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MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE MHIOSIÚIL DE COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN LUAN , 10 SAMHAIN 2014

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER 2014

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

R. Beasley	J. Brassil	M. Cahill
B. Cronin	J.J. Culloty	P. Daly
T Ferris	J. Finucane	S.Fitzgerald
N. Foley	M. Gleeson	D Grady
N. Kelleher	M. Kennelly	S. Locke
D. McCarthy	T. McEllistrim	J. Moloney
N. Moriarty	D. Nolan	T. O'Brien
B. O'Connell	M. O'Shea	L. Purtill
D. Quigg	J. Sheahan	G. Spring
A. Thornton		

Apology/Leathscéal

Cllr. P Connor Scarteen
Cllr. JF Flynn
Cllr. D Healy Rae
Cllr. J Healy Rae
Cllr. P McCarthy

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive	Mr. J.D. Flynn, Dir. of Corp. Servs.
Mr. O. Ring, Director IW Operations	Mr. M. McMahon, D. Job Creation/Sust. E.D.
Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. Op, Health & Safety	Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance
Mr. G. O'Brien, Meetings Administrator	Mr. L Quinlan SEO Housing
Mr. M Scannell SEO	Mr. T. Hayes, Head of LEO
Ms. D Moynihan CO LEO	Mr. P. Corkery, Press & Comm. Off.
Mr. B Looney Head of IT	Ms. E Davis
Ms. S Broderick SO	Ms. M. Galvin, CO Corporate Affairs
Ms. O. O'Shea, C.O. Corp. Affairs	

The meeting commenced at 10.35am.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. J. Brassil took the Chair.

Vote of Sympathy

Cllr. M. Gleeson extended his sympathy to Cllr. D Grady and his family on the recent death of his brother Sylvester.

All members said they wished to be associated with this expression of sympathy.

14.11.10.01 Cathaoirleach's Report on the CPG Meeting

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

Item 1 Agenda for the November Ordinary Meeting to be held on Monday 10th November 2014

Mr. G. O'Brien, Meetings Administrator, briefed members on the Agenda for the November Council Meeting.

In relation to Item 7 – Mr. G O'Brien said that in accordance with Section 142(5)(f) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 members who attend any event are required to report back to Council. Mr. O'Brien said that he had contacted the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government regarding this matter and had been advised that any event attended by members i.e. training seminar or conference must be reported on.

The Cathaoirleach said that it is likely that the issue regarding the payment of water charges will be raised at the meeting.

Mr. G O'Brien said that notices of motion concerning this matter are included on the agenda for the meeting.

Cllr. J Finucane said that this matter is ongoing. He said that he had attended the question and answer session between senior Irish Water representatives and Local Authority members held in Carrick-on-Shannon last week and had asked that a representative of Irish Water would attend a meeting of Kerry County Council to brief the members. While he acknowledged that this session was beneficial he said that some consensus was needed.

Cllr. J Brassil said that a number of very relevant questions were raised at previous meetings of Kerry County Council and suggested that a list of questions would be compiled and forwarded to Irish Water along with a request for a representative to attend a meeting with the members to discuss the issues raised.

Ms. M Murrell Chief Executive said that Kerry County Council has engaged with Irish Water on behalf of the Local Authority Sector. Mr. JD Flynn has been nominated as liaison officer who would receive and collate the questions from the elected members which would provide examples of issues on the ground.

Cllr. J Brassil said that he had been approached by an applicant who was planning to build a number of houses and needed clarification as to the cost of water and sewerage connections. Cllr. Brassil had contacted Irish Water in Mallow and was informed that the charges would be on par with the amounts previously charged by Kerry County Council. Cllr. Brassil was not aware of this until he contacted Irish Water, therefore clarity is needed.

Ms. A McAllen said that a considerable number of queries had been received and collated in the Finance Department.

Cllr. M O'Shea said that Kerry County Council would have a strong case for requesting a representative of Irish Water to attend a meeting as the seminar which was due to be held in Cork had not gone ahead. He said that that in his opinion the staff who represented Irish Water at the briefing in Carrick on Shannon were not in a position to answer all the queries put to them by councillors, particularly in relation to domestic water charges for consumers on public group water schemes.

Cllr. J Finucane agreed with Cllr. O'Shea and said that the Regional Manager for Irish Water based in Mallow should be requested to attend a meeting of Kerry County Council.

Ms. M Murrell Chief Executive undertook to contact Ms Katherine Walsh Regional Operations Manager to request a meeting.

Cllr. J Finucane said that a Special Meeting of Kerry County Council should be held if Ms. Walsh and management of Irish Water agreed to attend.

Item 2 Draft Corporate Plan

Mr. JD Flynn briefed members on the draft Corporate Plan 2014-2019 which was circulated.

He said that in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Local Authority is required to prepare and adopt a Corporate Plan 2014-2019. The Corporate Plan would usually be presented to the members at the November meeting but due to the work involved in the amalgamation process this year it has been deferred and will be presented to the members at the December meeting.

Mr. Flynn said that the vision of the Local Authority for the future is "Putting Kerry First" – "through our democratic mandate we will lead economic development and build sustainable communities to make Kerry a great place to live, visit, learn, work and invest".

The Cathaoirleach asked if a measurement of what the Local Authority is setting out to do and targets for same could be included in the Corporate Plan.

Mr. Flynn referred members to the table of contents and said that this would be included at Item 12 – Implementation and Monitoring.

Cathaoirleach J Brassil said that many people were not aware of the level of involvement by Kerry County Council with other organisations in the county. He felt that the Council's input into e.g. the Library Service should be highlighted.

Cllr. M O'Shea complimented Mr. Flynn on the layout of the draft Corporate Plan. He referred to Items 10 – 12 on the Table of Contents and asked how the objectives and actions will be driven forward. He suggested that a team be put in place to progress the objectives of the plan and the ultimate creation of jobs in the county to give young people an alternative to emigration.

Ms. M Murrell said that Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's) will be put in place to oversee those areas of the plan (1) Economic Development and Enterprise (2) Operations (3) Tourism, Culture, Arts & Recreation & (4) Quality of Life. In addition an annual review of the plan objectives would be presented to Council and would also tie in with the Annual Service Plans.

Cllr. J Finucane said that he would like to see a highly visual plan showcasing infrastructure such as Fenit Harbour which gives a lifeline to Liebherr the biggest industry in the county. IT Tralee, FEXCO and tourism should also feature. A lot of SME's in the county are struggling to exist while the majority of development is concentrated on the Dublin region.

Ms. M Murrell said that she would consider infrastructure such as Fenit Harbour to be more appropriate for inclusion in the Local Economic and Community Plan. She said that an annual review of the Corporate Plan may be necessary.

Mr. JD Flynn said that the draft plan circulated only included the high level headings as preparation of the plan is ongoing. The detailed draft plan will be presented to the members at the December meeting of the full Council. He said that a major review of the Corporate Plan will be necessary when the Local Economic and Community Plan will be in place.

Cathaoirleach J Brassil asked if a risk assessment with regard to the development of critical infrastructure should be carried out. Ms. Murrell said that it would be more practical to include such a risk assessment in the Local Economic and Community Plan.

Item 3 Update on Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2019

Mr. J Breen said that the draft Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2019 is due to be launched on 18th November 2014. The focus of the plan will be on the use of waste as a resource. A two month period of public consultation until 23rd January 2015 will follow. It is proposed to make a presentation on the plan at the December meeting of the full Council.

Item 4 Update on Budget 2015

Ms. A McAllen said that Budget 2015 will be made up of the consolidated budgets of the three former Town Councils and Kerry County Council and will reflect the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) of €1.7m as unanimously agreed by the members of the four Municipal Districts.

It also reflects a known Local Property Tax (LPT) figure of €11.6m equivalent to 80% of revenue estimated LPT collection for 2015.

It reflects comparative consolidated 2014 budgets and 2014 outturns. It also reflects the newly restructured organisation with centralised functions for countywide service delivery as well as a structure to service the Municipal Districts.

The commercial rate bill to customers will not increase for 2015 as a result of the budget process. Also, no change is proposed to the approach to vacant properties pending an economic impact assessment by each Municipal District beginning in early 2015

The budgeted expenditure is higher than the budgeted expenditure presented at the Budget (LPT) meeting held on 22nd September. The additional expenditure of over €1m is offset by income in relation to the funding of the set up of the National Procurement Office in Killarney. Notification has been received that the funding of this office can be fully recouped.

The decision by the members to retain €600,000 for the purpose of Recreational/Amenity/Community support is particularly welcome and has enabled a good start up Municipal District fund of €1.7m.

Ms. McAllen anticipated that as centralisation of services settles in, greater savings/efficiencies will be made across all directorates into the future.

Cllr. J Moloney asked what the current financial situation is for Kerry County Council.

Ms. McAllen said the financial situation currently is that we will achieve a balanced budget in 2014 and detailed outturns are available in the budget table to be issued. She said that considerable revenue must be collected between now and the end of the year to ensure that all collection targets are met. She said there had been significant expenditure due to the damage caused by storms and high tides at the beginning of the year but this has been offset by the additional income from the payment of the NPPR.

Ms. M Murrell said that an added risk is the possible reduction to funding from Irish Water to the Local Authority. Kerry County Council has yet to receive further information from Irish Water regarding Service Budgets for 2015 but that service levels would be reviewed in line with budgets received.

Cllr. J Finucane said that Kerry County Council should write to the Minister for the Environment Community and Local Government to state that under no circumstances should the Local Authority be liable due to the excessive spending by Irish Water.

Emergency Plan for winter weather

Cllr. M O'Shea asked if a plan is in place to address harsh weather conditions for the coming winter.

Mr. C O'Sullivan said that a Winter Service Plan has been prepared and is available for viewing on Kerry County Council's website. Should extreme weather conditions occur the Council's Major Emergency Plan will respond.

It was agreed at the request of the Cathaoirleach that an item would be included on the agenda for the next round of Municipal District meetings to update members on the Winter Service Plan/Emergency Plan.

High Tides

Mr. J Breen said that he will be meeting with councillors from coastal areas to review last year's response to the storms and high tides as high tides are expected on 23rd November and 24th December 2014.

Cllr. R Beasley asked for an update on the management of flood risk in Ballylongford, particularly in Rusheen where a number of houses were flooded early this year.

Mr. C O'Sullivan said that Rusheen is included in the areas identified in Ballylongford requiring coastal protection works and a submission has been made to the OPW for funding these works which is estimated to be €100,000.

Cllr. Beasley asked if the mouth of the Cashen is included in the submission for funding.

Mr. O'Sullivan said that the mouth of the Cashen requires more substantial works which are the responsibility of the OPW.

Item 5 Civic/Mayoral Receptions

No receptions were requested

Item 6 Any Other Business

Notices of motion

Cllr. J Finucane referred to Notices of Motion which are included on the agenda for Municipal District meetings and subsequently submitted for inclusion on the agenda for a meeting of the full Council. He said that in his opinion if a response has issued and the matter is dealt with, it should not be submitted again for inclusion on the agenda for a meeting of the full Council.

Mr. G O'Brien said that Standing Orders provide for the submission of a notice of motion for a meeting of the full Council if the member is not satisfied with the response received at the Municipal District meeting.

Ms. M Murrell said that notices of motion being submitted for Municipal District meetings are being monitored and this matter will be reviewed.

Cllr. M O'Shea asked if consideration could be given to the issuing of replies to notices of motion to members a few days in advance of meetings. This may help to reduce the discussion time at the meeting.

Mr. G O'Brien said that this would be very difficult to achieve as the timeframe is very short given that there is only 14 days between the deadline for submitting notices of motion and the date of the meeting.

Mr. JD Flynn pointed out that this could lead to a situation where replies were in the public domain in advance of a motion having been discussed at the meeting.

Mr. C O'Sullivan said that the preparation of responses to notices of motion takes up a considerable length of time as approximately 70% of notices of motion submitted for the Municipal District meetings must be dealt with by Operations, Health and Safety.

Briefing on County Councillors Allocations

Cllr. M O'Shea asked if a briefing on the allocation of funding from County Councillors Allocations would be arranged for the members.

Mr. C O'Sullivan said that a briefing on how the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) can be spent will be arranged for the members following the formation of the Operations SPC in early January 2015.

Rotary Club Gala Ball.

The Cathaoirleach said that he had been contacted by Tralee Rotary Club advising that their Gala Ball is being held in Ballyseede Castle Hotel on 14th November. This year they have chosen Enable Ireland Tralee as main beneficiaries. He asked if Kerry County Council would consider supporting this event.

Ms. M Murrell asked that Tralee Rotary Club would be requested to write to Kerry County Council and that in that context an approach could be considered.

14.11.10.02 Confirmation of Minutes

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M Gleeson SECONDED by Cllr. B O'Connell it was resolved that the minutes of the September Ordinary Meeting of Kerry County Council held on 15th September 2014 be confirmed.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J Moloney SECONDED by Cllr. J Finucane it was resolved that the minutes of the October Ordinary Meeting of Kerry County Council held on 20th October, 2014 be confirmed.

14.11.10.03 Chief Executive's Monthly Report to Council

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

Financial Position

As agreed with the Members, a Financial Report for Members will be provided on a quarterly basis in line with the Quarterly Reporting Process for Income and Expenditure already in place to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government. The next return is being prepared for Quarter 3 and is due to be made by the end of November. This will form the basis for Quarter 3 Financial Report that will be distributed to Council in December 2014.

Operation / Progress on the LCDC

The Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) structure and membership has been agreed by Kerry County Council and has met on two occasions. The LOTS (division of the County) for the Social Inclusion and Community Participation Programme have been agreed and the tenders have issued to the successful applicants who came through stage one of the tender process. The closing date for receipt of tenders is 19th December 2014, and the LCDC through its evaluation team and evaluation committee will assess the tenders received. The LCDC will have an important role in relation to developing the Community Elements of LECP and a County LEADER Strategy.

At its most recent meeting held on 3rd November last, the LCDC elected Cllr Norma Moriarty as its chairperson. The LCDC also agreed that there would be a co-ordinated LEADER plan progressed and developed for the county by all members and that this would ensure that there were no delays in communities being able to access funding under this programme for the development of our county.

Local Economic & Community Plan

The final guidelines on the preparation of the LECP have yet to be issued. An internal Steering Group has been established to oversee the preparation of the Plan involving staff from SMT, Forward Planning, LEO, Community and Tourism Sections. Work has commenced in preparing background data and analysis to underpin the plan. The formal process will commence once the final guidelines have been issued with a “Resolution by the local authority to make an LECP including the establishment of an Advisory Steering Group to assist the process”. The highly consultative process will involve the preparation of the plan over a period in excess of twelve months. The Council and the LCDC have important roles in preparing the economic and community elements of the plan. The overall plan is finally adopted by the Council.

Kenmare Eastern Relief Road

The Kenmare Eastern Relief Road which provides an alternative route for traffic from the R569 Kilgarvan Road to Railway Road was substantially completed and opened to traffic on 24th October last.

Performance of the Local Enterprise Office

1. Kerry's Best Young Entrepreneur

Best Young Entrepreneur competition was finalised on 28th October with a local prize fund of €50,000.

34 potential and existing businesses entered the competition.

Shortlisted to 15 businesses.

Business Bootcamps were held on the 12th, 13th and 17th September 2014.

9 Finalists pitched to a panel of judges on the 30th September 2014.

Winners of the three categories (Best New Idea, Best Start Up, Best Established Business) were announced at a function held on 28th October.

Niall Harty won the **Best New Idea category** and received €10,000 investment in his company, Snaibox, which is a wholefood snack company. The idea is to provide a variety of healthy snack options to his customers through a subscription based e-commerce website delivered on a weekly/monthly basis.

Barry Liston won **Best New Start-up**, receiving €20,000 investment. His business, Grasshopper Skateboards, is Ireland's first skateboard manufacturer dedicated to revolutionizing the world of skateboarding by providing a superior and environmentally sustainable material primarily selling through an interactive online store.

The winners of **Best Established Business with New Add-on** category and €20,000 investment were Shane Finn and Mark Evans of WK Fitness. Shane and Mark are qualified fitness instructors who have established WK Fitness, a training and gym centre in Dingle Town. It offers a range of facilities to outside travelling teams, groups and camps in line with best fitness practice. It services local and tourism interests and the promoters have strong ambitions for growth and expansion.

The businesses go forward to Regional and National Competition.

2. Online Trading Voucher Scheme

- The Kerry Local Enterprise Office applied for a pilot scheme and 34 vouchers @ €2,500 per voucher has been secured.
- 130 business attended the first information seminar.
- 36 voucher applications have been received.
- 28 vouchers have been approved amounting to €55,773 in total to date.
- A specific seminar for web designers in the County is organised for early November to ensure full information sharing and assess future demand with a view to securing additional funds.

3. County Enterprise Awards

- 29 businesses have been written to seeking entries in the County Enterprise Awards. This scheme is restricted to 20 businesses who have received funding from the County Enterprise Board or Local Enterprise Office.
- A total of 14 entries were received by the closing date. Assessments have commenced.

4. Student Enterprise Awards

- Work has commenced with the Secondary Schools on a County basis and the programme has been launched with delivery over the next 6 months.
- 21 schools have now confirmed participation with over 400 students.
- Mentors/Advisers are working with the schools to develop real trading/business projects building towards a County Final in March 2015.
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5. Coder Dojo Initiative

- Software programming for school children
- Groups in the County have been contacted regarding funding submissions and request
- Six groups have responded with funding requests and a presentation is being scheduled in Killorglin Library for the 2nd December 2014.

6. Rural Biz Programme

- Delivered in association with LEADER Companies, this programme supports rural business development.
- 20 prospective businesses were interviewed on 30th October.

7. Local Enterprise Office Branding

- A full suite of branded literature, display stands, folders have been prepared and are now available.
- Office relocation planning has commenced

8. Grant Approvals and Training Activities

Action	Metrics
No of Enterprise projects for funding received in 2014	53 projects
No. of projects approved Year to date	29 projects
Funding approved for projects	€279,701
Potential Job Creation	37 jobs
Cost per Job	€7,559
No of projects submitted for November meeting	4
No. of mentoring and advisory assignments to date (2-3 sessions per assignment)	88
Business Advice Clinics	20 to date (150 persons)
Training programme and seminar attendance to date (ongoing work)	593 persons
Start Your own Business Programmes	11 programmes to date
Business Growth programmes	4 programmes to date
Digital marketing	9 programmes
Alternative sources of finance	1 programme
Mobile marketing seminar	1 programme
2015 Budget Briefing	1 programme
Employment law seminar	March 2014
Enterprise Month	1 programme
Food Academy Programme	1 programme
Running a stall in a Farmer's Market	1 programme
Online Trading Voucher seminar	1 programme

Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)

Cllr. S Fitzgerald referred to the LOTS (division of the County) for the Social Inclusion and Community Participation Programme said that he wished to highlight his disappointment that representations made to have Gaeltacht areas included as a unit was not agreed by the LCDC.

Chief Executive Ms. M Murrell said that it is important to state that all decisions taken complied with the guidelines for the establishment of the Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) as contained in the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Cllr. P Daly said that the Government should be requested to amend the membership ratio for committees to ensure a workable model.

Ms. Murrell said that in accordance with the guidelines, 51% of membership must be sourced from the community sector (non statutory) and 49% from the statutory agencies. She said that the last meeting was very positive and going forward a lot of work will be done on a consensus basis.

14.11.10.04 Disposal of Property

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Brassil SECONDED by Cllr. J Moloney it was agreed to dispose of a plot of land measuring 0.897 acres approximately in total, situated in the townland of Kilcolgan Upper in the DED of Tarbert to (*Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request*) in accordance with the terms of notice issued 28th October, 2014 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001; Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Article 206 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B O'Connell SECONDED by Cllr. J Finucane it was agreed to dispose of a plot of land comprising 0.365 HA (0.901 St. Ac.) in area, situated in the townlands of Crag and Knockeen in the DEDs of Ballyegan and Castleisland to (*Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request*) in accordance with the terms of notice issued 28th October, 2014 pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and Article 206 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001.

14.11.10.05 Overdraft Accommodation 2015

Ms. A McAllen referred members to her report dated 31st October, 2014 on this item which was circulated.

“To date this year the Council has not had to avail of any overdraft borrowing but as the level and timing of income for the remainder of the year is unpredictable at this stage and, in line with previous practice to guard against cash flow difficulties, the Council needs to have available access to overdraft accommodation, if required. On that basis, therefore, the approval of the Council is sought to the incurring of overdraft borrowings not exceeding €9m during the 12-months ending 31 December 2015. This temporary borrowing facility may be

required to enable the Council carry on normal business pending the recoupment of various grants from Government Departments and State Agencies for monies spent on grant-aided works and day-to-day expenditure. In addition, the difficulties experienced in the collection of local income streams may have cashflow implications for the Council.

As previously discussed at Council Meetings, every effort is made to recoup grant-aid expeditiously and to achieve as high a collection performance level as possible of local income and, so, minimise the need for the overdraft accommodation outlined, as far as possible. In the present difficult financial climate access to cashflow, either own resources or borrowings, is essential to enable the Council carry on its normal programme of works pending longer term funding or income coming on stream. The management of cash-flow is becoming ever more challenging. This borrowing is subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.

The availability of cash to fund our operations on a day-to-day basis will remain a key challenge to enable us continue our work programmes, including our day-to-day activities, in view of the Government restrictions on borrowing including overdraft. Active management of this area is a key objective”.

Cllr. T Ferris asked if there is a reason why overdraft accommodation is required.

Ms. A McAllen said that while it is not anticipated that an overdraft will be required in 2015, an application for overdraft accommodation was made as a precautionary measure should the need for emergency funding arise.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J Moloney SECONDED by Cllr. M. Kennelly it was agreed to approve the incurring of overdraft accommodation not exceeding €9m for the 12 months ending 31st December 2015.

14.11.10.06 Dublin Declaration on age friendly cities and communities.

Mr. M Scannell referred members to a report from Mr. J Breen Director of Sustainable Communities & Quality of Life dated 3rd November, 2014 on this item which was circulated.

“Kerry County Council has been invited to participate in the signing of the Dublin Declaration on the 27th November next at a ceremony to be held in Dublin.

This declaration is a joint initiative under the auspices of the World Health Organisation which commits our Local Authority to work towards making Kerry a great place to grow old in. Officials have recently met with Age Friendly Ireland which is an organisation which will assist in developing Age Friendly Strategies across the Country. Many Local Authorities have already developed Age Friendly Strategies and have also put in place Age Friendly Alliances operating

across statutory, voluntary and non-Governmental Organisation to work towards and improve the outcomes and opportunities for those of an older age.

Given that the over 65 population is set to increase nationally by 250% by 2036, and the over 80 population by 400% by 2041, it is most important that we begin to plan for these demographic changes and that Kerry continues to be a great place to grow old in. To achieve this we will have to consider our impacts and policies in the areas of:-

- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
- Housing
- Transportation
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Community Support and Health Services
- Communication and Information; among others.

Kerry County Council has a proud and enviable record of working very closely with our older population to improve their quality of life and our commitment to the Dublin Declaration will see us intensify and advance this work in an inclusive and participatory fashion.

Your support for the signing of the Dublin Declaration by our Cathaoirleach, Cllr. John Brassil is recommended”.

Mr. Scannell made a presentation to the members summarising the content of the strategy as follows:

Ireland's National Programme for age friendly cities and counties commenced in County Louth in 2009.

This strategy has been strongly influenced by the World Health Organisation (WHO) *Guidelines for an Age Friendly City* which can be applied to communities of all sizes. The plan aims to engage cities in several countries in making their communities more age-friendly. The proposed plan for Kerry is based on the framework in that document.

The aim is to make Kerry an ‘Age Friendly County’, with all agencies working together to promote and maintain the best possible health and well-being of older people, and to make the County itself a great place to grow old in.

The world's older population is increasing, with people living longer and healthier lives, and experiencing older age very differently from previous generations.

The total population of Kerry as per the Central Statistics Office (CSO) 2011 is 145,502. Over a quarter of the population of the county are aged 65 + and live alone. 3.9% of Ireland's 65+ population live in County Kerry.

The strategy must be ratified by the members of Kerry County Council in order to proceed to the establishment of the Kerry Age Friendly Alliance and the official launch of the Kerry Age Friendly Programme in 2015.

Cllr. M Gleeson welcomed the proposal and said that this project is of great importance in an area that has been hugely neglected to date. Making it possible for older people to continue living independently in their own homes for as long as possible with a good quality of life, would be of enormous benefit to the economy both locally and nationally. He said that it is important that older people are reminded to wear their pendant personal panic alarms. Also, it must be acknowledged that some older people may find technology confusing and payment options other than electronic payment systems should continue to be available to them.

Cllr. N Foley supported the proposal and welcomed the presentation. She said that while it is sad that a strategy is needed to make communities more age-friendly, we must now work towards putting the plan in place and getting it right. She asked if funding will be available to progress the programme in Kerry.

Cllr. J Finucane welcomed the presentation and supported the project. He said that retired people should be a target market for tourism in Kerry as it would be hugely beneficial to the economy of the county. He added that personal security is a concern for many older people and called on the Minister for Justice to proceed with the recruitment of Gardaí early in 2015. He PROPOSED that the members support the participation of Kerry County Council in the signing of the Dublin Declaration.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Brassil said that as Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council, he looked forward to attending the signing of the Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly Cities and Communities on 27th November. He said that while he agreed with Cllr. M Gleeson's suggestion that alternative payment options should remain available, we should not underestimate the ability of the elderly to adapt to technology as many older people are very adept at using email and iPads.

Cllr. T Ferris supported the proposal and said that she hoped that a piecemeal approach would not be taken to the strategy as we should endeavour to make Kerry a great place for older people to live in and visit.

Cllr. D Grady welcomed and supported the proposal.

With regard to funding, Mr. M Scannell said that there is no additional funding available for the putting in place of age friendly strategies but any programme

being advanced by Kerry County Council must be mindful of its impact on the elderly.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J Finucane SECONDED by Cllr. M Gleeson it was agreed to support the participation of Kerry County Council in signing the Dublin Declaration on age friendly cities and communities.

14.11.10.07 Report on Conferences

- (a) It was unanimously agreed to note Cllr. J. Finucane's written report on the Entente Florale Awards Ceremony held in Azazhalombatta, Hungary from 25th to 28th September 2014.
- (b) It was unanimously agreed to note the Cathaoirleach's written report on the AILG Training on Housing held in Nenagh Co. Tipperary on 16th October 2014.
- (c) It was unanimously agreed to note Cllr. J Moloney's written report on the AILG Training on Housing held in Nenagh Co. Tipperary on 16th October 2014.
- (d) It was unanimously agreed to note Cllr. J Sheahan's written report on the AILG Training on Housing held in Nenagh Co. Tipperary on 16th October 2014.
- (e) It was unanimously agreed to note Cllr. D Nolan's written report on the AILG Training on Housing held in Nenagh Co. Tipperary on 16th October 2014.
- (f) It was unanimously agreed to note Cllr. R Beasley's written report on the LAMA Conference held on 17th & 18th October 2014.
- (g) It was unanimously agreed to note Cllr. J Finucane's written report on the LAMA Conference held on 17th & 18th October 2014.
- (h) It was unanimously agreed to note Cllr. B Cronin's written report on the LAMA Conference held on 17th & 18th October 2014.
- (i) It was unanimously agreed to note Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Brassil's written report on his visit to London from 24th to 26th October 2014.

14.11.10.08 Conferences, Seminars and Training

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. JJ Culloty SECONDED by Cllr. N Foley it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Brassil at the Fire Service

Long Service Awards to be held in the Red Cow Moran Hotel, Dublin on 13th November 2014.

14.11.10.09 Opening of Tenders

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J Finucane SECONDED by Cllr. T O'Brien it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the Site Investigation Contract on the N70 Kilderry Bends Improvement Scheme – Closing date Tuesday 25th November, 2014 at 4.00pm

14.11.10.10 Reception of Deputation

Cllr. T Ferris PROPOSED that a deputation be received from the residents of An Fearann, Ardferf concerning structural issues with regard to their properties at the next Tralee Municipal District meeting.

Cllr. T O'Brien SECONDED the proposal.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Brassil said that approval for this deputation should be sought at a meeting of the members of the Tralee Municipal District.

Mr. G O'Brien stated that the approval of deputations to attend Municipal District meetings must be done at the relevant Municipal District meeting. The Standing Orders for the Municipal District meetings outline the position.

14.11.10.11 Notices of Motion

1. Development of road that will bypass Adare.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M Gleeson PROPOSED:

That this Council call on the NRA, Limerick County Council and City Council and An Bord Pleanála to develop with absolute urgency a road that will pass Adare and thus allow the people of Kerry and visitors to the county the respect and dignity of travelling in reasonable comfort and within reasonable timeframes.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

Cllr. M Gleeson said that Kerry is being severely damaged socially and economically by the constant traffic gridlock on the way into the county due to the need for a bypass of Adare on the N21 and Macroom on the N22. Any company looking to establish a business in Kerry would be deterred by the road infrastructure. He said that the members of Macroom Municipal District have arranged to meet with the Minister for Transport to discuss proposals for a bypass for the town and suggested that the members of Kerry County Council should consider making a request to join the meeting.

He added that Kerry County Council should consider making a formal complaint to the European Union regarding the urgent need for the provision of an adequate road network into Kerry and if a satisfactory response is not received, Island Status should be sought for the county as it would then be entitled to grant aid and special funding

Cllr. N Kelleher **SECONDED** the proposal and agreed that the current road infrastructure on the approaches to the county is having a detrimental impact on securing any form of industry in Kerry.

2. Increase social care/social work staff for mental health services.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. T McEllistrim PROPOSED:

I am calling on the Government for more social care/social work staff and consequently more services for children, young adults and adults in mental health.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

Cllr. T McEllistrim said that he is very concerned about the lack of social care staff available for children and young adults dealing with mental health issues, particularly in North Kerry. He read the following into the record of the meeting:

"I propose more social care/social work staff and consequently more services for children, young adults and adults in mental health.

Whist canvassing door to door I was outraged, saddened and shocked to learn about the lack of social care and social work staff in north Kerry area. I was informed about the lack of staff in private and public organisations that catered for children, young adults and adults with mental health difficulties. Here are examples – a concerned mother explained about her daughter's eating disorder and said that there was no suitable accommodation to cater for her 16 year old daughter's needs in Kerry. Unfortunately she is currently being treated in a clinic in England. Important to note that her daughter was in contact with mental health services in Kerry but explained that she was on waiting lists for programmes to complete however this was quite lengthy.

I was informed by a number of mental health professionals' such as a psychiatrist, in her words *"that there is a huge need for more staff in mental health in Kerry, the waiting lists are too long"*. The psychiatrist continued to highlight that the significance of more staff (social care and social work) particularly in mental health would contribute to empower the child, young adult and significant

people in the child's world to work towards coping more effectively with difficulties, and to promote the child's well-being, welfare and protection.

I believe the most important aspect and proposal is to ensure that all children in Kerry are protected and their welfare is paramount. I was also informed by social workers in north Kerry area that there is a huge need for more social workers in child protection, as they believe that they are crippled with work and unable to provide the best possible service because of a lack of time and resources. The importance of securing more social workers in child protection would ensure that social workers provide vital support to children and families at risk in the community. I am aware that there is currently a panel of social workers and question is the panel moving in Kerry? Particularly the 2013 panel as I believe that no social worker has been offered a job in Kerry".

Cllr. T Ferris **SECONDED** the motion and said that the services currently available are wholly inadequate and there is very little support for people dealing with mental health issues. She gave an example of a person in her constituency who has been failed by the system for approximately 15 years due to lack of resources. She said that she is aware of a case concerning a child whose family is unable to get the support required by their child.

3. Welcome Circular RSD 01/2014 on the control of vehicle speeds in housing estates.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M Kennelly PROPOSED:

That this Council welcomes Circular RSD 01/2014 on the Control of Vehicle Speeds in Housing Estates, issued by Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, to all Local Authorities (following his meeting with the "Jake's Legacy Campaign") requiring an examination of speed limits in residential areas and housing estates to improve road safety for cyclists and pedestrians, especially children; and requests the Chief Executive, in line with the Circular, to initiate consultation with residents across our County with a view to determining the need for new Bye-Laws for 30 km/h limits for residential estates and additional selected safety zones.

The following report issued:

This Circular was issued to local authorities on the 15th October 2014.

The purpose of this Circular is threefold:

- **To advise local authorities of the results of the recent survey in respect of the numbers of housing estates which have ramps and 30 km/h speed limits, from all local authorities that responded to the survey**
- **To reiterate the existing policy regarding traffic calming procedures for housing estates and on streets and roads in Ireland and**

- To request local authorities to undertake a review process of speed limits in housing estate so that the Executive and the Elected Members can decide if existing limits are appropriate to ensure a safe environment, particularly for children.

In relation to the provision of new measures to reduce vehicle speeds in estates and residential areas, the Minister has advised that the Department is updating its guidance to take account of best practice and, in particular, it should be noted that the Speed Limit Guidelines are currently being updated and are due to be issued before the end of this year. The purpose of Department's policy framework is to guide local authorities in assessing what actions can best deliver safety improvements in residential areas – the measures selected will depend on the particular location and local authorities need to have the flexibility to make decisions that take account of local conditions.

As previously agreed with Council, this information will assist the Operations SPC in developing a policy for the provision of speed control measures in residential estates.

The Department has also recommended the use of a combination 30 km/h speed limit sign, in conjunction with a yellow warning sign showing "children at play" at the entry to a housing estate. This should increase awareness for drivers entering an estate of the need to reduce speed and show that there may be children at play in the estate. It would also provide consistent signage in estates nationally.

There will be a need to compile lists of estates where it is considered that the use of the new combination sign would be a suitable approach (that is, in estates where existing speed are too high). In this regard the definition of a housing estate is "a self contained grouping of houses with single or multiple entry points for vehicles, often with green areas or play areas associated with them". Small estates with short lengths of road may not require such measures, as the effectiveness is very limited.

To assist in compiling this list we will advertise the proposal within the next month, seeking the views of residents if they believe that their estate should be considered for such treatment. We will also consult with the members at Municipal District level in compiling the list.

The Department have advised that the cost of erecting such signage can be submitted for funding under the 2015 Low Cost Safety Programme. Where estates are considered suitable for these measures, it will be necessary to

prioritise applications having regard to criteria which can be developed in conjunction with the Operations SPC.

Where funding is provided, and it is considered appropriate to apply these special speed limits, Bye-Laws will be developed, in accordance with current statutory provisions.

To: Local Authority Chief Executives

15th October 2014

RSD 01/2014

Circular on the control of Vehicle Speeds in Housing Estates

Dear Chief Executive,

The purpose of this Circular is threefold:

- To advise local authorities of the results of the recent survey in respect of the numbers of housing estates which have ramps and have 30 km/h speed limits
- To reiterate the existing policy regarding traffic calming procedures for housing estates and on streets and roads in Ireland and
- To request local authorities to undertake a review process of speed limits in housing estate so that the Executive and the Elected Members can decide if existing limits are appropriate to ensure a safe environment, particularly for children.

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport has overall policy responsibility for road safety matters and the provision of speed limits is catered for in the Road Traffic Acts.

The improvement and maintenance of regional and local roads is the statutory responsibility of each local authority, in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of the Roads Act 1993. Works on those roads are funded from local authorities' own resources supplemented by State road grants. The selection and prioritisation of works is a matter for the local authority.

Default speed limits

Default speed limits are limits which automatically apply and include the motorway speed limit of 120 km/h, the speed limit on non-urban national roads of 100 km/h, the speed limit on non-urban regional and local roads of 80 km/h and the built-up area speed limit of 50 km/h. Special speed limits (including 30 km/h) may also be applied to roads using bye-laws and these limits override the previous default limits. The making of bye-laws for special speed limits requires a

public consultation procedure to be followed and ultimately any decision is made by the Elected Members of the relevant county or city.

Definition of Housing Estate

There is no standard definition of what constitutes a housing estate. For the purposes of this Circular it may be convenient to consider a housing estate as a self-contained grouping of houses with single or multiple entry points for vehicles. Such areas often have green areas or play areas associated with them.

1. Recent Survey

The following is a summary of the main findings of a recent survey (6 August 2014- 2 September 2014) conducted by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in respect of speed ramps and speed limits in local areas;

- There are 8,725 housing estates nationally (from all local authorities who responded)
- On average approx. 14% of estates have speed ramps installed.
- 1,046 main roads/streets have speed ramps
- Excluding Dublin City Council which is referred to separately, 135 estates (or 1.5% of estates) have 30 km/h speed limits
- Three residential areas in Dublin City have a 30 km/h speed restriction, namely; Marino (D3), Irishtown (D4) and adjacent to the South Lotts Road (D4).
- €3,200 is the average cost of installing a speed ramp
- In general, decisions regarding speed ramp installation are made by the local authority Executive, with input from the Elected Members and generally follows the receipt of representation and a public consultation process.
- The principal guidance documents that local authorities refer to when deciding on ramp installation include the Traffic Management Guidelines, the Design Manual for Urban Streets (DMURS) and also local policy documents.
- Local authorities have listed a wide range of criteria/factors which are considered when assessing the need for ramps on a particular road and these include:
 - Accident history
 - Traffic volume
 - Actual traffic speeds
 - Road alignment (horizontal and vertical)

- Proximity of schools
- Presence of “rat runs” where there is significant residential development
- Possibility of alternative traffic calming measures
- Positive / negative feedback from residents
- Extent of direct access from frontage along a road
- Pedestrian generators
- Danger to vulnerable road users.

2. Existing national guidelines regarding speed limits and engineering measures to provide traffic calming

There are a number of existing documents which are relevant to the discussion of providing appropriate speed limits and engineering measures (including ramps) within housing estates;

- Traffic Management Guidelines 2003
- Guidelines for the Application of Special Speed Limits 2010
- Traffic Signs Manual 2010
- Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets 2013

Traffic Management Guidelines 2003

This was the first Irish document to give detailed guidance regarding suitable traffic calming measures for different situations and to give detailed advice on the design and use of different types of ramps and other types of traffic calming measures. It also addresses the issue of speed management on roads. It introduces the concept of approaching the design of roads in new housing estates in a different way so that speed management is an intrinsic part of the road design and layout.

Guidelines for the Application of Special Speed Limits 2010

Section 5.7 of these guidelines gives particular guidance in respect of 30 km/h speed limits. It notes that in some instances such speed limits may need to be implemented in conjunction with physical traffic calming measures such as ramps. Following the Speed Limit Review in 2013 these Special Speed Limit Guidelines are currently being updated.

Traffic Signs Manual 2010

Clear and effective traffic signs are essential for the efficient operation of the road network, for the enforcement of traffic regulations and for road safety. The Traffic Signs Manual provides details of the traffic signs which may be used on roads in Ireland, including their layout and symbols, the circumstances in which each sign may be used and rules for positioning them.

Chapter 6 of the Manual provides details of the warning signs which may be used on roads in Ireland. Warning signs are used to alert drivers to danger or potential danger ahead. They indicate the need for special caution and may require a consequent manoeuvre or reduction in speed. Appropriate use of warning signs assists with road safety. The application of the signs should be consistent, so that the signs are accepted by drivers as warnings of potential hazards.

Chapter 6.17.8 illustrates Sign W 142 Children Crossing (*see Figure 1 below*). This sign may be used to alert drivers to the danger of children crossing roads in *residential areas* other than at schools and playgrounds. The sign is provided for use in towns and villages and on roads of a primarily residential character with continuous housing frontage. The sign *may also be provided at the entrances to housing estates* from main traffic routes.



Figure 1: Sign W 142 (Children Crossing)

Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013)

The Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets is a joint publication between the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) and the Department of Environment Community and Local Government (DECLG) and re-examines the role and function of streets within our urban areas, where vehicular traffic is most likely to interact with pedestrians and cyclists and where public transport can most effectively and efficiently be planned for and provided.

It places emphasis on designing new urban roads and streets in such a way that excessive speeds are discouraged. It gives guidance on how to achieve this by using measures such as restricting carriageway width, limiting forward visibility and by careful horizontal design (including the avoidance of long straight sections of roadway). By following this new design standard for new housing estates and streets local authorities will avoid the need to have to retrofit ramps in the future. It is also open to local authorities to apply many of the principles set out in DMURS to existing estates and streets when a decision is made to upgrade them. However other approaches will also be needed when dealing retrospectively with existing estates which have problems with traffic speeds and these are referenced in the Traffic Management Guidelines.

3. New measures to reduce vehicle speeds in estates and residential areas

The guidance documents already issued by the DTTAS provide a policy framework for public roads under the responsibility of local authorities in respect of:

- Designing new estates so that vehicles travel at much lower speeds than heretofore (DMURS) and
- Revamping existing estates using a wide range of measures (including the use of signage and speed ramps) to assist in lowering vehicle speeds (Traffic Management Guidelines, Speed Limit Guidelines and DMURS)

The DTTAS continues to update its guidance to take account of best practice. In particular it should be noted that the Speed Limit Guidelines are currently being updated and are due to be issued before the end of this year. The purpose of DTTAS's policy framework is to guide local authorities in assessing what actions can best deliver safety improvements in residential areas – the measures selected will depend on the particular location and local authorities need to have the flexibility to make decisions that take account of local conditions.

The most important objective is to reduce vehicle speeds in housing estates so as to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists and especially children and the Department sees the increased use of a 30km/h speed limit in residential areas as a measure that will help to achieve that objective.

The following process is being recommended to local authorities;

New Signage

- A. The use of a combination 30 km/h speed limit sign in conjunction with a yellow warning sign showing “children at play” at the entry to a housing estate (a combination sign is shown in Appendix 1). The benefits of the new sign would include;
- High visibility at entrances to housing estates
 - Clearly indicates that a reduced 30 km/h speed limit applies and links this lower speed limit to a warning sign which shows children at play
 - Can be quickly implemented by local authorities within a reasonable timeframe
 - Would provide consistent signage in estates across the country.

Consultation

- B. Local authorities should compile lists of estates where they believe that the use of the new combination sign would be a suitable approach (that is, in estates where existing speed are too high). To assist them in compiling such lists local authorities may if they wish advertise what is proposed and ask residents to respond if they believe that their estate should be considered for

such treatment. Other approaches are also possible. Local authorities could seek the assistance of their Elected Members in compiling their list.

New Bye-laws

- C. Local authorities should then go through the process of adopting bye-laws for the new 30 km/h limits for the selected estates and zones. In order to do this it will be necessary for these estates to be taken in charge.
- D. The next stage is to erect the new speed limit and warning signs. The Roads Division of the Department is prepared to consider assisting with the cost of purchasing and erecting these signs under the 2015 Low Cost Safety programme. Eligible Councils under this programme may insert a single Low Cost Safety scheme to cover all such proposed works in 2015.
- E. Once the signs are in place local authorities should seek to identify if the new speed limits are being observed. Portable speed measurement devices could be used by Councils to collect the required information.

Other Traffic Calming Measures

- F. If a local authority detects a speeding problem in an estate it can identify what engineering measures (in accordance with national guidance and including the use of ramps) should be used within that estate to reduce speeds.

Local authorities are requested to draw up a timeline for completion of this multi-stage process and to submit the proposed timeline to roadsafety@dtas.ie by the 7th November 2014.

Local authorities should note that a further circular will issue later this year as a follow up to the 2013 Speed Limit Review and will address various action points from that Review. It should also be noted that all works undertaken on roads including the installation of speed ramps and the provision of new speed limit zones should be recorded on the MapRoad pavement management system.

Maurice Treacy
Principal Officer
Roads Safety Division
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Appendix A

Combination of 30 km/h sign and Warning sign W142



Cllr. M Kennelly acknowledged the reply and referred to the sad personal story for the family behind "Jake's Legacy Campaign"

Cllr. N Foley supported the motion and acknowledged that the Operations SPC is examining traffic calming measures in housing estates. She said that it is important that the area outside estates is also included for consideration for the provision of speed control measures.

As Cllr. Fitzgerald was not present, notice of motion no. 4 was moved on his behalf on the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M O'Shea SECONDED by Cllr. L Purtill.

4. Additional long term beds at new Community Hospital in Dingle.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr.S Fitzgerald PROPOSED:

That we the members of Kerry County Council contact the HSE and request them to provide 10 additional long term beds at the third unused module of the purpose built new Community Hospital in Dingle.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

6. Emergency funding for Crumlin Children's Hospital

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. N Foley PROPOSED:

That emergency funding be put in place for Crumlin Children's Hospital to help tackle and alleviate the unacceptable long waiting lists for young people requiring significant complex and important spinal surgery.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

Cllr. N Foley said that there are 130 patients on the current waiting list for this surgery due to lack of resources.

Cllr. J Finucane SECONDED the motion and said that the waiting period for the people who require this surgery is unacceptable.

Cllr. M Kennelly said that he totally supported the motion and agreed that the Minister for Health should be requested to provide emergency funding for the hospital to help reduce the long waiting period.

7. Ask Irish Water to suspend all charges until the current difficulties have been addressed.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J Brassil PROPOSED:

That we the members of Kerry County Council call on Irish Water to suspend all charges for a minimum of 6 months until the current well publicised difficulties have been addressed.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Brassil called on the members to support his motion and said that people should not have to pay water charges until the current level of confusion surrounding the whole issue has been resolved.

Cllr. B Cronin SECONDED the motion and said that the situation at present is totally confusing for ordinary people. At the briefing for Councillors held in Cork, which was subsequently suspended, he had requested that members of Irish Water would address a meeting of Kerry County Council to give clarification on water charges. There was also conflicting information with regard to water charges for members of Group Water Schemes. Irish Water had indicated that the secretary of the group would receive the bill but Cllr. Cronin had also been told that members of group schemes had received the pack from Irish Water and were being asked to complete the form.

Cllr. M Cahill supported the motion and said that water charges should be suspended in the case of consumers on the Mid Kerry Regional Water Supply until a reliable supply of water is in place.

Cllr. D Quigg supported the motion and said that there is also concern with regard to the quality of the covers of the water meters being installed at present.

He PROPOSED the following Emergency Motion:

“In light of today’s information regarding Irish Waters non-conformance with regard to the BS standards required for the covers on water meters in this county, I am calling on this Council to carry out a full investigation into this matter on the grounds of health and safety. It is believed that out of the three codes of cover class A, B, C there is grave concern that where class B covers are required that only class C were installed. This once again highlights the issue of competency with Irish Water and adds to the present shambles that has now become a complete mess”.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Brassil SECONDED the motion and requested that this matter be referred to Irish Water.

Cllr. N Foley asked that an exemption from water charges also be requested for the residents of St. Brendan’s Park in Tralee where lead levels in drinking water exceed the maximum allowable concentration.

The Chief Executive Ms. M Murrell clarified that the domestic water metering project is the responsibility of Irish Water therefore; Kerry County Council has no liability with regard to the quality of meter covers used.

With regard to a meeting with Irish Water she referred to the Mayors Report on the meeting of the CPG and said that she had undertaken to contact the Regional Operations Manager of Irish Water to request a meeting and would advise the members when a response is received.

Cllr. D Grady said that in view of the level of confusion and misinformation regarding water charges, Irish Water should be requested to suspend all water charges until clarification has been received.

8. Support for the Carers' Association.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. T Ferris PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council supports the Carers' Association and calls on the Minister for Social Protection to amend the Social Welfare Bill to make provision for the restoration of the Respite Care Grant.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

Cllr. T Ferris said that the removal of the Respite Care Grant is one of the meanest measures introduced by the current administration.

Cllr. N Foley SECONDED the motion.

9. Request meeting with the NRA to discuss issues at Mossie's Turn on the N72.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J Sheahan PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council seek an urgent meeting with the NRA to have the issues pertaining to Mossie's Turn on the N72, adjacent to Gortnahaneboy West, rectified.

The following report issued:

The Kerry National Road Design office is currently carrying out an assessment of this section of road, including a detailed survey of the site, traffic counts, vehicle speed survey etc. This information will form part of a Technical Review Report of the Road Geometry which the NRA has requested be prepared.

Once this report is complete it will be submitted to the NRA for their review and we will follow up with the NRA on the feasibility of funding any improvement works identified.

Cllr. J Sheahan said that the local community is very concerned that a fatal accident will occur at this location.

Cllr. M Gleeson supported the motion and said that this matter should be addressed immediately.

10. Set up specific committee to deal with issues concerning the fishing industry in Kerry.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M Cahill PROPOSED:

In the interest of job creation and the development of the tourism industry in the County and further to previous requests, I propose that Kerry County Council set up a specific committee to deal with issues concerning the fishing industry in Kerry, the aquaculture industry, coastal erosion and tidal flooding, the development of piers and harbours and the upkeep of existing ones and the development of the marine and leisure industry along the Kerry coastline.

The following report issued:

The Strategic Policy Committee Scheme was approved at the September meeting of Kerry County Council.

The Economic Development and Enterprise SPC has responsibility for developing policy in the following areas:-

- **Planning and Sustainable Development**
- **Capital Infrastructure**
- **Business Support (LEO)**
- **Economic Planning**
- **Promoting Kerry**

In addition to 7 no. Elected Members, the Committee will have sectoral representation from the following areas:-

Environment/Conservation

Agriculture/Farming

Business/Commercial

Trade Union

Údarás na Gaeltachta

There is no provision for the establishment of Committees outside of the SPC system and it is clear that the issues raised in the Notice of Motion are appropriate for consideration by this SPC.

Kerry County Council is required to develop and adopt an Economic and Community Plan during 2015. The Economic Development and Enterprise SPC will have a central role in the preparation of the economic element of the Plan and the Chair of the SPC will be a member of the Steering Group which is being set up to oversee the preparation of the Plan. The development of the fishing industry, aquaculture, marine and leisure tourism are vital to the future economic development of the County and will form a very important element of the Plan. The preparation of this Plan will also be subject to extensive public consultation which will enable all interested groups to have an input into the final Plan.

Cllr. M Cahill said that he had raised this matter at previous meetings. He said that the development of the marine industry and marine leisure had huge potential on the coastline of the county and should be prioritised.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Brassil SECONDED the motion and said that the fishing industry as an attraction to the county is under-advertised. This matter should be prioritised by the relevant SPC.

12. School transport service for the children of Annascaul, post primary catchment area.

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

That Kerry County Council pass a resolution to ask the Minister for Education & Skills to amend the school transport service for the children of Annascaul, post primary catchment area and to clarify if Annascaul is within the Gaeltacht boundary area of the Dingle Peninsula.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. M O'Shea said that this issue arises in September every year. The Gaeltacht catchment area for Pobalscoil Corca Dhuibhne has overlapped into Annascaul. As a result, parents who want to send their children to school in Tralee or Milltown must drive them to Inch or follow the bus to Annascaul Cross, if they want to avail of the school transport service.

Cllr. T Ferris SECONDED the motion said that it did not make sense that the bus passes by Annascaul and students must follow it to a pick up point.

13. Examine proposed areas to be covered by the new National Broadband Plan.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D Nolan PROPOSED:

That the proposed areas to be covered by the new National Broadband Plan be examined in detail and issues or conflicting local views on the national survey be forwarded to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources by Kerry County Council as a matter of urgency.

The following report issued:

Kerry County Council has made a detailed submission to the most recent public consultation process for Broadband and will also make a submission to the recently announced National Broadband Plan. This submission will be informed by the technical knowledge of our IT staff as well as the survey of Broadband availability undertaken in 2012 by the Community and Voluntary Forum which has previously been forwarded to the Minister for Communications.

Cllr. D Nolan welcomed this reply and said that she would like to see Kerry County Council doing an ongoing review and that public consultation with the people of Kerry be considered.

Cathaoirleach J Brassil SECONDED the proposal.

14. Insurance or compensation claims made to Kerry Local Authorities.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. B Cronin PROPOSED:

To ask, in the last two year period, how many individual insurance or compensation claims have been made to Kerry County Council and the three former Town Councils. What were the individual amounts paid out and the nature of such claims.

The following report issued:

In the period in question (01/01/2013 to date) Kerry County Council and the three former Town Council's received 525 written claims for compensation as illustrated in the table below: - Local Authority	2013	2014 to Date	Total Claims Received	Total Payments Made
Kerry C.C.	214	230	444	2,735,487
Tralee T.C.	27	19	46	999,959
Killarney T.C.	15	10	25	286,300
Listowel T.C.	6	4	10	246,449
Total	262	263	525	4,268,195

Cllr. B Cronin said that while he respected the right of any individual to make a justifiable claim on the Local Authority, he considered €4.2m to be a very substantial pay out.

Ms. A McAllen said that all claims made to the Local Authority are thoroughly investigated. The payment of compensation is a matter for the Council's insurers IPB Insurance Ltd. which gives a direct indemnity to the Council. All claims made within a particular year are not paid within that year as some may take several years to finalise.

Chief Executive Ms. M Murrell said that claims for compensation are actively monitored by management and trends and targets are assessed with a view to reducing liability.

Cllr. B Cronin said that in his opinion the standard of repairs carried out to road openings should be improved with a view to reducing incidents which may lead to claims for compensation.

Cllr. J Finucane said that he would like to see a set standard for repairs to footpaths.

Cllr. T Ferris referred to €1m paid out in compensation by the former Tralee Town Council and said that she is aware of a number of incidents in Tralee Town Square and of a person who had a serious fall in Denny Street. €1m would go a long way in resolving the footpath and pavement issues at these locations.

Mr. C O'Sullivan said that claims for compensation are actively managed and monitored and reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J Brassil said that this is an excellent motion and consideration should be given to examining the effect of the amount paid out, on the Council's insurance premium and how the data compares with compensation claims made in other counties.

Ms. A McAllen said that the reply gives details of the amount paid out by the Council's insurers. The excess is not included in the above figure. The current insurance premium for the county is approximately €3.3m.

15. Restructure of the processing of Sheep Dispatch/Movement Document Books.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D McCarthy PROPOSED:

To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine to restructure the processing of Sheep Dispatch/Movement Document Books. At present it takes approximately one month for the Document Books to issue to farmers and also there are only 25 dockets per book. A quicker turnaround and more sheets are needed.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

Cllr. D McCarthy asked that this matter be referred to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to request that the introduction of docket books of 20 and 50 dockets be considered.

Cllr. M O'Shea SECONDED the motion.

16. Invite Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland to attend next meeting of Kerry County Council.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. R Beasley PROPOSED:

That the Council invite Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland to attend its next meeting to discuss the need for an enhanced job creation for the County.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members During 2015 Kerry County Council is required to prepare a six year Economic and Community Plan for the County. A Steering Group is being set up to oversee the preparation of this Plan and both the IDA and Enterprise Ireland will be required to participate in this Steering Group.

Cllr. R Beasley said that he would like representatives of Enterprise Ireland and the IDA to address a meeting of the Council early in 2015.

Cllr. D Grady **SECONDED** the motion

18. Removal of Fluoride from water.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D Quigg PROPOSED:

That this Council pass a motion to call for the removal of Fluoride in our water, here in County Kerry.

The following report issued:

The situation is that Uisce Éireann, as a Water Authority, is legally required by the Fluoridation of Water Supplies Regulations 2007 (Statutory Instrument No. 42 of 2007) to fluoridate public water supplies on behalf of the Health Service Executive. There are strict standards set out in the Regulations and there is also a Code of Practice on Fluoridation of Drinking Water.

The Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health was established in 2004 by the Minister for Health to advise the Minister and to evaluate ongoing research on all aspects of fluoride. In a Position Paper in 2012, the Expert Body said, inter alia:

“Evidence available suggests that water fluoridation is a very successful public policy. There is evidence that it has particular advantages for persons on lower income.

Fundamentally the Expert Body maintains that there continues to be overwhelming evidence that water fluoridation significantly benefits dental health. The Expert Body is satisfied, having studied current peer reviewed scientific evidence worldwide, that water fluoridation, at the optimal level, does not cause any ill effects and continues to be safe and effective in protecting the oral health of all age groups.”

Cllr. D Quigg said that several people had raised this matter with him when canvassing in advance of the local elections earlier this year. He asked for the support of the other members in calling for water fluoridation be discontinued. He said that in Northern Ireland the water is not fluoridated and suggested that other Local Authorities should be encouraged to call for water fluoridation to be discontinued.

Cllr. B Cronin **SECONDED** the motion and said that this matter had been discussed at previous meetings. Many countries in the EU did not fluoridate public water supplies. It is time to take a stand.

Mr. O Ring said that the Government is currently carrying out a review of the fluoridation of public water supplies and a report on the findings is due in December. He advised the members that it would be more rational to wait for the result of the review. He said that there is overwhelming evidence that water fluoridation significantly benefits dental health. The Centre for Disease Control in the US recognises that community water fluoridation as one of the great public health achievements of the 20th century.

Cllr. T Ferris said that while she acknowledged Mr. Rings position, she had an issue with The Director of Water Services indicating that Councillors were being irrational. Opinions regarding the fluoridation of water differ internationally. As elected representatives the members want to state that they do not believe that forcible medication is correct.

Mr. Ring said that he did not accuse members of being irrational. He had merely advised that they should wait until the findings of the review have been published before taking the matter further.

Cllr. J Finucane said that there is an expert body assigned to the review and the members should await the report.

Following discussion on the matter it was unanimously agreed that the proposal would be referred to the Minister for Health for consideration.

20. Review the Casual Trading Bye-Laws in tourism areas.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. G Spring PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council review the Casual Trading Bye-Laws in tourism areas, where rate paying businesses are not located, in light of the increased traffic on the Wild Atlantic Way, and the overall increase in visitor numbers to Ireland in recent years.

The following report issued:

The Council has Casual Trading Bye-Laws in all the major towns and settlements in the County and at locations where there was an identified demand for casual trading, which were adopted by Council in 1997. Our priority at present is to address the significant issues with regulating the existing market in Kenmare.

Over the years there has been a significant decline in applications for casual trading licences. However, we will review those areas where there is a demand for casual trading, in particular for the establishment of Farmers' Markets, identified through the new Business Support Unit, in consultation with community groups and business interests.

In accordance with the statutory provisions of the Casual Trading Act 1995, when deciding whether to designate any land as a casual trading area or to revoke a designation made in bye-laws under the Act, a local authority shall have regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of its functional area, the Development Plan for its functional area, the traffic likely to be generated by the casual trading in the casual trading area and to all other matters that it considers relevant to its decision. The adoption of Casual Trading Bye-Laws also places an obligation on the Council to effectively control and enforce the provisions of the Bye-Laws and this would be extremely difficult to implement outside of the main settlements.

Having regard to the statutory provisions, it would not be considered appropriate to designate areas for casual trading, where rate paying businesses are not located.

Cllr. J Finucane SECONDED the motion.

21. Unsafe speed limits on cul-de-sac roads, bóithríns and minor roads.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M Gleeson PROPOSED:

What progress has been made towards adjusting downwards the ludicrous speed limits imposed, by Department diktat, on cul-de-sac roads, bóithríns and minor roads? The prevailing situation is, as was clearly indicated at the time the signs were erected, nonsensical and unsafe.

The following report issued:

The provision of 80km/hr speed limit signs on local roads, which interfaced with National Roads and Regional Roads, where a higher speed limit of 100 km/hr applied, was a statutory requirement, pursuant to a direction from the Minister for Transport in 2005. There was considerable debate on this issue during the subsequent review of the speed limits for the County and a number of motions were moved by Council asking the Minister to review the Guidelines in this regard.

A review was carried out by the Department in 2013, following which it was recommended that such signage on these local roads be replaced by a new “Rural Speed Limit Sign”, which is depicted below:-



Recommended Rural Speed Limit sign



Rural Speed Limit

There are 269 of these signs to be replaced in the County. For reasons of cost effectiveness and efficiencies, the Department agreed to procure and fund the manufacture and supply of these signs and this contract has been awarded. The Department has also recently amended the necessary legislation to give effect to the new signage and will be organising a national awareness campaign for drivers prior to the delivery of the signs.

We are anticipating delivery of the new signs early in the New Year, the erection of which will be undertaken by our own staff.

Cllr. M Gleeson welcomed the reply and asked that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Transport to advise that the direction from the Minister in 2005 was unsafe for road users and the amendment to the legislation is very welcome.

Cllr. M Cahill supported the motion and said that a review of speed limits must be carried out as a matter of urgency.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Brassil supported the motion.

23. Priority list of the areas in the County where homes have been flooded and are at risk of flooding.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M Cahill PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council draw up a priority list of the areas in the County where family homes have been flooded and are at risk of being flooded in the future and will the Council make a specific application to the Office of Public Works (OPW) for funding for these areas and will the Council confirm if proceeds from the collection of Property Tax can be utilised for the protection of such homes.

The following report issued:

The OPW commenced the CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) Programme in 2011. Currently the Consultants retained by the OPW are preparing detailed Flood Maps which are expected to be published later this year. The final output from the study will define the current and future flood risk in the County and how this risk can be managed. The Council has been working in close liaison with the OPW and their Consultants to ensure the completion of this study as speedily as possible and to identify any measures that are necessary to mitigate against the risk of flooding. This will allow the Council to seek the necessary funding for works identified.

As has been previously outlined to Council, the funding provided from the Local Property Tax effectively only replaces the funding previously provided under the Local Government Fund. This funding forms part of the overall income for the Council used to provide a range of services. Such provision includes for supplementary funding required as a condition of grant aid from the OPW for “Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Schemes”.

Cllr. M Cahill said that while he would like to acknowledge the work that has been carried out to date, people living in areas at risk of being flooded are very concerned that their homes will flood again in the future. He felt that a specific application for funding for these areas should be made to the OPW.

Cllr. D Quigg **SECONDED** the motion and said that he had been contacted by many people who were very concerned that their homes would be flooded again. He agreed that a specific application should be made to the OPW, for funding for remedial works in areas where family homes are at risk of being flooded.

25. Status of broadband services to PAYPOINT/POSTPOINT in Lispole.

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

That Kerry County Council pass a resolution to ask the Minister for Communication to review the status in Lispole, Co Kerry of broadband services to PAYPOINT/POSTPOINT, An Post mini Reposte terminals and in all rural areas, particularly in view of the roll-out of newer machines requiring upgraded broadband.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. M O'Shea referred to a letter which he had received from a concerned business owner in Lispole. He said that this business has a credit card service, An Post Mini Riposte and Paypoint/Postpoint. Currently one of the machines is registering a fault and has been replaced 4 times within a year. Paypoint has informed them that these machines are now geared toward Broadband and therefore the dial up system is very unreliable and data transfer may not occur.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Brassil **SECONDED** the motion.

26. Road safety campaign regarding school buses.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D Nolan PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council requests the Road Safety Authority and relevant Departments involving Transport and Children to initiate and promote a road safety campaign regarding school buses.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

Cllr. D Nolan said that this aspect of road safety merits a campaign.

Cllr. G Spring **SECONDED** the motion and said that he had submitted a similar motion for a previous meeting.

27. Waiting period for applicants for Carers Allowance/ Benefit.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. B Cronin PROPOSED:

To ask the Minister for Social Protection to take immediate action in regard to the 14 to 18 week waiting period for applicants for Carers Allowance/ Benefit. This is totally unacceptable and very frustrating for applicants and their families.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

Cllr. B Cronin **PROPOSED** that a letter issue to the Department of Social Protection requesting that this unacceptable waiting period be reduced.

Cllr. T Ferris **SECONDED** the motion. She agreed that the waiting period is unacceptable and said that carers are required to give up their job or reduce their hours of work in order to qualify for payments and are not entitled to apply for any interim Supplementary Welfare Allowance.

28. Respite care for children with special needs.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D McCarthy PROPOSED:

To ask the Minister for Health why the respite care for special needs children in South Kerry has been withdrawn. Beaufort House has been a respite house until recently when Knockline House, a residential care house, was closed and Beaufort House is now being used as a residential house with parents in need of respite services being told there is no service for the foreseeable future.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

Cllr. D McCarthy said that there is no respite care available for children and their parents in South Kerry for the foreseeable future.

Cllr. B Cronin **SECONDED** the motion and said that respite care is critically important for families of children with special needs. He said that he is aware of parents who had booked respite care for their child and when they contacted the facility the day before going on holidays, they were told that it was no longer available.

30. Level of respite care currently provided in Kerry.

This Local Authority calls on the HSE to improve the level of respite care which is currently provided in this County

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

Cllr. JJ Culloty agreed with the previous speakers and said that the temporary relief that respite care provides to those who are caring for family members is an invaluable service and should be improved.

29. Lack of sexual health services available to students and the general public in Kerry.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. T Ferris PROPOSED:

That this Council is gravely concerned about the lack of sexual health services available to students and the general public in Kerry and call on the Minister to expand services beyond the day clinic held fortnightly at Kerry General Hospital.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members

Cllr. T Ferris said that currently a clinic is held one day per week at Kerry General Hospital and all appointments must be made via the clinic in Cork. While the service provided is of a very high standard, people who wish to avail of it may be waiting six weeks for an appointment and two weeks for test results. She said that the service should be expanded, provided regularly and the waiting time reduced.

Cathaoirleach J Brassil **SECONDED** the motion.

31. Funding for a by-pass of Killorglin.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D Quigg PROPOSED:

That this Council write to the NRA and ask them to provide much needed funding for the N70 By-pass of Killorglin which is badly wanted as Killorglin needs a serious Traffic Management Plan.

The following report issued:

This motion is a matter for resolution by the Members. At present there is no funding mechanism to progress the design of a By-Pass for Killorglin.

Previous reviews of the traffic management in Killorglin have identified the need for a By-Pass of the town, including a second crossing of the River Laune, as the only effective solution to the congestion experienced during peak traffic times.

A Preliminary Route Options Report was prepared in 2009, where 11 route options were considered - 6 to the west of the town including a new bridge crossing and 5 to the East of the town connecting the N72 Killarney Road to the N70 Tralee Road.

Whilst in the absence of an Environmental or Archaeological Assessment, it should be noted that the route options examined were indicative only and could be subject to change during further Preliminary Design of the Scheme, if funding was identified to progress the scheme.

The cost estimates for the options to the west of the town, including a river crossing, varied from €11m to €15m and for the options to the east of the town, varied between €5.5m and €8.8m.

Cllr. D Quigg said that the three approach roads to Killorglin town are in very poor condition. He asked that the NRA be requested to review the provision of funding for the construction of a bypass of Killorglin in 2015. A set down area for coaches and a pedestrian crossing at a central location is also needed in the town.

Cllr. M O'Shea said that at the South and West Kerry Municipal District meeting held on 10th October, 2014 he had proposed that the NRA be requested to provide funding for a feasibility study to be carried out for the construction of a bypass for Killorglin town. He welcomed that other members supported the proposal as the construction of a bypass is the only solution to traffic management in Killorglin.

Cllr. M Cahill said the said that he had asked that a traffic management plan be put in place for Killorglin on previous occasions. Traffic build up tends to occur on the Iveragh road at school drop off and pick up times. The post office, a hotel and a large housing estate are also located in this area. He anticipated that funding for the construction of a bypass of Killorglin would not be available for many years.

17. Abolition of levy on private pension funds.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. JJ Culloty PROPOSED:

In the Summer of 2011 the current Government introduced a levy on private pension funds which they promised would end in 2014. This Local Authority calls for the immediate abolition of same.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members
Cllr. JJ Culloty said that this levy is a tax on pensions and is very unfair.

Cllr. T Ferris reminded Cllr. Culloty that the levy on private pensions has allowed for the retention of the 9% VAT rate on hospitality and tourism related services. She asked where the funding will be found to bridge this gap if the Local Authority supports the motion.

Cllr. JJ Culloty said that he supports the 9% VAT rate on tourism related services and also the abolition of the levy on private pensions.

Cllr. J Finucane **SECONDED** the motion and said that Ireland is one of the few countries in the western economy that does not have a pension plan. Over the past number of years Governments have made no real effort to address the need for the introduction of a mandatory pension scheme for all Irish workers.

Mr. G. O'Brien said a vote would be taken on the motion.

The vote resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Cahill, Cronin, Culloty, Finucane, Foley, Kelleher, Kennelly, Locke, McCarthy, McEllistrim, Moloney, O'Shea, Sheahan, Spring, Thornton, Brassil. **(16)**

Against: Cllrs. Beasley, Ferris, Nolan, Quigg **(4)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

Absent: **(13)**

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion **CARRIED**.

14.11.10.12 Emergency Motions

1. Emergency Motion moved by Cllr. D McCarthy

“That the Minister for Agriculture get involved and negotiate between the farming organisations and the factories with a view to resolving the crisis in the beef sector”.

Cllr. M O’Shea SECONDED the motion.

2. Emergency Motion moved by Cllr. N Moriarty

Cllr. N Moriarty said that the requirements in accordance with subsection 1.9.7 of the General Conditions for a water and waste water connection were an obstacle to rain water harvesting and moved the following emergency motion:

“That Kerry County Council write to Irish Water and the Energy Regulator seeking to have subsection 1.9.7 of the General Conditions for a water and waste water connection removed as this stipulation acts as an obstacle to rain water harvesting and water conservation”.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Brassil SECONDED the motion

3. Emergency Motion moved by Cllr. N Kelleher.

Cllr. N Kelleher said that it is deplorable that patients were only informed today that General Medical Services (GMS) would not be available in Rathmore with immediate effect. If this is not addressed elderly and very ill patients would have to travel to Millstreet to avail of the service. He moved the following emergency motion.

“That the HSE ensure that a General Medical Services (GMS) is provided in Rathmore for the patients who were today informed that services will no longer be provided, with immediate effect, due to the retirement of the local doctor and that the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (FEMPI) cuts be reversed to ensure that something like this does not happen again”.

Cllr. JJ Culloty SECONDED the motion

14.11.10.13 Any other business

Shannon LNG

Cllr. J Finucane referred to the recent decision by the EU to award a grant to Bord Gais to upgrade a pipeline with the UK from which Scotland will benefit. He PROPOSED that a letter on behalf of the members issue to the Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources to reiterate their request made in August 2014, that the Minister meet with them to discuss this matter.

Cllr. J Moloney SECONDED the proposal.

Assessment for RAS

Cllr T Ferris asked that the waiting period for applicants for assessment for the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) be reviewed.

Affordable houses in An Fearann Ardfert

Cllr. T Ferris said that she is aware that the residents of the affordable houses in An Fearann Ardfert were concerned about structural issues concerning their properties.

Applicant for a Housing Adaptation Grant

Cllr. B Cronin asked that an applicant for a Housing Adaptation Grant (details with Housing) would be contacted in connection with the completion of the application.

The meeting concluded at 1.10pm

Gerard O'Brien

A/SEO Corporate Affairs

Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council