and its indispensable importance.

For many thousands of years humankind had a deep affinity with water and an almost spiritual understanding of its role and importance.

During the 20th century that closeness and affection all changed, changed to such an extent that it has been wisely and sadly said that the principal legacy of that century has been the pollution of every stream, river, lake, sea and ocean.

In the 1950's the French dumped their Nuclear waste encased in concrete deep into the Atlantic Ocean. The Americans nuclear tested on fragile atolls in the

Pacific. For our part we erected our sheep dipping tanks beside rivers and streams, the handier to get rid of the toxic dip. We piped our sewage into our pristine lakes and magnificent seas.

I was born and reared beside the River Flesk and knew it when it was pristine pure when the Caddis fly existed in great numbers and trout and salmon swam freely in great numbers. I returned to live in Kerry in 1974 and my once lovely river was a mass of impenetrable weed thanks to eutrophication. Thankfully slow recovery is now taking place but it will be a slow process.

If the human race is to survive it is imperative that pure clean water is always available in our taps and therefore in our rivers and lakes.

For that to happen we must convince children of its importance and that it is their responsibility to save the worlds water resources.

Installing water harvesting in schools will show them that water is a priceless resource that should and must be respected and cared for. It will teach them that we humans are responsible for how the world is managed. It will tell them that nature's bounty is there to be respected and shared.

The short term financial cost will be miniscule when compared to the long- term lesson that will be learned, a lesson that may well save them and their world from extinction.

It will of course also save Governments and Local Authorities from having to needlessly treat water that is not fit for human consumption."

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECONDED the motion.

2. Calling on Irish Water to reinstate roads

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

That Kerry County Council ensure that Irish Water reinstate the roads after work on our local roads.

The following reply issued:

Irish Water provides for full road reinstatement in all of its mains replacement projects, including those delivered by both contractors and direct labour, in accordance with the "Guidelines for Managing Opening in Public Roads, 2017" (The Purple Book). In general, the road reinstatement on Irish Water capital works is completed to the satisfaction of the Operations, Health & Safety Directorate.

Kerry County Council Water Services Staff monitor the quality of road reinstatement works carried out by contractors as part of Irish Water mains replacement projects. Where any deficiencies are identified in the quality of road reinstatement, these are highlighted by our staff to Irish Water, who in turn follow up directly with their contractor to undertake remedial works.

Cllr. A. Thornton highlighted she was referring in particular to the road at Laccamore, Abbeydorney where Irish Water carried out repairs and left the road in a poor state for a long time. Irish Water refused to restore it to an acceptable condition. The Council Engineer had to go back to Irish Water on a number of occasions before it was sorted. The roads in North Kerry are in a bad enough condition and a problem has also arisen in Moyvane recently where diversions will be in place for up to 3 months.

Cllr. M. Kennelly SECONDED the motion.

3. Progress on the County Kerry Marketing Brand

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

What progress has been made regarding plans to introduce and promote an appropriate County Kerry Marketing Brand.

The following reply issued:

A company have been contracted to provide a tourism brand identity for the county. In the development of this brand, we have had discussions with many key stakeholders to help showcase County Kerry and set us apart from other brands/destinations. We are currently in consultation with a number of tourism industry representatives to progress this brand identity and design. The Tourism Unit is working to ensure that this brand strategy is designed to promote Kerry on a national and international level, across the full media platforms. It is intended that this new brand proposal will be presented to the Tourism SPC and the Destination Kerry Forum, before it will be formally launched later in the Autumn.

Cllr. N. Foley stressed the importance of having a brand Kerry as it will bring an element of cohesion to the county. The brand should be approved by the Tourism SPC and Destination Kerry before it is adopted. When it is endorsed it should be used extensively on letterheads etc and other tourism operators should be invited to use it also.

Cllr. Foley then moved Notice of Motion No. 23.

23. Waiting list for access to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

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

That Kerry County Council call on the Minister for Health and the HSE to provide the resources necessary to immediately tackle the enormous and absolutely unacceptable waiting list for access to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. As things stand the welfare of children and young adults dealing with mental health challenges is being put at considerable risk.

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

Cllr. N. Foley stated it is reprehensible that in excess of 2,400 children are waiting to access this service and 225 of these are in County Kerry. 25% of them are waiting for more than a year and it is unacceptable that the service cannot cater for young people in difficulty. At present over 80 posts in this service are vacant and at least 2,000 additional staff are required to ensure a properly functioning service. This is wholly unacceptable and she called on the Minister for Health to make funding available to bring this service up to an acceptable standard.

Cllr. N. Moriarty SECONDED the motion.

4. Cutting of hedges at junctions

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

That Kerry County Council would urgently cut all dangerous hedge junctions and especially the lands they own themselves.

The following reply issued:

Each Municipal District has identified a significant number of junctions on the public road network which require the hedges to be cut back to ensure that sight distance lines are maintained. The majority of these locations have been cut back with the remainder due to be completed over the next number of weeks. To date this year, municipal districts have cut over 625km of hedges involving 300 junctions. This is based on a list of locations which were reviewed and updated in 2016, following requests from the members.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae asked that the hedges at the remaining junctions would be cut. The overgrown hedges are the first thing tourists notice when they visit the county. It is difficult to travel many roads in South Kerry because of overgrown hedges and some landowners are in nursing homes, abroad etc. It costs approx. €1,400 to replace the wing mirror of a bus and while cars can travel these roads safely buses and lorries cannot. Cllr. Healy-Rae asked that a solution to this problem would be identified.

Cllr. B. Cronin moved Notice of Motion No. 21 as it relates to this issue.

21. Overgrown hedges

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

As there is a very serious road safety problem in certain areas of the county with totally overgrown hedges on narrow dangerous roads, can each Municipal District Roads Engineering Office take responsibility to ensure that these areas are made safe and to deal with enforcement issues as the current policy of posting out letters is not working.

The following reply issued:

Over the past year the Council has issued 422 hedge cutting notices based on complaints / reports from Elected Members (25 number), members of the public and Municipal District staff. Following the issue of these notices

and follow up inspections, 400 landowners have complied with the direction given. The Council had to cut the hedges at 17 of these locations as it was not possible to identify or contact the land owner. There are currently 5 more cases where investigations are on-going at the moment.

In addition to the above, the Area Staff in the Municipal Districts have cut over 625km of hedges involving 300 junctions, in the past year, primarily on lands in our ownership. This is based on a list of locations which were reviewed and updated in 2016, following requests from the members.

In accordance with the procedures put in place in 2015, Municipal Districts will continue to review critical locations in their areas, and follow up on these locations where works are required, having regard to the policy approved by Council.

Cllr. B. Cronin complimented landowners who cut their hedges each year. He received a hedge cutting notice and his hedges are now cut. In certain parts of rural Kerry hedges are out of control and are a danger to pedestrians and cyclists. Some rural roads in the Killarney MD are practically closed in with overgrown hedges. The campaign to give 1.5m to cyclists is commendable but it is not possible to abide by that on many rural roads because of overgrown hedges. Members highlight this issue every year and it is time it was seriously addressed. Public money was used to remove bends but hedges and growth at these locations are completely overgrown. There is in excess of 1.1m acres in the county with 552,000 acres of forestry and woodland and the remainder is cultivated. Both elected members and the general public are tired and frustrated at the present situation.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty **SECONDED** the motions and agreed that the county is too large for 1 Roads Enforcement Officer to manage.

Cllr. M. Cahill stated that Clare County Council introduced a hedge cutting scheme and following a Notice of Motion he was advised that officials would get the details of it. The present hedge cutting policy has failed miserably.

Cllr. N. Kelleher highlighted that the work on pursuing the cutting of hedges is done in September and one Roads Enforcement Officer cannot cover the entire county.

6. Call for An Post to collect outgoing mail from houses

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

That we write to An Post and the relevant Minister to arrange to offer to collect outgoing mail from homes as well as delivering it.

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

Cllr. N. Kelleher advised that this is a practical proposal as the post man is calling to houses and he believed An Post should offer this service.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae **SECONDED** the motion but highlighted that the crucial issue is the recent increase in the cost of a stamp. As a result a lot of business is now transacted online.

7. Initiatives to make setting up practices in rural areas more attractive for GPs

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

To ask Kerry County Council to write to the HSE and Minister for Health to put incentives in place to make setting up practices and working in rural areas more attractive for GP's such as in Sneem.

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

Cllr. D. McCarthy welcomed the appointment of a GP to Sneem and stated a similar issue will arise in other rural areas unless incentives are put in place to make it attractive for GPs to move to rural areas.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen **SECONDED** the motion and also welcomed the appointment of a GP to Sneem. He thanked the local community who organised a petition to put pressure on the HSE to get a GP for Sneem.

8. Leagan Gaeilge den ainm áite ar na comharthaí bóthair níos mó ná an leagan Béarla

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

Go ndéanfaidh an Comhairle seo, sa toadhcháí, iarracht a dheimhniú go mbeadh an leagan Gaeilge den ainm áite ar na comharthaí bóthair níos mó ná an leagan Béarla, chun fíor bhrí na logainmneacha a thaispeáint.

The following reply issued:

D'eisigh an tAire treoir gur chóir comharthaí bóithre a sholáthar de réir Treoirleabhar na gComharthaí Tráchtá. Tá saghas agus méid an téacs leagtha síos sa lámhleabhar. Bíonn Gaeilge agus Béarla ar na comharthaí bóithre seachas cinn sa Ghaeltacht a bhíonn i nGaeilge amháin. De réir an lámhleabhair, a thagann faoi threoir an Aire, ní mór don teacs Gaeilge a bheith i gcló iodálach agus ar an méid céanna leis an téacs Béarla.

The Minister has issued a direction that road signs must be provided in accordance with the Traffic Sign Manual. The type and size of text is set out in this manual. Irish and English text is provided on all road signs except in Gaeltacht areas where it is in Irish only. The guidelines issued under Ministerial Direction prescribe that Irish text must have the same text height as the English text but Irish text must be in italic.

Cllr. Daly read a poem in the context of this motion into the record of the meeting.

9. Wild Atlantic Way Interpretive Centre

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

That Kerry County Council and Fáilte Ireland take into consideration the massive success of the Wild Atlantic Way which is a world class route and has significantly increased visitor numbers to County Kerry and has also developed into a famous international marketing brand by building a Wild Atlantic Way Interpretive Centre in Kerry, as a matter of extreme urgency, as this will be a major tourist attraction for our County.

The following reply issued:

The Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) is a 2500 km (1550 mile) touring route along the West Coast stretching from Donegal to West Cork. County Kerry has the longest section (550km) which includes the North Kerry coastal drive, Sleah Head Drive, Skellig Ring and large sections of the Ring of Kerry and Ring of Beara. It is a Fáilte Ireland initiative supported by local authorities and tourism trade. Since its launch in 2014, the WAW is already proving to be an outstanding success in delivering increased visitor numbers to peripheral areas and in extending the tourism season year-on-year.

A specific objective of the WAW is to get people into less trafficked areas to experience the wildness of the Atlantic coastal areas; encourage and facilitate them to engage in activity pursuits both land and sea, explore the natural and built heritage, the distinctive culture, food, crafts, traditions, meet and engage with local people rather than providing new visitor interpretive centres.

While there are visitor attractions and interpretive centres along the route and a small number of new centres on specific themes may be added, the principal focus is on a series of 150 Discovery Points (25 in Kerry) and Signature Discovery Points (Blaskets and Skelligs Viewing Points in Kerry). The new Kerry County Tourism Strategy includes an action to provide for an increased number of such viewing points with interpretive panels along the Kerry coast, especially along the Kenmare Bay area, and a Signature Discovery Point in North Kerry.

Fáilte Ireland, earlier this year, following extensive consultation with the local community, Kerry County Council and other state agencies, launched its new Skellig Coast Visitor Experience Development Plan which is seen as a national pilot project to be rolled out along the entire Wild Atlantic Way. This complies with the new Kerry County Tourism Strategy.

Cllr. M. Cahill expressed his disappointment with the reply and stated the WAW is a huge success that is a world class brand which is growing. An Interpretive Centre would be an important addition for Kerry and the Tourism Department should lead the way on it. Cllr. Cahill asked that his request would be reconsidered so that Kerry is the first county to have such a Centre. In conclusion Cllr. Cahill pointed out there is no viewing point in the Caherciveen area and he called on Fáilte Ireland to identify one in the area.

Cllr. D. Quigg **SECONDED** the motion and added there would be no better way to market Kerry than through a WAW Interpretive Centre.

10. Allocation of additional funding for local and regional roads to the Listowel MD

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

That Kerry County Council will allocate any additional allocation of funding for local and regional roads in 2017 from the Department for roads in the Listowel Municipal District area in view of the deteriorating condition of the road network in North Kerry.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council has not been advised of additional funding by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for improvements to the non-national road network which was allocated having regard to the priority list adopted by Council. Should the Council receive additional funding; the programme will be reviewed with the members.

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

“Mayor/CE the condition on the majority of our roads in North Kerry are in a very poor condition. As I have stated here in the Chambers before in North Kerry we have 900km of a road network.

Last year, due to increased funding (flood related) 30km of roads in North Kerry were re-surfaced. This means that it will take 30 years for the whole road network to be addressed.

I, as a Public Representative for the North Kerry area find that the issues raised on sub standard roads in my area, the toughest I face as a councillor.

Over the last 10 months alone, I have had 3 deputations to our Listowel Municipal District Meeting, for 3 different areas namely, the Killocrim Road, in Listowel, the Knockalougha Road Residents in Lyrecrompane and the Powell Road Residents in Moyvane, where these residents can no longer put up with these sub-standard roads. It is just not acceptable, where people cannot walk, run, push a pram, wheelchair, and now because some stretches are so poor, they can't drive their vehicles because it's too dangerous and that is a reality.

Everyday as a Councillor, I am approached by residents on different roads like the ones mentioned and the anguish these people face is sickening. One example, Dirha East in Listowel which is on the Works Programme for 2018, and one road that I tried to include on this years programme, has to be the worst road in Ireland. This road connects the Listowel/Ballybunion Road to the Listowel/Ballylongford Road and is heavily travelled.

As a Councillor, I am working hard with Kerry County Council Roads Engineers in the Listowel Municipal District and I want to acknowledge the amount of work these staff do in giving these affected areas a proper road carriage, but in a lot of the roads mentioned my hands and Kerry County Council's hands are tied.

Pre-election 2016, certain elected deputies went around North Kerry and promised motorways everywhere and ultimately the local elected councillor was left dealing with the residents on these sub standard roads.

This is a battle cry from me for the people of North Kerry where even over the last 12 months, where due to a lot of road closures, the roads used on these diversions are being destroyed, these roads are not fit for such heavy traffic. We have seen only last weekend in Moyvane where locals are furious with these diversions. Yes G.N.I and EIR Grid will repair the road in which they work on but the roads used for diversions during these repair works, Kerry County Council are responsible for.

I am pleading and urging Management that when additional funding for our road network in Kerry is allocated that this funding is allocated to North Kerry so that we can complete the false promises made to the people of North Kerry pre 2016 General Election.

I'm asking the CE to write to the Minister for Transport to call for the allocation of additional funding for North Kerry."

Cllr. R. Beasley SECONDED the motion.

Cllr. J. Lucid pointed out that in the first 5 meetings he attended of Listowel MD there were 4 deputations in relation to roads and something must be done to improve the roads in North Kerry.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty highlighted that the roads in East Kerry are in a poor condition also and require additional funding.

Cllr. D. Grady concurred with the views expressed by Cllr. Culloty.

12. Measures to promote age friendly communities in Kerry

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

What measures have Kerry County Council in place to promote age friendly communities throughout Kerry, especially in terms of community development, well being and public health for our older persons.

The following reply issued:

The Kerry Local Economic & Community Plan 2016 – 2022 (LECP) commits the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to the achievement of the following High Level Goal within the term of the Plan:

“To promote Kerry as an age-friendly county and strengthen collaboration between statutory agencies and voluntary & community organisations to improve health, well-being, safety and participation of older people.”
Certain actions are linked to this goal in the Plan. At the February, 2017 meeting, the LCDC agreed to prioritise the Age Friendly Programme as one of the priority actions to be focused on in the 2017 LECP Implementation Plan.

One of the key actions to be implemented is the development of an Age Friendly Strategy for the County in collaboration with all stakeholders. Work on the development of the Strategy is progressing and it is proposed to present the draft strategy to the Members in quarter 4 of this year. It is on the basis of the LCDC’s focus on the Age Friendly Programme in 2017 that an application was submitted to the Department to approve the application of the €64,500 allocated under the 2017 Community Facilities Scheme to support age friendly initiatives.

In total, 65 no. applications were approved under the Scheme to provide funding for new activities that support age friendly communities such as:

- Improved access to public and community buildings**
- Creation of safe, comfortable places to meet**
- Intergenerational capital projects**
- Provision of recreation and healthy living facilities**

These projects are currently under implementation in local communities across the County.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen welcomed the reply and asked when the LCDC are compiling the Strategy that other options would be considered such as computer classes, calling on State agencies to make services more user friendly and the provision of community buses once a week.

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

13. Temporary funfairs

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

Can Kerry County Council clarify what the position is with regards to planning requirements for temporary funfairs in this County? Do they require planning permission? If so what are the conditions set out under planning. What control

has Kerry County Council to ensure best practice in relation to control of noise levels and other issues?

The following reply issued:

The use of land for a funfair, and the placing or maintenance of tents, vans or other temporary or movable structures or objects on the land in connection with such use does not require planning permission provided that:

1. The land shall not be used for any such purposes either continuously for a period exceeding 15 days or occasionally for periods exceeding in aggregate 30 days in any year.

2. On the discontinuance of such use the land shall be reinstated. There are a number of requirements in relation to notification, certificates of safety, and other details to be submitted to the local authority in respect of the operation of funfairs, which are set out in Section 239 of the Planning Development Act 2016. Under this legislation operators of a playground are required to provide valid safety certificates for their fairground equipment to the Council at least 2 weeks in advance of using the lands for this purpose.

There is no specific legislation or guidelines currently in place in relation to noise from such activities. Any such issues arising are generally dealt with on a case-by-case basis on receipt of complaints.

Cllr. J. Lucid read the following statement into the record of the meeting.

“If the funfair operates for a period of in excess of 15 days – what is the legal position, who is responsible - likewise if the funfair operates for a period of in excess of 30 days – what body is responsible to control this. My point about noise refers to a situation where it is situated near houses – where people have young children that cannot sleep with noise and maybe loud music that continues until 11:00pm at night. Can you clarify if the Council has any responsibility?”

Cllr. M. O’Shea **SECONDED** the motion and added that there was an issue in the Maharees. Funfairs that create noise should have to apply for planning and they should not be permitted to disturb sand dunes.

14. Call for works at the mouth of the Cashen

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

That Kerry County Council use their influence with the OPW to have major works carried out at the mouth of the Cashen as the people are living in fear there. They have no insurance since the floods of 2014 and 2015.

The following reply issued:

At the recent visit by Minister Kevin Moran, Minister of State for the OPW, on the 27th July 2017, the OPW confirmed that Consultants for the Cashen Estuary Drainage Project have been appointed by the Office to bring a viable scheme forward through environmental assessment, detailed design, tender and construction, subject to available funding.

Cllr. R. Beasley expressed concern at the reference to 'subject to available funding' in the reply. When the Minister visited the county he indicated that some work could be undertaken under the Minor Works Scheme and he asked if plans have been advanced for the Cashen with a view to applying for funding. Cllr. Beasley asked that boulders would be placed on the wall for 100m at the extreme west of the Cashen to alleviate the fears of families in this area.

Cllr. P. Daly SECONDED the motion.

15. Inadequate mobile phone service

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

We the members of Kerry County Council call on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Mr. Denis Naughten, to urgently investigate the serious inadequate mobile phone services provided by network operators in the County of Kerry.

The following reply issued:

This is a matter for consideration by the members. Following on from the recommendations set out in the 'Report of the Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce' published in December 2016, The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) is currently working with the various operators to create a composite national coverage map and make this available on its web site, as at present there is no reliable independent map showing coverage which would highlight 'Blackspots'. Separately we have been advised that the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment is undertaking a review to address the issue of 'Blackspots' to include recommendations on initiatives to address the issue, taking into account the various innovative options available.

Cllr. M. O'Shea read the following statement into the record of the meeting:

"To people living in disperse areas, their only defence is their mobile phones. This is an extract from Jeremy Godfrey, Chairman of Com Reg:

Poor mobile phone coverage in rural areas of Ireland could soon be swept away by state-sanctioned moves to introduce signal-boosting services for homes. The technology could solve an issue that affects as many as 500,000 Irish Mobile users. The head of Ireland's telecoms regulator confirmed that his watch dog is

considering the move in the face of growing complaints from rural TD's and householders over weak mobile phone coverage.

There are places where people were able to use their phone in their homes five years ago and they can't use them there now, said Jeremy Godfrey, Chairman of ComReg, at an Oireachtas committee hearing on communications.

We acknowledge that individuals sometimes have a worse experience than they previously had. Our evidence is that this is not due to any reduction in the signal strength being provided by operators. But that doesn't mean that there isn't a problem. We are going to consider the licensing of amplifiers to enable individuals through their mobile operators to improve the coverage in their homes.

Amplifiers, also called boosters or repeaters, involve placing an antenna on the roof of a house that captures any available mobile signal in the surrounding area and boosts it into a home or limited local area. At present, such equipment is illegal to use in Ireland without a special licence.

Mr. Godfrey said that 500,000 mobile phone users in Ireland were dissatisfied with their service.

The ComReg Chief also said that the Regulator was likely to introduce a new mobile phone spectrum that would widen the reception of existing operators' signals. However, this process would not be introduced for at least 3 years, he said.

Some rural TDs say that weak mobile phone coverage is a bigger issue among constituents than lack of broadband. There is a real problem with coverage in large areas of the country, said Helen McEntee, a Fine Gael TD for Meath East. I can't keep a call without it dropping on routes that I travel. Under Irish Telecoms law, mobile operators are only required to cover between 70pc and 80pc of the country's population with no legal requirement to cover rural areas.

This means that once Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford are covered, the operators are only obliged to cover a handful of other large towns to meet their legal obligations. Mobile operators say that they face planning objections from local authorities, despite the growing outcry over coverage black spots.

One in three applications for masts and other mobile network infrastructure is rejected by rural councils and An Bord Pleanála. ComReg's Chairman rejected claims that mobile phone signals were worse today than they were five years ago. We conduct tests four times a year, said Mr. Godfrey. Coverage is over 90pc of the population. There's no evidence that those signal strengths have gotten worse in recent years. However, Mr. Godfrey admitted that ComReg's testing procedure did not reach some rural areas."

Cllr. N. Moriarty **SECONDED** the motion and highlighted that black spots are inhibiting development by sole traders. Business customers receive a far better service than private individuals.

16. Option to car parking charges by Credit/Debit Card

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

That the option to pay car parking charges by Credit/Debit Card would be considered for all public car parks in Kerry.

The following reply issued:

In response to a previous motion moved, the Council is undertaking a full review of payment options for parking throughout the County. This will include an assessment of payment options introduced in recent times by some other local authorities, including the option of cashless payment systems. This review will be completed by the end of the year and a report will be brought to Council on any capital investment that may be required to implement such a system.

Cllr. D. Grady highlighted that this system is working in Dublin and motorists still have the option of paying at the parking meter.

17. Provision of services to persons with disabilities

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

That the CE will provide a report for the November Meeting outlining provisions that is currently being made to provide services to persons with disabilities and encourage their participation in decision making structures. The report should also include future plans and budget plans to implement same.

The following reply issued:

A report will be prepared for the November Council meeting as requested.

Cllr. T. Ferris stated as Ireland is due to implement the UN Convention on the rights of persons with Disabilities in the near future that this report would be presented as soon as possible. The Council provides so many services that are accessed by a large number of disabled people and she wanted to establish how development can be incentivised to allow all people to live equally. The issues that need to be considered include the provision of recreational facilities, the granting of licences and the development of social housing to ensure the needs of the 162 applicants in the county are met.

Cllr. J. Sheahan **SECONDED** the motion.

18. Flying of Flags Policy

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

That this Council review or put in place a flying of Flags Policy.

The following reply issued:

This matter will be reviewed and brought to CPG for consideration prior to reverting to Full Council.

Cllr. D. Quigg asked if Kerry County Council has a policy on the flying of Flags. He PROPOSED that the Palestinian flag would be flown for one week in solidarity with the people of the region who have suffered atrocities until the new policy is brought to CPG. Other local authorities have taken this initiative.

Cllr. T. Ferris SECONDED the motion.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue confirmed there is a policy on the flying of flags and flags are flown on the occasion of a visiting dignitary to the county. The CPG will review the existing policy which is in place since the early to mid 90s.

Cllr. Quigg asked that his proposal would be implemented until the policy is considered by the CPG.

Cllr. T. Ferris supported this request.

The Chief Executive recommended that members would await the review of the current policy by CPG before making a decision.

A number of members highlighted that while they were not opposed to the motion they would have a preference to await the new policy before any decision is taken.

Cllr. Ferris highlighted this was the only opportunity to do something in solidarity with the people of Palestine.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue confirmed that CPG would review the current policy on the flying of flags.

The Cathaoirleach PROPOSED that members would await the outcome of the review of the policy by CPG.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED this proposal and pointed out that the notice of motion was agreed.

Cllr. Ferris highlighted that the motion called for a review of the policy but Cllr. Quigg proposed that the Palestinian flag would be flown now. It was disrespectful to members that a vote was not taken on this proposal.

Cllrs. Ferris and Quigg then left the meeting.

19. Call for a ban on the advertising of alcohol products

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

As excessive consumption of alcohol in this country contributes to unnecessary social, human and economic costs, I ask this Council to call on the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, to begin the process of banning the advertising of alcohol products in this country.

The following reply issued:

As requested when this motion was considered at the July Council Meeting a letter issued to the Southern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force requesting information on the impact of advertising on alcohol consumption. A report was received from them and it is included in Correspondence General for this meeting.

The Task Force strongly supported the motion.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty highlighted that very important studies have proven that there is a direct link between the advertising of alcohol and the impact on the drinking habits of young people. While he was not against moderate drinking he did have an issue with the advertising of alcohol. The report received from the Drug and Alcohol Task Force states:

“From an alcohol marketing prospective, Irish 16-17 year olds are significant contributors to alcohol profits in Ireland spending an estimated €145m on alcohol each year. Alcohol marketing increases the likelihood that children and young people will start drinking, and if already drinking, that they will drink more.

Recent research has shown that children aged 10 – 15 years in the UK are more likely than adults to be exposed to alcohol advertising on television. People who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who start at age 20 or older. Those who drink heavily in their mid-teens are also more likely to experience alcohol-related harms as young adults.”

From this it is apparent that the advertising of alcohol does have an adverse impact on young people and the statistics on public order drunkenness proves this. Diageo sponsor a lot of events involving young people.

Cllr. P. Daly stated while he had no difficulty with a ban on advertising alcohol for the benefit of children he asked if this ban would also apply to small producers of craft beers. If it will he could not support the motion but if it is limited to advertising at sporting events he would support it.

A vote was taken on Cllr. Culloty's motion which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Cahill, Culloty, Gleeson, Grady, Locke, Lucid, D. McCarthy, Moriarty, O'Shea Sheahan **(10)**

Against: Cllrs. Daly, J. Healy-Rae **(2)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion CARRIED.

20. Tenders for RSA Roadworthiness/CVRT centres

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

That we ascertain when the next round of contract tenders will be sought for RSA Roadworthiness/ CVRT centres and ask that those tendering should be able to tender per size of vehicle and not just on private or commercial registration.

The following reply issued:

The procurement of the contracts for the Roadworthiness / CVRT test centres is undertaken by the Road Safety Authority.

Cllr. N. Moriarty highlighted if a business has an ordinary sized van and it is taxed commercial it must be taken to one of the bigger test centres. If the Caherciveen NCT Centre was to tender for the testing of commercial vans it would require huge investment. However if the tender was divided to allow Centres to tender for the testing of smaller commercial vehicles only it would be more reasonable.

Cllr. D. McCarthy SECONDED the motion.

22. Call to introduce a total ban on the use of non-recyclable plastic items

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

As non-recyclable plastic items, large and small, seriously threaten our planet, air, land and water, that we call on our Government to give national and international example and leadership by introducing a total ban on the use of all such material in this country.

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

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

“Unless it has been burned every piece of plastic ever produced still exists either as single unit or in multiple pieces. It does so because it is non- biodegradable.

Used and disposed of plastic is an ever- growing problem on land and in seas. It degrades the countryside. It strangles birds and small animals and probably worst of all it breaks down into microbeads in the oceans where it is consumed by fish and other forms of marine life who mistake it for food. These creatures may die a slow and painful death as a result.

It is estimated that at least 8 million tonnes of plastic enter the world’s oceans every year.

For too long humankind has seen the seas as acceptable dumping locations for all sorts of waste. This is a crime against humanity and against nature.

There is in the Pacific Ocean an area larger than France of dumped plastic. That is desecration on a massive scale. A 2016 United Nations report stated that humans eating plastic contaminated fish may be exposed to elevated levels of chemicals that could do considerable well- being damage. Sea creature large and small, from whales to seabirds are being poisoned by micro plastic.

We should be grateful that former Minister Noel Dempsey introduced a charge for the use of plastic bags. Our physical environment is very obviously the better of that decision. But we need to do more; if we don’t our land and marine environments will continue to be degraded.

It is especially important that the use of Micro Plastic is banned and we as a maritime country should be the world leader in this campaign. By so becoming we will be making a very clear statement that we really do care about the great wonder that is creation.”

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECODED the motion.

24. Call to house the homeless within their Municipal District

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

That this Council will house persons who become homeless within their own Municipal District.

The following reply issued:

Housing services are provided on a County-wide basis with applicants entitled to indicate an area of choice across any location in the County. So allocations and tenancies are not limited or restricted by Municipal District due the applicant’s home address.

In cases where people present requiring emergency accommodation, the primary consideration is securing emergency accommodation irrespective of locations. While ideally this accommodation would be in close proximity to their former residence this will unfortunately not be possible in many cases. Securing properties is proving challenging, especially in the key towns such as Tralee, Listowel, Killarney, Dingle, Caherciveen and

Kenmare. For that reason, people who present as requiring emergency accommodation, particularly families, will continue to be offered temporary short term-emergency accommodation wherever we have availability at that particular time.

Cllr. P. Daly stated this problem has arisen since the abolition of the Town Councils. In Tralee and Killarney provision is made for homeless persons but no such provision is made in other Municipal Districts. It would be more effective if each MD had their own facilities for the homeless.

Cllr. N. Kelleher supported the motion and added that it is exceptionally important that these services are provided in each MD.

The Chief Executive confirmed that every effort is made to house people in their own area. When funding for homeless services is drawn down it is on a countywide basis. Transitional accommodation is now available to facilitate those who become homeless and consideration will be given to providing increased resources in this area.

Cllr. D. Grady highlighted that Killarney needs a homeless facility and it is wrong to move families from their area as the children must also move schools.

Cllr. Daly advised that people become homeless for a variety of reasons and they are moved to Tralee as it is said the services are in Tralee but that is not the case.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue clarified that there is homeless accommodation in each of the MDs and the vast majority of cases are emergency cases and an emergency solution must then apply.

25. Court Poor Box

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

That Kerry County Council would write to the Court Service in Kerry regarding the allocation of the Poor box contributions made in Court in lieu of convictions and suggest that monies could be allocated to the Community Support Fund which allocates to community organisations right across the county of Kerry, also encouraging that the majority of monies be allocated to charities in Kerry.

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

Cllr. N. Kelleher indicated his full support for the Court Poor Box whether it is distributed internationally or locally. In 2016 395,000 was collected in Kerry which is a substantial amount. Kerry County Council administers the Community Support Fund and a large number of organisations across the county benefit from it. Cllr. Kelleher asked that a letter would issue to the Courts Service in Kerry outlining the benefits of the CSF and asking that some of the funds from the Court Poor Box would be allocated to it. According to media reports 90% of the money from the Court Poor Box goes to third world charities. While he was not

opposed to these charities he would like to see local groups benefit. A number of local groups are beneficiaries but the funding they receive is small.

Cllr. M. Cahill **SECONDED** the motion and suggested that the Cathaoirleach and a member of the Senior Management Team should arrange a meeting with Judge James O'Connor to discuss this matter with him prior to referring the resolution to the Courts Service.

Cllr. Kelleher agreed that the Chief Executive and the Cathaoirleach should request a meeting with Judge O'Connor in the first instance to discuss this proposal with him.

26. Breakdown for 2017 County Councillors Allocations

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

That Kerry County Council give a detailed breakdown for 2017 of County Councillors Allocation/Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund (CSMDOF) estimates for each of the engineering areas in the county, with detailed costings of pipes, surface dressing, health & safety measures and labour costs etc.

The following reply issued:

To date, 158 projects have been agreed by the members for funding under Councillor's Allocations, for which estimates have been provided and the works approved at MD level, at a total cost of €661,504. Of these, 70 projects have been approved where the cost of the works is in excess of €3,000, and where the total value of the works is €520,447. The following table gives a breakdown of the number of projects in each Municipal District and Engineering Area:-

Municipal District	Engineering Area	Total No of Projects	Total Cost of Projects	Total No of Projects, where cost > €3,000	Total Cost of Projects, where cost > €3,000
Killarney	Killarney	17	€59,850	9	€48,250
	Castleisland	16	€90,650	5	€75,650
		33	€150,500	14	€123,900

Listowel	Listowel	29	€119,650	17	€98,050
South & West	Cahersiveen	11	€22,600	3	€59,850
	Dingle	14	€53,170	8	€59,850
	Kenmare	4	€8,000	1	€59,850
	Killorglin	22	€77,738	9	€59,850
		51	€161,508	21	€117,851
Tralee	Tralee	45	€229,846	18	€180,646
Total		158	€661,504	70	€520,447

A detailed breakdown is provided by the relevant area engineer for works where the estimated cost is in excess of €3,000. These costs include for labour, plant and materials required to carry out the required works safely, as well as traffic management requirements. These cost estimate can vary significantly depending on the works required, depths of excavation and backfill, the location of the work, whether on busy roads or in urban centres which may involve additional traffic management arrangements, traffic and pedestrian volumes and other factors like ground conditions etc. Each item of works is costed individually based on the above factors.

The Senior Engineer in Operations monitors expenditure under the scheme, and has reviewed a random sample of 14 projects this year and is satisfied that the cost estimates are consistent, allowing for the many variations in the nature of the works as outlined above.

It is acknowledged that given the nature of projects funded under Councillor Allocations, better value for money could be achieved in each of the Municipal Districts, if a small number of larger scale locally strategic projects were funded from Councillors Allocations, which will need to be addressed in the context of the upcoming 2018 Budget.

Cllr. M. Cahill highlighted that the reply did not address his motion.

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Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated that procedures were put in place to give back up information to members in relation to works costing in excess of €3,000.

Cllr. Cahill advised that he wanted to see the cost of one job across all the engineering areas as he has an issue with some of the costings.

Mr. O'Sullivan advised that no two jobs are the same but he undertook to bring a random sample through the Operations SPC.

The Chief Executive advised it would be reasonable if the member asked the Director to ensure value for money as no 2 jobs are the same.

Mr. O'Sullivan highlighted that a lorry load of stone will be a different price depending on where it is being drawn from and to. A lot of jobs are undertaken each year and procedures must be reviewed to ensure we get better value for money.

The Chief Executive suggested that the Director will ensure that he is satisfied that any variances are reasonable.

Cllr. Cahill asked that a rough idea of costs would be provided to him.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae pointed out if a councillor has an issue with an estimate they should discuss it with the relevant Area Engineer.

Cllr. Cahill stated it is difficult to ask questions when he did not receive the answers he requested. The cost of labour is being charged to these jobs even though staff are paid anyway.

Mr. O'Sullivan highlighted that funding for Councillor's Allocations is taken from Local Road Maintenance funding. Labour must be charged where the staff deliver the projects.

27. Repair and Lease Scheme

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

Can Kerry County Council confirm under the Repair and Lease Scheme which was introduced this year by Government what number of Applications were received and what is the successful amount of Applications.

The following reply issued:

Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness is the new Repair and Leasing Scheme, which targets the delivery of social housing and also ensures that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible.

The basis of the scheme is that repair and improvement works to suitable vacant properties are funded to bring them up to the standard for rented accommodation and the cost of the works is then deducted from lease payments over an agreed lease term.

If the property is located in an area of need and is suitable for social housing a property inspection will be carried out by Kerry County Council staff who will validate the works required to bring the dwelling to the required standard.

Kerry County Council have been given a revised target for 2017 to deliver 27 units under the scheme. Kerry County Council advertised the scheme during the week of the 15 May with an initial closing date of the 01 June 2017. The Council received 84 applications. 20 applications have been prioritised as they are in areas of high demand and are now being assessed to determine if they meet the technical requirements of the scheme. A large number of other applications require further information to be submitted from the applicant primarily relating to the provision of a costed scope of works which is a requirement of the application process. This has now been requested from the applicants and once they have been received, they will be further assessed for inclusion in the scheme.

There is no doubt that the scheme has the potential to identify and return vacant units to use as social housing units. However we are aware of concerns that the scheme may not be broad enough to maximise the potential benefits. The scheme is currently under consideration nationally and further refinement of the scheme may well take place.

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

"In 2017 the Repair and Lease Scheme was introduced to bring vacant properties into social housing. The owners would get an agreed lease payment from the Local Authority and the value of the repairs would be gradually off-set against the lease payment over a specified period to the value of up to €40,000.

This Scheme is aimed at owners of such properties that could not afford such repairs to bring these properties up to standard for rental purposes.

My motion today, needs to inform members if this initiative has been successful as this country has a huge housing shortage that is now affecting most large towns and villages in Kerry.

Cllr. Kennelly asked if the Scheme would be opened up to new applications and will the revised target of 27 be achieved.

In response Mr. M. O'Donoghue informed members that officials are processing the applications received and it is unlikely that we will reach our target by the end of the year. It has been suggested that the Scheme maybe revised. Landlords have expressed concern that there is no incentive for them if they must engage a consultant and apply for planning permission. It is a rolling Scheme and the target of 27 was set by the Department. Priority is being given to those likely to come to fruition the soonest. Further calls for applications will be made in due course.

Cllr. Kennelly asked if there was much take up of the Scheme in Listowel.

Mr. O'Donoghue advised there was an even spread throughout the county. The lowest uptake was in areas where there is the highest need for housing and the highest uptake was where there is little or no demand for housing. He undertook to provide members with a list of the locations where applications were received.

Cllr. Kennelly highlighted that Louth County Council undertook a pilot scheme where 35 houses were acquired through CPO over a 15 month period and a further 30 are being secured. He asked that such a scheme would also be considered in Kerry.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue stated the Government has indicated that they will launch a Vacant Property Strategy and local authorities have been requested to prepare a report on vacant properties in the county. At present there is no definite register of vacant properties and when the Vacant Property Strategy is launched greater detail will be available. Mr. O'Donoghue added that he was aware that Louth County Council acquired houses in the larger towns through CPO and it has always been an option to acquire houses by CPO. However there are risks involved and it must be possible to restore the property at a reasonable cost.

29. Call on the Banks to ensure vacant houses in their possession are available for sale

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

To ask Kerry County Council to call on the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy to instruct the banks in state ownership to set up a working group to ensure vacant houses in their possession are made available for sale to private individuals or County Councils to assist in alleviating the present housing crisis.

The following reply issued:

While this is a matter for consideration by the Members, as stated in the reply to the previous Notice of Motion, the Rebuilding Ireland Programme is currently under review by the Minister and it is expected that an update and a Strategy on Vacant Properties will be published during September.

Following this Management will come back to Council with an update on the various programmes currently in place.

Cllr. J. Lucid read the following statement into the record of the meeting:

"I am asking the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Eoghan Murphy to instruct Banks in state ownership such as AIB, BOI and PTSB to set up a working group to ensure that all vacant houses in their possession are made available for sale to private individuals and or County Councils to help alleviate the current housing crisis across the country.

There are hundreds if not thousands of properties in bank ownership that are not available for sale. This is affecting market supply and we are all aware that the main problem with the market is a lack of supply for purchase or rent. We are too well aware also that prices for purchase or rent are rising continuously.

I have a constituent who is aware of a property near his parent's home that has been vacant for three years and is owned by one of the above mentioned Banks. He is interested in buying a house at present and is particularly interested in this house. He contacted his local bank branch; however nobody in the Tralee branch knows anything about the property and incredibly cannot find anyone in the banks head office that has information. I have contacted the Bank myself and a local T.D. contacted the bank but no information has come available.

This is a completely unacceptable situation. We have thousands of people on housing waiting lists and there is a severe lack of properties available to rent. Rents are soaring out of control to a point where they are beyond people's means and putting people in poverty. This particular situation is just one of the many reasons we have a housing crisis. Solving it will not solve the overall problem but solving this will help. The Minister must take immediate action to deal with this issue."

Cllr. M. O'Shea SECONDED the motion.

31. Call not to support the proposed Fixed Penalty Drink Driving Bill

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

We the members of Kerry County Council call on all our Oireachtas members in Kerry not to support the proposed Fixed Penalty Drink Driving Bill 2017 which will be put before both houses of Oireachtas in the Autumn as this will have devastating effects on rural Ireland.

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

Cllr. M. O'Shea highlighted that he did not condone drink driving but people have no concept of rural living. He then read the following statement into the record of the meeting:

"I am an admirer of former Co. Corner – Terence Casey's point of view on Rural Isolation. Changing social practices and increased isolation are causing more suicides among the older generation, a former Kerry coroner has said.

People who experienced decreased social interaction are more susceptible to suicide in rural areas, where "the suicide rate has changed from the younger generation to the older generation," according to Terence Casey, who retired as the coroner for Kerry east and south.

This comes after the release of new figures by mental health charity See Change, which show that 42pc of people in rural areas, would try to conceal a mental health difficulty, 4pc higher than the national average.

Speaking to Independent.ie, Mr Casey said the older generation make "no attempt whatsoever to look for assistance" when experiencing mental health problems and attributes loneliness as the leading cause of the problem.

Mr Casey said: "I'd say that trends in lifestyle have changed dramatically in the older generation living in isolated areas. They used to go to the creamery every morning and meet their friends and have a chat. The postman used to come to their door, now he only goes to the end of the laneway.

"People used to go to the local pub, have a couple of Guinness and chat with their neighbour and go home. They can't do that any longer because of the drink driving laws. So they're now living in isolation and small problems which they dwell upon become great problem."

He continued: "If you look at some of the areas where you've had suicides in the older generation; their nearest neighbour might be a quarter of a mile away, whereas in the urban areas (Dublin) their nearest neighbour is next door. (Not talking about the one or two, I am saying thousands).

In some cases that Mr Casey has seen, it had taken weeks to discover the deaths of people living in isolated locations.

He said: "There was one man who died and only his dog kept him company. That gives you a broader idea of exactly how lonely people are. I mean not being missed for weeks and then to be found dead, decomposed."

Mr Casey said that while he has seen the suicide rate increase in the older demographic, the opposite was true of young people. He attributes this to the work of Donal Walsh, a teenager who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He

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made national headlines in 2013 when he spoke out against suicide on The Saturday Night Show, hosted by Brendan O' Connor."

Cllr. J.F. Flynn SECONDED the motion.

34. Call for a dedicated 'Story Room' in each Library

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

To call on this Council to provide a dedicated "Story Room" in each of the Libraries throughout the County. These story rooms would be dedicated to presenting the definitive collection of the stories of their hinterland, to both locals and visitors. These stories would include local legend, nature, history folklore and present day.

The following reply issued:

Kerry Library is very active in collection of local studies material relating to the history of the County and holds an extensive collection of such material at the Local History & Archives Department, located at Library Headquarters in Tralee. This is available free of charge to members of the public from 10.00a.m. to 5.00p.m., Monday to Friday. In addition, each Branch Library holds a basic lending collection of published books relating to the history of the County.

The library service already provides story telling sessions for children at all libraries on an ongoing basis. These are advertised locally as they occur and details are posted on the Library website www.kerrylibrary.ie and on the Library social media sites.

In April of this year, as part of the national Right to Read Programme, Kerry Libraries participated in the Spring into Storytime initiative, whereby story telling sessions were held for children, using a combination of recommended resources and participant selections, followed by a drawing/colouring session and library induction tours. A similar programme, the Family Reading Initiative, is due to be rolled out to Kerry Libraries in November and December this year. These will be an annual initiative and Kerry County Council is open to promoting initiatives around story telling focusing on local legend, nature, history and folklore. However, any such initiative will require detailed plans and engagement and will need to be fully researched, analysed and assessed.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated the libraries provide a fantastic service but he would like to provide a service for adults where talks could be given on history, folklore etc. He asked that this would be considered for the two busiest libraries in the county.

Cllr. J. Sheahan SECONDED the motion.

35. Acquisition of land

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

How many different parcels of land is Kerry County Council hoping to buy in the County this year and how long have they been negotiating on these and where are they.

The following reply issued:

Members will be aware of the significant work programmes in delivering our social housing construction programme, road schemes, car parks, graveyards, greenways etc. These are identified in the 3 year Capital Programme adopted by Council, as part of the Annual Budget. To deliver on these projects, it is necessary for the Council to acquire suitable lands. The acquisition of lands, for the provision of this infrastructure, is an Executive Function. There is an obligation on the Council to ensure that any lands acquired represent the best value to the Council and members are regularly advised on progress in relation to the delivery of our Capital Programme.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae expressed his disappointment with the reply and acknowledged that the acquisition of land is an executive function. He submitted the motion as he was not permitted a motion regarding the lands known as Peninsula lands in Kenmare. Elected members are under pressure from the people they represent and it was unfair that management decided that he would first have to raise it at MD level before he would bring it to full Council. He PROPOSED that this requirement would be changed to enable members to bring area specific issues directly to full Council. In conclusion Cllr. Healy-Rae called on Kerry County Council to secure these lands for the people of Kenmare.

In response the Chief Executive acknowledged that everyone is aware of the sensitivity around negotiations for land and every effort was made to brief members in so far as possible.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae again stated he should have been permitted to submit his motion on the Peninsula lands even though he was aware of the reply he would receive. Members deserve more respect than this.

Cllr. B. Cronin supported the views expressed by Cllr. Healy-Rae.

The Chief Executive assured members that no disrespect to members was intended. In accordance with Standing Orders municipal specific motions must be raised at MD level in the first instance before they can be raised at full Council. Notices of Motion for full Council should relate to the county in general.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae PROPOSED that members would be permitted to bring a municipal specific motion to full Council provided it was not raised at MD level by another member.

Cllr. B. Cronin pointed that in the first instance members are elected to Kerry County Council and the Municipal Districts are sub committees of full Council. An issue can arise after an MD meeting and members should be entitled to raise it at full Council. He called on CPG to review Standing Orders to ensure that members are permitted to submit at least one municipal specific motion to full Council.

The Chief Executive indicated if members are in agreement that the CPG would review Standing Orders.

36. Call for additional funding for playschools/preschools in rural areas

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

To write to the Minister for Education to provide more funding for playschools/pre-schools in rural areas.

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

Cllr. D. McCarthy stated rural Ireland will suffer if we do not have the support of young people. There will not be a shop or Post Office within 40 miles of Tuosist shortly. There is a play school in Sneem with just 2 junior infants and he asked what parents will do if it closes. They would have to take their children to Kenmare which would be very inconvenient.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECONDED the motion.

37. Awareness and action campaign on the eradication of Japanese Knotweed

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

That Kerry County Council run an annual high profile awareness and action campaign around the eradication of Japanese Knotweed each Autumn that enlists local voluntary community groups and private landowners with a view to ensuring that we have some chance of combating in a meaningful way the spread of this invasive species.

The following reply issued:

The Council is already actively involved in raising awareness around Japanese Knotweed and its management, particularly at this time of the year. This includes working with several community groups, Tidy Towns Committees and private landowners. The Council will shortly disseminate over 6,000 information leaflets on Japanese Knotweed to landowners.

Municipal Districts have provided signs at locations along the public road network where Japanese Knotweed exists advising the public not to cut it. These locations will be treated with an appropriate herbicide over the next two months.

TII are carrying out a similar programme to treat Japanese knotweed along National Roads.

Cllr. N. Moriarty advised that she could see progress on the elimination of Japanese Knotweed on the N70 as this will be the 3rd year of spraying. She asked that it would be carried out in a more co-ordinated way and that community groups would be contacted asking them to spray this weed at a certain time of the year and that they would be provided with masks and sprays. In this way greater areas will be treated and landowners could be encouraged to spray private land also.

Cllr. J. J. Culloty **SECONDED** the motion and added that he noticed that a number of sites that were treated last year do not have signs displayed this year. If Japanese Knotweed is sprayed in October each year for three years it can be killed off. Cllr. Culloty called on the Council to ensure notices are displayed on all sites where Japanese Knotweed is growing.

Cllr. Cahill stated that the majority of people do not know what Japanese Knotweed looks like and when landowners cut hedges they inadvertently spread it.

38. Lewis Road Junction

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

To request clarification on any progress regarding improvements to Lewis Road Junction with bypass and what is the update position regarding the request made by the Killarney Municipal District members to meet the TII regarding this lethal junction.

The following reply issued:

The Chief Executive and Director of Operations met with Management from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in June 2017, at which the need to improve this junction was again highlighted. At this meeting, the TII requested that the Council prepare a Feasibility Report on the existing junctions, including their capacity, collision history and speed profiles. This report has now been submitted to the TII, which has identified that traffic volumes on the route is nearing capacity, which the Council considers justifies intervention.

A further report on potential solutions to the current problems is being prepared and will issue to TII in late September / early October 2017. The

report will examine potential solutions and identify a preferred solution, for which the Council will be seeking funding from the TII, to design and implement.

The Killarney Municipal District Members will be consulted and kept apprised of progress in relation to this matter.

Cllr. B. Cronin welcomed the preparation of a report on potential solutions for this junction and added that it is long overdue. Unfortunately there was a fatality at this junction earlier in the year and on foot of that he sought a meeting with TII. While the report states that the Killarney Municipal District Members will be consulted and kept apprised of progress in relation to this matter Cllr. Cronin highlighted that he sought a meeting with TII but apparently they do not want to meet the elected council. There is genuine concern regarding this junction and he PROPOSED, on behalf of the members of the Killarney MD, that a request would issue to TII to meet with the members for the Killarney MD. Cllr. Cronin asked that a copy of this request would be sent to Minister Griffin.

Cllr. J. Sheahan SECONDED the motion and added that this is a most critical issue for the Killarney area. There have been two fatalities and a number of serious accidents at this location. A solution needs to be identified for this very busy junction.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan advised members that the Chief Executive and he met with TII and highlighted the concerns of members and they are working on a solution. TII carry out their own review and they had not identified that location as a cause for concern. TII asked the Council to carry out a Feasibility Study and the accident statistics are on the RSA website. It is a capacity issue and Council officials have also requested a review of the By-Pass. Mr. O'Sullivan undertook to revert to TII on this issue.

Cllr. J. Sheahan highlighted that many people are involved in accidents but they do not report them. He emphasized the need to report all accidents to ensure they are recorded on the Pulse system.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated that he came across 3 and 4 car collisions at this location on numerous occasions. He asked if TII officials every exited this junction and turned right onto the Cork road. In conclusion Cllr. Cronin stated it is imperative that the members of the Killarney MD meet with TII on this matter.

17.09.11.13 Correspondence – Conferences and Seminars

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.F. Flynn, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Cahill it was agreed to approve the following:

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- i) The attendance of former Cathaoirleach, Cllr. M. O'Shea at the event on the theme Creative Ireland County Plans 2017 held in Dublin on the 25th May, 2017.
 - ii) The attendance of Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Sheahan at the 95th Annual Commemoration of President Arthur Griffith & General Michael Collins held in Dublin on the 20th August 2017.
 - iii) The attendance of Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Sheahan at the opening of Assembly House in Waterford on the 8th September 2017.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.F. Flynn, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Cahill it was agreed to authorize the attendance of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Sheahan at the UNESCO International Conference on Learning Cities to be held in Cork from 18th to 20th September 2017.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.F. Flynn, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Cahill it was agreed to authorize the attendance of the Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen at the Marking of the Centenary of Thomas Ashe in Dublin on Friday 22nd September 2017.
- (d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Cahill, SECONDED by Cllr. D. McCarthy it was agreed to authorize the attendance of Cllrs. Sheahan, Beasley, Connor-Scarteen, P. McCarthy, O'Connell, J. Healy-Rae, M. Healy-Rae and O'Shea at the Conference on the theme "Local Authority Budgets 2018 to be held in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal from 13th to 15th October 2017.

Cllr. P. McCarthy was nominated to report back to Council on this Conference.

17.09.11.14 Correspondence General

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

1.	Letter dated 13 th July 2017 from the Dáil Committee on Procedure in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to a dress code for members of the Dáil.
2.	Email dated 16 th July 2017 from the NPWS in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council calling for the display of information on Lyme Disease.
3.	Letter dated 20 th July 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council concerning the closure of the Tusla Counselling Grant.

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4.	Email dated 25 th July 2017 from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to LIS.
5.	Email dated 26 th July 2017 from the OPW in response to a request for a meeting with the Minister to discuss flooding issues.
6.	Letter dated 27 th July 2017 from the Construction Industry Federation in response to a request from Kerry County Council in relation to policies to attract Irish people overseas to fill emerging shortages in construction trades.
7.	Letter dated 8 th August 2017 from Tusla in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the Tusla Counselling Support for Children.
8.	Letter dated 14 th August 2017 from the Minister for Health in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the Centre for narcolepsy in St. James's Hospital.
9.	Letter dated 18 th August, 2017 from the OPW in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to extending the opening seasons at Carrigafoyle and Listowel Castles.
10.	Report from the Southern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force in relation to the impact of advertising on alcohol consumption.
11.	Email dated 31 st August 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Housing in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to Airb&b.
12.	Letter dated 4 th August 2017 from Limerick City & County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling on the GAA to halt the current practice of allowing SKY TV exclusive rights to screen particular Gaelic Games fixtures.

17.09.11.16 Any other business

Appointment of a caretaker to Aglish burial ground

Cllr. B. Cronin asked if a new caretaker has been appointed to Aglish burial ground.

Visit to Berlin

Cllr. M. Cahill asked as flights are cheap that a delegation would travel to Berlin to meet with representatives of Berlin City Council and also tour operators. Councillors should also be approved to attend the Kerry London Association Annual Dinner to enable them to network with contacts over there.

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The Chief Executive advised that the delegation to Berlin will include Minister Griffin, the Cathaoirleach, herself, tourism operators from the county and probably the Chair of Destination Kerry.

Cllr. Cahill asked that councillors would be given the opportunity to go to Berlin also.

The Chief Executive undertook to bring this request to the CPG for consideration.

Tree Cutting

Cllr. S. Locke requested, in light of the catastrophic weather events in the US which are likely to have an impact on Ireland that the tree cutting programme for October would be brought forward.

The meeting concluded at 5pm.

Liam Quinlan
Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council