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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 , 16 BEALTAINE, 2016**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY, 16 MAY, 2016.**

**PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR**

**Councillors/Comhairleoirí**

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

**Absent/Leath Scéal**

T. O'Brien

**IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR**

Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive	Mr. M. O'Donoghue, A/Dir. of Corp. Serv.
Mr. O. Ring, Director Water Services	Mr. J. Breen, Dir. Sust. Comm./Q of L
Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. Ops., H & S	Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance
Mr. M. Scannell, A/Dir.Job Cr./Sust. ED	Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Administrator
Ms. J. Maher, Fin. Mgmt. Accountant	Mr. D. Doyle, A/SE Operations
Mr. M. O'Leary, SEO Internal Audit	Mr. T. Sheehy, SE Capital Infrast. Unit
Ms. J. Foley, AO Corporate Support	Mr. O. O'Shea, Press & Comm. Officer
Ms. J. McCarthy, SEO Tourism	Mr. T. O'Connor, County Librarian
Mr. B. Lennon, SEE Operations	Mr. K. Leahy, Technican Operations
Ms. B. Reidy, SSO Corporate Support	Ms. M. West, AO Operations
Ms. S. Sheridan, SSO Finance	Mr. P. Teahan, SEE Operations
Mr. F. Hartnett, SEE Operations	Mr. P. Neary, SEE Operations
Ms. K. Doody, SO Operations	Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corporate Support

The meeting commenced at 10.35 am.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P McCarthy took the Chair.

**Retirement of Mr. O. Ring, Director of Water Services**

The Cathaoirleach stated that meeting would be Mr. Ring's last Council meeting as he is retiring. He wished him well in his retirement.

Cllr. D. Grady thanked Mr. Ring for his professionalism and added that he will be sadly missed.

On behalf of the Fianna Fáil Party Cllr. N. Foley acknowledged Mr. Ring's service to the county. He made a fantastic contribution to the county and she wished him well in the next chapter of his life.

On behalf of the Labour Party Cllr. G. Spring thanked Mr. Ring for his prompt response to queries and he wished him well in his retirement.

The Chief Executive thanked Mr. O. Ring for his service in Housing and Water Services where he over saw a huge Capital Programme and the transition to Irish Water which went very smoothly. While she will be sad to see him leave she wished Mr. Ring well in his retirement.

On behalf of the Sinn Féin Party Cllr. R. Beasley stated he wanted to be associated with the tributes to Mr. Ring who was very helpful and courteous. He wished him well for the future.

On behalf of himself and Cllr. M. Healy-Rae, Cllr. J. Healy-Rae thanked Mr. Ring for his service and stated he oversaw the greatest change to Water Services when it was taken over by Irish Water. He wished Mr. Ring and his family well in his retirement.

Cllr. B. Cronin wished Mr. Ring well in his retirement and he thanked him for his assistance to him and his constituents.

Cllr. M. Gleeson complimented Mr. Ring on his recent Radio interview when he came across very well. He thanked him for his excellent service to the county and he wished him well in his retirement.

The Cathaoirleach stated he wanted to be associated with the tributes to Mr. Ring. It was a pleasure to work with him and he always responded to members queries. He wished him a happy retirement.

Mr. Ring thanked the members for their kind words and good wishes and stated it was a pleasure to serve the county for the past 20 years. He always had the support of councillors who were forward thinking. While working with MC O'Sullivan he worked on the Tralee Relief Scheme and he was so impressed with the Council that he moved to Kerry. In conclusion Mr. Ring thanked the members for their courtesy and friendship.

### **Vote of Sympathy**

Cllr. M. Gleeson PROPOSED a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Tom Collins, former Kerry County Manager. He was a Galway man and an engineer by profession. He was kind, showed great respect for councillors and sought to advance the county to make it a better place for everyone.

Cllr. Gleeson also PROPOSED a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Christy O'Connor who served as a professional golfer in Killarney.

Cllr. R. Beasley stated he also served with Mr. Collins. He was County Manager during the recession in the 1980's and he managed the affairs of the Council prudently. Cllr. Beasley stated Christy O'Connor and Harry Redshaw did a lot for tourism in Kerry and he SECONDED the votes of sympathy proposed by Cllr. Gleeson.

Cllr. J. Finucane concurred with the views expressed by previous speakers on the passing of Tom Collins. He served as Chairman of Tralee UDC with Mr. Collins and his involvement in the Flood Relief Scheme for Tralee was significant. That Scheme safeguarded Tralee and prevented further flooding and it was of huge benefit to the town. Mr. Collins was a very pro-active County Manager who treated councillors with respect and dignity. Cllr. Finucane extended his sympathy to Mr. Collins's wife and family.

On behalf of the Fianna Fáil Party Cllr. N. Foley stated she wanted to be associated with the words of sympathy to the Collins Family. Mr. Collins was a gentleman and his reason d'être was to be of service. While she did not serve with him she understood his legacy was one of service and dedication to the county. He will be remembered fondly for the services he provided in the county.

Cllr. D. Grady stated Mr. Collins was a gentleman and he offered his sympathy to his wife and family.

Cllr. G. Spring extended his sympathy to Mr. Collins's family and stated he left a valuable legacy to the county. Cllr. Spring stated Christy O'Connor left a lasting impression on Killarney and he extended his sympathy to Mr. O'Connor's family also.

On behalf of all staff the Chief Executive expressed her sympathy to Mr. Collin's wife and family on their loss. Tom was a true public servant who was fully committed to the county. He developed County Buildings and he gave her encouragement which she appreciated.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated he wanted to be associated with the expressions of sympathy to the Collins Family.

The Cathaoirleach stated he heard much about Mr. Collins reputation and work rate. He extended his sympathy to Mr. Collins wife and family.

**16.05.16.01 Cathaoirleach's Report on the CPG Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2016**

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

**"Item 1 Agenda for the May Council Meeting**

Mr. L. Quinlan briefed members on the Agenda for the May Council Meeting.

In relation to Item 4 Mr. C. O'Sullivan briefed the meeting on the Draft Policy on Traffic Calming in Residential Estates and Local Roads. He stated the Policy is community driven and  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the residents of an estate must request the provision of traffic calming measures.

In relation to Item 5 Mr. O'Sullivan briefed the meeting on the Draft Policy for Public Lighting. He stated all local authorities are required to reduce their carbon footprint and this must be taken into consideration when requests for new lights are being considered. He advised that going forward if a new light is provided at a community facility it would be preferable, once the light is in place, that the community would take over the energy and maintenance costs. Kerry County Council may be taking 20 to 30 housing estates in charge each year over the coming years and this will impact on the Council's energy costs.

The Chief Executive stated there is a requirement on Kerry County Council to reduce energy usage. While great progress was made in this area in water/wastewater treatment plants, energy usage by public lighting is the next key area to be addressed. Kerry County Council must show a reduction in energy consumption which will require a more planned approach to public lighting going forward.

Members asked that the present unsatisfactory system for the repair of public lights would be addressed.

Prior to the Cathaoirleach leaving the meeting for another engagement he made reference to the Kerry County Council Clean-up day which took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April last. Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, it was facilitated by KWD Recycling and was a great

success. The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the work of all the volunteers across the County and the business community who contributed to the success of the County Clean-up day. In addition he thanked Council staff who participated and were involved in the organisation of the day. The Cathaoirleach stated he wanted to particularly mention KWD Recycling for its huge input into the continued success of the day.

The Cathaoirleach asked Mr. C. O'Sullivan to have the accident statistics sign at Ballycarty updated.

He also wished Mr. O. Ring, Director of Water Services well for the future on his retirement.

Cllr. J. Finucane then took the Chair.

**Item 2 Update from the Chairs of the SPCs**

Cllr. R. Beasley stated the Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation SPC will meet on the 9<sup>th</sup> June.

Cllr. J. Moloney stated the Quality of Life SPC will meet at the end of May.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC met on the 6<sup>th</sup> April and a report will be presented to the May Council Meeting.

**Item 3 Launch of LECF**

The CPG agreed that the LECF would be launched on the 20<sup>th</sup> June, the day of the June Council Meeting. Elected members and stakeholders will be invited to attend.

**Item 4 Press Briefing for South Kerry Greenway Project**

The Chief Executive advised members that the design of the Greenway is being finalised and a Press Briefing will be held in the coming weeks to inform the public of the process and the benefits of it.

**Item 5 Approval for the holding of Receptions**

Mr. L. Quinlan informed the meeting Cllr. N. Moriarty requested that a Reception would be held to honour Jack Kennedy from Dingle who was the youngest jockey in Cheltenham.

The CPG agreed that this Reception would be held at a meeting of the South and West Kerry MD.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated he previously moved a motion asking that a Reception would be held to honour the Defence Forces for their Peace Keeping role and also in light of the national commemorations being held this year.

The CPG agreed that the Defence Forces would be honoured at a full Council Meeting.

**Item 6 Any other business**

**Councillors Allocations**

Cllr. N. Kelleher stated some work funded by Councillors Allocations in 2015 has still not been done and he understood this is owing to staff shortages.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated seasonal staff will be recruited for the delivery of the 2016 Roads Programme which will include all work funded from the above Allocations. Management has committed to a review of staffing levels for 2017.

**Homelessness in Kerry**

Following a recent media report in relation to a homeless person the Chief Executive reassured members that contact can be made with the Council's Homeless Services outside of normal working hours including weekends.

Mr. J. Breen confirmed that all emergency services were provided with details of the Homeless Service.

**Retirement of Mr. O. Ring, Director of Water Services**

On behalf of the CPG Cllr. J. Finucane thanked Mr. Ring for his service with Kerry County Council and wished him well on his retirement."

The Cathaoirleach stated the State Ceremony in Banna on the 21<sup>st</sup> April was a very important day for the County and he wanted to pay tribute and acknowledge the very successful manner in which the events of the day passed off.

He was privileged as Cathaoirleach to play a key role in the events of the day.

He paid tribute to all the Council staff that organised the events, the staff who prepared locations for the events and those staff who worked behind the scenes to make the day successful. He mentioned in particular Owen O Shea for the tremendous job he did as MC for the Banna event.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all the other agencies, volunteers, communities and organisations who were involved – particularly the participants and performers.

It was a great day for County Kerry and a great day for Kerry County Council.

**16.05.16.02 Confirmation of Minutes**

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. O'Connell, SECONDED by Cllr. B. Cronin it was resolved that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Kerry County Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 be confirmed.

- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. Cronin, SECONDED by Cllr. S. Locke it was resolved that the Minutes of the April Ordinary Meeting of Kerry County Council held on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 be confirmed.

### **16.05.16.03 Chief Executive's Report to Council**

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

#### **"Introduction**

Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 places an obligation on the Chief Executive to prepare a report, to be known as the Management Report, in relation to the performance of his or her Executive Functions during the preceding calendar month, including implementation of policy or other matters required by the Council in the exercise of its Reserved Functions and the provision of services by the Council.

As agreed by the Members, the report will be forwarded to you on a monthly basis along with the documentation for the ordinary monthly meetings.

Members will also be aware that an update report is provided to each Municipal District Meeting on the work of the Directorates within Kerry County Council. These reports provide updates on such matters as the Roads Works Programme, Water and Wastewater projects, Housing Programme, Environmental Services etc. In order to avoid duplication of reporting, updates on these matters are not included in the Chief Executive's Report.

The attached report has been prepared for the May 2016 Council 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.

#### **LCDC**

The LCDC met on 9<sup>th</sup> May and progressed a programme for the development of the Kerry Age Friendly Initiative. It was agreed that the LCDC would be the main driver for the development of a work programme and additional agencies/organisations will come on board as required.

The LCDC is still awaiting approval on the LEADER Programme for Kerry.

### **Local Economic and Community Plan**

The launch date of the LECP has been agreed with the Corporate Policy Group.

### **Kerry Public Participation Network**

It has been agreed to host a series of workshops in each Municipal District for community organisations on good governance, funding & resources, charitable status, tax clearance and associated material to benefit these groups in reaching their capacity.

### **Kerry Local Enterprise Office**

There continues to be a strong interest in training courses and a high volume of requests for business advice to the office. Five additional grant proposals seeking funding of €200,000 approx were received in the month. Kerry LEO was represented by three schools at the National Student Enterprise Awards and a team from Killorglin Community School won the National award for the best use of social media.

A regional female entrepreneurship event was organised in conjunction with LEO's in Limerick and Clare and a number of speakers and female entrepreneurs from Kerry attended the event in Bunratty on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Kerry Business & Jobs Expo, in which Kerry LEO was one of the main organisers, was held in the INEC on the 24<sup>th</sup> April and was a very successful event, attracting 2,000 visitors and 120 exhibitors.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcomes to date 2016</b>
No. of Project Evaluation Meetings Held	3 formal meetings have been held to assess projects
No. of projects considered	13 projects have been assessed for funding with 8 projects approved funding of €94,743.  5 additional projects received for assessment for May meeting.  €126,598 has been released in business project funding.
No. of mentor assignments	38 mentor assignments from January 1 <sup>st</sup> .
No. of Microfinance applications received	6 completed applications received and forwarded for assessment to Microfinance Ireland.



Start Your Own Business Programmes	2 programmes finished in Tralee and Killarney with 42 participants. 2 programmes running in Killorglin and Listowel with 40 participants. 2 Bootcamps scheduled for June
Business Growth Programme	1 programme running in Tralee with 16 participants.
Food programme	2 Food programmes underway  - Food Academy programme - Food Mentor Programme
Digital marketing programme	2 programmes completed in February in Tralee with 15 participants. 1 programme completed in Caherciveen with 15 participants.
Diaspora Funding	Diaspora funding application has been prepared and submitted. Department of An Taoiseach clarifications have been provided.  Ongoing contacts with Connect Ireland
National Enterprise Awards	Overall winner FM Marine Services to represent Kerry at regional final in Dublin Castle on June 9 <sup>th</sup> .
Student Enterprise Awards programme	3 Student Businesses selected to represent Kerry in Croke Park in April 2016.  Codaithe Project from Killorglin Community School won the National Best Social Media prize
Enterprise Month March 2016	Enterprise Month completed with strong attendance at Kerry County Council LEO events.
Trading Online Voucher Scheme	Additional funding allocation of €90,000 secured for 2016 with a target of 36 Trading Online Vouchers  1 workshop held for businesses in April  €104,819.08 paid to date totalling 60 vouchers  €201,448.60 approved totalling 100 vouchers
Female Entrepreneurship activity	Regional Female Entrepreneurship Network Event completed with Limerick, Clare, North Tipperary LEO's on 21 <sup>st</sup> April
National Ploughing Championships, 20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Local Enterprise Office has sought expressions of interest from businesses for the LEO Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championship. Work ongoing in this regard.

In conclusion Ms. Murrell advised members that she met with the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government the previous week when he indicated he was considering housing options outside of the current Housing Programme. A proposal will be compiled with a focus on fast tracking the delivery of housing with a focus on urban areas.

Cllr. D. Grady asked if a new Tenants Handbook is being prepared and added that councillors should be informed of this. He welcomed the meeting with the new Housing Minister as there are major housing problems in the Killarney area.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated work for which funding was allocated by Councillors in July or August 2015 is only being carried out at that time and this is due to staff shortages. This is a very serious issue and he called on the Chief Executive to address it to ensure it will not happen again. Cllr. Cronin referred to the Microtrack project in Killarney is awaiting LEADER funding. The project is supported by a broad range of clubs etc. and it is 2 years since LEADER funding was available. He requested an update on LEADER funding and when can applications for funding be submitted.

Cllr. N. Kelleher stated this issue was discussed at a meeting of the LCDC. He PROPOSED that a letter would issue to the new Minister asking that there would be no further delays with LEADER funding.

Cllr. D. Quigg commended Killorglin Community College on winning the National Student Enterprise Award for the best use of social media. He concurred with the views expressed by Cllr. Cronin on LEADER funding and added that a large number of projects are waiting for funding.

Cllr. A. Thornton SECONDED Cllr. Kelleher's proposal and she welcomed the update on Housing. Cllr. Thornton then moved Notice of Motion No. 18.

## **18. Provision of Quarterly reports on Housing**

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

That Kerry County Council provide a further quarterly report on the Special Housing Budget and what progress has been made since January.

### **The following reply issued:**

**An update on the Housing Programme has been included as an agenda item for the June Council Meeting in accordance with the commitment given to members at the January Special Housing Meeting that an update would be provided bi-annually. An update report per Municipal District is provided at each MD Meeting.**

Cllr. Thornton acknowledged that a Special Housing Meeting was held in January but there are so many issues relating to Housing she asked that an update on Housing would be included in the Chief Executive's Report every month.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae agreed with previous speakers in relation to funding allocated for work from Councillors Allocations which was only recently carried out. He submitted a Notice of Motion in relation to flooding on regional roads but he was informed it would be the fourth quarter before they would be attended to. This is not acceptable. It appears permanent staff will not be taken on in the short term and in some areas temporary staff have not yet been taken on. Gullies that are blocked are taking 3 to 4 months to repair and this is not acceptable. The number of roads staff has been completely depleted and new staff must be recruited. Cllr. Healy-Rae stated he hoped LEADER funding would be signed off on in July. In South Kerry where a Partnership was established in 1991 it is unacceptable that it is taking so long to get funding. Projects that receive Leader funding help people in rural areas to survive.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae asked how many single men are on the housing list in his Municipal District and how many were allocated housing in the last 3 years. He acknowledged it is difficult to get houses for single people but some are living in poor housing.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae concurred with the views expressed by previous speakers in relation to roads staff. Danny Healy-Rae allocated funding for specific work last year and the work has not yet been done. She called for a review of this to ensure it does not happen again. A lot of fundraising has been done for the proposed Microtrack in Killarney and it could be used by all schools, clubs etc. However the project is being delayed as LEADER funding is not available.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated the temporary staff are excellent and should be kept on all year round. He referred to a gully that crosses a road that had to be replaced and he had to allocate €3,800 for it and he was informed funding was not available to replace the gully. Cllr. Culloty requested clarification on what Councillors Allocations may be used for. He referred to the proposed Microtrack in Killarney and stated it is a very important project for Killarney that needs LEADER funding.

Cllr. T. Ferris extended her condolences to the Kennelly Family on the death of their son Aidan. The introduction of Entrepreneurship into the school curriculum is being considered and there is no doubt it would be beneficial. Staff in the LEO office are excellent and they will be critical for economic development in the county going forward.

Cllr. Ferris stated 2,500 of the people on the housing waiting list in Tralee want a 1 or 2 bed property and there is not sufficient accommodation in the area to meet these demands. A substantial number of families are living in overcrowded accommodation. There is increasing frustration at the length of time it takes to allocate houses. More staff are needed in Housing and the cost to the State would be minimal.

Cllr. M. O'Shea congratulated Killorglin Community College on their success. He believed Oireachtas members should be invited to a meeting with the Council at which time they could be updated on the issues facing the county. Cllr. O'Shea called for regular briefings with Oireachtas members.

Cllr. J. Finucane welcomed the relocation of the LEO Office to County Buildings and added that its location is very positive. Some potential investors are not put in contact with the correct authority and the two investors he put in contact with the LEO Office set up businesses in Kerry. Kerry County Council should consider introducing incentives to offer potential investors and the County should no longer rely on State agencies. Cllr. Finucane asked the Chief Executive to invite the new Minister for Enterprise to officially open the new LEO Office. Cllr. Finucane PROPOSED that the Council would distinctively brand the county.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae PROPOSED that temporary staff who are employed longer than 5 years would be taken on full time.

Cllr. N. Moriarty concurred with the frustration expressed by previous speakers in relation to LEADER funding and added that a large number of projects are awaiting funding. She concurred with the views expressed by previous speakers in relation to the Microtrack in Killarney. She understood the Partnership Companies would visit communities in June to update them on the new rules for LEADER funding. Cllr. Moriarty agreed that a letter should issue to the Minister asking that LEADER funding would be signed off on as soon as possible. Responsibility for LEADER appears to be moving from one Department to another and she asked that the personnel who are familiar with it would move also.

The Chief Executive stated she had given a commitment that temporary staff would be taken on in 2016 because of the additional €4m received to repair flood damage. Consideration would be given to taking on a small number of staff in critical pressure points in 2017. The own resources provision has been maintained by Council but grants have reduced. If additional funding is allocated to roads it means critical funding for communities is not available. Before additional staff are taken on there must be an increase in funding. The Chief Executive agreed Oireachtas members should be briefed and she planned to do this in the near future particularly in relation to roads. There is agreement in principal on the LEADER Strategy and this is testament to the co-ordinated approach in the county. It has been indicated that the Kerry LEADER Strategy is one of the strongest in the country. She understood that official contracts will be ready for signing in July. A number of the partners have been working with communities and she expected a large number of applications for funding will be ready by July.

Ms. Murrell then referred to Housing and stated it was agreed there would be two major updates annually. She undertook to discuss this issue with the Director of Corporate Support with a view to bringing updates to the Municipal Districts. She thanked members for their comments on the LEO and added that they will form part of Kerry County Council's wider economic brief. Kerry County Council is working with Enterprise Ireland on a more joined up approach to marketing the county and she undertook to brief members on this in due course.

Mr. J. Breen stated a Special Housing Meeting was held in January. He highlighted that the housing market is difficult as no new houses are being built. Work is ongoing on the Housing Programme. Mr. Breen advised members to contact him if there is an issue with the repair of a specific vacant Council house. The Tenants Handbook is being consolidated at present and members will be updated on this in due course. 12% of those on the housing list are sharing involuntarily while 72% of those on the list are looking for 1B or 2B accommodation. Generally speaking the private market does not meet this demand. The focus must be put on the Capital Programme to provide what the private market is not providing.

Cllr. J. Finucane welcomed the appointment of Minister Naughten for economic development and he PROPOSED that an all Party meeting would be sought with him to discuss the Shannon LNG project. He hoped the Minister would take an innovative view on it.

Cllr. T. Ferris SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. B. Cronin asked that additional temporary staff would be taken on and he further asked if the Council will advertise for new staff in 2016.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated additional road staff should be employed in 2016 and 2017 and while he acknowledged grants have been reduced he stated €11m was collected in the county from LPT. He understood the Council would make a submission for additional funding for flood repair under Tranche 2 and he asked if a response was received from the Department to this submission. Cllr. Culloty stated some landlords who have leased houses under the Long Term Leasing Scheme want to sell their houses and this will have an adverse impact on the numbers on the waiting list. Cllr. Culloty again asked if Councillors Allocations should be used to fund the repair of a drain crossing a road.

Cllr. T. Ferris stated a substantial number of housing applicants want 1B or 2B accommodation. There is a disconnect between housing and planning and the construction of this type of accommodation is not being encouraged. However, she acknowledged there is not a lot the Council can do about this. She was aware of a case where a young couple with three children wanted to lease their 2B house and to move to larger accommodation. However because the BER rating was not up to the required standard a 5 year lease was all that was offered

but they wanted to lease the house for 15 or 20 years. Because of this they are stuck with the house. Staff vacancies are being filled with Gateway workers and the Government will not approve additional funding when this is happening. Cllr. Ferris asked that Gateway workers would be made permanent.

Cllr. M. Cahill stated it is obvious the Department are delaying the construction of houses. Originally it was planned to construct 12 houses in Killorglin but the Department now want to increase this to 14 and it is delaying construction as planning was approved for 12 houses. Single male applicants under 60 years from Dingle have no hope of being allocated a house unless they have a disability. In conclusion Cllr. Cahill asked what the position is on the provision of modular homes in Kerry.

Cllr. P. Daly stated finally there is recognition that the State is depending on the private market to provide housing and that is bound to fail. A building programme is urgently required.

The Cathaoirleach stated the provision of social housing is a major problem. Of the land targeted for housing sold to developers by NAMA 5% only was used for that purpose. These developers are holding the land with a view to making far greater profits in time.

Cllr. A. Thornton stated members need quarterly updates on housing.

The Chief Executive again stated temporary staff will be taken on in 2016 from existing panels. In 2017 a key number of staff will be taken on from the start of the year. These positions will not be advertised as there is an agreement with the Unions on how staff will be recruited and priority will be given to those on panels.

Cllr. B. Cronin asked if the panels have an expiry date.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue stated there are a number of agreements with Unions in relation to temporary staff. There is a sufficient number of temporary long term seasonal staff to meet demands including Gateway. It will not be necessary to advertise for staff in the short to medium term.

Mr. J. Breen informed members that the Tenants Handbook would be brought to Council through the SPC. It is important to construct houses if possible and there are no proposals for modular homes in Kerry.

The Chief Executive stated the Minister wants to fast track schemes to deliver social housing. In limited circumstances modular homes maybe considered.

**16.05.16.04 Draft Policy on Traffic Calming in Residential Estates and Local Roads**

Cllr. M. Kennelly stated in recent years there has been an increasing demand for traffic calming measures to be introduced in new and existing housing estates, access roads and distributor roads in towns and villages in the county.

The draft traffic calming policy for residential estates and local roads which was circulated, was initially developed by the Operations SPC and subsequently considered at Municipal District Meetings last year. Further to the consideration of the draft policy at municipal district level, some minor amendments were made to the draft, which were considered at the Operations SPC meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

In response to increasing demands for traffic calming measures, the policy addresses the concerns of the public and the Elected Members have regarding the negative impact of excessive or inappropriate traffic speed on public roads. Relevant legislation, the policy objectives and aims, traffic calming procedures and criteria, assessment and prioritisation of schemes are outlined in the policy.

Cllr. Kennelly stated the policy is very welcome and was driven by the Jakes Legacy Campaign. The main aim is to prevent accidents and he stated the policy is recommended by all members of the SPC for adoption by Council. He formally PROPOSED that the Policy be adopted.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan briefed members in detail on the Draft Traffic Calming Policy for Residential Estates and Local Roads under the following headings:

- Legislation
- Guidance documentation
- Policy Objectives and aims
- Traffic Calming Procedures on New Schemes
- Recommended Traffic Calming Procedures in Residential Estates and Local Roads.
- Data Collection
- Scheme Appraisal/Assessment
- Prioritising of Schemes
- Priority List Approval
- Scheme Design and Consultation
- Additional Policies
- Financial Considerations
- Formal Process
- Monitoring.

Cllr. B. O'Connell requested an explanation of each of the traffic calming measures outlined in the policy. He asked if private estates apply to be taken in charge must traffic calming measures be provided before the estate will be taken in charge. While he acknowledged the Emergency Service has reservations about certain traffic calming measures he believed they are required in most estates.

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated a visitor to Ireland observed we spend a lot of money on traffic calming measures but in his country persistent offenders are charged and their cars confiscated. Before the Rally of the Lakes in Killarney recently a District Court Judge gave very severe penalties to young drivers and this had a very positive effect which he welcomed. While he welcomed the Policy the principal concern should be on the design of new estates as ramps are not the answer. While he was aware that the primary objective was to save lives he urged the Gardaí and Court Judges to take stern action.

Cllr. M. Cahill welcomed the  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority required before consideration will be given to installing traffic calming measures. The residents in Iveragh Park are looking for traffic calming measures for years and the Council must consider the health and safety of the residents. This is a very busy estate with a Family Resource Centre which brings additional traffic to the estate. The Gardaí cannot monitor all roads. Glenbeigh National School is on a minor road and there is an 80km per hour sign at the gate of the school and a car park across the road. The school is located close to a bridge where there have been numerous accidents. Traffic over Caragh Bridge is restricted to one lane and on occasion there is road rage there.

Cllr. D. McCarthy broadly welcomed the policy which should help to save lives. However he expressed grave concern about local roads where the hedges are overgrown posing a hazard to all road users.

Cllr. D. Quigg welcomed the Draft Policy and he PROPOSED under 'Prioritising of Schemes' that 'local knowledge' would be included in relation to accident history/data.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn welcomed the Draft Policy and acknowledged the work that went into compiling it. On a number of occasions he raised safety concerns regarding speed at schools, crèches etc. at which time he was told the Speed Limit Review would take place shortly. He asked when issues are raised under this Policy what is the timeframe before they will be resolved. There are issues on national roads also and he asked if this Policy would apply to them. He SECONDED Cllr. Quigg's proposal in relation to accident history and local knowledge.

Cllr. J. Sheahan thanked Mr. O'Sullivan and Cllr. Kennelly for presenting the Draft Policy and stated he supported it. It is important to try to save lives and drivers who do not behave responsibly should be held accountable.



Cllr. M. O'Shea referred to No. 2 in the basic criteria whereby a two thirds majority of households who reside on the section of road under consideration must be in favour of the introduction of traffic calming. He asked that households would be defined and added that many houses in estates are leased. The Draft Policy refers to the use of Councillors Allocations for the provision of traffic calming measures but this will put huge pressure on members who have a small allocation. Cllr. O'Shea asked if consideration would be given to seeking a contribution from the residents for the works.

Cllr. B. Cronin SECONDED Cllr. Kennelly's proposal that the Policy be adopted. The Policy will give the Council guidance on the provision of traffic calming measures and hopefully will help to prevent accidents. He welcomed the requirement that two thirds of the residents must be in favour of the measures and he requested clarification on households /house owners. Difficulties have been experienced with speeding in some estates but he welcomed the provision that in future a developer must consult with the Roads Department when designing a housing estate. Cllr. Cronin stated he understood there is consensus among Departments that ramps are a last resort and that is why pinch points and chicanes will be considered. He agreed with Cllr. Quigg that the accident history including local knowledge cannot be ignored.

Cllr. D. Grady welcomed the Policy and indicated his support for it. In some instances speed ramps must be provided to slow down traffic.

Cllr. G. Spring agreed that speed ramps are a last resort and he welcomed the alternatives. He asked if a similar policy could be prepared in relation to commercial areas. Cllr. Spring suggested that any new planning application should include a traffic management plan.

Cllr. T. Ferris supported the Draft Policy and Cllr. Quigg's proposal. She visited the estate where Jake lost his life and it is similar to estates in Kerry. Where there is an issue it is not appropriate to take the average speed as all it takes is one person speeding to cause an accident. All estates where members requested traffic calming measures were accepted as needing some form of traffic calming measures. Cllr. Ferris agreed that other measures should also be considered. She asked if a location does not meet all the criteria will it be considered for the provision of traffic calming measures.

Cllr. A. Thornton welcomed the Policy and asked where members requested traffic calming measures at Municipal District Meetings will these requests be considered under the new policy or must members re-submit them. She asked if funding would still be provided for Cluinín Estate in Listowel.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated there is a range of traffic calming measures that can be considered. Each location will be assessed and ramps are a last resort as Emergency Services are opposed to them and there must be a balance. The taking in charge of estates is a separate process and it will not be possible to demand that traffic calming measures are in place prior to the estate being taken in charge. The layout of an estate should be conducive to slowing down traffic. It is a matter for members if they want to make an allocation for traffic calming measures from their Councillors Allocation. Mr. O'Sullivan agreed that drivers must be responsible on the road but enforcement is the issue. His Department regularly receives complaints of speed in estates. The criteria in the Policy will assist in prioritising schemes. One of the criteria is evidence from the Gardaí and residents should be encouraged to advise the Gardaí of any issues with speeding in their estate. A marking scheme is set out at the back of the Policy and where there is a known history of accidents additional marks will be given. All requests on hand will be considered and a report will be presented to Municipal District Meetings.

Mr. O'Sullivan stated all applications for speed ramps on hand would be reviewed and a report brought to each of the Municipal District meetings. Any new requests will also be assessed and he hoped a priority list will be in place by the end of the year. He emphasised the need to ensure consensus from all those living in an estate and he did not want the demand driven by a few in the estate.

Cllr. M. Kennelly PROPOSED that the Draft Policy on Traffic Calming in Residential Estates and Local Roads be adopted.

Cllr. B. Cronin SECONDED this proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

Mr. O'Sullivan informed the meeting that 'local knowledge' is implied in the policy.

#### **16.05.16.05 Draft Policy for Public Lighting**

At the outset the Cathaoirleach advised members that this item relates to a Policy for Public Lighting and Mr. O'Sullivan would be willing to meet members to discuss individual lights.

Cllr. M. Kennelly, Chairperson of the Operations SPC stated the Draft Public Lighting Policy was prepared through the Operations SPC. In developing the policy the committee initially considered a discussion document presented to it in 2015 on the challenges for maintaining the existing service and the demands on us the members for additional public lights.

In developing the policy, the following are the key issues considered by the committee:-

- The significant cost in providing the existing service, which is almost €2 million annually.

- The impact of Climate Change, which is considered to be a contributory factor to increased flooding risk in the county, and the need to reduce our carbon footprint
- The age and condition of the existing infrastructure, which needs to be upgraded, to reduce our energy costs
- Statutory obligations to improve our energy efficiency, with public lighting accounting for almost 48% of our overall energy usage
- The Council's commitment to the Dark Sky Reserve project, and
- The impact on taking in charge completed housing estates.

Further to the above, each of us is challenged by requests for additional lighting, with requests for an additional 97 lights alone in 2015.

These are serious challenges to be addressed by this Council in the provision of this service and these underpin the need for a Policy.

The draft policy outlines the objectives and the proposed criteria that need to be adopted to clearly define and achieve the objectives of the policy especially in relation to proposed new public lighting.

In conclusion Cllr. Kennelly stated the Draft Policy was circulated to all members and he PROPOSED that it would be adopted.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan referred members to the Draft Policy and stated in 1998 there were approximately 4,100 Public Lights under the control of Kerry County Council. Currently there are 12,737 Public Lights in the county (including the former Town Councils of Tralee, Killarney and Listowel). It costs €2m per annum to maintain the existing network and in energy costs.

The effects of Climate Change and rising sea levels have been particularly noticeable in Ireland recently with severe storms and flooding experienced this winter highlighting the need for reductions in our greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint.

The primary aim of a Public Lighting Policy should be to minimise the environmental impact of public lighting whilst providing high quality lighting, and the following objectives should underpin this aim:-

1. Minimise energy consumption and associated green house gas emissions.
2. Provide a sustainable approach for future public lighting requirements.

The Minister for Energy, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D. launched a national Energy Efficiency Plan in October 2007, which commits Ireland to achieving energy efficiency savings of 20% by 2020 and 33% for the public sector.

Mr. O'Sullivan briefed members on the Draft Policy under the following headings:

- EU Directive on reducing Carbon Footprint
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change 2015
- Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve
- Benefits of Public Lighting
- Financial Implications.

All members welcomed the Draft Public Lighting Policy.

Cllr. D. Grady stated LED lighting is the best option and he welcomed provision in the Policy to allow lighting to be taken over before an estate is taken in charge. There should be a number of contractors in the county that repair public lights as a number of lights are out of order for a long time.

Cllr. D. Nolan referred to the Policy Criteria and asked when a report will be presented to each Municipal District. She requested that existing requests for public lights be fast tracked. She expressed concern at No. 11 on Page 7 which relates to public lighting at community facilities and proposes that the facility would be responsible for the ongoing energy and maintenance costs. Cllr. Nolan referred to No. 14 and asked what funding streams are available and are there yearly targets.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated that public lighting in estates must be addressed. He then referred to Climate Change and PROPOSED that as a Council we will take all necessary steps to reduce the impact of climate change on our county. Kerry County Council must send out a clear message that this local authority and we its members acknowledge the overwhelming evidence and the very real fact that climate change is affecting our world and that human factors are having a major impact.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. N. Foley acknowledged the work that went into compiling the Draft Policy. She asked when requests by members for new public lights will be assessed. She acknowledged there is a huge cost implication but added there is a priority from a health and safety point of view. If the policy is adopted there will be an opportunity to accelerate the work that needs to be done in this area.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn supported Cllr. Cronin's proposal and suggested that trees should be restricted to a height of 5m and should not be permitted to block public lights. The policy states it costs €1,469 for a standard light yet he received a quotation for €6,000 for a standard light and he requested clarification on the difference. Cllr. Flynn stated he hoped the Dark Skies Reserve would not be used as an excuse not to provide public lighting. Of the 97 requests for new public lights received in 2015, 40 relate to the South and West Kerry MD and for this reason he PROPOSED that 50% of the funding would be spent on this MD.

Cllr. M. Cahill stated safety must be a priority. The cost of providing a light and equally the cost of removing a pole and light is expensive. Also increased energy costs present a significant challenge. He submitted a Notice of Motion for the June meeting in relation to the carrying out of a feasibility study on a renewable energy project off the coast and he asked management to consider such a project.

Cllr. J. Moloney referred to the energy efficiency savings targets of 33% by 2020 for the public sector and stated he understood significant savings were already achieved in Water Services prior to Irish Water. He PROPOSED that the Council would ask the new Minister for Environment to grant credits to the Council for these savings. Cllr. Moloney referred to No. 11 on Page 7 and asked that a brief document would be prepared on who would be responsible for the light for the benefit of community groups.

Cllr. D. Quigg welcomed the acknowledgement of the Dark Sky Reserve in the Draft Policy and stated it must be given priority. He welcomed the inclusion of Derrynane and Caherdaniel in it. He asked how successful solar powered lights are. Cllr. Quigg requested a report on the number of wind turbines in the county and how much energy they produce and he added that this must be taken into consideration.

Cllr. D. McCarthy stated if the Council builds houses public lighting should be provided to the nearest town.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae thanked the SPC for their work on the Draft Public Lighting Policy. The Policy states that requests from members for additional public lights to be provided and operated by Kerry County Council will be assessed annually. He pointed out that members from the South and West Kerry MD submitted more requests than any other Municipal District. There was a street light in Castlecove Village for years and then a developer was granted permission for a development but he went out of business and there is no light there now. Cllr. Healy-Rae asked that the street light at Castlecove would be reinstated. He referred to No. 11 and stated while he accepted community facilities could be responsible for the energy costs it is unreasonable to expect them to take on the maintenance costs. He PROPOSED that the words "and maintenance costs" be removed from No. 11. Cllr. Healy-Rae then read No. 7 and stated he disagreed with Cllr. Cronin's proposal on climate change. He did not accept that requests for new public lights would only be assessed annually and he added that was unacceptable. There are locations where elderly people were killed and public lights were not provided there 3 years later.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated it is not acceptable that requests for new public lights would only be assessed annually. The people of Rathmore and Gneeveguilla want LED lights and they are entitled to them as they pay rates.

Cllr. G. Spring stated we must reduce our carbon footprint and he asked if motion sensors reduce costs. He supported Cllr. Cronin's motion in relation to climate change which is a real issue and he stated it is time the human contribution is addressed.

Cllr. J. Sheahan stated additional lights are required at Station Road, Rathmore.

Cllr. A. Thornton disagreed that requests for new public lights would be assessed annually and asked that they would be assessed more regularly.

Cllr. T. Ferris agreed with the views expressed by previous speakers in relation to Nos. 5, 8, 9 and 11. She welcomed the inclusion of the paragraph on the Taking in Charge especially for the estates where there is no developer. Cllr. Ferris stated where the provision of public lighting is a condition of planning members cannot use their allocation to provide a public light there. She referred to Ardfert and Duagh Community Halls which were provided by the local community and she asked where no other funding is available can councillors allocation be used for this purpose.

Cllr. M. O'Shea referred to No. 11 and asked if this would create insurance problems for community facilities.

Cllr. S. Locke welcomed the provision in the Draft Policy in relation to housing estates and stated some estates owe €2,000 or €3,000 in energy costs and it should be possible to address this issue. He agreed with Cllr. Quigg that solar panels should be considered. Overgrown trees are problematic in housing estates as they block the light. Cllr. Locke referred to the estate at the entrance to the Hospital and stated he was informed that the trees could only be cut after the autumn but this needs to be addressed all year round.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Cathaoirleach stated it was 1.30pm and it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Moloney, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue.

### **16.05.16.05 Draft Policy for Public Lighting (Cont'd)**

Cllr. P. Daly supported the views expressed by Cllr. Ferris in relation to the use of Councillors Allocations for public lights in community areas.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated the issue is funding and at present all public lights are funded from own resources. If funding is available from SEAI that option will be pursued. At present funding provided for lighting improvement is miniscule.

Cllr. T. Ferris stated she moved a Motion that a levy would be put on wind turbines and that a percentage of the energy produced would benefit the local community.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan undertook to check the meeting records on the motion referred to by Cllr. Ferris. It is important to plan ahead because while one additional light may not seem much the cumulative effect must be considered as it can have a significant financial impact. Energy costs must also be taken into account and under the policy LED lighting will be provided which costs 50% less than an ordinary light on the basis of lighting for 10 hours. The aim of the Policy is to achieve a reduction in energy costs as we have a statutory obligation to do so. Substantial savings were achieved in water and wastewater through the installation of new pumping equipment and that has been taken into account already. Kerry County Council must now achieve a 14% reduction in our energy costs and public lighting accounts for 50% of our energy costs. There must be a strategic shift on public lighting and that decision must be made at the Budget each year. The use of Councillors Allocations for the provision of a public light could be considered on a one off basis and if energy efficient lights are used it should result in substantial improvements in energy costs. Solar lighting was trialled but it did not prove to be effective as more research is required into this technology.

Cllr. M. Kennelly PROPOSED that the Draft Public Lighting Policy be adopted.

Cllr. J. Sheahan SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae PROPOSED that the words "and maintenance costs" be removed from No. 11 in the Policy Criteria.

Cllr. M. O'Shea SECONDED this proposal and it was agreed.

Cllr. A. Thornton asked if the applications for new lights on hand will be reviewed now that the Policy is adopted or will they be considered in the context of the Budget.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated it is accepted through various reports that this country's energy costs are 33% higher than other counties. For this reason he called on Kerry County Council to support the '1 Switch' campaign.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.45pm.

The meeting resumed at 3.20pm.

#### **16.05.16.06 Audit Committee**

Mr. M. O'Donoghue informed the meeting that the following reports relating to the Audit Committee of Kerry County Council were circulated in accordance with the relevant Statutory Provisions:

- (a) Annual Report of the Audit Committee of Kerry County Council.
- (b) Audit Committee Report on the Local Government Auditor's Report on Audited Financial Statement 2014.
- (c) Review of Audit Committee Charter.
- (d) 2016 Audit Committee Work Programme.

The reports have been considered and approved by the Audit Committee for consideration by Council.

Cllr. T. Ferris referred to the reference to mobile phone usage and stated she understood all staff and councillors recoup the cost of mobile phones.

Ms. A. McAllen stated it is standard policy where there is personal usage the user pays the cost involved.

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Kelleher, SECONDED BY Cllr. J.F. Flynn it was agreed to note the Annual Report of the Audit Committee of Kerry County Council.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Kelleher, SECONDED by Cllr. B. Cronin it was agreed to note the Audit Committee Report on the Local Government Auditor's Report on Audited Financial Statement 2014.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Kelleher, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Kennelly it was agreed to note the review of the Audit Committee Charter.
- (d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Kelleher, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Finucane it was agreed to approve the 2016 Audit Committee Work Programme.

#### **16.05.16.07 Nominee to the Board of Kerry Airport**

Cllr. G. Spring PROPOSED that Cllr. T. O'Brien be nominated to represent Kerry County Council on the Board of Kerry Airport.

Cllr. J. Finucane SECONDED the proposal.

Cllr. R. Beasley PROPOSED that Cllr. D. Quigg be nominated to represent Kerry County Council on the Board of Kerry Airport.



Cllr. T. Ferris SECONDED this proposal.

A vote was taken which resulted as follows:

**For Cllr. T O'Brien:** Cllrs. Cronin, Culloty, Finucane, Gleeson, Kelleher, Kennelly, Lucid, Moloney, Moriarty, Spring, Thornton, P. McCarthy **(12)**.

**For Cllr D Quigg:** Cllrs. Beasley, Daly, Ferris, J. Healy-Rae, M. Healy-Rae, Locke, Quigg, **(7)**

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

The Cathaoirleach declared Cllr. T. O'Brien nominated to represent Kerry County Council on the Board of Kerry Airport.

#### **16.05.16.08 Presentation on Procurement**

Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance, then made a presentation on Procurement under the following headings:

- Overview of Public Sector Procurement
- Categories of Expenditure
- Local Government Operational Procurement Centre (LGOPC) Kerry County Council
- LGOPC Live Frameworks – Value & Number of Suppliers/Contractors
- Principles Guiding Public Procurement
- Legal Background
- Steps in the Procurement Process
- Procuring Supplies/Services/Works
- Frameworks
- LGOPC (KCC) Frameworks – 2 Stage Process
- Request for Tenders (RFT) / Mini-Competition
- OGP Frameworks
- Quotations
- eTenders/EU Journal
- Kerry County Council Examples of RFTs / Mini-Competitions

All members welcomed the detailed presentation.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn stated he raised this issue as a number of contractors in South West Kerry approached him as they felt the tender process is not fair because the same companies appear to get all the work. He asked if the local engineers are consulted to see if they are satisfied with the work done by contractors as he

understood some engineers are not satisfied. In conclusion Cllr. Flynn asked if a decision on a tender is based on price alone.

Cllr. M. Cahill stated the recession brought more focus on work available with Kerry County Council as many smaller operators did not have any work. One person was told his machine was not suitable and he purchased a new one but did not get much work.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated procurement is a complicated process but the presentation and discussion on it is important. For many years he has been fighting the case of small plant hire operators who have given up trying to get work from the Council as they maintain it is a closed shop. He was contacted by operators who do not agree that the process is transparent and that everyone gets fair treatment. Following the tendering process it was agreed that every tenderer would be informed of their score and positioning but that did not happen even though some people were informed. That is not acceptable and creates concern amongst those who tendered and were not informed of their score. Cllr. Cronin asked how many people have access to information on tenders and who controls the information.

Cllr. T. Ferris stated it appears the procurement system is fair and prevents favouritism. However the perception is that the same companies get the work and something needs to be done to address this. She asked if it is just the 22 staff in Procurement that have access to information.

Cllr. D. Quigg stated he would like to see smaller companies, who have the appropriate insurance, being successful in getting tenders. Public Liability insurance costs €2,000 per annum and in the past insurance companies gave a letter confirming if the tenderer was successful their insurance would be increased. That should suffice and give fair play to smaller operators.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty concurred with the views expressed by Cllr. Cronin and added that he was approached by a company who were told they would be informed of their position but that did not happen. Tender prices are very low at present and €20 per hour for a track machine is not sustainable when the owner must pay insurance, tax, a driver etc.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated if a company is continuously successful in tendering, smaller contractors find it difficult to match their prices. It would be ideal if the work was allocated to more contractors as it would sustain more businesses. BAM, who have a history with tenders, are still tendering for work and are successful despite the fact that they did not pay smaller contractors.

The Chief Executive stated the National Procurement Office is located in Kerry and it is run to the highest standard. It is important to have confidence in the procurement process. There is substantial oversight of the Procurement Office and also engagement with the Procurement Board whom they meet quarterly. There is also oversight of procurement by the Audit Committee, Elected Members and the Management Team. Goods can be purchased by the following means (1) Framework which includes plant hire, (2) E-Tenders or (3) Quotations. Many competitions are run through the Frameworks by the Area Offices and this is based on price which may mitigate against smaller suppliers. EU Law on procurement was transposed into Irish Law and compliance is very important. For this reason a Compliance Unit was established at the Killarney office and this is headed up by Karen Lynch, SEO Finance. It is vital that the process is seen to be transparent. If price is the criteria then that is how the contract is awarded. Kerry County Council is leading the country in procurement and compliance is critical.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated in Castleisland a contractor was supplying paving but in a recent tender his price was €65,000 but a tender was received from Donegal for €63,000. The local contractor would deliver the paving as it is required and he is fully compliant. He asked if there is any discretion to go for the option that would be cheaper in the long run.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated the last few years have been very challenging for all suppliers and contractors as the rates have dropped since 2008 because of the recession. However, there has been a gradual increase in price over the past few years. Grants for the Roads Programme reduced by 56% and as a result there is less work going on. Mr. O'Sullivan stated he is amazed at some prices that are submitted and as a result he could understand how smaller contractors struggle. The supplier from Donegal was marginally cheaper and that is the reality. However the vast majority of materials purchased are from suppliers within the county.

The Chief Executive stated people may not like the outcome but these are the rules of procurement. The Local Government Auditor assesses if Kerry County Council complied with the criteria set down for tenders. The Chief Executive stated she was satisfied that the procurement process and procedures are fair. If members have a specific issue they should bring it to her attention. She did not want a perception that did not reflect the reality on the ground.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn asked if the local Engineer has an input into the process as they know who the best person for the job is. It is unfair that councillors allocate funding for a job and another councillor does the work.

Cllr. N. Kelleher asked where is the equality in sharing out the work among those on a Framework only.

The Chief Executive stated when a person is on a Framework there is a mini competition and that is awarded to the lowest tender.

Cllr. Kelleher asked if there is not a figure up to which quotations can be sought.

Ms. McAllen displayed a screen which showed the number of successful tenders for teleporters. 44 contractors were contacted and this process is fully transparent. Prices are very competitive and there is only so much business. The Request For Tender (RFT) issues to all on the list but not all can be successful.

The Cathaoirleach asked if a low tender is submitted can they get further work / money later.

Ms. McAllen stated they cannot be awarded additional money for the project, however there is a price variation clause for larger contracts only.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated generally with major road contracts independent consultants and legal teams prepare the documentation which takes many factors into account including equipment, previous work etc. In some instances, particularly for larger contracts, the design is prepared based on the information available at the time. There maybe additional costs and if there is a dispute a dispute resolution process is in place which is complicated. When TII consider the cost factors they include additional costs. Procurement is not a simple process and the Kerry County Council Procurement Office must have high levels of governance.

Cllr. B. Cronin asked if contractors have concerns and they bring them to the attention of Management is there a guarantee that they will not be targeted afterwards and loose work as a result.

The Chief Executive stated in the Procurement process anyone on a Framework is entitled to tender. She assured Cllr. Cronin there would be no repercussions for anyone who queries the process. Procurement can be based on price and the governance rules are very stringent. It is essential that the Procurement process and procedures are beyond question and the process itself allows for the raising of queries.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue stated the Protected Disclosures Act provides protection for anyone who wants to make a complaint. He was appointed the Kerry County Council Liaison Officer and he can offer advice if necessary. Mr. O'Donoghue advised members that there is also a Customer Complaints process for use by the public.

Cllr. G. Spring welcomed the location of the National Procurement Office in Killarney and added the fact it is worth €1.8m to the local economy must be welcomed. He asked if there is a minimum price to prevent under pricing as large companies can move into an area and undercut everyone else.

Cllr. T. Ferris asked where a staff member has a concern can they raise it. Also if there is anecdotal evidence that an engineer may prefer one supplier can a staff member in the Operations Department report it.

The Chief Executive stated the operation of Procurement is well managed in Kerry and she assured members of this. She advised if someone has a concern they can raise it. €165m worth of contracts is managed by the National Procurement Office in Killarney each year and that would not be possible without a large number of checks. Every time she meets her peers they are very demanding and governance is very important. The Office is also audited by the Audit Committee and any issues that arise are dealt with through proper processes and procedures. Traditionally Kerry County Council has a very good record on compliance and if a staff member has issues they will be investigated.

#### **16.05.16.09 Report from the Chairperson of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC**

It was agreed to note Cllr. J. Finucane's report on the last meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC which was circulated.

#### **16.05.16.10 Summary of proceedings at the Conferences/Seminar/Training events**

- (a) It was agreed to note Cllr. J Sheahan's report, on behalf of all the Kerry County Council delegates that attended, the AILG Training Event held in Waterford on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2016, which was circulated.
- (b) It was agreed to note Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen's report, on behalf of all the Kerry County Council delegates that attended, the LAMA Spring Training Seminar held in Sligo on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 which was circulated.

#### **16.05.16.11 Approval for the opening of tenders**

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Moloney, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Finucane it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the Construction of a Single Rural Dwelling House and associated site works at Ashgrove, Listowel – Closing Date: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 at 3.00pm.

- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. D. McCarthy it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the Provision of Washroom Services to Kerry County Council- Closing date: Monday 16<sup>TH</sup> May 2016 at 12.00noon.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. D. McCarthy it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N86 Lispole to Ballynasare Lower & Ballygarrett to Camp – Engineering Consultancy Services for Phase 6 & 7 – Closing date: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 at 4.00pm.
- (d) Cllr. J. Moloney requested clarification on this tender.

In response Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated these services are required to progress the CPO. TII are appointing consultants in relation to the next phase and there maybe an Oral Hearing in the CPO.

Cllr. Moloney requested that an update would be given to members at the next Listowel MD Meeting on the Listowel By-Pass.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. Cronin, SECONDED by Cllr. M. O'Shea it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N69 Listowel Bypass – Provision of technical support for Oral Hearing – Closing date: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 at 4.00pm.

The Cathaoirleach then left the meeting and the Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Finucane took the Chair.

- (e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. O'Shea, SECONDED by Cllr. B. Cronin it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N72 Killarney – Killorglin National Road Surface Improvement and Flooding Alleviation Study – Closing date: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 4.00pm.
- (f) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. T. Ferris it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N71 Five Mile Bridge & Tower, National Road Surface Improvement and Flooding Alleviation Study – Closing date: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 4.00pm.
- (g) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Healy-Rae, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N70 Skehanagh and N22 Garrie's Bridge National Road Surface Improvement and Flooding Alleviation Study – Closing date: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 at 4.00pm.

- (h) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. O'Shea, SECONDED by Cllr. T. Ferris it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N86 Lispole to Ballynasare Lower & Ballygarrett to Camp – Road Works Contract – Closing date: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at 4.00pm.
- (i) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. Cronin, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N22 Corranamarree Bridge – Pavement Overlay Scheme – Closing date: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 4.00pm.

#### **16.05.16.12 Notices of Motion**

- 1. Establishment of a specialist full time Unit to deal with all matters of coastal erosion, watercourses and potential flood risks**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Finucane PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council establish a Specialist Full Time Unit to deal with all matters of coastal erosion, watercourses and potential flood risks. This Unit would work all year round on preventative work and planning resolutions to existing problem areas.

**The following report issued:**

**Having regard to previous requests made by members, particularly following the flooding caused by the recent severe weather events, we have to date carried out a mapping exercise of all areas that were prone to flooding and coastal erosion, which was presented to the members at the Council meeting of the 11th April 2016.**

**A full assessment of the cause of the flooding in each of these locations is on-going at present, including the identification of any appropriate mitigating measures. These mitigating measures will vary from small scale works in some locations, such as clearance work around bridges etc. to be managed at Municipal District level, to larger scale works, which may involve retaining specialists, with substantive funding required from State agencies. As was previously outlined to Council some of the areas prone to flooding in the past are part of the CFRAM studies, which are the responsibility of the OPW to manage and implement, and for which we have assigned a dedicated member of staff who liaises with the OPW and their appointed consultants, to ensure that the outcome of these studies reflect our needs.**

**The National Road Design office, with the approval of the TII, is examining appropriate solutions to address the flooding of the national road network, where access was severely impacted during the severe weather events.**

**The Capital Infrastructure Unit is being tasked to examine the areas of coastal erosion and flooding, where the OPW have advised that due to the potential scale of works, and the designation of many of these areas under the EU Habitats Directives, specialist coastal impact studies will be required and Consultants will have to be retained to undertake these.**

**These will be co-ordinated under the Director of Operations, and the responsibility for the management of both the National Road Design Office and the Capital Infrastructure Unit has been re-assigned to him in the recent restructuring, for this purpose. A working group is being established with the relevant staff from each of these units.**

**In addition to the above, the mapping exercise undertaken will feed into the review of our Severe Weather Emergency Response plan.**

Cllr. J. Finucane stated there appears to be a dispute with the OPW in relation to who has responsibility for what areas. The Minister visited the county and it appears the response was fragmented. While there is a working group in place he would like to see them working in this area full time. Now that a Minister for Climate Change has been appointed Kerry County Council should pre-empt these situations.

Cllr. N. Foley **SECONDED** the motion and stated there must be consistency in dealing with this issue. Hopefully the Minister for Climate Change will give security in this area. Cllr. Foley stated forward planning and innovative thinking is required when dealing with this issue.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty then moved Notice of Motion No. 9.

**9. Call on the Department of Social Protection to amend Community Employment eligibility criteria**

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

That Kerry County Council call on the Department of Social Protection to amend Community Employment eligibility criteria, as it now acts as a barrier to recruitment on Community Employment Schemes. By doing this, it will allow more clients to be eligible to take part in vital Community Employment Schemes. The Local Employment Service wants all progressions in their contract with the Department of Social Protection to revert back to pre-2016 figures.

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

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated he recently attended a meeting in Killorglin on this issue and CE Schemes are very important to rural areas. Community Employment through Government funding contributes €11,000,000 in wages, materials and training funding to County Kerry. The Scheme is administered by the Department of Social Protection through supported employment programmes.



There are 1,000 participants employed on Community Employment Schemes throughout Co. Kerry supporting 300 community and voluntary, not for profit, groups involved in the delivery of community services within the County.

This Scheme gives unemployed people the opportunity to start working and get back a sense of worth and a routine while local businesses/suppliers also gain. The majority of the population of Kerry are in one way or another touched by Community Employment activities. These activities involve Healthcare, Social Services, Carers, Meals on Wheels, Sporting groups and Sports grounds, Tidy Towns, Community Alert, Tourism, Information Centres, Disability Groups, Drug Rehabilitation groups, Youth Work, Kerry Folklore and Heritage etc.

The current rules are barriers to recruitment and changes are required that the rule introduced in the year 2,000 would have the new starting point of 2016 giving new opportunities to people who have completed their time on C.E. and who are now unemployed. This rule, in effect, entitles an unemployed person to 6 years on a CE Scheme between the ages of 25 and 66 with one year extra for a person with a disability.

Referrals to schemes such as CE Programmes, training and education should be given the same weight as fulltime jobs in Local Employment Services contracts with D.P.S i.e. a return to pre 2016 levels of 50% overall progression rates. The minimum qualifying age should be reduced to 21 years. This rule currently applies to healthcare placement and childcare placements and all CE placement eligibility should be a minimum of 21 years across all sectors.

At present a person must be unemployed for a year to be eligible for a CE Scheme but this should be reduced to three months. Twelve months is an unnecessarily long time to be unemployed to become eligible.

Spousal swap should be allowed to give the dependant claimant a chance to participate on CE and have control over their payments and not to be relying on the main claimant for support.

Additional financial reward of €100 per week should be given to cover costs for lone parents to assist them to participate on a Community Employment Scheme. A minimum time of 2 years in real terms should be given on CE schemes, the current 12 months in real terms is 6 months. The current 19.5hrs working week is too short to benefit participants in the long-term for training programmes. All participants over 62 years of age should be allowed to stay on CE Schemes until retirement.

Cllr. M. O'Shea SECONDED the motion.

The Cathaoirleach then returned to the meeting and took the Chair.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae then moved Notice of Motion No. 8 as it related to the same issue.

**8. Call on the Minister for Social Protection to change the rules on recruitment**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Healy Rae PROPOSED:**

That we the members of Kerry County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection to change the rules on recruitment such as:

- Change 2000 year rule to the new starting point of 2015.
- Referrals into Schemes.
- Reduce minimum qualifying age to 21 years in entirety.
- Change eligibility from 12 months to 3 months unemployed.
- Allow spousal swap.
- Additional financial reward for lone parents.
- Minimum time on CE should be 2 years in real terms.
- Allow all over 62 year olds to stay on CE Schemes.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated at present a person must be unemployed for 12 months before they qualify for a CE Scheme and this should be reduced to 3 months. There should also be additional financial reward for participants as at present the payment is a small addition to their social welfare payment.

**2. Call for the same level of Enhanced Home Care regardless of where a person is living**

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

That as Bunreacht na hÉireann in Article 40: 1 states: All citizens shall, as human persons, be held equal before the law, this Council, in support of that Article and of the resultant right of each individual to be treated equally, irrespective of where he or she resides, demands that the same level of Enhanced Home Care should be available to persons living in Kerry as is at present available to persons in Cork.

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

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated recently an elderly person underwent major amputative surgery. The operation has resulted in that person having absolutely no personal mobility. The person is and will always be confined to a wheelchair. The surgery was undertaken in Cork and post operation the person and family were informed of the hours entitlement for Home Care. This entitlement was acceptable but was made; it appears in the belief that the person was a native of Cork, as the postal address is Cork. When it came to light that the person is a Kerry resident the allocation of Home Care hours was severely reduced. The reason given was lack of finance for that service in Kerry. Cllr. Gleeson stated he found this

situation quite incredible and totally discriminatory - based on a line on a map. The family are dumbfounded at the situation. The person in question lives within 1/2km of the County Boundary.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae **SECONDED** the motion and stated she was aware of the case in question. It is horrifying that because this person lives over the Kerry border that they will now get 11 hours Home Care while if they lived in Cork they would get 21 hours. This issue needs to be addressed.

### **3. Opening of beds in Kenmare and Dingle hospitals**

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

That Kerry County Council would write to the HSE to ask why have the beds promised in Kenmare and Dingle Hospitals not been opened.

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

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae stated of the 40 beds in Kenmare Hospital just 19 are open and the situation is similar in Dingle where up to 15 beds were never opened. This is wrong and as a result there are queues at Kerry University Hospital which have a wide ranging impact. Cllr. Healy-Rae requested that a letter would issue to the new Minister for Health to highlight the length of time and the number of beds not opened in Kenmare and Dingle.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae **SECONDED** the motion.

### **4. Call for an opt-out system for people to carry a donor card**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J.F. Flynn PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council write to the Minister for Health to look to bring into law an opt-out system for people to carry a donor card, where every person carries a donor card but it is up to themselves then if they want to opt-out not to carry one.

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

Cllr. J.F. Flynn stated it is reasonable to assume the majority of people carry a donor card and if they want to opt out they could do so. There are many people on transplant lists and this should help them.

Cllr. N. Foley **SECONDED** the motion and stated there is evidence that this approach works. Most people are well intentioned and this could increase the number of donors.

**5. Call to complete the application for planning permission for the Tralee - Fenit walkway**

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

That this Council will prioritise the Tralee-Fenit Walkway by completing the application for planning permission.

**The following report issued:**

**We have been actively engaging with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the development of the greenways in the County. Most recently Council Management met with Department officials on securing the land transfer, from CIE and Irish Rail, for the Tralee - Fenit line and the Great Southern Trail, between Listowel and Limerick County bounds. In these discussions we have outlined our concerns with the delay in securing the unencumbered transfer of the lands to facilitate their development.**

**To date we have secured a funding commitment for the South Kerry Greenway but no funding has been secured for the development of the other projects, and significant resources will be required to fully develop the schemes. It is extremely difficult to progress the scheme through planning without resolving the land transfer from CIE and Irish Rail.**

**At present, members will be aware of the significant work programme associated with preparing the CPO for the South Kerry Greenway and given the funding commitments to date, our resources have been focused on delivering this project. However, we are continuing to engage with CIE and Irish Rail on the other schemes and a meeting is scheduled for later this month.**

Cllr. P. Daly stated the lack of progress on the Tralee-Fenit Walkway is frustrating. The delay is as a result of all resources being assigned to the South Kerry Greenway where there appears to be no progress. Cllr. Daly asked that staff would be assigned to the Tralee/Fenit Walkway to pursue the Part VIII until the line is transferred. Iarnróid Éireann is very demanding and such a tourism project would be a great asset to Tralee.

Cllr. T. Ferris **SECONDED** the motion.

The Chief Executive informed members that a proposal in relation to the ducting was sent to the Department. Resources were put into the South Kerry Greenway because a grant was allocated for it. She undertook to consider how resources can be assigned to complete the planning for the Tralee-Fenit Walkway. There is substantial funding in the Programme for Government for these types of projects and the South Kerry Greenway has taken longer than anticipated.

**6. Report on the findings of TII's assessment in respect of bridges with potential subsidence in the County**

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

That Kerry County Council give a detailed report on the findings of TII's (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) assessment in respect of bridges with potential subsidence in the County and in particular Laune Bridge, Killorglin and what was the outcome of the assessment of bridges under the responsibility of Kerry County Council and have any of these bridges been damaged or weakened as a result of major flooding.

**The following report issued:**

**The TII have responsibility for the maintenance of bridges on the National road network and utilise an inspection database known as Eirspan to identify bridges in need of repair.**

**In early 2016, TII engaged Atkins Consulting Engineers to carry out Emergency Inspections to identify bridges which may be vulnerable to damage and deterioration during the recent flood events. A total of 49 bridges on the National Network and 9 bridges on the Non-national network were inspected in County Kerry. The inspections were high level and aimed at identifying bridges in need of immediate attention. The Atkins Report has been received and the findings indicate that there are a number of minor scouring, debris, mortar loss issues. A Principal Inspection is to be carried out on two small single arch bridges on the N86 which require closer examination. These inspections will be carried out in the coming weeks.**

**In the case of the 9 Non-national bridges inspected no significant cause for concern was identified.**

**In relation to the Laune Bridge, in Killorglin, no damage or deterioration of the structure was identified by the Consultants. However, given the concerns raised by Kerry County Council, a monitoring regime has been recommended and put in place, to ensure that the no further active settlement is occurring, following the bridge strengthening works carried out in 2010.**

Cllr. M. Cahill welcomed the reply but stated that 9 bridges on the Non-National network were inspected and no significant cause for concern was identified. Cllr. Cahill asked what category Behy Bridge comes under as he was informed that the bridge was on the verge of falling down. He welcomed the fact that the Laune Bridge has not deteriorated and that it will continue to be monitored. There is a lot of concern in Killorglin in relation to subsidence at the bridges at Churchtown, Beaufort, Ballymalis and the bridge between Coolroe and Nauntenane.

Cllr. D. Quigg **SECONDED** the motion.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated TII engaged Atkins to survey the bridges on national and regional roads. Behy Bridge is on a local road and it provides access to Rossbeigh. Problems with the Behy Bridge were identified by the Area Engineer and as a result consultants were engaged to survey it.

**10. Update on the extension of the Great Southern Trail into Kerry.**

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

Can an update be provided on what progress has been made so far this year on the extension of the Great Southern Trail into Kerry.

**The following report issued:**

**We have been actively engaging with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the development of the greenways in the county. Most recently Council management met with Department officials on securing the land transfer, from CIE and Irish Rail, for the Tralee - Fenit line and the Great Southern Trail, between Listowel and Limerick county bounds. In these discussions we have outlined our concerns with the delay in securing the unencumbered transfer of the lands to facilitate their development.**

**To date we have secured a funding commitment for the South Kerry Greenway but no funding has been secured for the development of the other projects, and significant resources will be required to fully develop the schemes. It is extremely difficult to progress the scheme through planning without resolving the land transfer from CIE and Irish Rail.**

**At present, members will be aware of the significant work programme associated with preparing the CPO for the South Kerry Greenway and given the funding commitments to date, our resources have been focused on delivering this project. However, we are continuing to engage with CIE and Irish Rail on the other schemes and a meeting is scheduled for later this month.**

Cllr. J. Moloney stated he was most anxious to ensure the Great Southern Trail was progressed by Kerry County Council. While he understood there were issues in relation to ducting it should be possible to resolve them and to make progress. This project has been in the pipeline for the past 30 years and the walkway on the Limerick side is complete. Cllr. Moloney asked that this project would be given priority.

The Chief Executive undertook to review resources.

Cllr. Moloney stated a sum of €120,000 was provided in the Budget to progress two projects.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan pointed out that most schemes such as this require matching funding.

The Chief Executive stated a submission would be made for funding for the planning phase of the Great Southern Trail.

# **11. Arrangements for the implementation of the new legislation concerning Transfer Stations**

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

To ask if Kerry County Council has made provisions for the introduction of the new legislation concerning Transfer Stations which come into effect on July 1st, 2016.

## **The following report issued:**

**Proposals have been made to introduce a pay by weight system at Civic Amenity Sites, however there is presently no legislation enacted bringing this into effect from 1st July next. The Department of Environment, Community and local Government are presently consulting with Local Authorities and the Waste Industry on these proposals.**

**Kerry County Council has assessed the impacts of proposals to provide pay by weight at our Civic Amenity Sites and there are substantial resource implications from the capital cost of reconfiguring our sites to the installation of weighing platforms and associated software. These financial implications are presently being discussed at national level.**

Cllr. M. O'Shea stated there are conflicting reports on whether this legislation will be enacted or not yet private companies are introducing pay by weight. He asked what the cost implications are of these proposals. Cllr. O'Shea expressed concern for the future of the Transfer Station at Milltown in light of these proposals.

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated he previously pleaded with the Council not to introduce pay by weight at Transfer Stations. If it is introduced the higher costs will result in hundreds of bags of refuse being left on the roadsides. At present the main roads into the county are clean thanks to the efforts of local communities.

The Chief Executive stated following an assessment to establish the cost of implementing the new provisions it was estimated at €0.5m and this does not include operational costs. There would also be issues with traffic management and it would be necessary to purchase additional land. A report was submitted to the Department on it.

Cllr. T. Ferris requested that Notice of Motion No. 12 would be deferred to the June meeting.

**13. Synchronised traffic lights at Ross Road and Woodlawn Junctions on the Muckcross Road**

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

Where are the two new sets of synchronised traffic lights that were promised for the Ross Road and Woodlawn Junctions on the Muckcross Road, we are now approaching the main tourist season and will face traffic chaos again.

**The following report issued:**

**A commitment was given to the members of the Killarney MD, to synchronize the existing lights at the Ross Road and Woodlawn Road junction on the Muckcross Road. However on further examination by a traffic lighting supplier, difficulties were identified with adapting the existing lights due to their condition and age. We are now seeking quotations for the upgrading of both sets of lights, including for their synchronization. The estimated cost of these works will be approximately €65,000.**

**In the interim, the Council has replaced the vehicle detection loops at the Ross Road junction, which has resulted in some minor improvements to traffic queue times.**

**As part off the Killarney Town Traffic Management Plan, the Consultants are examining all measures to potentially improve traffic flows in the town and on the key access roads. The Plan is nearing completion and it is our intention to have a presentation to the members of the Killarney MD in June.**

Cllr. B. Cronin stated the two sets of traffic lights on the Muckcross Road are not synchronised despite a commitment given by management that they this would happen. This is of critical importance and bookings are very positive for 2016 for Killarney. While Cllr. Cronin accepted this will not resolve the traffic problems in Killarney he stated it is a critical factor and has been identified as such. He asked how long it would take to replace the existing lights with new ones. Cllr. Cronin stated he wanted to put on record the success of the works undertaken by Kerry County Council on the Muckcross Road. People are enjoying the new footpaths and cycle lanes. He requested that it would be extended further if possible. There are no difficulties with tour buses meeting on this road as was suggested previously.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae SECONDED the motion and she asked if the lights could be put on flashing amber at busy times.



Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated quotations were sought the previous week for new lights and he expected they would be delivered shortly. He hoped they would be installed in the near future and he undertook to ask Paul Neary to update members on it. It is not ideal from a safety point of view to put the lights on amber. Mr. O'Sullivan informed members that he hoped the Killarney Traffic Management Plan would be presented to members in June.

**15. Funding for the reinstatement of roads damaged by the extraction of forestry**

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

That we ask the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine as the sole shareholder in An Coillte, to establish a Roads Restoration Fund to ensure that the many roads that are damaged in the course of the extraction of forestry are re-instated by way of a funding scheme budgeted for by An Coillte.

**The following reply issued:**

**Coillte recently published a 5 year strategic Business Area Unit plan for the West Munster area. In their consultation with us on the development of the Plan, whilst we acknowledged the importance of the forestry sector in the county and the wide remit of Coillte to develop forests for amenity purposes, we also highlighted our concerns with the impact of the haulage of timber on the local road network. In response they have committed in the Plan, to giving the Council a schedule of areas for harvesting and associated timber volumes, for the next five years along with the designated timber haulage. However no commitment was given on funding repair works to these roads many of which are classified as local secondary or local tertiary routes.**

**This motion is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. N. Moriarty welcomed the reply and asked that a letter would issue to the Minister seeking a commitment on funding for the repair of these roads.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED the motion and added that Coillte are damaging roads in areas like Glencar.

The Cathaoirleach pointed out that if the vehicles do not exceed a certain weight they are entitled to use the roads.

**16. Deferral of the implementation of fines for non chipping of dogs**

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

To ask the relevant authority to defer the implementation of fines for non chipping of dogs for at least six months.

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

Cllr. D. McCarthy stated the €3,000 fine is unfair and at present Vets cannot keep up with the demand to have dogs chipped.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion.

**17. Call for the re-instatement of funding for Local Improvement Schemes**

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

Will Kerry County Council request the Minister for Environment to re-instate funding for Local Improvement Schemes.

**The following report issued:**

**Funding for roads is provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Prior to 2012, local authorities received specific allocations towards the funding of Local Improvement Schemes, with €1.335m allocated in 2009 and €445,000 allocated in 2010 and 2011, which allowed for improvement works to 60 roads over the 3 year period. However the scheme was suspended in 2012 with the significant reductions in road grants. The members of Kerry County Council moved a number of motions subsequently calling on the scheme to be restored.**

**In 2014, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport announced that local authorities could fund some LIS's from the restoration maintenance grant. Given the condition of our public road network, with approximately 50% of the regional and local road network being recently identified as being in very poor condition, and the low level of grant aid provided (€1.95 million), the Council has had to prioritize available funding towards the public road network. However, Council made provision of €100,000 from this fund towards the improvement of private roads this year, which will allow approximately 5 schemes to be completed.**

**This is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. J. Lucid called on Kerry County Council to request the appropriate Minister to re-instate funding for Local Improvement Schemes. Prior to 2012 Local Authorities received specific funding allocations towards the funding of private roads. Since then, the only funding available is through a Hardship Scheme. This funding is provided from the Council's own resources and as such is obviously very limited ie. €100,000 in 2016 versus €1.8m between 2009 and 2011. Many private roads are in a poor condition and without some form of assistance this situation is going to get worse.

It is clear that funding for all roads is inadequate but this specific area is totally neglected. What is needed is a system whereby roads could be applied for and work could go ahead after assessment and prioritisation. This is a very important issue for rural Ireland and with the improvement in the economy appropriate funding could be made available.

Cllr. M. Gleeson **SECONDED** the motion and added that Local Improvement Schemes have transformed local communities over the past 40 years.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated Deputy Danny Healy-Rae requested a deputation with the Minister on this issue a number of years ago. She asked if a reply was received.

Mr. L. Quinlan undertook to revert to Cllr. Healy-Rae on this issue.

Cllr. T. Ferris moved Notice of Motion No. 19 on behalf of Cllr. D. Nolan.

#### **19. Delayed timescale of the National Broadband Strategy roll out**

##### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D. Nolan PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council resolves that the delayed timescale of the National Broadband Strategy roll out is unacceptable and that the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources must intervene to ensure each citizen has access to high speed broadband by 2020 at the latest.

##### **The following report issued:**

**While it is a matter for consideration by the members to make this request of the Minister, the roll out of this strategy is of major importance for the county and separately Kerry County Council will engage as early as possible with the new Minister to re-iterate our call for the prioritisation of this County in the National Broadband Plan and to seek to establish a local broadband task force, as announced recently in the Programme for Partnership Government.**

#### **20. Provision of equipment to measure noise levels arising from an electric motor**

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

That this Council provide the equipment to measure noise levels arising from an electric motor at a dwelling house neighbouring another constituents home where currently this is having an adverse effect on their quality of life.

**The following report issued:**

Noise assessment is a technically complex issue requiring specialist equipment, training and experience. Kerry County Council does not have the equipment in question and, therefore, would not be in a position to carry out an assessment as suggested. Any proposal to carry out such work would entail engaging a specialist consultant with associated costs. Under the current relevant noise legislation (Section 108 of the EPA Act 1992), any individual may take an action, at nominal cost, in the District Court in relation to alleged noise nuisance, without the need for legal representation. In light of this, it is Kerry County Council's policy not to undertake monitoring work or to pursue enforcement action in cases where a noise issue is considered to be a private nuisance matter, such as an alleged noise nuisance issue between neighbouring dwellings. We have advised the individuals involved in this instance of their options under the legislation.

Cllr. D. Quigg stated he was aware of a specific case where he visited the person's home and there is a constant drone. The onus should be on Kerry County Council to acquire noise measuring equipment. Noise from quarries may have to be monitored and there is an obligation on the Council to do this.

**21. Deplorable condition of the N22 from the County Bounds to Farranfore**

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

That the Council would continue to highlight to the TII the deplorable condition of the N22 from the County Bounds to Farranfore. The road in its present state of ongoing disintegration is doing irreparable harm to the economy of our beleaguered County.

**The following report issued:**

Kerry County Council is very active in highlighting poor conditions on the national road network with the TII. We also have regular meetings with the TII management and local TII inspector, at which the concerns of the members are raised.

The TII has previously advised that they survey the entire national road network pavement annually. This survey is then used to determine what sections of the network require pavement improvements and the funding allocation is based on this road pavement condition survey.

Sections of the N22 road, between county boundary and Farranfore, have been identified by the TII for pavement improvement. A 3.0 Km section of the N22 at County bounds will be improvement in 2016. A further section near Glenflesk is being examined in the context of recent flooding in this area.

**We will highlight other sections of the N22 between Farranfore and the County Bounds, which need improvement works, to the attention of the TII inspector at our next meeting.**

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated he lives nearest the N22 and the number of complaints he received about the condition of that road and roundabouts on it were enormous. The surface of the road at Lawlor's Cross is unravelling and this is one of three main roads into the county. A well maintained road structure is vital to encourage people to visit the county.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae SECONDED the motion and added that the road at Garries should not be raised any further.

**22. Complain to mobile phone operators about the level of service in Kerry**

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

That Kerry County Council write to mobile phone operators to complain about our service in Kerry which has got considerably worse in the last 12 months.

**The following report issued:**

**This is a matter for consideration by the members. If there are particular areas of the County where the members have experienced a worsening in mobile coverage this can be included in any correspondence to mobile phone operators seeking specific explanations for this and also of plans for its improvement in coverage.**

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae stated a lot of areas in his Municipal District have very bad coverage. While some areas had better coverage in the past it is very poor now and there must be a reason for this.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae SECONDED the motion.

**23. Provision of a "Cable Car Tourist Facility" in the County**

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

That Kerry County Council carry out a Feasibility Study in regards to the provision of a "Cable Car Tourist Facility" in the County.

**The following report issued:**

**The feasibility of providing a Cable Car facility in the County has been raised during public consultations around the Tourism Strategy and in discussions with the Institute without Boundaries in relation to the Re-Imagining Iveragh Project. Imagining Iveragh is a pilot CEDRA project being undertaken with the George Brown College Toronto focusing on creating sustainable economic development that will provide job creation**

**in the region. There are issues around the location of a cable car facility in Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) but options are being examined as part of a scoping exercise which is being included for consideration in the forthcoming Tourism Strategy.**

Cllr. M. Cahill welcomed the reply and stated all members are aware of the success of the Cable Car at Dursey Island. A Cable Car would be a great tourist attraction in Kerry and he asked that this project would be explored further.

Cllr. P. McCarthy SECONDED the motion.

## **24. Landscape Character Assessment 2012**

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

When will the review of the Landscape Character Assessment 2012 take place.

**The following report issued:**

**The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht published the National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 last year. It is an objective of this Strategy to develop a National Landscape Character Assessment.**

**Following completion of the National Landscape Character Assessment, statutory guidelines on local Landscape Character Assessments will be prepared for Planning Authorities under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). On publication of these statutory guidelines the Council will begin the review of the Landscape Character Assessment of the County to be incorporated into the review of the County Development Plan.**

Cllr. J. Moloney stated the Landscape Character Assessment is demeaning the landscape in North Kerry. He asked who was responsible for drafting the Landscape Character Assessment and for designating whole tracts of North Kerry as ordinary. Cllr. Moloney asked when the new Landscape Character Assessment would be prepared as members were advised in 2012 that it would be in 2 years. This statement in relation to North Kerry is erroneous and insulting to North Kerry.

The Chief Executive stated the Council is awaiting the publication of the Guidelines and this issue will be dealt with in the review of the Landscape Character Assessment. It is hoped to bring the Tourism Strategy to Council in June which contains a strategy for the Ballybunion area. The Strategy will include a strong statement of support for North Kerry. There is no indication when the Guidelines will issue.

Cllr. J. Moloney expressed concern that the Kerry Landscape Character Assessment will have to follow on from the national one and he asked if the general public will be permitted to make a submission on it.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the process will include public consultation.

Cllr. Moloney requested that contact would be made with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with a view to getting the process moving.

**25. Acquisition of land from St. Finian's Land Bank for a graveyard**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M Healy Rae PROPOSED:**

To ask Kerry County Council to acquire enough land from St. Finian's Land Bank to provide ground for a graveyard in Killarney. If the HSE won't give this land, I call on Kerry County Council to acquire the land through a compulsory acquisition order.

**The following report issued:**

**Following from Cllr Cahill's motion agreed at the April Meeting of Council, a meeting has been arranged with the HSE Estates Manager to discuss this matter along with other potential development uses of HSE sites in the County. These lands had commitments associated with them to this point in time. Following this meeting an update report will be provided to Council.**

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae expressed her dissatisfaction with the reply and added that this matter has been going on for a long time and is being prolonged again. Deputy D Healy Rae's first notice of motion following his co-option to Kerry County Council in 2003 was in relation to the acquisition of land for a burial ground in Killarney. The land at St. Finian's is an ideal location for a burial ground and a compulsory acquisition order should be considered if it is not possible to acquire the land by agreement. Planning will take a minimum of 2 years and it is a basic human wish that family members are interred together. She called for a vote to be taken on her proposal.

The Chief Executive advised that a vote should not be taken on the proposal as all the members of the Municipal District of Killarney were not present and as this matter has been the subject of numerous discussions with and updates to the members of the Killarney Municipal District. The Chief Executive also advised that further updates will be brought to the Killarney MD.

Cllr. J. Healy Rae **SECONDED** the motion and added that the motion was on the Agenda and it was up to each member of the Killarney MD to be present when it was being considered. The provision of a burial ground in Killarney has been discussed at meetings for many years and people want their loved ones to be interred in their local area.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated he could not support the motion. He received an email from the HSE indicating that their Estates Manager was willing to meet with the Killarney Municipal District Manager to discuss this matter. Pursuing a CPO at this time would not be wise. He said that it may be two and a half to three years before this option comes to fruition while two other options are closer to fruition.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue stated that the motion is very specific and a meeting has been arranged with the HSE. Following that meeting the position will be clearer and a vote on this proposal would be premature at that time. Mr. O'Donoghue pointed out that the making of a decision in relation to a CPO is an executive function.

The Chief Executive stated that an update on the meeting with the HSE will be given to the members of the Municipal District of Killarney.

Cllr. J. Moloney requested that Notice of Motion No. 26 would be deferred to the June Council Meeting on behalf of Cllr. O'Shea.

## **27. Development of a playground in Firies Village**

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

Is there any further progress in regard to availability of a site and funding for the development of a playground in Firies Village.

### **The following report issued:**

**Kerry County Council have been working through the Maine Valley Family Resource Centre on the development of this playground. The FRC have appointed a development worker to the project who has recently formed a parents group to advance the project. A suitable site has been identified adjacent to the Food Hub Units in Firies and will be made available by the landowner subject to a playground plan being developed as set out.**

Cllr. B. Cronin welcomed the report.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion.

## **28. Lyme disease**

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

As recent research has shown that Kerry has one of the highest concentrations of ticks, carrying lyme disease, which can easily be transmitted to humans, that this Council call on the HSE to highlight this fact and also to highlight precautions that can be taken to prevent people contracting this very serious disease.

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



Cllr. JJ Culloty said that the number of people getting Lyme disease is increasing and he is aware of some people who have contracted it. As a result of a survey carried out on the edges of paths in a recreation park in the South West of Ireland, Professor JS Gray of UCD stated that ticks infected with Lyme (Borrelis bacteria) were numerous - 11% to 29% which is the highest in Europe. As Kerry is a very rural county and many people whether through work or recreation spend much time in areas where the risks of picking up this dangerous disease exist, he called not only on the HSE, but also on Kerry County Council to highlight the dangers, preventative measures and treatment of Lyme disease. Preventative measures can be as simple as tucking pants inside socks, checking susceptible areas for ticks such as behind the knees, the groin area and checking behind the ears after leaving high risk areas. Clothing and pets should also be checked before entering the house. Also putting Deet on skin can reduce the risk of getting a tick bite. A Helpline and contact numbers should also be published. Cllr. Culloty stated he recently made contact with a GP who told him that as far as he was aware most pharmacies do not stock very simple but effective "Tom Tick Twisters" which are recommended for the safe removal of ticks which have become embedded in the skin.

Lyme Disease (Borreliosis) is a bacterial infection transmitted by the bite of ticks. According to Dr. Eoin Healy of UCC, Counties Kerry, Wicklow and Cork are high risk areas for Lyme Disease. While he did not have the numbers he was aware of many people who have contracted this potentially debilitating disease. According to the Department of Community Health in Kildare, the risk of Lyme Disease may increase as a result of climate change, as moist conditions tend to aid an increase in the number of ticks in any given area. Lyme Disease can cause a variety of symptoms, ranging from mild to severe symptoms, which may include migratory joint pain, head and neck pain, sore throat, swollen glands, Bells Palsy (facial paralysis) and severe fatigue. Some patients may miss the early stage of the illness and develop disseminated disease within months to years of the initial bite. Symptoms for late stage Lyme Disease may include neurological changes such as tingling, numbness and tremors, nerve pain, poor temperature control, brain fog and disturbed sleep patterns are common. Complications may include optic neuritis, depression, panic attacks, muscle weakness, tissue damage, meningitis and chronic arthritis.

Cllr. M. Healy Rae stated that Sika deer carry ticks and this is a reason why culling of this species should be carried out.

Cllr. M. Cahill stated that he moved a similar Notice of Motion previously and was aware of three confirmed and one suspected case of the disease.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated that he would raise this matter with the HSE.

**29. Campaign to raise awareness of the need for fire and carbon monoxide alarms**

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

To ask the relevant authority to launch a campaign to make people more aware of the seriousness of not having a fire alarm and carbon monoxide alarm.

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

Cllr. D. McCarthy expressed concern that a lot of houses do not have smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECONDED the motion.

Cllr. T. Ferris moved Notice of Motion No. 30 on behalf of Cllr. Nolan.

**30. European Union (Common Fisheries Policy) (Point System) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 125 of 2016)**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D. Nolan PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council resolves that the European Union (Common Fisheries Policy) (Point System) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 125 of 2016) is unjust, negative to the rural economy and must be annulled.

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

**31. Restoration of the Telephone Allowance to pensioners**

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

That this Council support my motion in writing to the incoming Minister for Communications asking him/her to restore the Telephone Allowance to pensioners, as currently this has left many people in rural areas completely isolated.

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

Cllr. D Quigg stated the Notice of Motion should have read "*incoming Minister for Social Protection*". The restoration of the telephone allowance is vital as many pensioners living in rural areas are very isolated.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae SECONDED the motion.

### **16.05.16.13 Correspondence – Conferences and Seminars**

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.F. Flynn. SECONDED by Cllr. M. Cahill it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllrs. Beasley, O'Shea, Sheahan and Spring at the Celtic Conferences Event on the theme Housing Grants and Schemes to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.

Cllr. G. Spring was nominated to report back to Council on this event on behalf of all the Kerry County Council delegated that attend.

- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Moloney, SECONDED by Cllr. D. McCarthy it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. J.J. Culloty at the Conference on Lyme Disease to be held in Portlaoise on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2016.

Cllr. Culloty was nominated to report back to Council on this event.

### **16.05.16.14 Correspondence General**

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

1.	E-mail dated 11 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from Irish Water in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council calling for compensation/waiver for customers of the Mid Kerry WSS.
2.	E-mail dated 29 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Finance in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council calling for special tax designation for the landbank at Tarbert Ballylongford.
3.	E-mail dated 3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Health in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council calling for the sanctioning of the drug Orkambi.
4.	E-mail dated 3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council inviting the Minister and the IDA to visit South Kerry.
5.	Letter dated 5 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016 from the RSA in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to proof required for a driving licence.
6.	Email dated 5 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016 from the Office of the Garda Commissioner in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to Garda Vetting.
7.	Letter dated 5 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding Knockaderry, Farranfore.
8.	Email dated 6 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Transport in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to capital funding for Kerry Airport.

9.	Email dated 6 <sup>th</sup> May, 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the automatic inclusion of persons who turn 18 years on the Register of Electors.
10.	Letter dated 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding apprenticeship fees.
11.	Letter dated 22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 from Offaly County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling on the incoming Minister with responsibility for Housing to review the criteria with regard to eligibility to qualify for Local Authority Housing or Rent Assistance and to revise the Rent Allowances Allocations as a first step in dealing with our current housing crisis.
12.	Letter dated 22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 2016 from Offaly County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling on the incoming Minister for Social Protection to reverse the harsh cuts made to One Parent Family payments.
13.	Letter dated 25 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from Laois County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling on Tesco to extend the deadline for the redundancy proposal to allow the matter be dealt with by the Workplace Relation Committee.
14.	Letter dated 26 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from Navan Municipal District in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority concerning sewerage issues affecting householders in Navan, in other parts of Meath and in locations throughout the country.
15.	Letter dated 26 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from Donegal County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling on the Minister for Health to reverse the decision to locate the National Children's Hospital at St. James's Hospital and locate the new Children's Hospital for all the children of Ireland at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown.
16.	Letter dated 26 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016 from Donegal County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority recommending to the incoming Government, the adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the all party Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Report on the "All Island Economy" (Jan. 2016) and welcome the recent International Report "Modelling Irish Unification" (2016 March) by Dr. Kurt Hubner which highlights the economic benefits to the island of Ireland in the event of unification.

#### **16.05.16.15 Any other business**

##### **Skelig Michael Boatmen**

It was agreed to issue a letter to the OPW to request that the visiting season to Skelig Michael be extended so that the boat operators can bring visitors to the island from April to the end of October annually.

**Civic Receptions**

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae stated that the hosting of Civic Receptions at lunch time on the day of Council Meetings takes up a considerable length of time. He suggested that consideration should be given to hosting one major event each year at which the achievements of all the groups and individuals approved by the members would be honoured.

The Cathaoirleach said that this matter would be considered.

The meeting concluded at 6.05pm.

**Liam Quinlan**  
**Meetings Administrator**

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**Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council**