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**MIONTUAIRISCÍ CRUINNITHE BHUISÉID COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHIARRAÍ,  
A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ  
LÍ, AR AN LUAN, 18 EANAIR 2010 A CUIREADH AR ATHLÓ.**

**MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY  
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE,  
TRALEE ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2010.**

**PRESENT/ I LÁTHAIR**

***Councillors/Comhairleoirí***

R. Beasley	J. Brassil	T. Buckley
M Cahill	P. Connor-Scarteen	B. Cronin
P.J. Donovan	T. Ferris	J. Finucane
S. Fitzgerald	T. Fleming	N. Foley
M. Gleeson	B. Griffin	D. Healy-Rae
M. Healy-Rae	P. Leahy	P. McCarthy
A. McEllistrim	M. Moloney	T. O'Brien
B. O'Connell	P. O'Donoghue	M. O'Shea
L. Purtill	J. Sheahan	A.J. Spring

**IN ATTENDANCE/ I LÁTHAIR**

Mr. T. Curran, County Manager	Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance
Mr. J.D. Flynn, Dir. Of Corp. Services	Mr. M. McMahon, Dir. of Planning
Mr. G. MacNamara, A/ Dir. of Roads	Mr. J. Breen, Dir. of Hsg. Comm&Ent.
Mr. O. Ring, Dir. of Env.& Water Serv,	Ms. A. McAllen, Fin. Mgmt Acc.
Ms. K. Moriarty, A/SEO Finance	Mr. T. Sheehy, SE Environment
Mr. J. Kennelly, A/SE Water Services	Mr. C. Mangan, SEE Water Services
Mr. G. O'Brien, A/SEO Corp. Aff.	Mr. P. O'Shea, A/SEO Finance
Mr. P. Neary, SEE Water Services	Mr. J. Ahern, EE Environment
Ms. H. Switzer, AO Environment	Ms. K. Lynch, AO Finance
Ms. J. Foley, AO Water Services	Mr. P. Corkery, Press Officer
Ms. J. Brosnan, AO Housing	Ms. K. Curtin, AO Finance
Ms. S. Sheridan, SSO Finance	Ms. B. Reidy, SSO Corp. Affairs
Mr. R. Tangney, A.S.O. Finance	Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corp. Affairs

The meeting commenced at 2pm.

The Mayor Cllr. B. O'Connell took the Chair.

**10.01.18.01 Consideration of the Local Authority Budget for the Local Financial Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 (Cont'd)**

**Division C – Water Services**

Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance referred members to Pages 60 – 87 of the Budget Report and Pages 16-17 of the Budget Tables where details of the Water Services Division are set out. The Revenue Budget for Water Services is €24m, which is 18% of the overall Revenue Budget for 2010. The estimated income for this Division is €15m. The income will be generated through Water/Wastewater Charges, income from the supply of water to Town Councils and various grants. Details of the Capital Programme can be found on Pages 10-15 of Schedule 1 at the back of the Budget Report. The total Capital Budget for this Division is €30.82m. This will be funded through grants and local contributions. The local contribution will be funded through borrowings and development contributions. The full extent of the Capital Water and Waste Water Programmes depends on the new Water Services Investment Programme.

Mr. O'Connor said that during 2009 members approved the raising of the loan of €13m for the Water Services Investment Programme in relation to a number of schemes. Departmental approval was received for this loan and the loans were drawn down before Christmas. Therefore, loan charges will fall due during 2010. Details of Schemes commenced and completed between the years 2000-2009 are set out on Pages 60 and 61 of the Budget Report. Reference is also made on Page 61 to the Needs Assessment, which was carried out by the Council in 2009 and submitted to the Department. The Department's contribution is based on the application of the Department's Water Pricing Policy (WPP) and affordability limit on schemes. The implication of the WPP limits exchequer funding to the order of 50-70% of the total Scheme Cost or to a maximum of €10,000 per existing house (at year 2002). The local contribution appears to be increasing with each new scheme and this will result in the Council having to incur loan charges. The local contribution for the Kenmare Water Supply Scheme is close to 50%. The very sizable volume of work in this area is managed and supervised by an in-house team. A sum of €1.1m is being assigned from the Development Levies/Contribution Fund to finance the Design Team who are based in the new Area Service Centre in Castleisland.

Work on the EPA Remedial Action List is progressing well with approved works to the value of €9.86m being carried out. Progress under this Scheme is set out on Pages 64-67 of the Budget Report. Mr. O'Connor referred members to Page 68 where details of the Revenue Works Programme are set out. Every effort is made to ensure value for money and the main initiative has been to reduce energy costs. Mr. W. Moynihan, Energy Officer has done a lot of work in this area. A sum of €9.9m is provided for the Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply. Kerry County Council is the Water Services Authority for Kerry and produces approximately 32m cubic metres of drinking water per annum. This equates to 87,700 cubic metres per day, for some 130,000 customers, served by 60,000 water connections (domestic,

agricultural, industrial and commercial). These figures are inclusive of the supply to Tralee, Listowel and Killarney Town Councils. There are 68 public water supply schemes in the county, which are served by a total of 103 separate water sources. The 68 schemes are divided into 86 water supply zones. A total of 475 Group Water Schemes have been developed in Kerry of which 183 have been taken over by and are maintained by the Council. The European Communities Drinking Water (Regulations) 2007 sets standards for drinking water, which Kerry County Council, as a supplier of public water, must achieve. This is becoming more of a challenge each year. Water supplies receive both physical treatment and disinfection in 11 Water Treatment Plants throughout the county and water is treated through disinfection by chlorination in the remainder of the Council's schemes. Mr. O'Connor said a sum of €150,000 is provided in the Budget to expand our Cryptosporidium Monitoring Programme in agreement with the HSE. Good international practice recommends that the safety and security of our water supplies is best assured by having comprehensive Water Safety Plans (WSP's). A key element of WSP's is source protection, and it is planned to set up a dedicated project team to carry out Risk Assessments in all our schemes in 2010. This will be funded through the Development Contribution Receipts in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts.

Mr. O'Connor referred members to Page 70 of the Budget Report where there is a break down of the main elements of the Water Supply Operations, Maintenance and Repairs Budget. A sum of €1.68m is included for Maintenance Crew's Payroll Costs with Energy costs of €1.844m, which is sizable. However, that is a reduction in the 2009 provision. Under the Minor Improvement Programme over the past number of years a special contribution has been made for these works from Development Contributions and this is continued in 2010. However, it is unlikely it will continue into 2011 because of the downturn in development and the subsequent reduction in Development Contributions. Details of the works carried out under this Programme are set out on Pages 72 and 73 of the Budget Report. Under the heading Loan Charges for Water Supply Schemes Mr. O'Connor said that a sum of €1.063m is included in the overall allocation for Water Plants and Networks and arises from:

- National Water Pricing Policy Framework – Local Contribution
- Water Metering Project – Non-Domestic Users

Mr. O'Connor informed members that details of Water Conservation/Water Demand Management are set out on Pages 73-75 of the Budget Report. He then referred members to Page 75 where details of the Operation and Maintenance of Waste Water Treatment Plants are set out. A sum of €5.504m is provided for Wastewater Plants and Networks. This provides for the maintenance of our major schemes and smaller plants, village schemes and Town Council plants. Kerry County Council recovers a substantial amount of monies from the Town Councils. Of the €2.1m costs incurred in the transfer of water functions for the Town Council plants €1.9m is recouped from the Town Councils and the remainder relates to the servicing of the hinder land serviced by the Town Councils. A sum of €150,000 is provided for the Minor Improvement Programme. This is similar to the 2009 allocation and

details of the works carried out are set out on Page 77 of the Budget Report. A sum of €397,500 is provided for Loan Charges for Wastewater Plants & Networks. These loan charges are attributable to the loans for funding the local contributions required for the construction of New Waste Water Treatment Schemes at Ballyheigue, Furies, Miltown and Barraduf. These loan charges are funded from Development Contribution Receipts.

Under the heading Debt Management Water and Waste Water a sum of €958,000 is provided. This relates specifically to the cost of collection, monitoring and follow-up of water and waste water charges in the Revenue Section from non-domestic consumers. This also includes staffing and legal costs together with salaries. Over the past few years the Revenue Department made an all out effort to keep customers aware of leakages on their property. However, in time to come it will not be possible to continue to issue these notices. The vast majority of customers have responded very well to these information notices. Schools will become liable for direct charges in 2010. Several advisory notices have been issued to schools and he anticipated that leakage/wastage issues have now been resolved. A Handbook has also been prepared for schools. Mr. O'Connor referred members to Page 79 for details on the Operation and Maintenance of Public Conveniences. A sum of €547,000 is provided for this service in 2010 and it is not anticipated that any great improvements or investment in these facilities will be carried out in 2010. He referred members to the graphs on Pages 85 and 86 of the Budget Report where the number of water and waste water connections for the years 2004-2009 are set out. There has been a dramatic reduction in the number of connections made in recent years. It is intended to revise the standard connection charge for water connection to €1,100 for 2010. It is intended to revise the standard charge of a sewer connection for 2010 to €2,210. This includes machine costs, skilled labour costs, and materials for the compliance of the current health and safety requirements. Mr. O'Connor stated that a sum of €2.7m of Development Contributions is included in the Budget but in 2009 a sum of €1.5m only was collected. It is anticipated that a sum of €500,000 will be collected in Development Contributions in 2010. Fortunately some Development Contributions are still in hand.

## **Division E – Environmental Services**

Mr. O'Connor informed members that he would then brief them on Division E - Environmental Services. Details of this Division are set out on Pages 105-135 of the Budget Report and Pages 21 and 22 of the Budget Tables. The activities of the Environmental Services Department have continued to grow considerably in the last number of years particularly in the areas of Environmental Enforcement and Waste Management. The main functional areas within the Environmental Department are as follows:

- Waste Disposal
- Refuse and Dry Recyclable Collections
- Environmental Awareness/Litter Prevention
- Pollution Control/Waste Regulations

- Energy Usage and Efficiencies
- Coastal Zone Management
- Operation of the Laboratory
- Veterinary Services
- Civil Defence

A sum of €19.448m is provided for this Division, which is approximately 15% of the overall projected Budget for the year. The projected income for this Division is €8.856m and this will come principally from waste disposal and refuse collection charges etc. €4.3m is provided in the Capital Budget, which is a reduction on 2009. Mr. O'Connor referred members to the Table on Page 106 of the Budget Report, which sets out expenditure on the Operation, Maintenance and Aftercare of Landfill. Kerry County Council has an expensive waste infrastructure. The widespread and varied nature of the county imposes its own demands on the Council. Provision is also made for the repayment of loans taken out for the development of the landfill facility at Muingnaminnane. The projected tonnage intake for 2009 is 39,000 tonnes and it is expected that the tonnage will decrease to approximately 28,000 tonnes in 2010. This reduction is due to increased competition between landfills resulting in a high proportion of the waste being collected in Kerry by private operators moving outside the county for disposal. Another contributory factor is the downturn in the economy. He said there is an exceptionally aggressive environment in the South for waste and it is important to contain our costs. He pointed out also that some counties do not have Transfer Stations. Details of the costs involved in the Recovery and Recycling Facilities Operations are set out in a Table at the top of Page 109 and the overall cost involved is just over €1m. While this is a very valuable service it is also very expensive. The Council has now reached the target set in the Regional Waste Management Plan for the provision of Bring Banks with a total of 103 Bring Banks in various locations around the county. The cost effectiveness of these sites will be monitored on a continuous basis throughout 2010 to ensure value for money. Mr. O'Connor then referred members to Pages 110 to 112 for details of the Waste Collection Service. He added that he is aware that all members want to ensure that this service is maintained. In order to achieve this, costs must be maintained and we must increase our customer base. He believed that our costs are as good as possible following a number of restructuring measures and it is now necessary to focus on increasing our customer base and there is a strategy in place for this. No private contractor provides as widespread a service as Kerry County Council however, this is an expensive service. South Kerry has a density of population of a quarter of the rest of the country. Mr. O'Connor referred members to a Table in the middle of Page 111 of the Budget Report where there is a breakdown of the Draft Budget provisions for the 2010 Collection and disposal of refuse. The total provision for this service is €2.032m and this is the direct cost of the Service. The Council will continue to operate the Waiver Scheme on the same principle as last year.

Details of the Budget provision for the Operation and Maintenance of Burial Grounds are set out in Page 116 of the Budget Report where a sum of €715,000 is provided. This includes a sum of €84,000 as a contribution to

Community Organisations/Other Bodies for the Maintenance of Burial Grounds. These Groups do very good work and many of our Burial Grounds have been improved substantially over the last few years. Details of the development works progressed in 2009 are set out in Page 117 of the Budget Report.

A sum of €216,000 is provided for the Operational Costs of the Civil Defence who played a role during the frost and flooding in recent times.

Mr. O'Connor referred members to Page 119 where details of the provision for Derelict Sites are set out. A sum of €92,000 is provided for this service and it is intended to intensify our efforts in this area in 2010. A sum of €321,000 is provided for Water Safety Operation and the Council intends to maintain the Lifeguard Service at all existing beaches in 2010 with the same number of Lifeguards employed.

Details of the Operation of the Fire Service are set out in Pages 120-123 of the Budget Report. This is our key emergency service and a sum of €5.5m is provided for this service in 2010. Mr. O'Connor referred members to the breakdown of the costs involved in this service, which are set out in Page 121 of the Budget Report and said that the Salary/Wages/Allowances costs of €2.168m are substantial. The provision of a new Fire Station in Kenmare is a priority for the Council and the Department are presently considering a report requesting permission to prepare tender documents. He acknowledged the funding from the Department for the provision of new equipment. A sum of €678,000 is provided for Fire Services Training. This allocation provides for on-going weekly drill training that is provided to 108 retained fire fighters to ensure that their levels of fire-fighting expertise are maintained to the appropriate standards for Health and Safety requirements. A sum of €253,000 is provided for Fire Safety Control Cert Costs.

Details of the Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution allocation are set out on Page 123 of the Budget Report. A sum of €682,000 is provided in the Budget and this service is critical for tourism, agriculture etc. The breakdown of the activity of the Council Laboratory is shown on the pie chart on Page 124 of the Budget Report. The Council's Laboratory has seen an increased workload in recent years. Overall it is estimated that this laboratory saves the Council in the region of €300,000 annually in monitoring costs alone by doing the vast majority of mandatory workload in-house.

Mr. O'Connor informed the meeting that the work of the Energy Office is set out on Pages 126-128 of the Budget Report. He then referred to the Hydro Power electric generation plant in Lough Guittane and said that the 250 kw Hydro Electric generator installed by Kerry County Council at Lough Guitane pump station in 2001 has generated electricity to the value of €760,000 to date. The value of electricity generated specifically in 2009 was €95,000 approximately. In conclusion Mr. O'Connor said that that was an overview of the two Divisions and he called on Mr. O. Ring to brief members further on them.

Mr. O. Ring, Director of Environment and Water Services said that an adequate water supply is critical for the county and it is only when it is interrupted that we see the impact of it as happened during the recent cold spell. He paid tribute to all staff that worked so hard over the past few weeks to ensure that the water supply was maintained to as many houses as possible. He also paid tribute to Martin Beckett, Caretaker who recently passed away. Martin retired in 2005 and was very dedicated and worked above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Ring said he wanted to remind Councillors of the following staff changes: Mr. Brian Sweeney Senior Engineer, Water Services recently retired and he will be replaced by Mr. John Kennelly; Ms. Joan Brosnan, Administrative Officer has moved to the Housing Department and she will be replaced by Ms. Jean Foley; Mr. Paul Neary has been appointed Senior Executive Engineer and he will have responsibility for dealing with the EPA, Water Quality etc. Mr. Ring thanked Mr. Colm Mangan for carrying a huge work load over the past few years and he will continue as Senior Executive Engineer for Operations etc. There are no staff changes in the Water Services Capital Section.

Under the Capital Programme the Council spent almost €100m over the past 10 years, which is less than what was required. The Needs Assessment identified works to the value of €235m that need to be carried out. He anticipated that the Council would be spending €10m on major projects each year. An additional allocation of €10m was received for works under the Remedial Action List (RAL) Programme and this money will be spent over a period of 18 months. Into the future it will be a major challenge to fund the local contribution of between 30 and 50% for new Schemes. He referred members to Pages 60-63 of the Budget Report where details of the Water Capital Services Programme are set out. Mr. Ring briefed member on the Schemes under construction.

A sum of almost €10m is required for the Operation and Maintenance of Water Supplies. This represents a big challenge because of the large number of schemes and sources involved. Water quality is the number one priority for his Department. The list of Schemes where there is full treatment is set out on Page 69 of the Budget Report. A further 33 schemes are being upgraded under the RAL Programme and these will be completed in 2010. Following this 24 small schemes still require some form of treatment and an application for funding for these under RAL has been submitted. All schemes carried out under the RAL Programme have been dealt with in house.

The Water Conservation/Water Demand Management is dealt with through water conservation and metering. In accordance with Government policy it is intended to meter every house in the county. There are 60,000 connections in the county and to date 18,000 of these have been metered. The metering of all premises in the county should help reduce the demand on supply. Mr. Ring referred members to Page 75 of the Report for detail of the Operation and Maintenance Costs of Wastewater Treatment in the county. To- date the Council has applied for 25 licences and 21 permits from the EPA but no

licences have yet issued. When these licences issue it is likely to result in considerable costs to the Council in upgrading schemes. In the past he estimated that the cost involved would be approximately €50m to bring these schemes up to an acceptable standard.

Mr. Ring then referred to Public Conveniences and said that the Council will not be in the position to expand on the number of Public Conveniences in the county or to upgrade existing Public Conveniences in 2010. The Council will investigate the possibility of Community Partnerships in this area.

Mr. Ring referred members to the graph at the top of Page 81 of the Budget Report, which sets out the number of applications for individual Domestic Water Supply Improvement Grants received from 1997 – 2009. The number has declined gradually thorough the years with just 37 applications received in 2009.

Details of the Environmental Services Division are set out on Page 105 of the Budget Report. There are new staffing arrangements in this Division and he is replacing Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Services who is on secondment to the Limerick Regeneration Project. Mr. Denis O'Connor, Senior Engineer retired in 2009 and he is replaced by Mr. Tom Sheehy while Mr. Liam Brosnan is replaced by Ms. Helena Switzer. Mr. Ring paid tribute to Mr. Mick Boyce who has been handling a huge work load over the past 12 months. The role of the Environmental Services Division could be divided into two - (1) Waste Management and (2) the Regulatory Role and there are huge costs involved in the Waste Management. Details of expenditure on the Maintenance, Operations and After Care of Landfill are set out on Pages 106-107 of the Budget Report. The EPA has reviewed the current licence for the North Kerry Landfill Site as part of its National Review of Waste Licences in order to give effect to the EU Landfill Directive. This new licence, which will come into effect in February 2010, will contain conditions in relation to the Pre-Treatment of Waste in order to reduce the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste entering North Kerry Landfill. Compliance with these conditions will further reduce the amount of waste tonnage entering into the landfill and will result in further costs being incurred by Kerry County Council. Mr. Ring informed members that the use of the Recycling Facilities by the general public has increased each year with an approximate total of 6,000 tonnes of recyclables being accepted in 2009. The Council has now reached the target set out in the Regional Waste Management Plan for the provision of Bring Banks; with the total of 103 Bring Banks located at various locations around the county. The cost effectiveness of these sites will be monitored on a continuous basis throughout 2010 to ensure value for money. Mr. Ring emphasised the need to maintain our customer base for the Refuse Collection Service and to increase it. Kerry County Council customer base is being attacked by the private sectors but he pointed out that Kerry County Council provides a Refuse Collection Service in almost every part of the county and we must spread our costs over the entire service. A sum of €109,000 is provided in the Budget for Environmental Awareness Services. This provides for a broad range of initiatives including issues on waste management, energy conservation, water protection and other issues related to sustainable living.



Mícheál O'Coileáin works in this area and he has been very effective with a large number of Green Flags issued to schools and also a considerable number of Blue Flags.

Mr. Ring then referred to the allocation for Burial Grounds and said there has been great success with community groups in improving Burial Grounds and he hoped that would continue in 2010. A total of 92 of the county's 140 Burial Grounds are classified as Archaeological sites and are protected by the National Monuments Act. Works to be undertaken in these Burial Grounds must be carried out in a sensitive manner. Advanced approval must be obtained from the County Archaeologist and any works undertaken require archaeological supervision. The structural stability of some of these monuments is a cause for concern and the OPW has been advised of this. The Council commenced a programme of erecting safety fencing in such cases in 2009.

Mr. Ring then referred members to Page 120 of the Budget Report where details of the Operations of the Fire Service are set out. This service is run by Mr. Vincent Hussey, Chief Fire Officer and great progress has been made in upgrading our existing fleet. Mr. Ring referred members to Page 122 of the Budget Report for details of Fire Safety Control Cert costs and said that during 2009 approximately 127 Building Plans for construction or alteration were examined for compliance with Part B of the Building Regulations, 1997-2008 and Fire Safety Certificates were issued relating to these plans. Applications vary in size and nature of developments.

On the Regulatory side Mr. Ring referred members to Page 123 of the Budget Report where details of Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution Programme are set out. The Laboratory in Kerry County Council carries out a huge amount of water monitoring. Significant progress was made in 2009 at River Basin District Level on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The Draft River Basin Management Plans were published for all River Basin Districts and a lengthy consultation exercise was completed. In accordance with the requirements of the Directive final versions of these plans are likely to be issued in 2010 and these will then be considered by the elected Council. Following adoption they will form the blue print for water quality management over the 2010-2015 period. It is intended to hold a Special Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> March where a presentation will be made to the Council on the Draft River Basin Management Plans.

The Council's Laboratory represents very good value for money and the technical quality is very high. Of 26 parameters assessed by EPA through their lab proficiency scheme Kerry County Council's laboratory is registered to test for all 26 parameters. The Council's laboratory is one of only 9 laboratories out of a total of 104 laboratories assessed by the EPA to achieve this level of proficiency.

Mr. Ring then referred to Energy Conservation and paid tribute to Mr. W. Moynihan and Mr. A. Stack on the excellent work carried out by them. The Moyderwell District Heating Project is very successful and the average cost of

weekly heating and hot water for each apartment was €6.84 over the first year of operation. In recognition of the success of this project the Tobar Naofa Wood Chip District Heating Scheme was awarded the 2009 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Energy Conservation Award in October 2009.

### **Approval for Attendance at Conferences**

Mr. G. O'Brien informed Members that approval was required for members' attendance at conferences:

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Sheahan, SECONDED by Cllr. B. O'Connell, it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. S. Fitzgerald at the Antrim Tourism Conference to be held in Dunadry, Antrim on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Sheahan, SECONDED by Cllr. B. O'Connell, it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. M. O'Shea at the AMAI Spring Seminar to be held in Sligo on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Sheahan, SECONDED by Cllr. B. O'Connell, it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. M. O'Shea at the Colmcille Winter School to be held in Gartan, Co. Donegal from 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

### **10.01.18.01 Consideration of the Local Authority Budget for the Local Financial Year Ending 31/12/2010 (continued)**

All Members complimented Mr. J. O'Connor and Mr. O. Ring on their presentations.

Cllr. L. Purtill paid tribute to Mr. Brian Sweeney, SE who recently retired from the Water Services Department and he wished him every success in the future. He said every village in North Kerry needs an upgraded sewerage scheme. No new projects have been carried out in North Kerry since the Ballyheigue Sewerage Scheme. It appears that funding is always provided for schemes in South Kerry. He asked for assurances that the Tarbert and Ballylongford Sewerage Schemes would commence in 2010 together with the Lixnaw Sewerage Scheme. The Shannon LNG Project is about to commence with huge employment potential there. It is of paramount importance that the Sewerage Schemes in Ballylongford and Tarbert would proceed in 2010 as there is also a possibility of service industries in Ballylongford. Ballylongford was once a thriving village but many businesses have closed in recent years. If further industries or investment is to be attracted to Ballylongford, it is essential that a sewerage scheme is provided. Cllr. Purtill added that there is an outdated pipe network in Kilpadogue, Tarbert and it would only cost €45,000 to replace these water mains. He added that he had seen raw sewage flow in front of houses at this location. He asked that this pipe network would be replaced as a matter of extreme urgency.

Cllr. T. Buckley supported the sentiments expressed by Cllr. Purtill in relation to North Kerry and said that it is now more important than ever to progress the sewerage schemes in Tarbert and Ballylongford. New schemes are also required in Ballyduff and Abbeydorney. He asked that every effort would be made, at a national level, to secure funding for these and other schemes. Funding is also required for the Listowel Stage 4 Regional Water Supply Scheme. As this is very important for this area he was anxious to see it progress. He welcomed the funding in the Budget for Burial Grounds and said that great work has been done by local community groups. He referred to the fact that there are caretakers in many Burial Grounds and said that they are maintained to a very high standard. However, there is no caretaker in Listowel and he asked if an existing caretaker could be given a role in the maintenance of the Listowel Burial Ground.

Cllr. J. Finucane said that the development of the landbank in Tarbert is critical for the county. This has been a political football for many years. The proposed development at the landbank must be seen to get every support from the Council.

Cllr. M. Gleeson referred to the second last paragraph on Page 116, which relates to the fact that many Burial Grounds are classified as Archaeological sites and are protected by the National Monuments Act. Some works required would only cost €150 but this is not possible as these are in the charge of another body that are prepared to let these structures disintegrate. Local stone masons are prepared to do the work required to these structures; however, because these are under the control of another body, this cannot be done. He was concerned about the deteriorating condition of the stone wall in Aghadoe Burial Ground between the old and new Burial Grounds. There is an urgent need for noise monitoring, especially in places of entertainment. He was concerned there would be a major problem with deafness in younger people in time to come. He referred to the Golden Mile Competition, which was run by the Council for a number of years and said this was a wonderful initiative and he asked that consideration would be given to reintroducing it. He welcomed the reduction in the Standing Charge for the Refuse Service and said that he had argued for this for the past 8 years and he hoped it was not too late. He was aware of people who left the service because they put out very little waste and the Standing Charge was too expensive. He said he was amazed at the attitude of Government who forced local authorities to contribute up to 40% of the cost of Water and Sewerage Schemes. He commended the Hydro-Electric Scheme in Lough Guittane and said it was very successful. He asked that consideration would be given to implementing a similar scheme in other areas. He then referred to Water Conservation and called on the Council to ensure that defective water pipes are replaced. He asked if there is a Fire Hydrant proximate to all schools. He called for an extension of the public sewer to Aghadoe and the Tralee Road and said it is vital that this is provided. Cllr. Gleeson said that it is very urgent that a second reservoir would be provided at Sheheree. He said he was seriously concerned regarding the re-introduction of water charges for schools. Many

schools are struggling to survive and this may be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

Cllr. M. Cahill paid tribute to Mr. O. Ring and the staff of Water Services for the excellent work carried out over the past 12 months. He asked when the Sewerage Schemes for Beaufort, Glenbeigh and Caherdaniel would commence. It is vital that new sewerage schemes are provided in unserviced areas because of the pressure from septic tanks. He asked when the Boil Water Notice will be lifted in Tulligmore. The replacement of water mains in many locations is a very major issue. The area from Fossa Village to the Gap Cross is heavily populated and there are weekly breakages in the water mains. He asked that this section of pipe network would be replaced in 2010. He called for the provision of a Disabled Toilet in Rossbeigh. The mobile toilet on the Back Beach is out of order for a long time and he asked that it would be removed. Illegal dumping is an ongoing problem and must be tackled seriously. He welcomed the funding for improvements to Burial Grounds over the past few years and said that much work has been done. He called on Mr. Ring and his staff to acquire land for a Burial Ground in Cromane in 2010. He asked that consideration be given to the provision of a Communal Composting Project in Killorglin on a pilot basis. In conclusion, Cllr. Cahill paid tribute to the Fire Service and said that he had first hand experience of them at a house fire in the recent past and they do excellent work.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae paid tribute to the staff of the Water Services and Environment Departments who did tremendous work over the Christmas period during very difficult weather conditions. He asked that priority would be given to the Rathbeg Group Water Supply Scheme in 2010. He also asked that funding would be provided for the replacement of the water main at Clahane / Ironmills. He called on the Council to ensure that additional land is acquired for an extension to the Burial Grounds at Scartaglin and Gneeveguilla in 2010 and he asked if progress was made in this area. He referred to the licensing of Wastewater Supply Schemes and Treatment Plants and said that two years ago members took the decision to increase development levies for sewage connections in the expectation that all plants would be upgraded. He is not sure now that there was a need for these licences. He said that he hoped that funding would be provided for Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme in the coming year. Last year he was informed that Kilgarvan Sewerage Scheme was No. 4 on the Priority List and now it is No. 14 while raw sewage flows into the River Roughty during periods of heavy rainfall. There was no salmon in the river last year and children can no longer swim in this river. He welcomed the savings achieved through the Hydro Electric Scheme and said that it was encouraging to see what savings could be achieved. He asked if a similar scheme could be considered for the Mid-Kerry area. He asked when the Final Account for the Firies/Scartaglin Water Supply Scheme will be available. He believed Kerry County Council staff could do these schemes more efficiently and at a much reduced cost. He also referred to the Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme and said that if funding is received, it could take a year before tenders are received, a contractor

appointed and the works commence. However, if Kerry County Council staff undertake these works, work could commence immediately.

Cllr. R. Beasley asked if the extension to the Listowel Scheme would include Dirha Cottages. This proposed Scheme is promised since 1979. The lack of a Scheme at this location is a Health and Safety issue and in warm weather, the stench is unbelievable in the area. There is no proper infrastructure in Lixnaw to cater for the large-scale development that took place there in recent years. He asked that a sewerage scheme would also be provided in the Cashen. He referred to street cleaning and the cleaning of beaches and said that great work has been done but there were cutbacks in this area last year. He asked that street cleaning would commence on St. Patrick's Day and would continue until November. Dog fouling is an ongoing problem that has not been adequately addressed. He paid tribute to Ms. Ellen Daly, Litter Warden, who is doing an excellent job and who responds promptly to complaints of illegal dumping. The roof on the Public Convenience in Ballybunion is nearly gone and he asked that it would be repaired immediately.

Cllr. A. McEllistrim asked what is the position regarding the funding for Group Water Schemes in 2010. When enquiries were made last year, some areas were informed that the funding was used up so she was anxious to know if funding would be made available in 2010. She asked if the water softener would be provided for the Fenit area in 2010 as many homeowners have to replace appliances. She referred to the reduction in the allocation for the landfill site and asked if this would affect the local area. Would there be a reduction in the capping of cells etc. that could result in an odour problem for the local community.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen referred to the request currently with the Department for approval to proceed to tender for the new Fire Station for Kenmare and he called on the Council to write to the Department asking them to prioritise this project in 2010. He welcomed the work carried out on Kilgarvan Burial Ground and he asked that funding would be provided for a footpath on the left hand side of the Burial Ground in Sneem. He also called on the Council to take over the Rossdohan Group Water Supply Scheme as soon as possible. In conclusion, he expressed his disappointment that provision is not made in the Budget for a new Public Convenience for Kenmare.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae complimented the staff of the Environment Section and Water Services on the dedication shown over Christmas during the very frosty weather. Mr. Frank Sheehan, Water Caretaker, worked all over Christmas to ensure that water was kept flowing in Kenmare. This type of dedication cannot be thanked enough. He emphasised the need to ensure that the Waiver Scheme is maintained for people in need. There are still large areas of our county with no proper Refuse Collection Service including Glencar. He referred to proposed extensions to Burial Grounds and said that he hoped that additional land would be acquired where necessary in 2010. He also asked that the commitment given to ensure that additional space is made available in Kilgarvan through the breaking of rock would be honoured. He added that

he would like to see a new Fire Station in Kenmare. Cllr. Healy-Rae referred to Energy Conservation and said that local firms provide different types of energy efficient light bulbs and he asked that these would be considered for public lighting as they could achieve enormous savings. He referred to the Waterville Waste Water Treatment Plant and said that it is unfair that in recent discussions with the Department, they are demanding a greater contribution. The pipe work is in place and it is unfair at this point to be seeking an increase in the contribution. He asked that discussions would take place with the Department with the view to resolving this issue. New sewerage schemes are urgently required in Caherdaniel, Beaufort and Kilgarvan. He added that he would like to see the source for additional water for Kenmare resolved in 2010. He hoped that the River Sheen would not be seen as the solution but rather the lakes. In conclusion, he said that he hoped that provision could be made for a new Public Convenience for Kenmare and Kilgarvan similar to that in Killarney.

Cllr. J. Brassil asked what the fine is for illegal dumping as he felt it wasn't an adequate deterrent. Many people use the recycling bins to dispose of their domestic waste and this is getting out of hand. He called on the Environment SPC to come up with a proposal to increase fines for illegal dumping. Cllr. Brassil referred to the Ardkearagh Drainage Scheme and said that this is one of the few in the country not under the control of the OPW. The Tralee/Ballyheigue Road has been flooded three or four times in the past year and he believed that this system is not being properly maintained to prevent flooding. He requested a response to this issue. He referred to the Refuse Collection Service and said that he was aware that private waste collectors are moving into areas in North Kerry where they had never been before. He called on the staff in the Environment Section to go back to customers the Council lost in recent times to encourage them to return to the Council. If Kerry County Council goes out of the Refuse Collection Service, private operators will take full advantage and the non-profitable routes will lose out. He asked what the position is regarding water loss in the county and how much damage has been done to pipes by the bad weather. He asked how long it would be before normal water supplies are restored. At present, people are drawing water in the fear that the water will be cut off and when this does not happen, the water is wasted.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea said that there were a lot of frozen water pipes in Milltown during the cold spell and he thanked the Water Services Department for providing a 'stand pipe' which was crucial for many people in Milltown. He welcomed the ongoing work on Milltown Sewerage Scheme and said that he hoped it would be completed shortly. He referred to the proposed increase in the water and sewer connections that is attributed to the cost of health and safety and he said that other State Agencies working in public areas do not seem to be as meticulous as Kerry County Council. He asked is it necessary to go to the lengths that Kerry County Council does which results in higher costs. In recent times he called for a one-day Seminar for councillors on the requirements for percolation tests etc. He hoped this would be held in 2010. It is alarming that the number of planning applications is at its lowest for 20 years and this will result in a loss of revenue for the Council. He was

concerned regarding the draconian treatment of one-off sites and some villages. Annascaul and Castlegregory are awaiting new sewerage schemes and he felt the Council should be more lenient in granting one-off planning applications in these areas. There is an ongoing problem with illegal dumping at the Bring Banks and he called for the provision of CCTV cameras to help to resolve this issue. He asked if fines could be imposed for illegal dumping at Bring Bank Centres. Cllr. O'Shea then referred to Burial Grounds and asked what was the position in Archaeological sites where tombs are open - who is responsible - is it the family or the caretaker?

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue said that there have been improvements in the maintenance of Burial Grounds over the past few years and he complimented the Caretakers and Community organisations for their involvement in this. He referred to Page 116 and the provision for the Operation and Maintenance of Burial Grounds and in particular, Registrars and Caretakers' Wages for which a sum of €292,000 is provided. He requested clarification on this item. Cllr. O'Donoghue referred to Derelict Sites that are in every town and village. Tidy Towns Committees in these areas are doing their best to improve their areas and the one undesirable building is taking from the community and is having an adverse impact. He asked what levies were received from Derelict Sites. Absentee landlords own many of these sites and they should be pursued vigorously. He referred to Miscellaneous Services where there is substantial provision and said that normally Miscellaneous includes a small figure for postage etc. He requested clarification on this item. Cllr. O'Donoghue referred to Page 121 of the Budget Report and the Operation of the Fire Brigade Service and in particular, to the figure of €250,000 provided for 'Contributions - Mid-West Mobilisation' and he asked for clarification on this figure. He added that people are aggrieved that at a road traffic accident, the Fire Service is called out and not used but a charge, of possibly a few thousand Euro is still levied on the injured party but they did not call out the Fire Brigade. He referred to the sum of €80,000 provided for insurance for the Fire Service and asked why this was separate to the global insurances. He expressed concern at the substantial cost of operating the landfill service despite the fact that the tonnage has reduced, which, of course, is desirable.

Cllr. O'Donoghue referred to the sum of €126,000 provided in the Budget for the Regional Waste Management Office in Limerick and he asked what service they provide. The Regional Waste Management Plan was adopted and he understood that part of their brief was the development of an incinerator but he understood this is not being pursued. Cllr. O'Donoghue referred to the Waste Collection Service and said that it is not possible to service all areas, however, it is essential that this service is maintained otherwise, private operators will cherry pick to the detriment of other areas.

Cllr. B. Cronin paid tribute to the staff of the Water Services and Environment Departments and said that they had no Christmas holidays as they were on call day and night. It is vitally important to promote the excellent Refuse Service provided by Kerry County Council and it is important to actively pursue new and lost customers. If Kerry County Council did not provide this

service, there would be no Waiver Scheme and prices would increase. He acknowledged the work of the Litter Warden who is called to very difficult situations. She does an excellent job in trying to identify those responsible for illegal dumping. He also acknowledged the work of the Dog Wardens who provide a very good service. He commended the improvements to Burial Grounds which is a credit to Caretakers and Community groups. In some older Burial Grounds, minor repair works are needed but these cannot be carried out because they are Archaeological sites. There are excellent people in the local community who are willing to do the work. He called on the Council to discuss this matter with the relevant authority to see if a solution can be identified. He referred to the Burial Ground at Aghadoe and asked that the hedge between the old and new Burial Grounds would be cut to the level of the fence, as promised. He complimented the work done under Water Safety and also commended the work of the Killarney Water Rescue Team. He complimented the Fire Service but said that the call-out of the Fire Service to a road traffic accident can lead to a huge bill for the injured party, despite the fact that they did not call out the Fire Service. He was aware of one case where a young driver's vehicle slipped into a drain in the frost. A passer-by called the Fire Service but they were not used and she received a bill of €3,200 and she had just lost her job. He said this seemed very unfair.

Cllr. Cronin asked what plans have the Council for the development of the lands at Farranfore. The effects of the severe frost over the last few weeks have shown how vulnerable our water supply network is. It has also shown how important it is to have an adequate supply of water. He acknowledged the funding provided to maintain water quality and said that this is essential. Cllr. Cronin said that he hoped that funding would be provided for Firies Sewerage Scheme would be operational in 2010 and the old system in the village would be decommissioned. He added that he hoped that the Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme would commence in 2010. He welcomed the provision for additional storage at Scart Reservoir. He referred to noise pollution, in particular, in the Woodlawn area in Killarney where late at night cars and motorbikes are revving up and down an estate and the residents cannot get to sleep. He asked what rights do these residents have and how they can address this problem.

Cllr. J. Sheahan acknowledged the work of the Water Services Department and also the Fire Service who did tremendous work over Christmas to help the public in difficult circumstances. He referred to Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme and said he hoped it would commence in 2010. The roads in this area are in a very poor condition and they cannot be improved until the sewerage scheme is completed. He also called for the provision of a treatment plant to facilitate Aghadoe and the Tralee Road area. He added that he would like to see Firies Sewerage Scheme completed. He commended the Caretakers and Community groups around the County for the excellent work they are doing on the maintenance of Burial Grounds that have shown huge improvements in recent years. He asked if there is a fire hydrant in Faha School and said it is difficult to identify. He asked that it would be made more visible to the Fire Service.



Cllr. P. Leahy asked that sewerage schemes for towns and villages in North Kerry that are already prioritised would proceed in 2010 and he asked that Dirha Cottages would be included with the Listowel Stage 4 Scheme. He commended the Burial Ground Caretakers and Community groups who have carried out immense improvements to Burial Grounds over the past number of years and he thanked Mr. Colm Mangan for his assistance to local community groups in this regard. He commended the work on water safety and also the various bodies involved in this throughout the county including sea rescue etc. He complimented the Fire Service on their work throughout the year and referred to Page 121 of the Budget Report and the provision in the Budget for €1.218m for Fire Fees and asked for clarification on this item.

Cllr. B. Griffin welcomed the anticipated progress on the Castlemaine and Castlegregory Sewerage Schemes in 2010. He also welcomed the progress on the new sewerage scheme in Milltown. He requested an update on the Brandon Sewerage Scheme which is not mentioned in the report but it is very important for this area. He also noted that Boolteens and Cloghane Sewerage Schemes are omitted from the Water Services Investment Programme and he expressed his disappointment with this. He welcomed the fact that there would be no increase in water charges in 2010. There are alternative sources of water supply for certain use and this includes the harvesting of rainwater. He asked if consideration would be given to highlighting this fact to the public. He referred to the Public Convenience at Inch and said that it is a pity it is closed most of the year. This is a very busy beach and he asked that consideration would be given to keeping it open for a much longer period. There is an urgent need to improve the public toilets in Dingle which are seriously sub-standard for such an important tourist town. He asked that they would be improved in the current year. He asked if there is an Emergency Plan in place in the event of an outbreak of Cryptosporidium similar to what happened in Galway. He thanked the Water Services Maintenance Crew that attended the burst water main in Firies over the weekend. Cllr. Griffin then referred to the Refuse Collection Service and welcomed the reduction in the Standing Charge. He thanked the Council for their co-operation in the Spring Clean at Inch Beach each year. He referred to the Adopt a Bottle Bank Scheme which is working very well and asked if a similar Scheme could be introduced for beaches as he anticipated, funding the cleaning of beaches will be a problem over the coming years. In conclusion, he complimented **Mícheál Ó Coileáin** on his pro-active work in the environment area.

Cllr. T. Ferris commended the staff of the Water Services Department and Roads Departments for their excellent work in the emergency over the past few weeks. She added that water caretakers are not being paid overtime for this work and they deserve great appreciation for their dedication. She expressed concern that very few capital projects would proceed in 2010 due to lack of funding. She asked if the Ardfert Sewerage Scheme would progress in 2010. She referred to renewable energy and energy conservation and asked if the Eirgrid Scheme would be of benefit to Kerry County Council only or would it benefit the rate payers of the County.

Cllr. M. Moloney said that she would like to be associated with the tributes to staff and she hoped that the Waiver Scheme would continue to be offered by Council. The water shortage experienced during the recent cold weather was because people were leaving taps running. She suggested that leaflets should be made available to householders to explain how they could prevent freezing pipes. She asked if private water wells would have to meet a certain water quality in order to qualify for a grant. Cllr. Moloney also asked if there is a lot of money outstanding in respect of Waste Water Charges. She emphasised the importance of proceeding with the Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme. She welcomed the reduction in the Standing Charge for the Refuse Collection Service and she congratulated the Council on the reduction in the tonnage going to landfill. She requested clarification on the sum of €2,210 for a connection to the sewer and asked is this per household. She expressed concern at the cost of a callout for the Fire Service to a road traffic accident when the injured party does not have a say in this and she asked if anything could be done to resolve this problem. She asked if the Smoke Alarm Scheme would continue in 2010 and she asked if the Council cleans chimneys in local authority houses.

Cllr. T. O'Brien referred to the 165 On-The-Spot Fines issued for illegal dumping and asked what the outcome of these was. He also asked what the long-term effect on the landfill would be of private operators taking their waste to Limerick.

Cllr. PJ Donovan welcomed the inclusion of the Caherdaniel Sewerage Scheme on the priority list for 2010. He also welcomed progress on improvements to Burial Grounds in recent years. The Terrace housing development in Waterville was constructed a number of years ago and this has not yet been connected to the public sewer and the road is in a very poor condition. He asked who is responsible for connecting this Terrace to the public sewer. Cllr. Donovan also referred to a person who built a house in a rural area and brought a water pipe half a mile from the mains to serve his house. Since the house was built, the road was widened and the water pipe was covered. This pipe leaked before Christmas and when the Council were called out to the leak, the person was told that from the meter to the house is his responsibility but he was not allowed to open the road to repair the leak. He got a bill for in excess of €2,000 to open the road and he had no option but to lay a new pipe through a field.

Mayor B. O'Connell said that an Audit should be carried out of all local authority housing estates to establish how tenants are disposing of their refuse. This should then be extended to every household in the county as everyone should be held responsible for how they dispose of their refuse. This is an opportune time to undertake this survey as the Council is trying to increase their customer base.

In response to queries raised, Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance said that in 2010, there will be a significant focus on the Refuse Collection Service and every effort will be made to increase our customer base. The figure included in the Budget for Fire Fees is in respect of payments made to Fire Fighters for

attendance at fires. The sum included for insurance under the Fire Service relates solely to Fire Tenders and Buildings for that Service.

Mr. O'Connor then referred to the query from Cllr. O'Donoghue in relation to the sum included for Miscellaneous and said this could be broken down into 10 or 15 broad headings and they would include Protective Clothing, Fire Fees to neighbouring authorities, Maintaining Radio requirements, Maintenance of IT equipment, Cleaning of Fire Station, Injury Benefit, Medical Examinations for Fire Fighters etc.

The sum included under the heading "Contributions - Mid-West Mobilisation" relates to the Mid-West Regional Communication System which operates 365 days a year. This is operated by Limerick City Council and they co-ordinate the service for a fraction of the cost if we had to provide this service ourselves.

Mr. O'Connor then referred to queries in relation to the call-out of the Fire Service to road traffic accidents and said this service is very costly. Many motorists have insurance to cover these costs. It is easy for people to deny that they called the Fire Service but the phone records would show when the Fire Brigade was called to an incident. However, where an individual does not have insurance and for compassionate reasons, consideration would be given to this charge.

In relation to the sum included in the Budget for Registrars' Fees, every Burial Ground has a Registrar who registers all burials. They get paid a small retainer and a fee per burial and the average cost per Registrar would be a few hundred Euros per annum.

Mr. O'Connor then referred to the landfill site at Muingnaminnane and the reduction in waste going to landfill and the impact this will have. The main reason for the reduction in the Budget is less provision is being made for cell development due to the reduction in waste going to landfill. As a result, there will be reduced costs for machinery, cover material, etc. However, it is not intended to reduce our overall maintenance and standards at the landfill site.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae referred to the Map Sales Office in Killarney Town Council where Ordnance Survey maps can be purchased and he said he understood this office is closed. He requested clarification on this issue.

Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance said that it is intended to close this office due to lack of demand. We are in a loss-making situation in relation to this office.

Mr. O'Connor referred to Derelict Sites and said up to now, emphasis has been on getting rid of dereliction but it is intended in 2010 to get harsher with property owners. A lot of good work has been done down through the years in this area and in 2009, a sum of €23,000 was received for levies while in 2010; it is intended to recover our full costs of €75,000.

Mr. O. Ring, Director of Water Services said that the sewerage scheme for Tarbert is a priority and also Ballylongford and Lixnaw. Ardfert is also a high priority but it is necessary to go through An Bord Pleanála prior to the commencement of this Scheme. It is hoped that the Ardfert Sewerage Scheme will commence in 2011. He undertook to ensure that the hedge is cut in the Burial Ground in Aghadoe. He also undertook to carry out works on the wall. Mr. Ring then referred to the query regarding Fire Hydrants and said that every Fire Officer is aware where Fire Hydrants are located. There must be a 4" water main to have a Fire Hydrant. The Final Account for the Furies/Scartaglin Water Supply Scheme is almost complete and will be available to members in the near future. All water treatment plants will be licensed in due course but they have not yet been issued. It will not be possible to provide new Public Conveniences in 2010 and the only upgrading works planned will be in Dingle. If funding is available, opening hours could be extended. The community approach is the only other alternative to providing Public Conveniences. Funding is not provided in the Budget for the provision of a water softener for Fenit as water quality is a priority. He referred to the query on the implementation of Health & Safety legislation in the carrying out of maintenance and repair works and said the Council has no choice in this as works have been stopped because the measures taken weren't adequate. He referred to the damage to the water infrastructure from frost in recent weeks and said that in West and South Kerry there has not been major problems. However, East Kerry has improved but problems are still experienced in Brosna. He anticipated that the service will be back to normal in the next 2 - 3 weeks.

Cllr. J. Finucane asked for a timescale for the commencement of the Tarbert and Ballylongford Sewerage Schemes.

In response, Mr. O. Ring said that it will take 1 - 2 months to finalise the Tender Documents and he was anxious that these Schemes would commence as soon as possible.

Cllr. L. Purtill asked for a commitment that these Schemes would commence in 2010.

Mr. O. Ring said that if funding is provided in 2010, these Schemes will commence. The Brandon Sewerage Scheme is not a large scheme and he anticipated that will proceed shortly. He referred to the suggestion that rainwater could be used for certain purposes and said that with a charge of €1.10 per cubic meter for water, it would be hard to compete with that and it would not be economical to use rainwater. He confirmed that an Emergency Plan is in place to deal with an outbreak of Cryptosporidium; however, he said that the best means of preventing an outbreak is to put in a barrier system. At present, we are installing this system in 33 Schemes. He referred to the query regarding noise pollution and said that residents can take a case to the District Court. The On-The-Spot Litter Fine is €150 and this is set by Regulation and Kerry County Council cannot increase it. In Court, the maximum fine is €3,000. He confirmed that the Council has taken a number of successful Court cases in recent years.

Cllr. J. Brassil said that the On-The-Spot Fine is totally inadequate. It is very frustrating for local communities who clean up the area around Bottle Banks and in a matter of two days there is a lot of rubbish at the Bottle Banks again. This level of fine is not a deterrent to illegal dumping. He asked that a letter would be forwarded to the Department asking them to make provisions for a more substantial fine.

Cllr. N. Foley asked who pays the cost in a successful Court prosecution.

In response, Mr. O. Ring said that where we are successful, costs are usually awarded to us. However, it is extremely difficult to catch those responsible for illegal dumping.

Cllr. J. Sheahan asked who decides if an On-The-Spot Fine is issued or if the case is taken to Court.

In response, Mr. M. Boyce, SE Environment said it depends on the level of the offence.

Mr. O. Ring informed members that the Regional Waste Management Office in Limerick processes Waste Permits on behalf of Kerry County Council.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae asked if Kerry County Council should get a return on the income from these Permits and why are they not processed by Kerry County Council.

Mr. O. Ring said that when the Regional Waste Management Office was first established, this was the cheapest option.

Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance informed members that the net cost of this office only, is shared out amongst local authorities. This takes account of any income received. It is the Council's considered opinion that we could not provide the Service they are providing at a comparable cost. The figure in the Budget for 2010 shows a reduction on the 2009 provision. Following an evaluation of this Service, it is apparent that from the expertise they have built up in the office in Limerick, it would not be economical for us to provide this service.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae asked that the Limerick Office would be asked to speed up the issue of Permits.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae asked in towns and villages where there are no Public Conveniences, how will Cllr. O'Shea's Notice of Motion be progressed.

In response, Mr. O. Ring said that is not clear at present. He expected that approaches would be forthcoming from community groups. In response to the query from Cllr. Moloney he confirmed that the sewerage connection charge of €2,200 is per household. The connection is made 1.5 metres deep and the

road must be restored following these works. In conclusion he said that he expected that the Smoke Alarm Scheme would continue to be funded in 2010.

Mr. J.D. Flynn, Director of Corporate Services, referred to the Map Sales Agency Office in Killarney and said that over the past 9 years, it has accumulated losses of €140,000. Kerry County Council was acting on an agency basis for the Ordnance Survey of Ireland and their long-term plan is to make maps available on-line. Because of the economic downturn, a decision has been taken to focus on our core services.

Cllr. M. Gleeson said that this was a wonderful service and he asked when the on-line service would be available.

In response, Mr. J.D. Flynn said that it would be some time yet. It is anticipated that there will be one or two Regional Offices which are more economical and applications will be made through these offices.

Mr. J. Breen referred to the query on the cleaning of chimneys in local authority houses and said this is a matter for the tenant. The Council did carry out an audit of local authority tenants in relation to the disposal of refuse and no problem was identified from this audit.

#### **10.01.18.02 Charges for Attendance of Fire Brigade at Chimney Fires - Single Domestic Dwelling Houses**

Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance informed members that it was proposed that this charge would remain at €100.

Cllr. J. Finucane PROPOSED that pursuant to Section 2 of the Local Government (Financial Provision) (No. 2) Act, 1983, and the Local Management Reserved Functions Order, 1985, it is hereby resolved that a charge of €100 (unchanged from 2007) shall be made in respect of the attendance of the Fire Brigade at chimney fires in single domestic dwelling houses for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald SECONDED this Proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs. Beasley, Brassil, Buckley, Cahill, Connor-Scarteen, Cronin, Donovan, Ferris, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Foley, Gleeson, Griffin, D. Healy-Rae, Leahy, McCarthy, McEllistrim, Moloney, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Shea, Purtill, Sheahan, Spring, O'Connell **(25)**

**Against:** None **(0)**

**Not Voting:** None **(0)**

The Mayor declared the Proposal carried and the Council so resolving.

**10.01.18.03 Adoption of the Council's Budget for the Local Financial Year Ending 31 December 2010**

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue PROPOSED that pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2001, the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations, 2002 and the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations, the Draft Budget for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2010 as presented by the County Manager and as set out in Tables A & B be and is hereby adopted.

Cllr. J. Finucane SECONDED this Proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs. Beasley, Brassil, Buckley, Cahill, Connor-Scarteen, Cronin, Donovan, Ferris, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Foley, Gleeson, Griffin, D. Healy-Rae, M. Healy-Rae, Leahy, McCarthy, McEllistrim, Moloney, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Shea, Purtill, Sheahan, Spring, O'Connell **(26)**

**Against:** None **(0)**

**Not Voting:** None **(0)**

The Mayor declared the Proposal carried and the Council so resolving.

**10.01.18.04 Determination of the Annual Rate on Valuation for the Local Financial Year Ending 31 December 2010**

Cllr. J. Finucane PROPOSED that pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2001, the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations, 2002 and the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations, and in accordance with the Local Authority Budget for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2010, as adopted, the annual rate on valuation as set out in Table A hereunder be the annual rate and valuation to be levied for the said Financial Year. The Annual Rate to be levied shall be €80.35.

Cllr. J. Sheahan SECONDED this Proposal.

<b>TABLE A - CALCULATION OF ANNUAL RATE ON VALUATION</b>						
<b>Summary by Service Division</b>	<b>Summary per Table A 2010</b>				<b>Estimated Net Expenditure Outturn 2009 (as restated)</b>	
	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget Net Expenditure 2010</b>			
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Gross Revenue Expenditure &amp; Income</b>						
Housing and Building	15,938,952	14,759,779	1,179,173	2.4%	1,148,827	2.3%
Road Transport & Safety	36,394,780	23,178,968	13,215,812	27.1%	13,226,264	26.1%
Water Services	24,038,035	14,790,488	9,247,547	19.0%	9,507,156	18.8%
Development Management	8,184,931	1,915,060	6,269,871	12.9%	6,602,754	13.0%
Environmental Services	19,448,275	8,856,280	10,591,995	21.7%	11,090,898	21.9%
Recreation and Amenity	5,136,500	353,457	4,783,043	9.8%	4,958,856	9.8%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	15,593,820	14,673,587	920,233	1.9%	1,174,076	2.3%
Miscellaneous Services	5,618,867	3,068,451	2,550,416	5.2%	2,939,833	5.8%
	<b>130,354,160</b>	<b>81,596,070</b>	<b>48,758,090</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>50,648,664</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
+ County Charge						
- County Charge		6,726,270	6,726,270			
Provision for Debit Balance						
<b>Adjusted Gross Expenditure &amp; Income (A)</b>	<b>130,354,160</b>	<b>88,322,340</b>	<b>42,031,820</b>		<b>50,648,664</b>	
<b>Financed by Other Income/Credit Balances</b>						
Provision for Credit Balance						
Local Government Fund /General Purpose Grant		23,222,631	23,222,631			
Pension Related Deduction		2,350,000	2,350,000			
<b>Sub - Total (B)</b>			<b>25,572,631</b>		<b>50,648,664</b>	
<b>Amount of Rates to be Levied C=(A-B)</b>			<b>16,459,189</b>			
<b>Net Effective Valuation D</b>			<b>204,843</b>			
<b>General Annual Rate on Valuation C/D</b>			<b>80.35</b>			



A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs. Beasley, Brassil, Buckley, Cahill, Connor-Scarteen, Cronin, Donovan, Ferris, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Foley, Gleeson, Griffin, D. Healy-Rae, Leahy, McCarthy, McEllistrim, Moloney, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Shea, Purtill, Sheahan, Spring, O'Connell **(25)**

**Against:** None **(0)**

**Not Voting:** None **(0)**

The Mayor declared the Proposal carried and the Council so resolving.

**10.01.18.05 Report on the Capital Programme 2010 - 2012**

Cllr. T. O'Brien PROPOSED that the County Manager's Report on the Capital Programme 2010 - 2012 as incorporated into the Report on the Budget be noted.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen SECONDED this Proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

**10.01.18.06 Additional Expenditure for 2009**

Cllr. T. O'Brien PROPOSED that the additional expenditure for 2009 as set out in the column titled "Estimated Outturn 2009" in the Local Authority Budget as circulated be and is hereby approved.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen SECONDED this Proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

The meeting concluded at 5.10pm.

**Gerard O'Brien**  
**Meetings Administrator**

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**Mayor of Kerry**