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**MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE BHUISÉID DE COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ  
A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN  
LUAN , 17 EANAIR 2011**

**MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED BUDGET MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY, 17  
JANUARY, 2011**

**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. Servs.	Mr. O. Ring, Dir. Water & Env. Servs.
Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. of Roads	Mr. J. Breen, Dir. Hsg. & Comm&Ent.
Mr. G. O'Brien, Meetings Administrator	Mr. P. Corkery, Press & Comm.
Ms. J. McCarthy SEO Planning	Mr. M O'Donoghue SEO HR.
Ms. S Broderick SO Corporate Affairs	Ms. L Sheehan ASO Corporate Affairs
Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corporate Affairs	Ms. T. Keane, CO Corporate Affairs
Mr. P. O'Shea A/SEO Finance	Mr. R. Tangney ASO Finance
Ms. K Lynch AO Finance	Ms. A McAllen Financial Mgt Acc.
Mr. P O'Connor SSO Finance	Ms. S Sheridan SSO Finance
Mr. T. Sheehy SE Environment	Ms. Carmel O'Connor SO Water Services
Ms. H. Switzer AO Environment	Mr. J. Ahern A/SEE Environment
Mr. M. Boyce SEE Environment	Mr. M. McMahon Dir. Planning
Mr. L Brosnan AO Planning	Mr. P McCarthy SO Planning
Mr. G McNamara SE Roads	Ms. M West AO Roads
Mr. J Kennelly SE Water Services	Mr. G Barry AO Water Services
Mr. V Hussey Chief Fire Officer	Mr. T O'Connor Co. Librarian
Ms. N O'Keefe Senior Exec. Librarian	

The meeting commenced at 13.30 pm

The Mayor Cllr. P. Leahy took the Chair.

**11.01.17.01 Consideration of the Local Authority Budget for the Local Financial Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 (continued)**

**Division E –Environmental Services**

Mr. John O'Connor Head of Finance referred the members to pages 108-135 of the Budget Report and pages 21-23 of the Budget Tables where details of the Environmental Services Division are set out.

The work of the Section is divided into 5 business units as follows:

- Waste Disposal/ Refuse and Dry Recyclable Collection
- Environmental Awareness/Litter Prevention
- Pollution Control/Waste Regulation/Operation of the Laboratory
- Energy Usage and Efficiencies
- Veterinary Services

Mr. O'Connor referred to page 108 and said that the area of waste collection and disposal would pose significant challenges to the Council in the year ahead with the implementation of further waste management measures under the EU Landfill Directive and National Waste Management Policy. There was exceptional competition across the country amongst landfill operators for waste disposal, leading to what would seem as uneconomic pricing. An increase of €20 per tonne (€30 at present) in the landfill levy is expected early in 2011. In addition, V.A.T. @ 13.5% applies to Waste Charges since 1 July 2010.

He said that the Refuse Collection Service was now operating in a very challenging and aggressive environment. The market for customers was exceptionally competitive between the private sector operators and the Council and, indeed, within the private sector.

For the sustainability of the Council's service into the future, economic viability was essential. For that viability two key ingredients must complement each other – economies of scale through increased customer numbers per route and operational cost effectiveness through significant restructuring/re-organisation which would require whole-hearted staff support in all areas. Mr. O'Connor referred the members to page 109 where the cost summary for the maintenance, operation and after care of landfill in the county for 2011 was set out.

***Leachate management***

With regard to Leachate management (page 111) Mr. O'Connor said that this has always been an expensive cost element for the North Kerry Landfill. In particular, as there is no receiving waterbody available, leachate has always been transported by tanker from the site to Kerry County Council's wastewater treatment plants. During 2010, a project proposing the piping of the leachate directly to Castleisland WWT plant has been progressed to the Part 8 planning stage and it is anticipated that work on this project will commence in 2011. This would provide

significant cost savings in the long-term as well as contributing to the more efficient operation of the site.

### ***Recovery & Recycling facilities***

Mr. O'Connor referred the members to pages 112 & 113 where the cost summary of the Council's recovery & recycling facilities was set out. He said that the Council operates recycling facilities at North Kerry Landfill and at the four Transfer Stations at Killarney, Milltown, Kenmare and Caherciveen, as well as the new civic amenity site with extensive recycling facilities at Ionad Athchúrsála and Dramhaíola Chorca Dhuibhne. The usage of these recycling facilities has increased each year with an approximate total of 7,000 tonnes of recyclables being accepted in 2010. The financial cost of providing these recycling facilities has increased over the years and the fluctuation in the value of recyclable materials, is putting further strain on the provision of this service.

### ***Bring Banks***

Mr. O'Connor said that the Council has now reached the targets set in the Regional Waste Management Plan for the provision of Bring Banks; with a total of 103 Bring Banks located at various locations around the county. As a measure to counteract illegal and indiscriminate dumping at these sites, the Council has further provided the "adopt a bring bank" to 25 Community Groups. This involves the local community helping to police the Bring Bank site to limit the illegal dumping and help enhance the site. The Environment Section contributes €500 per annum to the local community and provides a 240L wheelie bin and collection credit for the bins. In addition, a provision has been made to enhance and provide security cameras to prevent illegal dumping. The first of these new cameras has been installed in An Daingean. It is hoped to continue to expand this initiative to further sites in 2011. The budget makes provision for a clean-up service at the remaining Bring Bank sites once a week.

### ***Provision of waste collection service***

Mr. O'Connor referred the members to pages 113-117 and said that in accordance with the provisions of the operating licence for the North Kerry Landfill the quantity of biodegradable waste being landfilled must be reduced to 47% of the total waste being landfilled. This means that each household must be provided with a separate organic waste collection service. The delivery of this service, the subsequent treatment of the collected waste and the associated costs are central to the development of our future waste management policy.

In rural areas, where householders have larger sites, the use of home composters will be promoted as a means of reducing the collection and treatment costs of the organic waste.

The Draft Budget for the Waste Collection Service for 2011 provides for the operation of five full time Refuse Trucks and their crews operating 25 routes and one Relief Crew with one Spare Refuse Collection Vehicle to cover breakdowns. In light of the current financial climate and in an effort to remain competitive, the Refuse Collection Service Routes will be re-organised and rationalised in 2011 to further maximise efficiencies.

Mr. Oliver Ring Director of Environment & Water Services said that the management of Kerry County Council are committed to maintaining the provision of the waste collection service and to developing it in the manner necessary. Provision has been made in the budget for the required investment. This provision, however, is contingent on achieving the commitment of the

workforce to the flexibility and work practices necessary to run the service in the most efficient manner possible.

Due to the fact that it will be necessary to collect three waste streams, and it is not viable to travel each route three times in a fortnight, it is necessary to modify the system of waste collection. It is considered that the use of multiple compartment trucks will address this issue by facilitating the collection of all waste streams in a single collection.

Mr. Ring said that the most significant change in waste disposal for 2011 will be the limits on the land filling of organic waste. The new landfill licence for the North Kerry Landfill which came into effect on 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2010 imposes strict limits on the quantity of organic waste being landfilled. For 2011 not more than 47% of the waste being land filled can be organic waste. This will mean further significant reduction in the quantity of waste being landfilled over the coming years. This will have obvious implications for future revenue generation at the facility. Marketing of the service is the key to future success in this area. In order to be successful, however, the charges need to be competitive. Through the reallocation of internal resources, it is intended to provide a full-time salesperson on the road marketing the service. It has also become evident over the last year that the pricing structure for the single bag of waste brought directly to the waste transfer stations and the North Kerry Landfill was uncompetitive with local competitors. In this regard the charge for the single bag of waste is being reduced from €6 to €3 from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

### ***National Spring Clean***

Mr. Ring said that this campaign involving individuals, groups & schools would be taking place at agreed locations throughout the county in spring 2011

### ***Burial Grounds***

Mr. Ring referred the members to page 122 of the Budget Report and said that the operation and maintenance of Burial Grounds was an expensive and vital part of the Councils work. The Council is very appreciative of the support and assistance of Community Organisations on the upkeep and maintenance of local burial grounds. This has contributed to an obvious and ongoing improvement, year on year, in the presentation of many burial grounds across the County.

The Council is currently working with over 50 community groups and is continuing to expand this number. Groups receive contributions from the Council, in support of their voluntary work. Provision is made in the 2011 Budget for continued support to Community Groups, in recognition of the increasing and continuing contribution of these voluntary works.

Cllr. Jim Finucane referred to page 122 of the Budget Report where it is stated that there is an allocation in the budget for a contribution of €90,000 to be made to Limerick County Council for managing and administering the Regional Waste Management Office (RWMO) on behalf of Kerry County Council. He proposed that this payment would be withheld due to what would appear to be uneconomic pricing at a landfill operated by Limerick County Council which is resulting in waste which is generated in Kerry being landfilled in Limerick.

Mr. Oliver Ring DOS Water Services & Environment said that this contribution was not made to Limerick County Council but goes towards the operation of the Regional Waste Management Office which handles work for the four associated authorities ie. Limerick City & County, Clare & Kerry. It currently has a full-time staff of four, carries out a range of important functions on behalf of the local authorities within this region, including:

- Overseeing the development, review and implementation of the waste management plan for the region.
- Administration and processing of the waste collection permitting system within the region.
- Provision of expert knowledge and support on waste minimisation initiatives.
- Provision of expert advice on waste-related technology issues.

Mr. Ring said that the low charges levied by Limerick County Council may be arising from the opening of a new landfill in the area by Coillte where the charges are low and Limerick County Council is competing with this.

Cllr. Bobby O'Connell said that in an effort to combat illegal dumping, a data base of the type of refuse collection service used by householders should be compiled. This would identify households where no refuse collection service is used.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson thanked Mr. Ring and Mr. O'Connor for their presentations and said that the services provided by the Environment Department were very important in a county such as Kerry which benefits from tourism. He complimented the schools throughout the county for their promotion of environmental awareness. He thanked management and staff of the Environment Department for the precision of the replies to the Notices of Motion regarding environmental issues, which he submits for the meetings of the Killarney Electoral Area Committee.

He expressed concern that the after care of the landfills which were currently operating at an uneconomic price, would in time revert to the Local Authorities.

Cllr. Gleeson welcomed that the charge for the single bag of waste is being reduced from €6 to €3 from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 and asked that this and home composting should be publicised. He suggested that the owners of rented properties should be asked to display this information at their premises.

He said that the Golden Mile competitions were a great success, they are aimed at getting communities involved in improving and maintaining their own local areas. They also promote civic pride and encourage people to take responsibility for litter control in their own communities, and strengthen links and communication between local communities and the Local Authority. All towns deserved to be complimented on the improvements carried out due to taking part in tidy towns competitions.

Cllr. Brendan Griffin thanked Kerry County Council for the works carried out at Ballinacourty burial ground, which is the burial place of the Antarctic explorer Tom Crean.

Cllr. Griffin also said that measures should be put in place, to cope with a repeat of gorse fires this year as the cost involved for the fire brigade to attend is a waste of scarce resources and a health and safety issue where fires pose a danger to family homes. He also asked that the beaches in the county are kept to the highest possible standard.

Cllr. Michael Cahill said that for approximately 21 years he had been requesting that a site would be provided by Kerry County Council for a Burial Ground in Cromane. At this stage he was pleading with the Council to acquire a suitable site as a matter of urgency.

He referred to businesses and farms where leaks and burst mains had occurred during the recent harsh weather conditions and asked that consideration would be given to making an allowance in the case of customers where water wastage had occurred. He welcomed the reduction in the charge for the single bag of waste from €6 to €3 from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 and said that a price reduction should also be considered for 6 bags (car boot) which was currently €17.

Cllr. Cahill thanked Kerry County Council for the road widening carried out at Ballinakilla burial ground.

Cllr. Anne McEllistrim said that should the Council withdraw from the provision of a refuse collection service, the waiver system, which provides for a reduction in charges to older people, would be lost. She suggested that in order to encourage composting, householders should be written to advising of the benefits of composting and with an offer of free delivery of a composting bin to the homes of those interested.

She complimented management and staff of the Environment Department on their work and commended Civil Defence on the assistance provided by them during the recent freezing weather.

Cllr. Liam Purtill read the following into the minutes:

*"Despite all the anti litter campaigns we still have a major problem with illegal dumping in our towns and villages but more especially along our roadside. It is somewhat camouflaged during the summer when the grass grows but during the winter and early spring it is very obvious. Visitor surveys carried out by Failte Ireland confirm that visitors to this country are not impressed with our attitude to litter. As we depend so much on tourism in this country, people should be very much aware of the potential damage that they are doing to our reputations and our environment by being irresponsible with litter."*

*Green flag Award Scheme for Primary and Secondary schools*

- 1. "We should aim to have every school at both Primary and Post Primary level involved in this scheme.*
- 2. The County Manager should write to every school in the County encouraging them to get involved in this scheme.*
- 3. It gives the pupils a first hand appreciation of a litter free environment".*

Cllr. Jim Finucane welcomed the purchase of the multiple compartment trucks and also the contract for the generation of electricity from the landfill gas which was signed in 2010. He again referred to the contribution of €90,000 to Limerick County Council in respect of the operation of the Regional Waste Management Office and proposed that the payment would be withheld.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea thanked Mr. Ring and the staff of the Environment Department for their work throughout the county and asked if any court proceedings had been initiated as a result of the installation of cameras at bring banks

He expressed grave concern regarding the proposed disbandment of the voluntary fire brigade in Castlegregory.

Cllr. Danny Healy Rae thanked the management and staff of the Environment Department for their excellent work. He referred to the recent fatality at an hotel in Kinsale due to suspected carbon monoxide poisoning and suggested that a carbon monoxide awareness campaign would be put in place for the benefit of tenants and the public in general. With regard to the contribution to the operation of the Regional Waste Management Office in Limerick, he said that it would be more convenient for haulage contractors in Kerry if permits could be issued in Tralee by Kerry County Council.

Cllr. Paul O'Donoghue expressed concern about the increase in illegal dumping in the vicinity of bring banks and asked if the installation of CCTV cameras at bring banks had achieved any results.

He referred to the drain on resources for the Council due to the increasing costs of landfill and said that long term the way forward was incineration.

Cllr. O'Donoghue said that many burial grounds were overgrown and asked if spraying of weeds was still being carried out. He also referred to the statistics relating to enforcement activity in connection with Litter Management (page 117) and commented that in 2008, 752 cases of illegal dumping were investigated and only 11 successful prosecutions were achieved. He then referred to page 124 "Dangerous Buildings" (E1002) and asked if the cost of carrying out emergency works on structures which are deemed to pose an immediate danger to public safety or where the owner is not readily identifiable, was recovered by the Council. He also asked for an update on the number of properties in the county that were included on the Derelict Sites Register and how much is collected in derelict sites levies.

Cllr. Robert Beasley welcomed the report and thanked management and staff of the Environment Department for their work during the past year. He said that he wanted to pay a special tribute to Ms. Ellen Daly Litter Warden for her speedy responses in the case of illegal dumping incidents.

Cllr. Beasley said that he felt that there should be an onus on the owners/managers of fast food outlets to provide litter bins adjacent to their premises. Also, when walking dogs in public places there should be an onus on dog owners to clean up their dog waste. He commended local groups and tidy towns committees on their work in ensuring that footpaths and public area in towns and villages are kept free of litter.

Cllr. John Brassil complimented the management and staff of the Environment Department on their excellent work. He said that it was very important that Kerry County Council would continue to provide a refuse collection service but having studied the Budget Report and Budget Table he said that he was fearful that this would be the Council's last year in the business of refuse collection. He agreed with Cllr. Finucane regarding what appeared to be uneconomic pricing at the landfill operated by Limerick County Council and **SECONDED** his proposal that the payment of the contribution of €90,000 would be withheld.

Cllr. Séamus Cosai Fitzgerald welcomed the Budget Report and complimented management and staff of the Environment Department on their work. He also paid tribute to Mr. Colm

Mangan SEE Water Services for the maintenance work being done in Burial Grounds. He said that he too, was concerned about the landfill charges in place by Limerick County Council and asked if it was possible to get an average figure for landfill charges based on the amount being charged by other Local Authorities in the country. He welcomed the introduction of the Adopt a Road Scheme and said that it was very important there was an adequate budget for street cleaning.

Cllr. Fitzgerald also referred to the issue of the disbandment of the voluntary fire brigade in Castlegregory.

Cllr. Terry O'Brien complimented the management and staff of the Environment Department on the excellent work carried out over the past year and said that he too would like to see Kerry County Council continuing the provision a refuse collection service. He said that bring banks were hugely used but highly abused and expressed concern about the increase in illegal dumping in the vicinity of bring banks.

Cllr. John Sheahan said that he too would like to pay tribute to the management and staff of the Environment Department. He expressed concern about the [series of serious gorse](#) blazes in the county last year and asked if an update was available on the introduction of further measures by the Council to promote fire safety in Kerry. He suggested that the Fire Department should consider entering into a proactive arrangement with local community groups and residents associations with regard to the future prevention of fires.

Cllr. Sheahan asked that mobile CCTV would be used to address illegal dumping and that high visibility vests would be provided for voluntary litter collectors.

He said that he was disappointed that there was no reduction in property rates in the budget for 2011.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin acknowledged the work of Mr. Oliver Ring DOS, Mr. Tom Sheehy SE and the staff of the Environment Department. He said that the operation of the refuse collection service and recycling facilities was a credit to the Environment Department, but unfortunately he felt that 2011 would be a make or break year for the provision of a refuse service by the Council. He commended management of the Environment Department on the excellent value to householders being offered in the current promotion which provides up to three months standing charge and two bin lifts free. Cllr. Cronin thanked Kerry County Council for the contributions made towards the upkeep of burial grounds in the county and for the work done by Burial Ground Committees. He said that excellent work had been carried out at Aglish burial ground and he expressed his appreciation for this. With regard to illegal dumping in the vicinity of bottle banks, he said that CCTV should be installed at a number of sites but the location should not be publicised.

Cllr. Norma Foley thanked Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Ring for their presentations and acknowledged the work of the Environment Department. She thanked the Fire Service and Civil Defence for the help and assistance provided by their members during the harsh weather conditions before Christmas. She acknowledged the level of success by the Derelict Sites Unit resulting in the removal of 24 sites from the register in 2010. She also welcomed the "Adopt a Road " and "Adopt a Bottle Bank" initiatives and said that Kerry County Council should endeavour to maintain its presence in the refuse collection service.



Cllr. Pat McCarthy acknowledged the work of the Environment Department and thanked Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Ring for their presentations. He expressed concern about uneconomic pricing at landfills outside of the county and said that maintaining an annual viable tonnage at North Kerry Landfill was necessary in order to sustain the service into the future.

Mr. Oliver Ring Director of Water Services & Environment acknowledged the expressions of appreciation by the members on the work done in the Environment Department.

### ***Waste Collection***

Mr. Oliver Ring Director of Environment & Water Services said projected tonnage intake at North Kerry Landfill for 2010 is 21,100 tonnes and it is expected that the tonnage will decrease to approximately 20,000 tonnes in 2011. Kerry County Council does not plan to develop the landfill any further and it was expected that capacity would be achieved by 2017.

He said he did not believe that the landfill charges at the landfill operated by Limerick County Council reflected the total aftercare costs for the landfill and undertook to discuss this matter again with the EPA.

With regard to the Council's future in the provision of a waste collection service, Mr. Ring said that the management of Kerry County Council are committed to the ongoing provision of the collection service. Management was willing to make the investment necessary to achieve the changes that are crucial to the ongoing viability of the service. This investment could only be made if there is buy-in from all the staff of the waste service.

He referred to Cllr. Bobby O'Connell's proposal regarding the setting up of a data base of the type of refuse collection service used by householders with a view to identifying households where no refuse collection service is used, Mr. Ring said that it was proposed to introduce bye laws whereby householders would be obliged to avail of a refuse collection service if located within 200 meters of their property. The result of a survey which was carried out in 2010 on the Council's rented properties revealed that 95% of householders surveyed had a refuse disposal arrangement in place, however, Mr. Ring acknowledged that 5% when applied to the refuse generated by a large number of households was considerable.

He advised that in accordance with data protection legislation the presence of CCTV must be publicised. Mobile covert surveillance cameras were to be acquired soon with a view to addressing the increasing problem of illegal dumping. With regard to Cllr. O'Donoghue's reference to incineration, Mr. Ring said that the majority of Waste Management Plans in the country had included incineration with energy recovery as an integral part of their waste management strategies.

Mr. Ring referred to Cllr. Finucane's proposal regarding the withholding of the contribution of €90,000 to Limerick County Council in respect of management and administration charges for the regional waste management office in Limerick and said that the regional waste management office does not have the power to dictate the charges for waste disposal set out by any Local Authority, in this case by Limerick County Council.

Cllr. Jim Finucane reiterated his proposal that the contribution of €90,000 to Limerick County Council should be withheld.

County Manager Mr. Tom Curran said that there were 8 Regional Waste Management offices in the country which were set up to facilitate and coordinate the efforts of the partner local authorities in implementing the objectives and meeting the targets of the Waste Management Plan. The allocation in the budget of €90,000 was Kerry County Council's contribution towards the running of the office. Mr. Curran said he did not think that Kerry County Council had any discretion with regard to the withholding of this contribution and he felt it was necessary for the members to acknowledge that this contribution was towards the management and administration of the regional waste management office and was not connected to the charges levied for waste disposal by Limerick County Council.

Cllr. Finucane said that he would query how Limerick County Council as a partner in the region could use uneconomic pricing to undermine the survival of a another partner county in the waste collection business. He said that he felt that Kerry County Council should not continue to contribute to the regional office and asked that Mr. Curran would write to the Regional Office and Limerick County Council to advise of same.

Cllr. John Brassil said that the loss of business to another county in the region was a huge treat to the survival of the waste collection service in Kerry and agreed with Cllr. Finucane that it was necessary for Kerry County Council to take a firm stand on the matter at this stage. He suggested that Mr. Curran would advise Limerick County Council and the Regional Waste Management Office in writing that he had not been sanctioned by his Council to make a contribution.

County Manager Mr. Tom Curran replied that all the waste collected in the region was not going to the landfill operated by Limerick County Council, private waste collectors were going where the charges were the cheapest. Economies of scale allowed for a reduction in prices.

Cllr. Finucane proposed that Mr. Curran would write to Limerick County Council advising that he had been directed by the members of Kerry County Council to request a satisfactory explanation for what appeared to be uneconomic charges levied at the landfill which was resulting in a huge loss of business for Kerry County Council due to waste generated in the county being land filled in Limerick.

### ***Gorse Fires***

Mr. Oliver Ring Director of Environment/Water Services referred to Cllr. John Sheahan's concern regarding the reoccurrence of gorse blazes in the county this year and said that the Fire Department was considering this matter in conjunction with local community groups and the Gardaí.

### ***Voluntary Fire Brigade in Castlegregory***

Mr. Ring referred to the proposed disbandment of the voluntary fire brigade in Castlegregory and said that the voluntary fire brigade was helped and supported by Kerry County Council but did not come under its control. Due to Health & Safety requirements it was now proposed that

the voluntary fire brigade would be disbanded and the volunteers would join Civil Defence as members of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade and would then be provided with the level of training required.

***Disposal of frost damaged palm trees.***

Cllr. Robert Beasley requested that a report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Full Council to update the members on the disposal of palm trees damaged during the freezing weather conditions in December 2010.

**Division D Development Management**

Mr. John O'Connor Head of Finance referred the members to page 90 of the County Manager's Report on the budget and pages 18 -20 of the Budget Tables and informed them that the Planning Function/Development Management Programme of Kerry County Council is divided into three specific business units:

- Forward Planning
- Planning Control
- Planning Enforcement

An allocation of €572,000 in the budget towards Statutory Plans and Policy covers the costs involved in the preparation of the local area plans and on the progression of Wind and Renewable Energy Strategy of the County Development Plan 2009-2015. The review of Local Area Plans in accordance with the new settlement strategy included in the County Development Plan based on Functional Areas has commenced. All printing works associated with the Plans was carried out "in house" in the interest of value for money savings.

**Tourism Development and Promotion (D05)**

Mr. John O'Connor, Head of Finance, referred the members to page 94 of the County Managers Report on the Budget, where it was stated that an allocation of €413,000 would be set aside for General Economic Promotion. He said that allocation covers the contributions made to various local organisations which promote and support the economic, social and tourism interests of the county overall, and includes a provision to enable support for any exceptionally worthwhile initiative which may arise during the year. Funds are limited given the current economic climate. A sum of €100,000 was being included in this allocation, specifically for any new particularly worthwhile and innovative proposals in tourism/economic promotion and development. Any disbursement from this funding will be on the basis of a detailed costed business plan and a report from the County Manager to the Elected Council.

A contribution of €22,000 is included for Kerry Life Education Ltd towards its health education and substance/alcohol abuse awareness programmes, across the entire county.

## **Division F Recreation and Amenity**

Mr. John O'Connor, Head of Finance referred members to Pages 136 – 143 of the Budget Report and Pages 24 and 25 of the Budget Tables for details of this Division. A sum of €4.978m is provided for this Division with €3.629m being provided for the Library Service. Kerry Library operates nine full time branch libraries throughout the county with over 400,000 items issued annually. A sum of €761,000 is provided for Outdoor Leisure Areas Operations and €227,000 of this is for Parks, Pitches and Open Spaces. €408,000 is provided for beaches and €62,000 is provided for the maintenance and inspection of Playgrounds. Mr. O'Connor referred members to Page 142 for details of the Arts budget where a sum of €267,000 is provided for the administration of the Arts Programme.

## **Division G Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare**

Mr. John O'Connor, Head of Finance referred members to Pages 144 – 148 of the Budget Report and Pages 26 and 27 of the Budget Tables for details on this Division. The total projected expenditure for this division is €15.540m. There are two main headings in this Division the payment of VEC Pensions and the total superannuation gratuities and pensions of retired VEC staff are paid by the Council and are recouped in full from the Department of Education and Science. However, administration costs are not refunded. The payment of these salaries results in a cash flow cost for the Council. A sum of €6.9m is included for the payment of these pensions. A sum of €7m is provided for the payment of Higher Education Grants. The amount paid out in grants is recouped in full from the Department of Education and Science except for approximately €20,000. The cost of administering this Grant Scheme must be funded by the Council.

## **Division H Miscellaneous Services**

Mr. O'Connor referred members to Pages 149 – 153 of the Budget Report and Pages 28 – 30 of the Budget Tables for details of this Division. The costs associated with this Division include the administration of the Rates Office, the payment of the collectors, cost of Register of Electors, Coroners etc. Also included in this Division is provision for payments to Councillors. A sum of €1.070m is provided for the operation of the Motor Tax Department and this covers salaries, office, security and other expenses associated with the issue of motor taxation discs and driver licences.

Mr. O'Connor referred members to Page 154 of the Budget Report where details of the Central Management Charges are set out. A sum of €1.816m is provided for the Maintenance and Upkeep of Corporate Buildings. The Council has approximately 15,000sq feet of rented office accommodation. The locations include Manor West, Maine Street, 24 Denny Street and the Ashe Memorial Hall in Tralee along with Farrankilla House in An Daingean.

Cllr. Arthur J Spring referred to a presentation at a previous meeting by the founders of Kerry's Young Entrepreneur Programme. This is an initiative developed by IT Tralee, Shannon Development and Tweak.com who have since gone on to launch the Endeavour programme and the first Junior Entrepreneur Programme to primary schools in the Kerry region. County

Kerry was named European Entrepreneurial Region of the Year 2011 in recognition of its vision for entrepreneurial training and development, and in particular, the success achieved through the Young Entrepreneur Programme and Endeavour.

Cllr. Spring said that during his eighteen months as a member of Kerry County Council, nothing had been done by Kerry County Council to promote job creation in the county. He said that tourism and enterprise had huge potential and he criticised the budget because no provision had been made for support for the Young Entrepreneur Programme even though Councillors had unanimously agreed last year that €125,000 would be contributed to support the Junior Entrepreneur Programme and towards the hosting of European Entrepreneurial Region of the Year 2011 in Kerry. He said that he would not vote for the adoption of the budget until funding was allocated towards this programme.

Cllr. Anne McEllistrim asked for commitment from Mr. John O Connor Head of Finance for some monies from the Tourism Development & Promotion to be allocated to assist in funding needed to enable Kerry to secure and to host the International Children's Games and Cultural Festival in Kerry in 2015.

*She said that "in addition to athletes, approximately 2500 overseas visitors would attend the games as part of the extended visiting city delegations, team coaches and family members.*

*A feasibility study was commissioned in 2010 to determine the financial implications of hosting the games. The study has shown a cash cost of €2million will be required. They will be looking to raise half of this amount from government funding/Bord Failte while raising the other half themselves from the corporate sector and other means.*

*She said she believed that the decision to invest some money from Kerry County Council's budget to help with their administration costs which are towards €40,000 would be worthwhile, this is needed for the bid process for the games in 2011.*

*The Kerry International Children's games of 2015 has the capacity to generate an overall economic impact for Kerry of between 5.6m and 7.8m. The event has the scope to attract 6,000 attendees resulting in approx. 20,000 bed nights for the region. It will also do a lot for promoting Tourism in Kerry for the future".*

Cllr. McEllistrim referred to page 91 of the County Manager's Report and said that she would have an issue with the amount of funding being spent on the review of Local Area Plans. She recommended that the plans in situ should be extended and the funding could be allocated to the Young Entrepreneur Programme or used towards a reduction in property rates.

Cllr. John Brassil said that almost 5,000 applications for planning permission were received by the Planning Authority in 2007 and asked that he would be provided with the allocation for Development Management included in the budget for 2007.

Cllr. Brassil supported Cllr. Spring's proposal regarding the commitment of funding in support of the Young Entrepreneur Programme. He pointed out the huge potential for enterprise and job creation represented by the programme and also the fact that the members had unanimously agreed at a meeting in November 2010 to commit €125,000 to the programme. He said that in time to come the support of the Young Entrepreneur Programme would reap rich rewards for employment in Kerry. He said that this matter would have to be resolved before the budget could be adopted.

Cllr. Brassil referred to the issue raised by Cllr. Anne McEllistrim regarding the cost of the review of Local Area Plans and said that when the Tralee Local Area Plan comes up for review

it should be looked at in the context of how money could be saved. Cllr. Brassil said that he would also like to know how much recoupable money from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government was outstanding.

Cllr. Brendan Griffin acknowledged the provision of €22,000 for Kerry Life Education Ltd. He also said that support for the White Tailed Eagle programme would enhance tourism in the county.

Cllr. Griffin referred to page 146 of the County Manager's report on the budget where it is stated that "Amendments to the Control of Dogs Act, 1986 incorporating an increase on the licence fee payable for an individual dog licence to €20 (from €12.70); €400 for a general dog licence (multiple dogs) and a new lifetime dog licence @ €140 per dog". He said that he considered €140 per dog for the new lifetime licence to be excessive. He asked that information regarding the micro chipping of dogs would be made available to dog owners when purchasing a licence for their dog. He said that he was aware that in the UK the NHS supports an education campaign dedicated to people with depression, touting the benefits of a dog in overcoming depression.

Cllr. Griffin commented on the increase in expenditure in respect of Coroner's Fees and expenses. He also asked if anything could be done to reduce the cost of property rates for hotel & guest house owners/operators.

Cllr. Tim Buckley thanked Mr. John O'Connor Head of Finance and all the staff involved in the preparation of the budget. He welcomed the provision of €22,000 for Kerry Life Education Ltd. and the allocation made in respect of the operation of the library service

Cllr. Danny Healy Rae acknowledged the work of Mr. John O'Connor, Head of Finance and the staff of the Finance Department, in the preparation of the budget. He supported Cllr. Anne McEllistrim's proposal and said that he too would have an issue with the amount of funding being spent on the review of Local Area Plans. Cllr. Healy Rae agreed with Cllr. Griffin regarding the increase in Coroner's fees and expenses. He referred to a Notice of Motion recently submitted by him and asked if the renewal of motor taxation on a monthly basis could be considered and also the use of personalised registration numbers for vehicles.

Cllr. Robert Beasley thanked Mr. John O'Connor, Head of Finance and the staff of the Finance Department for their work in the preparation of the budget and said that everything possible should be done to help the hospitality industry which was suffering due to the down turn in the economy.

He thanked County Librarian, Mr. Tommy O'Connor for his work in developing the Library Service in the county. He referred to the allocation of €62,000 in respect of playgrounds and said he hoped that the playground for Lixnaw would be completed this year. He referred to page 142 of the County Managers Report on the budget "Operation of Arts Programme" and said while he acknowledged that funding was limited, he hoped to see an increase in the allocation to this programme in the future.

Cllr. Patrick Connor Scarteen also acknowledged the work of Mr. O'Connor and the staff of the Finance Department in the preparation of the budget for 2011. He welcomed the allocation of €22,000 for Kerry Life Education Ltd. Cllr. Connor Scarteen thanked the members of the

County Development Board and the Joint Policing Committee for their work during the past year.

Cllr. Paul O'Donoghue referred to page 142 of the County Managers Report on the budget "Operation of Arts Programme" and said that no Arts Centre in South Kerry was mentioned. He then referred to page 144 of the report "Operation and Maintenance of Piers & Harbours" He welcomed that it was proposed to progress the statutory process for the introduction of Harbour bye laws in 2011 and said it was an unacceptable situation that there were no rules governing piers & harbours. As there was no Harbour Constable in South West Kerry he said that Kerry County Council's local area staff should be in a position to regulate the bye laws. He asked that management would endeavour to have the bye laws in place for the coming summer in view of the importance of marine tourism and fishing. He agreed with Cllr. Danny Healy Rae and Cllr. Anne McEllistrim regarding the expense to the Local Authority in connection with the payment of Coroners fees and expenses. He asked what the projected income would be for 2011 from Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) charge.

Cllr. Norma Foley complimented Mr. John O'Connor Head of Finance and all the staff involved in the preparation of the budget. She welcomed the County Managers announcement that a sum of €100,000 was included in the budget specifically for any new particularly worthwhile and innovative proposals in tourism/economic promotion and development. She paid tribute to the work done by County Librarian Mr. Tommy O'Connor and staff and welcomed that all 9 branch libraries now have book stock and computer software recommended by the Dyslexia Association. Cllr. Foley also acknowledged the allocation in the budget of €21,000 towards walking routes and the benefits to the community of the Ballyseedy Wood project. She welcomed the introduction of the Adopt a Mile and Adopt a Bottle Bank and added that Adopt a Mile of Beach should also be included to encourage local communities to get involved in beach cleaning. She referred to page 142 of the report "Operation of Arts Programme" and said that she would like to see funding for the arts increased in the future.

Cllr. Jim Finucane complimented County Manager Mr. Tom Curran, Mr. John O'Connor Head of Finance and all the staff who were involved in the preparation of the budget and paid tribute to Kerry County Council for maintaining the same level of property rates for two successive years.

Cllr. Arthur Spring referred to a presentation to the members of Kerry County Council in November 2010, by Mr. Gerry Kennelly who spearheaded The Young Entrepreneur Programme said that he would like the see support included in the budget for the programme in order to encourage an entrepreneurial spirit in the county and with a view to job creation. He said that tourism and enterprise had huge potential in Kerry, for example, the Rose of Tralee was a wonderful festival which gives Kerry two nights of television coverage and also he was aware that wind surfers from abroad visited Foilmore beach in Cloghane and this type of tourism should be marketed abroad. He reiterated his earlier criticism of the budget due to no provision having been made for support for the Young Entrepreneur Programme and said that that it should be supported by Kerry County Council now, as he believed that the seeds being sown now would reap rewards economically, for the county, into the future. He pointed out that the members had unanimously agreed to commit €125,000 for the programme and said that he

found it insulting that it had been ignored in the budget. He referred to members' conference allocations and pointed out that approximately €68,000 of that allocation was not spent last year and suggested that this money should be put towards the programme. He said this was unacceptable and he would not be prepared to vote in favour of the budget until funding for this programme was included. He referred to a private meeting with County Manager, Mr. Tom Curran with regard to progressing the commitment of funding for this project and said that he has worked very hard as a member of Kerry Council for the past 18 months but found management of this Council to be difficult to deal with.

County Manager, Mr. Tom Curran reminded the members that any proposal which is put to the Council has to be examined in terms of the Council's income and expenditure as the budget must balance. He said that he was disappointed with the tone of Cllr. Spring's remarks and reminded him that as County Manager, he along with the Head of Finance and his team were qualified to make decisions as to where funding should be allocated. The submission in this case had been examined and was considered to be grossly inflated. Also, he did not believe that the Council should get involved in supporting direct marketing nor would he give a commitment to contribute to any outside body without the support of the full council. He said that as a result of Cllr. Spring's remarks at today's meeting, he realised that he would have to be very careful with regard to what was discussed and with whom, at meetings held in private.

Cllr. John Brassil said that he did not want a situation where a budget meeting became personal. He pointed out the huge potential for job creation and enterprise which the programme represents and said that following the presentation from Mr. Kennelly, the members had agreed that €125,000 should be committed by Kerry County Council in Budget 2011. He acknowledged the current difficult financial situation for the Council and asked that the County Manager would consider the matter further and revert to the members with a contribution which would indicate that Kerry County Council was pro active in the support of the programme. He would not support the budget until a contribution was made towards this project.

Cllr. Brendan Griffin SECONDED Cllr. Brassil's proposal.

Cllr. Danny Healy said that he did not accept Cllr. Spring's criticism of management and felt that it should be withdrawn.

Cllr. Toireasa Ferris supported Cllr. Brassil's proposal and commended the management and staff of the County Enterprise Board for the invaluable assistance and advice provided by them. She said that the commitment of funding to The Young Entrepreneur Programme by the members should be reflected in the budget.

Cllr. Jim Finucane referred to the contribution of €22,000 for Kerry Life Education Ltd. and proposed that a contribution based on this figure would be made to The Young Entrepreneur Programme.

Cllr. Norma Foley said that the Young Entrepreneur Programme was an excellent initiative with massive potential for the county and should be supported to the maximum of the Council's ability and asked that the County Manager and the Head of Finance would consider contributing



the maximum amount that could be accommodated in the Budget. She commended the management and staff of the County Enterprise Board for the excellent service which they provide. She said that it was not appropriate or acceptable for personal attacks to be made on management during the course of the budget meeting and said that Cllr. Spring should be given the opportunity to withdraw his remarks.

Cllr. Spring said that he was not making a personal attack on management and did not intend to offend anybody personally. He said that he had admiration and respect for management but negotiations regarding this matter had been going on for approximately 18 months and had come to a head today when it became clear that no provision had been made in the budget for the Young Entrepreneur Programme.

Cllr. Anne McEllistrim said that County Manager, Mr. Tom Curran had always put money to good use in the county in the past. She asked if Local Area Plans could be extended for five years.

Mr. Michael McMahon, Director of Planning & Sustainable Development said that the Planning Authority was statutorily obliged to review Local Area Plans every six years. The staff of the Forward Planning Unit, were currently engaged in the preparation of the core strategy to be completed on 20/07/2011.

Mr. John O'Connor Head of Finance addressed the following issues which had been raised by the members:

### **Dog Licences**

Mr. O'Connor referred the members to page 146 of the County Managers Report on the Budget and said that within the current arrangements, dog licences may only be purchased at Post Offices and an element of the licence fee (€3.50 per licence in 2010) is retained by An Post as an administration fee. Provision is included in the 2011 budget for the purchase of a computerised dog licensing system that will incorporate an on-line facility for the purchase of licences. He said that the Council was currently in consultation with An Post with regard to making licences available for direct purchase from its own offices.

### **Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) charge**

Mr. O'Connor referred to Cllr. Paul O'Donoghues query regarding the Council's income from NPPR charges and said that this was a fixed charge which was introduced in accordance with Section 9 of the Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 and Kerry County Council had no discretion with regard to the amount payable. The projected income of €2 million for 2011 has been taken into account in page 30 of the Draft Budget Tables.

### **Development Management (allocation in 2007 budget)**

With regard to Cllr. John Brassil's query concerning the allocation for Development Management included in the budget for 2007, Mr. O'Connor confirmed that the allocation included in budget 2007 was €2.978 million.

### **Young Entrepreneur Programme**

Mr. O'Connor referred to the members comments regarding the inclusion in the budget of a contribution in support of the Young Entrepreneur Programme. He said that the Council endeavours to support community type projects in acknowledgement of the benefit to local areas. He pointed out that every project cannot be supported and said that he made no apologies for questioning any submission made for funding.

Mr. O'Connor said that the budget could be amended to include a contribution of €25,000 to support the Young Entrepreneur Programme.

This contribution was agreed on the PROPOSAL of Cllr. John Brassil **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jim Finucane.

### **11.01.17.02 Charges for attendance of Fire Brigade at chimney fires–single domestic dwelling houses.**

Cllr. Pat McCarthy **PROPOSED** that pursuant to Section 2 of the Local Government (Financial Provisions) (No. 2) Act, 1983 and the County Management (Reserved Functions) Order 1985, it is hereby **RESOLVED** that a charge of €100 (unchanged since 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 December 2011.

Cllr. Jim Finucane **SECONDED** this PROPOSAL.

### **A vote was taken which resulted as follows:**

**For:** Cllrs. Beasley, Brassil, Buckley, Connor Scarteen, Cronin, Ferris, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Foley, Griffin, D Healy Rae, McCarthy, McEllistrim, Moloney, O'Connell, O'Donoghue, Purtill, Sheahan, Spring, Leahy **(21)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. Cahill, Donovan, Gleeson, M Healy Rae, O'Brien, O'Shea.**(6)**

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

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

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

### **11.01.17.03 Adoption of the Council's Budget for the Financial Year ending 31.12.2011**

Cllr. Robert Beasley **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 2011 as presented by the County Manager and as set out in Tables A and B, be and is hereby adopted.

Cllr. Seamus Cosaí Fitzgerald SECONDED this PROPOSAL

**A vote was taken which resulted as follows:**

**For:** Cllrs. Beasley, Brassil, Buckley, Connor Scarteen, Cronin, Ferris, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Foley, Griffin, D Healy Rae, McCathy, McEllistrim, Moloney, O'Connell, O'Donoghue, Purtill, Sheahan, Leahy **(20)**

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

**Not Voting:** Cllr. Spring (1)

**Absent:** Cllrs. Cahill, Donovan, Gleeson, M Healy Rae, O'Brien, O'Shea **(6)**

The Mayor declared this proposal carried and the Council so resolving

**11.01.17.04 Determination of the Annual Rate on Valuation for the Local Financial Year ending 31 December 2011**

Cllr. Jim 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 2011, as adopted, the annual rate on the valuation as set out in Table A hereunder be the annual rate on valuation to be levied for the said Financial Year. The Annual Rate to be levied shall be €80.35.

Cllr. John 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 2011</b>					
	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget Net Expenditure 2011</b>		<b>Estimated Net Expenditure Outturn 2010</b>	
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Gross Revenue Expenditure &amp; Income</b>						
Housing and Building	16,484,718	15,790,185	694,533	1.5%	779,172	1.6%
Road Transport & Safety	35,234,737	22,663,041	12,571,696	26.6%	12,715,811	26.1%
Water Services	24,197,920	15,323,715	8,874,205	18.8%	9,247,549	19.0%
Development Management	7,888,189	1,626,113	6,262,076	13.3%	6,419,871	13.2%
Environmental Services	18,715,409	7,472,617	11,242,792	23.8%	11,231,992	23.0%
Recreation and Amenity	4,978,714	316,278	4,662,436	9.9%	4,783,044	9.8%
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	15,540,248	14,611,676	928,572	2.0%	950,233	1.9%
Miscellaneous Services	5,707,469	3,743,541	1,963,928	4.1%	2,630,416	5.4%
	<b>128,747,404</b>	<b>81,547,166</b>	<b>47,200,238</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>48,758,088</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
+ County Charge						
- County Charge		6,659,007	6,659,007			
Provision for Debit Balance						
<b>Adjusted Gross Expenditure &amp; Income (A)</b>	<b>128,747,404</b>	<b>88,206,173</b>	<b>40,541,231</b>		<b>48,758,088</b>	
<b>Financed by Other Income/Credit Balances</b>						
Provision for Credit Balance						
Local Government Fund /General Purpose Grant			20,648,216			
Pension Related Deduction			2,590,000			
<b>Sub - Total (B)</b>			<b>23,238,216</b>		<b>48,758,088</b>	
<b>Amount of Rates to be Levied C=(A-B)</b>			<b>17,303,015</b>			
<b>Net Effective Valuation D</b>			<b>215,346</b>			
<b>General Annual Rate on Valuation C/D</b>			<b>80.35</b>			

## Minutes Adjourned Budget Meeting

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs. Beasley, Brassil, Buckley, Connor Scarteen, Cronin, Ferris, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Fleming, Foley, Griffin, D Healy Rae, McCarthy, McEllistrim, Moloney, O'Connell, O'Donoghue, Purtill, Sheahan, Spring, Leahy **(21)**

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

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

**Absent:** Cllrs. Cahill, Donovan, Gleeson, M Healy Rae, O'Brien, O'Shea **(6)**

The Mayor declared this proposal carried and the Council so resolving

### **11.01.17.05 Additional Expenditure for 2010**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Brendan Cronin **SECONDED** by Cllr. Bobby O'Connell, the additional expenditure for 2010 as set out in the Column titled "Estimated Out-Turn 2010" in the Local Authority Budget, as circulated, was approved unanimously.

### **11.01.17.06 Report on Capital Programme 2011-2013**

Cllr. Jim Finucane **PROPOSED** that the County Manager's Report on the Capital Programme 2011-2013 as incorporated into the Report on the Budget be noted.

Cllr. Paul O'Donoghue **SECONDED** this proposal and the report was noted unanimously.

Mr. John O'Connor, Head of Finance thanked the members for their support.

The Mayor, Cllr. Pat Leahy thanked Mr. O'Connor and his staff in the Finance Department for their work in preparing a balanced Budget.

The County Manager, Mr. Tom Curran, also, thanked Mr. O'Connor and the staff of the Finance Department for their work in preparing the Budget. He said that this was Mr. O'Connor's last Budget, as he was due to retire from Kerry County Council during 2011.

Cllr. Robert Beasley on behalf of Cllr. Toireasa Ferris and himself wished Mr. O'Connor a long and happy retirement.

The Mayor, Cllr. Pat Leahy thanked the members and officials of Kerry County Council for their help and support throughout the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.55 pm.

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

**Mayor of Kerry**