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**MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE SPEISIALTA PLEANÁLA DE COMHAIRLE  
CONTAE CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN  
CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN LUAN 1 MÁRTA 2010.**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY  
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE,  
TRALEE ON MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 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	B. O'Connell	P. O'Donoghue
M. O'Shea	L. Purtill	J. Sheahan
A.J. Spring		

**APOLOGIES**

***Councillor/Comhairleoir***

M. Moloney  
T. O'Brien

**IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR**

Mr. T. Curran, Co. Manager	Mr. M. McMahon, Dir of Planning
Mr. J.D. Flynn, Dir. Of Corp. Services	Mr. J. O'Connor, Head of Finance
Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. Of Roads	Mr. O. Ring, Dir. Of Env. & Water Serv.
Mr. P. Stack, SE Planning	Mr. G. O'Brien, Mtgs. Administrator
Mr. M. O'Donoghue, SEO HR	Ms. A. Moriarty, Tech. Planning
Mr. P. Corkery, Press & Comm. Off.	Ms. B. Reidy, S.S.O. Corp. Affairs

The meeting commenced at 10.40am.

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

### **Dates for Electoral Area Meetings to consider the Roadworks Programme**

Mr. G. O'Brien, Meetings Administrator, informed the meeting that the Director of Roads had written to members with proposed dates for Electoral Area Meetings to consider the 2010 Roadworks Programme. The following dates were then agreed:

Tralee and Listowel –Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the afternoon following the March Ordinary meeting.

An Daingean - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am in Room 14, County Buildings

Killorglin & Killarney - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm in County Buildings.

### **Approval for the opening of Tenders**

Mr. G. O'Brien informed members that approval was required for the opening of tenders for Analysis of Drinking Water. The closing date for these tenders is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. R. Beasley, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Analysis of Drinking Water.

### **Date for Special Roads Meeting**

Mr. G. O'Brien informed members that it was now proposed to hold the Special Roads Meeting to consider the Roadworks Programme on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March at which time the presentation on the River Basin Management Plans will also be made.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. S. Fitzgerald, SECONDED by Cllr. R. Beasley it was unanimously agreed to hold the Special Roads Meeting to consider the Roadworks Programme on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### **Approval for the Mayor's visit to the US**

Mr. G. O'Brien informed the meeting that at the January meeting members agreed to change the date of the March Ordinary Meeting to facilitate the Mayors visit to the US. He said approval for the Mayors visit to the US was now required.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Foley, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Healy-Rae, it was unanimously agreed to authorise Mayor B. O'Connell to visit the US from 10<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

### **Burst watermain at Beaufort**

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae said a short section of water main at Beaufort burst eight times in the recent past. He asked that this section of water main would be replaced as it is causing disruption to business.

Cllr. J. Sheahan also asked that this section of water main would be replaced as soon as possible.

### **10.03.01.01 County Manager's Report on the proposed construction of a 450MW natural gas fired power plant at Tarbert**

Mr. M. McMahon, Director of Planning, informed the meeting that this application for the construction of a 450 MW natural gas fired Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant within the confines of the existing Power Station at Tarbert comes under the Planning & Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 and accordingly the application was submitted to An Bord Pleanala.

While the Act provides that this application will be determined by the Board, Kerry County Council has a key consultative role. Within 10 weeks of the application being submitted ( i.e. before 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2010) the Council is required to prepare, and submit to the Board, a report setting out the views of the Planning Authority on the effects of the proposed development on the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Prior to submitting that report, the Manager is required to submit the report to the Members of the Council and seek the views of the Members on the proposed development. The Members may, by resolution, decide to attach recommendations, specified in the resolution, to the report and these recommendations shall be attached to the report submitted to the Board. Mr. McMahon said that this is the only type of planning application that members have a direct input into. However, members are not entitled to change the Manager's Report. Following the meeting the Meetings Administrator must forward a record of the meeting to An Bord Pleanala. The Meetings Administrator's record will, therefore, be a mixture of the specific points raised by Members in their written Statements and a brief summary of the views expressed at the meeting by those Members who did not submit written Statements.

Accordingly, three levels of information will be forwarded to the Board.

- The views of the Authority – The Manager's Report
- The views of the Council – the resolution and any recommendations
- The views of individual Members

Members are also reminded that they are entitled, as individuals, to make detailed submissions or observations in relation to the proposed development to the Board. An Bord Pleanala will determine the application and sometimes Oral

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Hearings are held. A detailed report was forwarded to all members and Mr. P. Stack would brief members on the technical aspects of the report.

Endesa Ireland Ltd. has applied for permission to construct a 450 MW natural gas fired Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant within the confines of the existing site. The proposed development will be constructed in two Phases as follows:

Phase 1: Development of a 305 MW Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) in the fourth quarter of 2012. When this phase of the development is completed existing Units 1, 2 and 3 will be decommissioned as the new development will replace the existing power plant.

Phase 2: Development of the outstanding plant to complete the full CCGT power plant up to 450 MW is anticipated in early 2016 (currently planned for January 2016). Existing Unit 4 will cease operation once the CCGT has been commissioned.

The primary fuel to be used will be natural gas, as provided by Bord Gas Eireann Networks. The secondary or back-up fuel will be distillate fuel oil. Endesa will apply for planning permission to Kerry County Council for the demolition of the existing generation plant within six months of commissioning of the CCGT.

An Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared in relation to the application. The proposed development relates to the provision of an establishment to which the Major Accident Directive applies as the facility will be designated a lower tier Seveso site under the Seveso II Directive. The proposed development comprises or is for the purposes of an activity requiring an Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Licence from the Environmental Protection Agency. An independent assessment of this application is to be carried out by the Health & Safety Authority.

Mr. McMahon said the Tarbert site is an existing power generating plant located in the townland of Tarbert Island. The development site is Brownfield and is located within the confines of the existing operational power plant facility, formerly operated by the ESB. He briefed members on the planning history relating to the subject site and surrounding area. Planning applications for this site commenced in the 1960's and he said the National Oil Reserves Agency Ltd. have applied for permission to refurbish the existing mainland oil storage tank farm and this decision is pending.

Mr. McMahon then referred members to Page 6 of the report where details of the relevant European, National, Regional and Local Policies are set out and said that all these policies support this type of development. While the demand for energy has dropped due to the recession it is anticipated that it will increase as the economy picks up. He then referred members to Paragraph 4.1 on Page 12

of the Manager's Report for details of European designations, Natural Heritage Areas, which may be affected by the proposed development (whether in or proximate to same). Mr. McMahon said there are a number of designated conservation areas located in the surrounding area including the Lower Shannon candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) and the Ballylongford Bay proposed National Heritage Area (pNHA). Large parts of the Shannon Estuary are also designated as part of the Shannon-Fergus Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA). Mr. McMahon then read the Conclusion as set out in Paragraph 4.4 on Page 13 as follows:

"The site of this proposed development has an established history of power generating. It is considered by the Planning Authority that the proposed development does not contravene any section of the County Development Plan and that the objectives of the Plan support the provision of industrial development at this location capitalising on its strategic coastal location. It is considered that the proposal is in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan and in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area." Mr. McMahon then called on Mr. P. Stack to brief members on how the application was appraised and the conditions recommended.

Mr. P. Stack, S.E. then briefed members on the technical elements of the report outlining the details of the composition of the plant and structures to be constructed on site. He also briefed members on the impact of the application on the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Mr. Stack also outlined details of the reports received from various sections of the Council which are reflected in Recommended Conditions to be attached to any grant of permission. He referred members to Paragraph 6.14, Summary of assessments, on Page 29 of the report and pointed out that the planning authority is satisfied to recommend a grant of permission subject to conditions for the following reasons:

- The proposed development is of major strategic importance nationally and locally.
- The security of energy supply and increasing power plant efficiency are both relevant factors in assessing the need for this project. Displacement of alternative fossil fuels such as coal and oil will reduce emissions and contribute to Kyoto protocol targets.
- The application has been accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement which has been prepared in accordance with all statutory requirements.
- It is considered that a clear justification for the project has been provided.
- The proposed development is located within the confines of the existing power station.
- The proposed development is subject to IPPC licensing by the EPA, it is considered that the existing power station licensing will be reviewed and renewed.

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- There is significant visual impact from certain locations; the landscape on which it is situated however is not highly sensitive or scenic.
- There is a precedence of other development of significant scale in the vicinity, the image value of the estuary will not be altered, and the proposed development is of a much smaller scale than the existing plant.
- The proposed development will not have significant residual residential amenity impacts on nearby residents
- The proposed development will not have significant residual impacts on the Archaeological, Architectural or Cultural Heritage of the area.
- The proposed development has significant potential for positive benefits on human beings and the wider community.
- The development will have a positive impact on material assets in the area through improved infrastructural provision.

Mr. Stack then briefed members on the Recommended Conditions to be attached to the permission.

Cllr. L. Purtill welcomed the representatives of Tarbert Development Association present in the public gallery to the meeting and he thanked them for their great work in Tarbert. Cllr. Purtill then read the following statement into the record of the meeting:

“I am proposing that this Council will give its unanimous support to the planning application of Endesa Ireland Limited for the 450 Mega Watt Natural Gas Fired Power plant at Tarbert.

I do so for the following reasons:

- Gas will replace oil as the source of power generation in Tarbert. This will reduce the emissions of greenhouse gasses and improve the air quality significantly in the area.
- It will make the country less dependent on oil for Ireland's energy generation. Oil now counts for over 60% of our overall energy consumption. Significantly above the European average.
- Whereas Ireland imports the vast bulk of our gas – over 92% making us highly dependent on gas supply from other countries. The Shannon L.N.G. Plant when it comes on-stream will supply over 40% of our Natural Gas requirement, thus ensuring a guaranteed supply of gas for the Endesa Plant. The conversion of Tarbert to Gas will also give an added incentive for the Hesse Corporation to give the eventual go ahead to S.L.N.G. as they will have a major customer close by.
- The plant will be built to the highest specification and will be equipped with state of the art technology making it one of the most modern in Europe, as regard low green house gas emissions, cost efficiency of production and reliability of supply.

It is worth mentioning that the Government White Paper (Delivering a Sustainable Energy future for Ireland from 2007 – 2020) that 59% of our electricity generation will be provided from gas, at the moment it is 52%.

We need the Tarbert plant in operation to reach this National target.

The conversion of Tarbert Power Station to gas will also ensure that electricity will continue to be generated on Tarbert Island for the foreseeable future employing local people and hopefully using a local gas supply from Shannon L.N.G.

It is important to point out that on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007 the Board of the ESB decided not to make any further significant investment in Tarbert, as a result the station was expected to close in 2011. But for Endesa stepping in and purchasing the station we would be talking about its closure here today not granting planning permission for a new ultra modern gas fired station. That is why we need to support Endesa in every practical way.

However, while endorsing this project enthusiastically, I would like to raise a number of issues that may relate to this planning application.

**The New Plant needs a Gas Supply-** I would like to know what route is planned for this spur-line. Where will it be tapped off the main (LNG) supply line! Are there alternative routes, if yes What/Where are these routes.

**The High Voltage Lines** – ALL HV lines to and from the Endesa Plant should be underground and on a route that allows for future development of the land mass from Tarbert to Saleen.

**Traffic Management Plans** – Looking at the “Endesa Planning Document” it sees the Endesa Plant starting after the Shannon LNG project and as such expects that the LNG Traffic Management Plan to already be in place with only a little tweaking by Endesa to get their end into line. At the moment it looks more likely that the Endesa and LNG Projects could start in or about the same time. The important point is that – A Traffic Management Plan MUST be in PLACE before any work commences, irrespective of who starts first.

**The Tarbert to Foynes Gas Pipeline** project and the Up-Grade of the Tarbert to Kilcolgan Road will also impact on Traffic Management through the Village.

**Water & Sewage** – Every effort should be made to ensure that Water and Sewage are up-graded to be able to attend to the needs of the expected increase in population in Tarbert and Ballylongford.

There should be on-going consultations with the Local Community Groups such as Tarbert Development Association and Ballylongford Enterprise Association.

At a Seminar organised by Deputy Jimmy Deenihan last Monday evening in Tarbert John Mullins C.E.O. of Bord Gais said that Shannon L.N.G., Endesa and Bord Gais should sit down together and agree on one pipe line to service the needs of Shannon L.N.G. and Endesa – two pipelines would seem unnecessary

and a waste of scarce resources. However, in the event of Shannon L.N.G. and Endesa not coming to an agreement now Bord Gais will have no other option but to provide a pipeline to supply Endesa with gas. So it is very important that both companies start talking and come to an arrangement as soon as possible. If an agreement is not reached I would call on the Minister for Energy, Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D., to intervene to get both parties around the table as soon as possible.”

Cllr. T. Buckley welcomed the application and said this is the most important development for Kerry for years. Hopefully it will bring the county out of recession. He complimented the Tarbert Development Association for the time and effort they have put into this project. However, there are a number of small issues that need to be considered and these have been outlined by Cllr. Purtill. He called on Management to enter into dialogue with all parties to try to resolve these issues.

Cllr. J. Finucane said there are certain key projects which the Government acknowledges need to be fast tracked and this process allows for this. This is one such project and every effort should be made to expedite it. He complimented Mr. McMahon and Mr. Stack on the detailed report presented. Cllr. Finucane then read the following Statement into the record of the meeting:

“This proposal which will see the conversion of a former heavy fuel oil power station – to natural gas in a new structure is to be welcomed.

Tarbert power station has been in operation since 1968 and was responsible for injecting new life into the village, with new houses build, permanent employees and the expansion and creation of new educational facilities. The proposal before us is of local, regional and national importance complying with national policy of strategic energy requirements.

This new facility introduces a very clean natural product and is one of a number of key projects that are essential to our National economic recovery. Guarantees of relatively cheap power, certainty of supply is a primary component of economic activity.

The provision of employment of up to 300 construction workers in Phase 1, and up to 500 workers during Phase 2 is of critical importance. Further jobs will be created and sustained in the service area, e.g. builders providers, haulers, machine operators and in the accommodation and catering area. This project along with the L.N.G. development are ‘core projects’ of which in the present climate offer hope and confidence to people seeking employment. From an environmental impact point of view this new development is significantly less in height and scale from the facility it is replacing.

The renewal of our economy calls for the encouragement and active involvement by government both local and national in seeking significant private investment in



projects of national importance. This proposal when fully implemented will renew the local area and the region as a whole. It beholds us as a local authority to guide and assist this project and help bring it to fruition.”

Cllr. P. Leahy welcomed the proposal and the detailed report presented. He welcomed the representatives of Tarbert Development Association to the meeting and he thanked them for their input. There are a number of items of concern for the Tarbert Development Association including traffic management, water and wastewater. Kerry County Council has a major role to play in addressing these issues and they should work with Tarbert Development Association on them. This project is of huge importance for the creation of jobs in Kerry and West Limerick.

Cllr. R. Beasley welcomed the representatives from Tarbert Development Association to the meeting. He also welcomed the report and said that this project is a key development in terms of our economic strategy to get us out of the recession. The creation of 300 jobs initially and later 500 jobs must be welcomed and he hoped other developments on the land bank would follow. Cllr. Beasley said the concerns of residents must be considered and addressed. Anyone who expresses concern for selfish gain should not impede the progress of this project. There is concern that two pipelines will have to be provided when one would be adequate. He asked that the high voltage lines from Kilcolgan to Saleen would be put underground. In conclusion Cllr. Beasley referred to the €15,000 per annum Community Contribution Scheme which is proposed for a period of 5 years and said he thought this sum was very little and should be increased and should apply for the lifetime of the project.

Cllr. J. Brassil welcomed the Tarbert Development Association representatives to the meeting and PROPOSED that their submission would be included as part of the response to the project by the members of Kerry County Council. He fully supported their submission and their support for the project and also their concerns. He referred to the levies recommended in the report and said he thought they should be greater. This is a major infrastructural development in the county and the levies for the L.N.G. project were €6m plus while the levies in this case are just €30,000 for traffic lights, €30,000 in respect of the provision of specialist equipment and to facilitate initial specialist training for the fire service and €15,000 for the Community Contribution Scheme. He PROPOSED that the Community Contribution levy would be ongoing and not restricted to 5 years and that an additional annual sum of €5,000 would be levied for the provision of local amenities. There is no contribution sought for water/foul water provision or no general environmental/infrastructural levy as was the case with other applications. He asked why the recommended levies were so low and he said he was not being unfair to Endesa. The members are making a positive recommendation and he asked that member's proposals would be included. Cllr. Brassil asked if permission is granted for this development are there any other licensing requirements. The LNG application was adjudicated upon by An Bord

Pleanala two years ago yet some licensing arrangements are still outstanding. The Planning & Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act provides for the fast tracking of projects through Kerry County Council and An Bord Pleanala but the issue of the granting of licences i.e. Foreshore Licence takes a long time to process. He asked that the following would be included with member's recommendations: 'Any outstanding licences would be granted forthwith'. He asked if there was any objector to the project who might delay it for the next few years.

Cllr. A.J. Spring said this project represents progress for the county as it will result in a better energy supply and will also facilitate job creation. The €15,000 Community Contribution is paltry. This is a private company who has a purchasing agreement with the ESB. He believed that An Bord Pleanala will look favourably on a Brownfield site. Overall this project is excellent news for the county. He referred to the proposal to provide two pipelines at a cost of €26m and said that the permission granted to Shannon LNG allows for spur lines. He called on all parties to ensure they come to agreement on the provision of one pipeline only.

Cllr. T. Ferris said the only real disappointment about this project is that it is not being undertaken for the State by the Government. Aside from that this project must be welcomed and there is huge potential for this area. However, she asked that the safety concerns of the local community would be addressed. If these concerns can be satisfied it would be irresponsible of members not to support the project. She expressed her surprise at the amount of the local contribution recommended and she referred to the contribution for the fire service of €30,000 and said the report States "This sum does not provide for any costs associated with attendance at emergency exercises on the site after the first year of operation of Phase 1." She asked does that mean if the fire service attends the site in the first year of operation the Council will not be paid. She referred to the €30,000 levy for traffic lights and asked why a continuing levy is not applied for the upkeep and maintenance of local roads. The Community levy is for a period of 5 years only yet when permission is granted to telecommunication masts this levy is ongoing. She called for the Community levy to be increased. She said that while she welcomed the creation of 300 jobs she urged caution as there is no guarantee that local workers will be employed. She appealed to Endesa to do their utmost to employ local workers where possible. She called on the County Manager to liaise with FÁS and other State agencies with a view to arranging a meeting with Endesa to establish the skills they require. Courses should then be arranging to upskill/retrain construction workers.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae welcomed the Tarbert Development Association to the meeting. He said that in 2008 he submitted the following motion: With the agreement by the United Nations on a Climate Change strategy and Ireland being one of the worst per head of population for CO2 emissions to urge the Minister for Natural Resources to consider the establishment of a natural gas

generation plant at Tarbert generation station. This would greatly reduce our dependence on oil as energy and would be in place as a standby for wind or wave power generation. (This is needed when wind does not blow). It would also safeguard the jobs in Tarbert and the hinterland of North Kerry and East Limerick. Kerry would then become the green energy capital of Ireland.

Cllr. Healy-Rae said the necessary infrastructure is in place, notwithstanding the concerns of the locals in the Ballylongford area a pipeline to Tarbert from the land bank, would if put in place to the highest safety standards give reassurance to residents concerns. The following are the benefits from this project:

1. Give a security of supply of generated electricity.
2. Give necessary backup for renewable energy production in what is known as the windiest part of Europe.
3. Help Ireland comply with Kyoto targets.
4. Reduce the penalties due for over production of CO2.
5. Give job security for the highly skilled work force already in place.
6. Give a boost to the North Kerry East Limerick employment prospects.
7. Industries would see merit in locating to this area due to security of supply of energy.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae said it is widely known throughout the renewable sector in Ireland that Kerry County Council have been one of the most progressive local authorities in this regard, the Motor Tax office is a classic example of the use of renewable energy. Kerry County Council was also one of the first Councils to include in our County Development Plan a complete section on wind area and also to develop a wind farm policy. He said his motion has wonderful merit and he added that the Minister should consider using Tarbert as a renewable energy centre, where Eirgrid would have an established link to the national grid. As Kerry is soon to be the leading county in the production of renewable energy we will be in a net export situation, where the county will be producing more than it uses. Cllr. Healy-Rae concluded by saying that we could market Kerry as having security of supply and this is an added bonus.

Cllr. T. Fleming said the existing Tarbert Station was about to close as it would have to be converted from oil to cleaner energy. The Endesa proposal to build a new gas station and dismantle the oil based plant is very welcome. Kerry and Donegal are the only two counties in the Republic of Ireland with no access to gas at present and this militates against the economic development of the county. The national gas grid is coming from Galway to Ennis and across the Shannon to Foynes. It then diverts eastwards to Mallow and Cork thereby bypassing Kerry. This is a great opportunity to ensure an early connection for Kerry to the national gas grid. Mr. John Mullins, CEO Bord Gais stated in the local media last week "that it is envisaged to extend the gas grid from Tarbert to Listowel and to Tralee". Cllr. Fleming said he could see no reason why this cannot be extended further in the short term into the east of the county and connections at an early date being extended to Killarney, Castleisland, Killorglin,

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Farranfore etc. thereby reducing energy costs by 30% to industry, hotels, swimming pools and to all enterprises. He said he believed the members should strongly endorse this proposal to enhance the future of the county.

Cllr. M. Gleeson said that is a most welcome project for North Kerry. He hoped it would focus Government minds to ensure fair treatment for Kerry to allow the county to compete fairly with other areas. He said the language used in the report in relation to water discharge is vague and he asked what level of disturbance of waters is experienced from the existing plant. He asked if there would be a fail safe system to ensure there would be no pollution from this development. Concern was expressed regarding the health risks from overhead power cables and serious consideration should be given to placing these underground.

Cllr. N. Foley said the construction of this gas terminal at Tarbert will mean the county will be less dependant on oil and this must be welcomed. This development will have huge potential for local employment and she supported the views expressed by Cllr. Ferris on this issue. She called on the County Development Board to focus one of their briefings on employment opportunities arising in the future. She acknowledged the presence of Tarbert Development Association at the meeting and she SECONDED Cllr. Brassil's proposal that their submission would be included with Kerry County Council's submission. She also supported Cllr. Brassil's proposal for an annual €5,000 Community levy.

Cllr. J. Finucane said that it should be borne in mind that there is huge competition in trying to attract this type of business and for this reason it is important to encourage it. Even if permission is granted there is no guarantee it will progress. Very few private companies have the borrowing capacity of Shannon LNG and Endesa at a time when the State has difficulty in securing funding.

Mr. M. McMahon said that development contributions are levied based on demand for infrastructure. This is not a Greenfield site and the site is serviced with water and an adequate road network. There is no water contribution required as the water demand will in fact be less than the existing plant. This will relieve capacity for other purposes. While the impact of this development will be limited traffic lights will be required and fire service equipment must be upgraded. For this reason appropriate levies are recommended. In order to apply a levy there must be a reason for it and they must be justified. The amount of the Community levy is a matter for An Bord Pleanala. The project cannot be compared to the Shannon LNG project as this is a Brownfield site while the Shannon LNG project is on a Greenfield site. His Department took the view that there would be major impact during the construction of the LNG development. He had no objection to the Meetings Administrator including the Tarbert Development Association submission with the Council's submission but he suggested that they should also make their own submission. He was aware Bord

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Gais had opened discussions in relation to a gas pipeline and Bord Pleanala will have discussions with the planning authority in due course. There is an existing permission for a gas pipeline which would be more than adequate to cater for this facility. In considering the Shannon LNG application An Bord Pleanala asked that the pipeline would also be able to facilitate the station at Money Point. It will be necessary to acquire wayleaves etc. and it seems obvious that there is only need for one gas pipeline.

Cllr. J. Brassil asked if the Council could recommend that there would be only one gas pipeline.

Mr. M. McMahon said that An Bord Pleanala is likely to consult with the planning authority prior to issuing their decision and at that stage the Council could outline their views.

Cllr. J. Brassil PROPOSED that a recommendation would be included that one gas pipeline would be required to service both the Shannon LNG and the Endesa developments.

Mr. McMahon confirmed that a number of other licences would also be required but the Council only deals with the Fire Safety Licence. An Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Licence would also be required but Kerry County Council has no input into that process. The report presented is based on all submissions received up to last week. He confirmed that no real objections to the project were received. At present water is abstracted from the Shannon for cooling and as that facility is already in place there would be no further works on the Foreshore. There is no doubt that the employment of local workers would be of huge benefit to the local economy. As a condition of the permission issued to Shannon LNG they are required to agree a Traffic Management Plan before construction commences. When that permission was issued two years ago it was anticipated that project would be under construction by now. If these projects go to construction separately the traffic issue will be dealt with. All traffic to this plant must use the N67 or N69. He referred to the power cables and said that he understood Eirgrid have plans to upgrade the transmission infrastructure in that area as some of this infrastructure is presently located within the Power Station site. Now that Endesa are the new owners the ESB must move some of the infrastructure off site and there is a proposal with An Bord Pleanala in relation to these works. He referred to the query regarding the fire service and said the levy covers the cost of exercises in the first year. After that Endesa will be charged when the fire service is called out.

Cllr. A.J. Spring said that in September Eirgrid said that 75% of energy is lost in the network. Rather than send power to Dublin for redistribution he said Endesa should be asked to provide the power directly to this region.

Mr. M. McMahon said this is not a matter for Kerry County Council.

Mr. T. Curran, County Manager, referred to the query by Cllr. Ferris regarding the skill set required and said the Council has been in discussions with Shannon LNG and have asked for a list of skills required. Discussions have also taken place with FAS with a view to setting up courses to up skill or re-skill workers to allow local people to avail of this employment. However, he could not guarantee that local people would be employed but having regard to other projects it was largely local people that were employed. He referred to members comments on the levies recommended and said that if members wish they can propose an alternative figure. The SMT gave a lot of consideration to this report and the big difference between this project and the Shannon LNG project is that this is a Brownfield site. This also explains the difference in the levies recommended. While this project is going through the planning process there is no guarantee it will go ahead to construction.

The County Manager pointed out that following circulation of the report last week a submission was received from the NRA and they have no objection to the project but they pointed out that junction improvements are needed. He acknowledged that a submission was received from Tarbert Development Association who has been very proactive and helpful. This support is a very important message to the international community. A submission was also received from An Taisce on the need for the project. They acknowledge that gas fire is a cleaner technology but said it is putting the country in a precarious position from an energy supply point of view. There was also a reference to an over supply of energy in the country and the Government is looking at a new interconnector with Wales with a view to exporting energy. An Taisce are opposing the Endesa project and he was very disappointed with this. This proposal presents a huge opportunity for employment in the county and he was disappointed that An Taisce took such a narrow view.

The County Manager complimented the members on such a full attendance at the meeting even though the project will be located in North Kerry but all members are displaying great support for this project. Only two councillors are absent and they sent their apologies. In conclusion he asked members if they wanted to comment further on the levies proposed.

Cllr. J. Brassil PROPOSED an additional annual Community Levy of €5,000. He disagreed with the argument that this is a Brownfield site. When a planning application is granted for any commercial development in any town or village in the county parking levies are applied. This facility is being upgraded and there needs to be consistency whether it is a large company such as Endesa or a small business. While Kerry County Council welcomes the fast tracking of major infrastructural projects when Government agencies have responsibility for the issuing of licences i.e. Foreshore Licence it takes a long time for the licence to be issued. He asked that such licences would be dealt with in the same timeframe as the planning application.

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Cllr. P. McCarthy said it is obvious the Planning Department base levies on guidelines. He agreed with Cllr. Brassil's proposal as it would be an annual token to the local community. He PROPOSED that all members condemn An Taisce's objection.

Cllr. L. Purtill SECONDED this proposal.

### **One Step Forward – Information Exhibition**

Mr. T. Curran referred to a recent notice of motion asking what can be done to assist the unemployed and he informed members that an Information Day will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March at the Carlton Hotel, Tralee from 12 noon until 7pm. The objective is to give options, inspiration and information to the people of Kerry. Proposed exhibitors include: all relevant service providers, FAS, KES, NEKD, SKDP, Udaras na Gaeltachta, Kerry County Enterprise Board, ITT, CIC and many more including INOU and recruitment agencies. An exit survey will be carried out to establish if the event met the needs of the unemployed. If not another Information Day could be held later on. He encouraged all unemployed people to attend this event. It is hoped that similar events will be undertaken at various locations around the county through Partnership.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae asked if the workshops would be of benefit to businesses experiencing difficulties.

Mr. T. Curran said that this event is specifically targeted at the unemployed and they will be offered help in preparing their CV's, interview skills etc. The issue of support for businesses experiencing difficulties is for another day.

### **Support for Green Isle worker**

Cllr. T. Ferris PROPOSED that the Council would support the Green Isle shop steward who is on hunger strike in support of the workers who were unfairly dismissed.

Cllr. R. Beasley SECONDED this proposal.

### **Tralee By-Pass**

Mr. C. O'Sullivan informed members that the CPO for Tralee By-Pass was approved last October. Approval to proceed to Notice to Treat was received last Friday and this will allow the acquisition of land to proceed. This is very welcome news.

All members welcomed this approval.

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Mayor B. O'Connell thanked members for the large attendance at the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm.

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

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**Mayor of Kerry**