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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 , 18 IÚIL, 2016

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY, 18TH JULY, 2016.

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

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

APOLOGY/LEATH SCÉAL

M. Kennelly G. Spring

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive	Mr. M. O'Donoghue, A/Dir. of Corp. Serv.
Mr. J. Kennelly A/Dir. Water Services	Mr. D. Doyle, A/Dir. Ops., H & S
Ms. K. Lynch, A/Head of Finance	Mr. M. Scannell, A/Dir.Job Cr./Sust. ED
Mr. T. Hayes, LEO Officer	Mr. L. Quinlan, Meetings Admin.
Mr. G. O'Brien, SEO Environment	Mr. P. Curry, SE NRDO
Mr. O. O'Shea, Press & Comm. Off.	Ms. J. McCarthy, SEO Tourism
Mr. J. Griffin, Tourism Officer	Ms. B. Reidy, SSO Corporate Support
Mr. E. Kelleher, Assistant Planner	Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corporate Support
Ms. K. Fennessy, Tourism Dev.	

The meeting commenced at 10.40 am.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. M O'Shea took the Chair.

Terror attack in Nice, France

The Cathaoirleach expressed his sympathy to the French people on the tragic loss of life in the terror attack in Nice on the 14th July.

A minutes silence was observed in their memory.

Votes of Sympathy

Cllr. M. Gleeson extended a vote of sympathy to Muintir Corca Dhuibhne on the death of scholar Mon. Padraig Ó Fiannachta.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn extended a vote of sympathy to Cllr. Dan McCarthy on the death of his uncle.

Vote of Congratulations

Cllr. J. Moloney congratulated Alan Gleeson from Listowel who won two Gold and one Silver medal at the European Transplant Games in Helsinki.

Retirement of Finín Ó Tuama

The Cathaoirleach then paid tribute to a very popular and much-loved journalist who retired the previous week.

Finín Ó Tuama worked with Raidio na Gaeltachta in Baile na nGall for the past fifteen years. A native of Cork, he worked with RTE in Dublin before joining the staff of Raidio na Gaeltachta in 2001.

For many years, he covered meetings of Kerry County Council and in particular, he covered meetings of the South and West Kerry Municipal District and the Dingle Electoral Area before that.

Throughout his career in journalism, Finín was the consummate professional – he was always obliging, courteous and fair to deal with. He was always a very diligent and committed journalist. And he always took a great interest in matters which were of importance to the people of south and west Kerry.

Finín will be missed from the Council Chamber and Municipal District meetings.

The Cathaoirleach wished him well in his retirement and added that he had no doubt all members would share in those good wishes.

Fear chineál, cáirdiúil agus cúirtéasach ab ea Finín Ó Tuama. Iriseoir ana-gairmiúla é.

Tá súil agam go mbaineann sé taitneamh as a scor.

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Cathaoirleach PROPOSED that Standing Orders would be suspended to facilitate a discussion on recent developments in relation to the Macroom By-Pass.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED this proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

Macroom By-Pass

The Cathaoirleach called on the Chief Executive to address the meeting.

The Chief Executive stated that the new Macroom By-Pass is critical for Kerry and as a result of recent media reports she sought clarity from TII on it. The following is the response she received:

“As you are aware, the N22 Ballyvourney to Macroom scheme, incorporating a bypass of Macroom is included in the current 2016-2021 Capital Investment Plan. Funding for Road infrastructure in the Plan is concentrated towards the latter years of the programme.

We anticipate that this will facilitate commencement of construction of the scheme in 2020.

In the meantime we continue to provide funding to the Local Authority for the purchase of lands required.”

This is the most up to-date information available and it is important to have clarity given the recent launch of the LECP which highlights access to the county as being critical.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty noted the clarification that the Macroom Bypass will be in the latter years of the programme. If this is the case how were members lead to believe that construction on the project was imminent. While it is in the Programme for Government suddenly it appears to have been pushed back a few years. Cllr. Culloty stated this By-Pass is of enormous importance to the county and he moved Notice of Motion No. 27.

27. Construction of Macroom/Ballyvourney Bypass

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

As we have been told some time back, that the Macroom/Ballyvourney bypass construction is ‘shovel ready’, and that it is only one of very few roads infrastructure projects in the country at this advanced stage, I call on this Council

to write to the relevant Authorities, seeking information as to when this extremely important gateway to our County will commence, and also to explain the enormous economic and social benefits which would accrue by having such a vital link to the rest of this country completed.

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

Cllr. Culloty stated he became aware over the past few weeks that there were issues with the Macroom By-Pass. He called on councillors from Kerry and Cork County Councils to meet with TII to establish the facts. Many people from Kerry working in Cork travel this road daily and patients also travel this route to get to hospitals in Cork and the By-Pass would be hugely beneficial to them.

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that he lives beside the N22 and he is very aware of the traffic levels on the road to and from Cork. He regularly meets people who have made that journey and he hears and sometimes feels their frustration and anger.

Since he went to Coláiste Íosagáin in 1960 the road from Ballyvourney to the Mons or Half Way House has scarcely improved save for some rock breaking at Poll na mBró and a recent upgrading of the road through the village. The only major change has been the massive increase in traffic levels through the town of Macroom.

It is almost condescending to use the fact of the Kerry Cork Link bus in this argument because the argument is not primarily about them. Though, of course, their comfort and well being are very important. This argument is about equality of opportunity for all in our county. This argument is about the economic well being of Kerry and its people.

Article 40 Section 3 of the Irish Constitution states that the State guarantees to respect, defend and vindicate the personal rights of all its citizens. Because of the state of all three major roads into our county, the people of Kerry are not being given equality of opportunity nor are their rights being vindicated.

A few months ago, pre-election, the side of the N22 near his home was littered with posters informing all that the Macroom By-Pass was imminent. The posters have gone, the election has gone and only the hypocrisy persists. There is more to standards in politics than deposing party leaders or drawing big salaries.

Cllr. Gleeson stated he has spoken on this enormous problem at every possible opportunity and on every possible Radio Station from the Right Hook, to Radio na Gaeltachta to Newstalk Lunchtime with Jonathan Healy. But all in vain save for € 500,000 for 1000 metres at Darryaig. Without fear of contradiction he accused successive Governments, the NRA and now the TII of treating Kerry and its people with utter contempt. Not with disregard or disrespect but with a Contempt that is bordering on being criminal.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated it is now evident that much of the fanfare about the Macroom By-Pass proceeding was false and misleading. Funding for this project is not available and it is clear that Kerry as a county does not have a meaningful voice at Government level. The only option now is to join with councillors in Cork to lobby for funding for the By-Pass.

Cllr. T. O'Brien said this is an appalling situation and it is imperative that contact is made with councillors in Cork on it. People are travelling through Mallow and Foynes rather than going through Macroom and Adare.

Cllr. D. Grady stated in 2010/2011 a deputation from Killarney Town Council met Minister Varadkar in relation to the lack of progress on the Macroom By-Pass. At that time he indicated that there would be no progress until 2016 but now it is being delayed again. He welcomed the statement by the Chief Executive and added that this By-Pass is critical for the future of Kerry. Cllr. Grady called on Micheál Martin TD to pursue funding for this project.

Cllr. P. McCarthy stated 2022 was mentioned as a start date for the Macroom By-Pass and it is clear it will not be funded prior to then. He met Deputy Brendan Griffin that morning who informed him that the Minister has not yet finalised the Roads Programme therefore there maybe an opportunity to lobby Government to provide funding for it in the near future. Cllr. McCarthy PROPOSED that an all party deputation would seek a meeting with the Minister on this issue.

Cllr. M. Cahill stated the campaign for a By-Pass for Macroom is ongoing for approx. 25 years. The lack of this By-Pass is having a detrimental effect on jobs in Kerry. Mr. Brian McCarthy of FEXCO always emphasises the importance of the By-Pass to Kerry. He suggested that a joint deputation comprising of members from Kerry, Cork City and Cork County Council together with the Chief Executives should seek an urgent meeting with the Minister. This project is critical for the county and it cannot be delayed any longer.

Cllr. D. McCarthy stated it will be detrimental for Kerry if the Macroom By-Pass does not proceed immediately as many visitors to the county travel either through Macroom or Adare.

Cllr. D. Nolan read the following statement into the record of the meeting.

“A little over 10 weeks since the Government was finally formed and the long awaited Macroom By-Pass has become “one of those things you say during an election. Well done to Minister Shane Ross, now in charge of Transport, he is learning fast.

While we are here today decrying this decision to again delay, it is not just about the here and now. This By-pass as well as the Adare Bypass should be built with 10 or even 20 years.

A cabinet with more than half of its Ministers based in the Greater Dublin Area have put their hands around Kerry's neck and are choking our economy, killing our quality of life and cutting off our tourism development.

Where is the Minister for Regional Development, Rural affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht and the kitchen sink. Is this not the very issue Minister Humphries should be pursuing?

As the National Planning Forum begins to formulate a new National Spatial Strategy again we are hearing populist phrases like balanced Regional Development being bandied about. Well talk is cheap.

The West instead of investment in hard infrastructure like the Macroom Bypass or the Atlantic Corridor has instead been given a tourism marketing campaign and though successful the investment needed for us to develop and grow our economy has not followed.

On Thursday last, CSO released its preliminary statistics showing Kerry being left behind. Our population growth is only half of that of the Munster Region and only about two and a half times less than the National. Kerry had the second lowest levels of natural increase. Our net migration rate is a negative 1.100 showing our aging population and the emigration of real investment must be made in physical infrastructure to halt the decline in the South West.

To progress a project to the stage that the Macroom Bypass as we well know swallows a lot of funding and to then shelf or delay the project is tantamount to the Government burning money."

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae supported the calls for a joint deputation to meet with the Minister and TII on the Macroom By-Pass. This By-Pass is critical for Kerry and it will be to the detriment of the county if it does not proceed. Investors arriving in Cork Airport must travel this road with a lot of heavy goods vehicles; they lose mobile phone coverage and must contend with bad roads before they get to Kerry. This is off putting and does not encourage investors to come to Kerry. As many as 14 people travel from Lauragh each day to work in Cork as they want to continue to live in Lauragh. This is an 80 mile journey and the construction of the Macroom By-Pass would facilitate them greatly. When Deputy Danny Healy-Rae raised this issue in Dáil Éireann recently he was informed the road was being designed. In conclusion Cllr. Healy-Rae stated the Kerry/Cork Cancer Bu, which travels this road daily, cost a lot in repairs in recent years.

The Cathaoirleach commended the Chief Executive and Mr. P. Curry of the NRDO but stated without adequate access to the County it will not be possible to realise the objectives outlined in the LECP. He trusted the Chief Executive, Mr. Curry, TII and the Department to bring works on this important project to fruition in the near future.

Cllr. Cahill rejoins Fianna Fáil

Cllr. N. Foley informed the meeting that Cllr. M. Cahill has applied to rejoin the Fianna Fáil Party and Fianna Fáil councillors in Kerry have unanimously endorsed his application. This will then extend the Fianna Fáil group to 10 members on Kerry County Council. Michael has served on Kerry County Council since 1991 and he has a strong work ethic. His return to Fianna Fáil is a source of great pride for all members. Cllr. Foley extended an invitation to other councillors who would like to rejoin the Party.

16.07.18.01 Cathaoirleach's Report on the CPG Meeting held on the 12th July, 2016

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

"Item 1 Agenda for the July Council Meeting

Ms. B. Reidy briefed members on the draft Agenda for the July Council Meeting.

Mr. D. Doyle stated in the 2016 Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Allocation, a sum of €1.5m was allocated for Kerry, Cork and Clare Bridge Rehabilitations 2016. The Chief Executive stated that she welcomed the lead role given to Kerry County Council in the roll out of the project and that it signals the major contribution that the Kerry NRDO makes to the region.

Mr. M. Scannell stated that the Tourism Strategy was developed following 18 months of research and extensive consultation. There has been significant local input into the Strategy and a number of workshops were held throughout the county. The Tourism Strategy will form part of the LECP and it is very positive that the Strategy is being considered by Council on the day the LECP is being launched.

Cllr. R. Beasley stated that the Tourism, Culture, Arts and Recreation SPC considered the Draft Tourism Strategy at a meeting the previous day and there are approx. 240 actions in the Strategy which is very comprehensive.

The Chief Executive highlighted that the timing of the completion of the Tourism Strategy is very important given the Fáilte Ireland Grant Scheme. Project identified in the Strategy will be prioritised for these grants.

The Cathaoirleach asked if there is role for TII in relation to funding for roads on the Wild Atlantic Way.

The Chief Executive thanked destination Kerry for their huge engagement in the process and stated that the plan provides a strategic forum for funding roads across the county.

Cllr M. Kennelly advised that the announcement by TII that the Macroom By-Pass would not proceed before 2021 was very bad news for Kerry. All members expressed their disappointment at the announcement regarding the Macroom By-Pass and added that there is no guarantee it will proceed in 2021 or 2022. The Wild Atlantic Way is attracting a lot of cyclists and many of the minor roads need to be improved.

The Cathaoirleach asked that an urgent meeting would be sought with TII to discuss the withdrawal of funding for the Macroom By-Pass.

The Chief Executive undertook to make contact with TII in relation to this serious issue.

Cllr. M. Kennelly asked that bike stands would be provided to facilitate cyclists who want to park their bikes and walk around an area.

Item 2 Update on the launch of the LECP

Mr. M. Scannell advised the meeting that the LECP will be launched at 9am in the Tralee Bay Wetlands on Monday next 18th July. Invitations have issued to all agencies involved in the development of the Plan.

Item 3 Update on the launch of the public consultation on the Denny Site, Tralee

Mr. M. Scannell stated that Kerry County Council is in receipt of funding of €1.5m for the Denny Site and the estimated total cost of the project is €3m. It is proposed to launch the public consultation on Thursday 28th July when there will be a photo opportunity for the Mayor of Tralee and the members of the Municipal District of Tralee. Kerry Group are also involved and it is proposed to have an initial public consultation for 6 weeks over the summer. A portakabin will be on the Denny site and it will be staffed by Council staff at certain times. A survey will also be conducted through ITT to ascertain what people want for the town centre including the Denny site. Mr. Scannell stressed that the development of the Denny site must be a catalyst for the surrounding streets.

In September there will be a formal workshop on the preparation of the Plan for the area which will be called 'The Island' and it is important that as many people as possible engage and pass on their ideas for the site.

Cllr. J. Finucane stressed that this is a Kerry County Council and Tralee Municipal District initiative and it will be an iconic project for the town. He asked

that brochures would be made available which would include a site map and a list of contact number for those directly involved in the project. The Isle of Geese is the full title for the site.

Item 4 Procedures for dealing with Urgent Business / Emergency Motions for full Council Meetings

Mr. M. O'Donoghue referred to his report on this item which was circulated and he outlined the proposed changes to Standing Orders under the following headings:

1. Emergency Motions / Emergency Business
2. Notices of Motion relating to Municipal District Business
3. Deputations.

Following discussions on the proposed amendments it was agreed to bring them to recommend them to Council for adoption.

Item 5 Dates for Budget Briefing / LPT Meeting

Members were advised of the proposed dates and Mr. O'Donoghue advised members that an additional CPG meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th September prior to the meeting to consider the local adjustment factor for LPT for 2017.

Cllr. N. Kelleher requested details of the public consultation on LPT.

Ms. K. Lynch stated that advertisements would appear in the local papers on the 27th/28th July and the closing date for receipt of submissions/observations will be Monday 29th August. Details of the public consultation will also be on social media.

Item 6 Receptions for consideration

Ms. B. Reidy stated two requests for Receptions were received as follows:

1. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae for the Rathmore Under 14 Ladies Football Team who won the All Ireland Feile Peil na nÓg Shield recently.
2. Cllr. J. F. Flynn for (*Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy is available on request*) who is the first blind person to complete the Ring of Kerry Cycle 2016.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue stated that Cllr. J. Healy-Rae recently moved a Notice of Motion at the South & West Kerry MD "*calling on Kerry County Council to hold Civic Receptions by having one big night once a year in December to honour these achievements as more people involved would be able to attend.*"

Following a discussion the CPG recommended that these requests would be deferred to the September CPG Meeting when the procedure for the holding of Civic Receptions would be reviewed.”

Cllr. T. Ferris supported the call for a joint deputation to meet with the Minister regarding the Macroom By-Pass. She welcomed the plans to develop the Denny Site and the proposed detailed briefing for the members of the Tralee MD the following day. Cllr. Ferris requested that in September the CPG would consider retaining full digital recordings of Council Meetings. While she understood management’s reasons for not recording meetings she believed for historic reasons meetings should be recorded. Also given that public funds were used to provide equipment in the Council Chamber it would be appropriate to record meetings. This may also encourage councillors to think before they comment. She was recently in dispute with the Irish Times and she would not have had to go to individual members to support her if the recordings were available.

Cllr. N. Foley welcomed the launch of public consultation on the Denny Site and added that there should be extensive public consultation on the future development of the entire area.

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated in formulating a proper coherent policy on Civic Receptions they should be held only in recognition of enormous achievements. Consideration should be given to having Civic Receptions, Civic Welcomes and Civic Acknowledgements. Cllr. Gleeson requested that members would be permitted to make written submissions to the CPG on the formulation of this policy.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae stated he proposed that an event would be held by night once a year to honour those who would normally be afforded a Civic Reception. The event could be covered by Irish TV if it was properly organised.

Cllr. N. Kelleher stated the launch of the LECP earlier that morning was very successful and he commended all involved. He agreed that Council meetings should be streamed live as he had requested this in the past.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn supported Cllr. J. Healy-Rae’s suggestion and added that he attended an evening Civic Reception when just 10 councillors attended. This was disappointing as it is important to have as many councillors as possible present at these events.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty disagreed with Cllr. Healy-Rae’s suggestion and added that Civic Receptions should continue at Municipal District level.

Cllr. P. Connor Scarteen agreed with Cllr. Culloty that Civic Receptions should continue to be held at Municipal District meetings as they work well.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated a Civic Reception is the highest accolade given to a person or group by the Council. It should only be given for national or international achievements.

16.07.18.02 Confirmation of Minutes

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. S. Fitzgerald, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was resolved that the Minutes of the June Ordinary Meeting of Kerry County Council held on 20th June, 2016 be confirmed.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. O'Connell, SECONDED by Cllr. N. Foley it was resolved that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Kerry County Council held on 27th June, 2016 be confirmed.

16.07.18.03 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 July 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.

Operation of LCDC

Implementation of LEADER Local Development Strategy (Rural Development Programming period 2014-2020)

The official LEADER 2020 launch by the Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphries took place on 8th July, 2016. The Contracts for delivery in Kerry were signed by Cllr Norma Moriarty, Chair of the LCDC, Moira Murrell, Chief Executive, Kerry Co Co as Lead Financial Partner and the 3 implementing partners. The LCDC separately corresponded with the Department of Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht regarding the resolution of certain implementation issues.

Local Economic & Community Plan

Following the formal launch of the LECP it is intended to give regular updates to Council on the progress being achieved in relation to its implementation which have the potential to have a major impact on the economy of the County. The following initiatives are being highlighted in this report.

- A. The Tourism strategy which forms part of the LECP is on the July Council Agenda for consideration. The priorities identified as part of the Tourism Strategy will form the basis of future funding submissions.
- B. Last year Kerry County Council successfully applied to the Southern Regional Assembly for European Regional Development Funding (in the sum of €1.5m which represents 50% of the total estimated cost of development of €3m) through the Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme for the development of The Old Denny Factory Site and the creation of a masterplan for the area of Tralee Town Centre West. The first stage of public consultation for the future development of the former Denny site will be launched in conjunction with Kerry Group on Thursday 28th July and the Tralee MD Councillors will be further briefed on this prior to the Municipal District Meeting on 19th July.
- C. Kerry Technology Park – Kerry County Council & ITT acquisition of the site is progressing and we are seeking a conclusion to same as early as possible. Once acquired, the Kerry Technology Park will be jointly managed by the ITT and Kerry County Council.
- D. Former Neo-Data Building, Listowel – Tenders are currently being evaluated for its demolition and we are exploring options and opportunities with regard to its future use.

- E. The IDA international Directors Group were hosted formally by the Cathaoirleach & Lebherr Ltd on 6th July 2016. This important event gave an opportunity to both showcase the county and to help develop key economic linkages for the county

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

The LCDC as the contracting authority is required to monitor and review the performance of the Programme Implementers and the meeting of specific targets against the Action Plan. The Mid-Term Review is due to be completed before the end of July.

Kerry Local Enterprise Office

Training

The July series of training programmes include a Digital Marketing programme on 6th July, two Business Bootcamps on 7th and 19th July in Killarney and Tralee respectively. A specific “Go To Tender” Workshop on 13th July has been scheduled partnering with Intertrade Ireland. All programmes are fully booked.

National Enterprise Awards

The Kerry Enterprise Awards nominee Fionán Murphy of FMM Services, Valentia Island won the best regional business in the National finals of the County Enterprise Awards on June 9th at a special ceremony in the AVIVA Stadium.

Cork Kerry Food Forum

Nine Kerry businesses participated in the Cork/Kerry Food Forum Event on 26th/27th June. The Cork Kerry Food Forum, which is the largest annual Artisan Food Market in the Region, took place on Sunday 26th & Monday 27th June at City Hall, Cork. This event offered the public a showcase of artisan produce from all over Cork and Kerry, with tastings and demonstrations of a wide ranging variety of food.

Food Academy Programme 2016

The Cathaoirleach, Michael O’ Shea presented certificates to participants of the Food Academy Programme on 30th June. This is a joint initiative between Kerry County Council (LEO), Bord Bia and Musgraves Supervalu comprising workshops, store visits and mentoring.

7 businesses completed the programme :- Harty Jellies (Tralee), Pyro Desserts (Kenmare), Sásta Sausages (Killorglin), Honest Fuel Wraps (Tralee), Dingle Farmhouse Products Ltd. (Cheeses), Quilter Fruit Packs (Listowel) and Helen McCarthy, Larkin’s Bakery, (Miltown). A significant number of the participating businesses have now gone on to receive product trial listing offers in Supervalu stores which is an indication of the strong return from the programme.

General Funding

Project funding queries are active and ongoing through standard grants, microfinance lending and the trading online voucher scheme.”

In conclusion the Chief Executive stated that the Cathaoirleach has received an invitation for members to attend an Open Day at Liebherr.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that recently both he and the Chief Executive met with the IDA in Kerry when they visited Liebherr, Astellas and FEXCo and they were very impressed with them. They stressed to the IDA the importance of bringing further industry to Kerry.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald wished Finín Ó Tuama well in his retirement. He also attended the launch of the LECP at the Wetlands earlier that day and it is evident that all state agencies fully support the Plan. The Report highlights the shortage of skilled employees and he welcomed the fact that IT Tralee will address this shortage.

Cllr. P. Daly stated he was very encouraged at the commitment given by various bodies at the launch of the LECP to maintain existing jobs. It was recently brought to his attention that some legal services are being outsourced by the Council. Cllr. Daly asked that this work would be given to firms in the County who have the relevant expertise where possible.

Cllr. B. Cronin acknowledged the progress being made on the Denny Site. He called on the Chief Executive to take urgent appropriate action with the Pretty Poly Site in Killarney. Cllr. Cronin suggested that perhaps the site should be cleared and that it would be available for an appropriate business. In conclusion he asked that this site would be marketed as being available for development.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae welcomed the signing of the contracts for LEADER funding but stated he read recently that it will be late autumn or early 2017 before funding will be made available. Rural areas are being neglected because of the lack of funding. Partnerships were established in these rural areas as they were in urgent need of support. Cllr. Healy-Rae called on the Council to write to the Minister on behalf of the South & West Kerry MD calling for the immediate release of LEADER funding.

16.07.18.04 Kerry, Cork and Clare Bridge Rehabilitations 2016

Mr. D. Doyle referred members to his report dated 12th July, 2016 on this item which was circulated and he briefed them in detail on the report.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Healy-Rae it was agreed to authorise the making of an Agreement between Kerry County Council and Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Clare County Council for Kerry County Council to act as the lead Authority in the administration of a project known as the Kerry, Cork and Clare Bridge Rehabilitations 2016 in accordance with the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended.

16.07.18.05 Dates for a Briefing and Meeting

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. S. Fitzgerald it was agreed that a Briefing on the Council's Budget 2017 would be held on Monday 5th September 2016 at 10.30am.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. O'Connell, SECONDED by Cllr. N. Foley it was agreed to hold a Special Meeting to consider the Draft Budget Policy/Strategy and consideration of setting a local adjustment factor in relation to LPT on Monday 12th September 2016 at 10.30am.

16.07.18.06 Tourism Strategy

Mr. M. Scannell stated the Tourism Strategy builds on the work of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). 20% of economic activity in the county relates to tourism. Kerry County Council and Destination Kerry lead out the preparation of the Tourism Strategy and work on it has been ongoing for some time. The development and promotion of tourism is very important especially for areas that do not have alternative activities. The Strategy aims to strengthen tourism and to extend the season where possible. Tourism is very strong in Killarney, Kenmare and Dingle and the Strategy aims to mirror this in other parts of the county. Mr. Scannell then called on Ms. J. McCarthy to address the meeting.

Ms. J. McCarthy informed the meeting the Tourism Strategy was produced in association with Destination Kerry and a company was employed to examine the importance of tourism to the county. The Strategy was compiled under the following headings:

- Current Kerry Tourism Industry – An Overview
- National Context
- Domestic Tourism
- The importance of tourism to Kerry's economic and social well being
- Challenges and Opportunities
- Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Vision of the Strategy is ‘to maximise, in a sustainable manner, tourism’s contribution to the quality of life, economy, employment and local community development, paying particular attention to nurturing and protecting the natural, built and cultural heritage of the county’.

The Objectives aim to:

- Increase the number of visitors to the county, their length of stay and their spend, and to do so in a manner that is sustainable.
- Nurture and protect our cultural heritage by supporting our people, communities and organisations who are the source and guardians of this valuable asset.
- Extend the tourism season across the county but, in particular, in areas where the tourism season is short.
- Work with Fáilte Ireland and Kerry Convention Bureau to grow event and business tourism in the county.
- Encourage and facilitate the provision of high-speed broadband for visitors and providers throughout the county.
- Promote accessible tourism amongst our business providers and state agencies and market as a key component of Kerry as a sustainable destination.
- Increase the number, breadth, depth and quality of the tourism experiences across the county maximising the opportunities presented by the Wild Atlantic Way.
- Continue to invest in tourism education and training.
- Encourage tourists to become advocates for the county and to return to Kerry in the future.
- Match and preferably exceed the Government’s projected growth rates for tourism (in real terms from 2014) – outlined in *People, Place and Policy (2015)*.

Ms. McCarthy informed the meeting that in 2015, a record 1 million overseas visitors came to Kerry, spending an estimated €260 million in the local economy. Kerry currently attracts 13% of all overseas visitors to the country. North Americans are the most valuable visitors to the county, generating approximately 40% of overseas income, followed by Mainland Europe (33%) and Great Britain (25%). Kerry attracted an estimated 626,000 visits from Irish residents in 2015, spending €160 million. Kerry’s market share of total domestic trips slipped during

the recent recession and currently stands at just over 8%. At least 1 in every 5 jobs and businesses in the county depend on tourism.

Ms. McCarthy stated that up to 14,000 people are employed in the tourism businesses in the county, including an estimated 9,000 in the accommodation and food services sector. Almost 1,500 enterprises in Kerry are engaged in the tourism and hospitality sectors, with almost 1,000 in the accommodation and food services sector. This makes Kerry more dependent on tourism than any other county in Ireland.

Ms. McCarthy then outlined the Challenges and Opportunities as follows:

- Achieving Higher Standards – Customer Care
- Activity and Wellness – Adventure Tourism, Wellness Centres
- Air and Road Access – Accessibility is Key
- Branding and Marketing – A Kerry Brand and Kerry Tourism Portal Site
- Built Heritage and Culture – Rich in Cultural Assets
- Business Tourism – Kerry Convention Bureau
- Environment and Natural Heritage – Kerry's Clean and Green Image
- Product Development – Visitor Attractions, Outdoor Activities, Accommodation and IT
- Revenue Growth and Job Creation – Sustaining and Increasing Job Numbers
- Universal Access – Accessibility for All
- Welcome and Service – A Kerry Welcome and High Quality Service.

In conclusion Ms. McCarthy stated in Kerry tourism is everybody's business.

Ms. K. Fennessy advised members on the different consultations undertaken in the preparation of the Strategy and added that nine public meetings were held and there was a large attendance at all of these. There were seven Working Groups with approx. 15 members on each Group and senior Kerry County Council staff represented the Council on the Working Groups.

Mr. J. Griffin, Tourism Officer then addressed the meeting.

Mr. Griffin stated Kerry is one of nine counties on the Wild Atlantic Way. Fáilte Ireland introduced a Grants Scheme for Large Tourism Projects on the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Ancient East with a fund of €65m. There are projects in all 4 Municipal Districts, major towns and villages that may qualify for funding. There are in excess of 260 Actions in the Tourism Strategy. Mr. Griffin outlined some of the proposed projects that may qualify for funding as follows:

1. Cross country bike trail through the forest near Kilgarvan.
2. GAA Cultural Centre.
3. Improved access to the Great Blasket Island.
4. Restoration of Dun Chaoin slipway.

5. Tralee Heritage attractions – Windmill, Wetlands
6. Consider the restoration of the Steam Train.
7. Replacement of Valentia Car Ferry.
8. Upgrading of the Kerry County Museum.

Mr. Griffin stated Listowel has many excellent attractions but there is a shortage of accommodation and there is no camper van park there. It is hoped to improve facilities in Ballybunion and to create a Wild Atlantic Way signature point in the area. It is also hoped to develop an integrated water sport facility there to make it more attractive off season. It is also planned to extend the Cliff Walk in Ballybunion.

The jewel in the crown in Kerry would be the South Kerry Greenway but it will be very expensive. It is proposed to do a 4.8km section at Mountain Stage with funding from the Fáilte Ireland Programme. It is also planned to progress the North Kerry Greenway. The restoration of Killarney House is underway by the NPWS and it is hoped the House will open to the public by the end of the year. The NPWS are also planning Phase 2 which will be the restoration of the farm house. Other proposed projects include the Killarney Greenways – Lough Leane Loop, Fossa Way Loop Walk. Kerry has the longest section of the Wild Atlantic Way but unfortunately we do not have Discovery Points. There will be Signature Points in West Kerry overlooking the Blasket Islands and two at Kenmare Bay and work is ongoing in identifying these. It has also been proposed that there should be a Discovery Point at Kerryhead. Kerry County Council fully supports the Dark Sky Reserve in South Kerry and work is ongoing to secure designation for it. Consideration is also being given to securing a mobile observatory for the Dark Sky Reserve. It is proposed to have a Weave and Visitor Science Centre in Caherciveen and they will work closely with UCC and South Kerry Development Partnership on the Planetarium site next to the Marina.

Mr. Griffin added that an application for designation as a UNESCO site has been made for Valentia Cable Station and what was achieved there 150 years ago revolutionised global communications. Kerry County Council is also working with the McGillicuddy Reeks Committee to ensure safe access is provided as erosion is a big problem on the Reeks. The next stage of the Tralee to Ballyseedy Wood Greenway will be from Ballymullen to Ballyseedy. Consideration is also being given to marine works at the entrance to Kenmare Bay at Kilmacalogue and Caherdaniel. There are plans for a walking trail from the Conor Pass to Dingle and a Feasibility Study has been undertaken on it. Other Major Projects under consideration include:

- Events Centre in Tralee.
- All-Weather Coverings for Public Spaces in Killarney and Tralee.
- Provide universal access to a Kerry Mountain Peak (not an SAC/SPA).

The Chief Executive thanked Ms. McCarthy, Ms. Fennessy and Mr. Griffin for their dedication and commitment in compiling the Tourism Strategy. It is a very ambitious Plan and the projects highlighted by Mr. Griffin would all cost in excess of €200,000. There are 27 projects in this category and each project must be assessed with Fáilte Ireland. The CE added it would be excellent to get three Greenways completed in Kerry. In conclusion she thanked Destination Kerry for their work in compiling the Strategy.

All members commended Ms. McCarthy, Ms. Fennessy and Mr. Griffin on their presentations and the extensive public consultation undertaken in the preparation of the Strategy.

Cllr. J. Moloney stated the video shown by Mr. Griffin which was shot using a drone could be used as a promotional video for the county. Action 45 refers to an extension of the river walk in Listowel and he asked that this would be wheelchair accessible. Cllr. Moloney welcomed Action 63 and 64. Action 142 recommends the appointment of a recreation office for North and West Kerry which is welcome but there is no mention in the Strategy of the Tarbert/Killimer Ferry and he asked that this would be included in the Strategy. Cllr. Moloney stated that the development of the Kerry Section of the Great Southern Trail from Abbeyfeale to Listowel is not a priority while the Tralee to Fenit Greenway is. There are land issues associated with all Greenways and the Limerick side of the Great Southern Trail is completed. Cllr. Moloney PROPOSED that the Great South Trail in Kerry would be included as a short term objective.

Cllr. M. Cahill then moved Notice of Motion No. 22.

22. South Kerry Greenway

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

That Kerry County Council be generous in regards to accommodation works, underpasses, overpasses, etc., in respect of the South Kerry Greenway so as to ensure that the concerns of the majority of landowners are addressed and that this vital project for the County comes to fruition and that in the interest of "Health and Safety" that as many of the ever increasing number of cyclists as possible are accommodated off a section of Ireland's Premier Tourist Route, the Ring of Kerry Road.

The following report issued:

Kerry County Council held two days of public consultation in Cahersiveen recently on the development of the Greenway in South Kerry.

Approximately 200 people attended the consultations and much engagement took place. Issues regarding accommodation works were discussed with many landowners. Kerry County Council will work with farmers and other affected landowners to address the concerns that exist

on the Greenway and put in place the appropriate infrastructure and accommodation works required.

Cllr. Cahill called on the Council to be generous with accommodation works on the South Kerry Greenway which would go a long way to address some of the issues of concern. It is critical for South Kerry that the Greenway proceeds and it would be safer for cyclists. Cllr. Cahill welcomed Action 195 which support Killarney's bid to be a host venue for the 2023 Rugby World Cup. He welcomed the inclusion of access to the county, Kerry Airport and the development of Piers and Harbours in the Strategy. Cllr. Cahill called on the Council to work with the various Kerry Associations throughout the world to achieve the actions set out in the Strategy. In conclusion he asked that the Kerry Cliffs, which are on a par with the Cliffs of Moher, would be promoted.

Cllr. T. O'Brien stated there is a long list of projects mentioned in the Strategy with little funding available. In 2015 people were surprised when Tralee won the top Tourism Town Award but Tralee Town Council and Kerry County Council developed many of the tourism projects in the town. However, some of these projects need to be updated. The Greenway from the Wetlands to Ballyseedy is ready to proceed and it was not necessary to go the CPO route to acquire the land. The County Museum must be updated and as Mayor of Tralee he asked that serious consideration would be given to these projects in the capital town of the county.

Cllr. R. Beasley moved Notice of Motion No. 23.

23. Hosting of a Conference on the continued development of the Wild Atlantic Way in the Listowel MD

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. R. Beasley PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council host a conference on the continued development of the Wild Atlantic Way in the Listowel Municipal District.

The following report issued:

The Tourism Unit is aware that conferences have been held recently on the continued development of the Wild Atlantic Way. The E.U. Commission is also engaged with Kerry County Council on a possible regional conference which will form part of this.

North Kerry is a key part of the WAW and our partners in Failte Ireland will be consulted on the feasibility of organising a conference in early 2017. The draft Tourism Strategy has included an objective to liaise with our neighbouring authorities on the Wild Atlantic Way with a view to identifying best practices, optimum projects and joint marketing with both Failte Ireland and relevant Local Authorities.

Cllr. R. Beasley called on all members to fully support the 270 Actions in the Tourism Strategy. He SECONDED Cllr. Moloney's proposal in relation to the Great Southern Trail. If it was not for the Wild Atlantic Way many areas would have far fewer tourists. Cllr. Beasley called on local communities to make every effort to extend the tourism season for their area. Our climate does not suit traditional seaside resorts but these communities must host festivals to make their areas more attractive. Cllr. Beasley stated he hoped a Conference would be held in Ballybunion in 2017 and in 2018 in Waterville or Caherciveen.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald welcomed the bottom up approach in the Tourism Strategy. While the funding of €65m from Fáilte Ireland is small when it is divided between all the counties it is a start. An extension of the tourism season in Dingle has resulted in increased employment. Cllr. Fitzgerald then moved Notice of Motion No. 18.

18. Call for the provision of campervan sites on the Kerry coast along the Wild Atlantic Way

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. S. Fitzgerald PROPOSED:

Will Kerry County Council take a lead role in providing campervan sites on the Kerry coast along the Wild Atlantic Way.

The following report issued:

The provision of services for campervans and motor-homes is a commercial activity. It is the responsibility of the owners of individual caravan parks to apply for planning permission to cater for the touring caravans or motor-homes. There are currently 40 licensed caravan parks throughout the County, the majority of which are located near seaside resorts. A number of these parks, some of which are also located along the Ring of Kerry and Wild Atlantic Way, do provide the necessary facilities for campervans and motor-homes. In general, the type of facilities provided include: hardcore/standing pitches, electric hook-ups, washrooms, toilet facilities, open air drying rooms; some also provide specific motor-home hygienic service areas.

In general, the parks that do not provide facilities to touring caravans and campervans are well established parks where their capacity is full with long term paying tenants.

Under the Kerry County Council Draft Tourism Strategy, the Council is assessing potential for additional infrastructure to support visitors.

Cllr. Fitzgerald welcomed the reply and called on Kerry County Council and Fáilte Ireland to take the lead role in providing funding for the development of camper van sites. Action 61 refers to the Dingle Relief Road which is stated as being a long term objective and Cllr. Fitzgerald asked that this would be amended to a short term objective.

Cllr. J. Finucane moved Notice of Motion No. 21.

21. Call on Kerry County Council to host a meeting of all counties involved in the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW)

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

That this Council host a meeting of all counties involved in the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) to review its effectiveness and to continue to enhance the longest coastal drive in Europe.

The following report issued:

The draft Tourism Strategy has included an objective to liaise with our neighbouring authorities on the Wild Atlantic Way with a view to identifying best practices, optimum projects and joint marketing with both Failte Ireland and relevant Local Authorities. The Tourism Unit will liaise with Failte Ireland with a view to progressing this objective, in order to maximise return of the extremely valuable infrastructure and especially to maximise returns from the major financial investment made both nationally and locally.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated as Kerry has the longest coastline on the Wild Atlantic Way it would be appropriate to host a meeting of all counties on the Wild Atlantic Way. Each county could set out its priorities which would ensure there is a coherent Strategy for the WAW. This meeting could be held in September. Cllr. Finucane supported the use of a single brand for the county and added that he hoped Kerry Airport would be successful in attracting an Austrian airline to the county. Cllr. Finucane also suggested that an annual diaspora event should be held in Kerry.

Cllr. N. Foley commended the Tourism Unit and Destination Kerry on producing the Tourism Strategy and added it was important that it was produced in-house. She supported the development of a Kerry brand which is very important for the county. In excess of 1million tourists came to Kerry in 2015 and she welcomed the concept of a Visitors Passport which would be stamped wherever they visit. The development of a film trail would be very significant for tourism also. Tourism will be a success or fail on the welcome tourists receive from the ordinary citizens of the county. In conclusion Cllr. Foley welcomed the proposed developments for Tralee.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae welcomed the proposed Viewing Points either side of Kenmare Bay. There is a lot of woodland in the county and this should be opened up to walkers etc. Valentia Ferry is very important for tourism in South Kerry and if the Ferry is lost it will have a detrimental effect on Portmagee, Valentia etc. Cllr. Healy-Rae called on the Council to ensure the Ferry continues to operate. He stated while he was always supportive of the South Kerry Greenway he did not believe it would proceed because of the CPO.

Cllr. P. Daly paid tribute to the Council for developing the Tourism Strategy and the LECP and added that that the Council is to the forefront in promoting the county.

Cllr. D. Quigg welcomed the proposed co-ordinated approach to marketing the county internationally and added that the problem at present is that marketing by the private sector is fragmented. There is no reference to access to Caragh Lake in the Strategy and he called for the development of a Lakeland facility with accommodation there. There is a great opportunity to develop this location and he added that the onus is on Kerry County Council to consider it even if it means having to CPO land. Cllr. Quigg asked that this would be included as an Action in the Strategy.

Cllr. P. McCarthy moved Notice of Motion No. 9.

9. Twinning with the City of Philadelphia

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. P. McCarthy PROPOSED:

That this Council start the twinning process with the City of Philadelphia.

The following report issued:

Kerry County Council understands the importance of the twinning process from the economic, tourism and cultural exchange benefits. Kerry County Council is presently reviewing overall Twinning Initiatives developed by the Town Councils from a strategic perspective. This review will consider the current motion in relation to the twinning process with the City of Philadelphia.

Cllr. P. McCarthy stated the Tourism Strategy provides a template for the development of many areas into the future and that is welcome. He asked if a monitoring report on its implementation will be presented to Council in due course. Cllr. McCarthy welcomed the inclusion of the Dark Skies Reserve together with a proposal to examine the feasibility of a Cable Car in the county. A Planetarium would be one of the biggest attractions in the West of Ireland. While in Philadelphia he met with people who were interested in twinning with Kerry and consideration should also be given to twinning with Zhejiang also.

Cllr. S. Locke stated as Tourist Town of the Year Tralee needs further investment in tourism projects. If the Town Centre or Square were covered it would enhance the town for festivals and other events. The promotion of angling would allow the tourism season to be extended and he asked that facilities for those with a disability would be provided on the River Laune and River Maine. The River Lee was one of the finest catchments but it was closed. Cllr. Locke requested that this river would be surveyed to establish what types of fish are there.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated funding is critical to the success of the Strategy. While adventure tourism is of huge benefit to the county there is a gap in the market for those who want to pursue mountain biking. Such a facility would help to extend the season. The Lough Leane Loop Walk will have great potential and should be an excellent attraction. The work being undertaken by the McGillycuddy Reeks Action Group is vital to ensure the safety of those climbing the Reeks.

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated the Tourism Strategy presents an exciting challenge. The Gardens at Killarney House are open daily and are proving to be very popular with both locals and tourists. The promotion of organic food trails should be developed in conjunction with the development of Greenways. There is an issue with the standard of footpaths and cycleways in the county and this needs to be addressed. There should be a greater emphasis on developing local heritage trails. Cllr. Gleeson supported the call for the provision of fishing stands for the disabled on our rivers. In conclusion he welcomed the inclusion of plans to consider a Cable Station in the county.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn stated it is vital that the River Laune is dredged as there is an island in the river at present. He supported Cllr. Finucane's call for the holding of a conference/gathering for the Kerry diaspora annually and he requested that Cromane would be included as a viewing point. Valentia Ferry is critically important for South Kerry and he called on the Council to ensure it continues to operate. There is a lack of toilet facilities for tourists on the road from Killorglin to Dingle and this should be addressed.

Cllr. D. Grady stated the Strategy acknowledges the importance of tourism for Kerry and aims to develop tourism further. He requested an update on the proposed cycle track for East Kerry which would be a great attraction for the area.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting it was 1pm and the presentation by Jigsaw would then be taken.

16.07.18.10 Presentation by Jigsaw Kerry

The Cathaoirleach welcomed (*Names withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the minutes is available on request*) from Jigsaw to the meeting.

(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the minutes is available on request) informed the meeting that Jigsaw is an initiative that aims to support communities to work together to better support the mental health and well-being of their young people aged 12-25 years. Jigsaw aims to change how Ireland thinks about young people's mental health. The service focuses on the young person and provides for engagement and research and evaluation. Jigsaw has a Youth Advisory Panel who are voluntary young people aged 16 – 25. This gives a direct voice to young people in the community. They are dedicated young people who want to improve the mental health of young people in their community through awareness raising.

There is a National Jigsaw Youth Advisory Panel, a Jigsaw Kerry Advisory Group and a Jigsaw Kerry Fundraising and Awareness Group. The Youth Advisory Panel offers advice and consultation and is available to attend community and public events.

(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the minutes is available on request) then outlined the services provided to young people in Kerry. Jigsaw offers the right help, at the right time and in the right place. The young person can refer themselves via phone or email or they can be referred by professions or parents/guardians. Jigsaw encourages prevention and early intervention and the service is available for 12 – 25 year olds. Young people are centrally involved in the service and they deal with issues of common concern to mild/moderate mental health difficulties. Jigsaw provides a brief, goal focused intervention of between 1 and 6 sessions and their aim is to build community capacity to support youth mental health. Just as we all have dental health we all have mental health. *(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the minutes is available on request)* then outlined the services provided for community capacity building as follows: Stage 1: Understand Youth Mental Health Introductory Workshop. Stage 2: Minding Youth Mental Health by building resilience. Jigsaw works in the Community and provides a 1 day workshop in schools entitled 'Its Time to Start Talking'.

It is important to focus on youth mental health as mental health is a leading health issue for young people. 75% of adults diagnosed with a mental health disorder have experienced mental health difficulties by the age of 24. 70% of the health problems of young people, and most of the mortality, is due to mental health and substance use disorders. The economic cost of mental health problems was €3 billion in 2006 or 2% of GNP. That is why early intervention by Jigsaw is so important. UCD School of Psychology conducted a National Study of Youth Mental Health and they found:

- 1 in 4 suffer from mild to severe stress.
- Almost 1 in 3 suffer from mild to severe feelings of anxiety.
- Almost 1 in 3 suffer from mild to severe feelings of depression.

(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the minutes is available on request) then addressed the meeting and stated to-date in 2016, 53.4% of service users in Kerry were female while 46.6% were male. The common age of entry to the service is 14 to 18 year olds and this is below the national average. *(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the minutes is available on request)* outlined the top 10 issues presenting to Jigsaw Kerry as follows:

1. Feelings: Low mood
2. Physical: Anxiety/tension/worry
3. Interaction: Isolating from others/withdrawn
4. Physical: Stress
5. Family, Peers, Relationships: Family problems
6. Feelings: Anger
7. Interaction: Bullied
8. Feelings: Low self-esteem
9. Family, Peers Relationships: Parent/youth conflict
10. Thinking: Sleep changes/issues.

(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the minutes is available on request) outlined the top 10 referral pathways to Jigsaw Kerry with referral by a Parent accounting for 72 of the 161 referrals to-date in 2016. He outlined the opening hours for the service as Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9am – 5.30pm. Wednesday 11am – 7pm and Friday 9am – 5pm. Contact can be made either via phone or email and the service is flexible. Jigsaw Kerry has Outreach Centres in Caherciveen, Castleisland and Listowel and it is hoped to open a centre in Killarney in the coming months.

All members welcomed the excellent Presentation.

Cllr. N. Foley stated as pointed out by the three speakers young people are at the core of Jigsaw Kerry. It is attractive for young people to approach other young people when they have a problem. Jigsaw is working to provide a countywide service but the key issue for them is the availability of funding. She PROPOSED, that subject to criteria being met, that each MD would allocate €5,000 from their Community Support Fund to this service.

Cllr. S. Locke SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. A. Thornton thanked the Jigsaw Kerry representatives for advocating so well for those who are not in a position to do so themselves. She wished them success with the service.

Cllr. T. Ferris indicated her support for the service provided by Jigsaw Kerry. She asked where Jigsaw is looking to expand their service around the county and Kerry County Council owns a building in the area that consideration would be

given to making it available to Jigsaw in the evenings. Cllr. Ferris congratulated those on the Youth Advisory Panel as they have a say in the service to ensure it is youth focussed and led.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn expressed his disappointment that the Mental Health Services Budget was reduced by €13m and he asked that a letter would issue to the Minister for Health calling for this funding to be reinstated. Cllr. Flynn asked if there are any plans to extend the service to Killorglin and Kenmare.

Cllr. S. Locke stated a large number of young people avail of the services provided by Jigsaw and almost the same number of males avail of the service as females. He SECONDED Cllr. Flynn's proposal. Young people need the assistance of professionals and he hoped that the Government would continue to fund Jigsaw.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen welcomed the fact that more young people now talk about mental health. He asked if there are any plans to extend the service to Kenmare and Killorglin.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae welcomed the proposal to extend the service to Killarney and suggested that information could be provided by Jigsaw at Youth Clubs.

The Cathaoirleach thanked (*Names withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the minutes is available on request*) for their Presentation and undertook to visit the Jigsaw Offices. He assured them of his full support for the service. He asked that replies to member's queries would issue to them via email.

The Cathaoirleach reminded members that a Civic Reception would then be held to honour Mr. Brian McCarthy of FEXCO.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.30pm.

The meeting resumed at 2.45pm.

16.07.18.06 Tourism Strategy (Cont'd)

Cllr. T. McEllistrim stated Kerry is the premier tourism county in the country and 1 in 5 people in the county are involved in tourism. Tourism and agriculture are the mainstay of the county. He emphasised the need to maintain our competitive advantage and this could be done by reducing rates. This measure would be very beneficial for small shops, B&Bs and hotels. Cllr. McEllistrim asked the Head of Finance to consider this in the context of Budget 2017.

Cllr. N. Moriarty welcomed the extensive consultation undertaken in the preparation of the Tourism Strategy. The survival of the Valentia Car Ferry is

critical for the area and she called on the Council to support their grant application to Fáilte Ireland. There are many assets in Kerry and it is important to maximise them and to sustainably develop them. Cllr. Moriarty welcomed the inclusion of Rossdohan Pier in the Strategy. It is important to ensure that basic infrastructure i.e. car parking and public toilets are available and this should be prioritised. The marketing of the Wild Atlantic Way is very successful and has benefitted Kerry. Cllr. Moriarty stated that Kerry County Council supports a lot of festivals/events and it is important that they are marketed uniformly to a high standard. She concurred that tourism is everybody's business. In conclusion Cllr. Moriarty asked that Viewing Points would be considered at Cromane and Waterville.

Cllr. A. Thornton stated the Tourism Strategy is more inclusive of North Kerry. It includes many interesting Actions including an extension of the Cliff Walk in Ballybunion. She asked that a Task Force would promote angling and that facilities for motor homes would be provided. Cllr. Thornton supported Cllr. Gleeson's suggestion in relation to the development of organic food trails along Greenways.

Cllr. B. Cronin moved Notice of Motion No. 25.

25. Construction of access road to Tomies Wood/O'Sullivan's Cascade Beaufort

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

Can Kerry County Council request the NPWS to begin work in constructing the access road to Tomies Wood/O'Sullivan's Cascade Beaufort, as full planning has been granted.

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

Cllr. B. Cronin expressed his disappointment with the reply and added that a senior Council official spoke with him in relation to discussions held with the NPWS and that information should be included in the reply. In January 2015 a material contravention was passed by Council to grant permission for a 1km access road to Tomies Wood/O'Sullivan's Cascade in Beaufort. Following appeals to An Bord Pleanála permission was granted for this access road. At present tourists try to access the old route but they are not permitted to use it yet this route is widely advertised as being available. Members were informed that legal action was pending. This is causing confusion and it is not acceptable that the National Park is not accessible from this area. Cllr. Cronin asked that members would be updated on the current position as he understood a funding application was submitted. The fundamental mistake was that the members for the Killarney area allowed this Right of Way to be removed before a new route was in place. Cllr. Cronin called on the Council to contact the NPWS asking them to provide this access road as soon as possible.

Mr. D. Doyle stated the NPWS have confirmed that funding is in place in 2016 to acquire the land but not for the construction of the road. He added that he did not have any knowledge of a legal action.

Cllr. J. Sheahan asked that Killarney House would be prioritised and that priority would be given to the development of Greenways. He cycled the Greenway in Mayo and it is a great success. He then moved Notice of Motion No. 24.

24. Additional funds to continue with works in progress on the MacGillicuddy Reeks

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Sheahan PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council apply to the Minister of Environment, Mr. Simon Coveney for additional funds to continue with works in progress on the MacGillicuddy Reeks. Tremendous work has been done, paths have been constructed but unfortunately the REDZ funding is used and more funds are required to keep this great project alive.

The following report issued:

The MacGillicuddy Reeks are a tremendous natural asset to the county and the ongoing remediation work is very worthwhile. Kerry County Council has worked closely with the MacGillicuddy Reeks Forum to secure funding of €143,600 under the REDZ Scheme. Kerry County Council will continue to work closely with the Reeks Forum to identify future funding possibilities such as Departmental, Failte Ireland and REDZ II funding.

The importance of this work is referenced in the Kerry County Council Draft Tourism Strategy.

Cllr. J. Sheahan stated the MacGillicuddy Reeks Forum was established in 2014. All concerned and interested parties came together to implement an Action Plan to sustain and manage this well known, well-loved fragile area. The area involved covers over 100 km², all of it in private ownership. Outside expertise was sought and local men were trained to do specialist works. Funding was applied for.

The need to combat erosion and to repair and maintain existing paths is one of the main priorities of this Forum, while also securing adequate funding and resources.

It is estimated that 100,000 people go hill walking in the Reeks every year. This is of huge economic importance to the area and indeed to all the surrounding areas. The MacGillicuddy Reeks are getting much press in recent times but unfortunately, much of it is as a result of casualties on Carrauntoohill.

Works on the pathways will surely make it safer for all to enjoy our mountains but if erosion is allowed to continue it will be detrimental for all. Cllr. Sheahan appealed to Kerry County Council to seek additional funding for the Reeks.

€143,000 has been provided by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government through the REDZ Programme. This money has already been exhausted and there is much more work to be done.

Cllr. Sheahan stated he recently attended a Conference for different regions in the Dunloe Hotel and he was amazed to hear that funding of €1.3m was provided in 2015 for the Mountains of Mourne.

Cllr. T. Ferris stated where compassion is shown to local indigenous industry they can continue to be sustainable. Cllr. Ferris asked what the short and long term targets are in relation to numbers and positions likely to be created. The unique story of St. Brendan on the Wild Atlantic Way would be of interest to those interested in religion, culture and geography. She requested an update on plans to promote the story of St. Brendan. The development of Cable access in West Kerry would be hugely beneficial particularly in light of the success of the film 'Uncontrollable Laughter of the Sea'. Cllr. Ferris referred to the reference to the provision of an outdoor Gym in Ballybunion and asked that the Strategy would be amended to state that Ballybunion would be the first and that others would follow later.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen stated a number of tourism initiatives have been very successful including the abolition of the Travel Tax, The Gathering and the reduction in VAT. The new Kenmare website KMEG is excellent and he suggested there should be 1 website and 1 brand for Kerry. This would make it easier for people outside of the county to access information. Cllr. Connor-Scarteen welcomed the proposal to promote the county for film making. The shortage of chefs must be addressed and the tourism sector is calling for the reinstatement of CERT. He hoped Kerry would be successful in securing funding for a number of large projects. Cllr. Connor-Scarteen added that he understood funding for smaller projects would be announced shortly. He **SECONDED** Cllr. Cronin's motion in relation to the construction of the access road to Tomies Wood and agreed that the NPWS should be contacted and asked to give priority to this project. The Greenway in South Kerry is vital for the county and while the CPO is not a popular option it was the only way to progress it.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. R. Beasley, **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Finucane it was unanimously agreed to adopt the Tourism Strategy for County Kerry which forms part of the Local Economic and Community Plan.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting it was 3pm and it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders to allow the remaining items on the Agenda to be dealt with prior to Notices of Motion.

16.07.18.07 Amendments to Kerry County Council Standing Orders

Mr. M. O'Donoghue referred members to his report dated 12th July 2016 on this item which was circulated and he briefed them in detail on the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments to Standing Orders were recommended by the CPG and it is a reserved function to amend Standing Orders.

Cllr. Cronin stated he should be entitled to raise long standing issues such as the Mid Kerry Water Supply Scheme and if he agreed to the proposed amendment to Standing Order No. 26 that would not be the case and he believed these amendments are not strengthening Standing Orders but would hinder members in raising issues. He referred to proposed amendments to Standing Order 30 whereby members would have to raise an area specific motion at MD level on two occasions before it could be referred to full Council and he stated that is not acceptable. He PROPOSED that Standing Order No. 30 would not be amended as he wanted to reserve the right to bring an area specific issue to full Council.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn SECONDED these proposals.

Cllr. T. Ferris referred to Standing Order No. 26 on Emergency Motions and PROPOSED that the sentence 'The Cathaoirleach will consult with the Chief Executive' would be amended to read 'The Cathaoirleach will *inform* the Chief Executive'. She then referred to Standing Order No. 59 in relation to Deputations and stated because MD meetings are held bi monthly provision should be made whereby approval for the reception of deputations can be given by full Council provided 50% of the members for the MD support the request.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue informed the meeting that late last year the CPG requested management to review a number of issues including Emergency Motions, Deputations and area specific motions. The proposed amendments to Standing Orders were not initiated by the executive.

Cllr. A. Thornton stated members regularly wish to raise long standing issues i.e. Kilmoyley Graveyard.

Cllr. N. Foley supported the views expressed by previous speakers in relation to long standing issues. She did not believe an area specific issue should have to be considered twice by the MD before it could be referred to full Council and it should not be necessary to inform the MD that it was being referred to full Council.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated the CPG considered a number of these issues. The proposed amendment to Standing Order No. 30 aims to protect the MDs and it would ensure the MDs do not become less crucial and that issues could not be referred to full Council in the first instance.

Cllr. T. McEllistrim stated members are entitled to submit motions at MD level. However if they want to raise an issue in relation to another MD they are not permitted to do. As a member of Kerry County Council a member should be entitled to submit motions in relation to other MDs at full Council.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae stated members should be permitted to seek approval for the reception of a deputation at either MD or full Council otherwise it could take too long for the deputation to be heard. There are many long standing issues such as the Mid Kerry Water Supply Scheme and other issues and members should have the right to raise them at full Council. He cannot raise Poulgorm Bridge at the South and West Kerry MD as it is not in that MD therefore he should be allowed raise it at full Council. Notices of Motion to which the response is that it is 'a matter for consideration by the members' should not have to be submitted 14 days prior to a meeting. Such motions should be accepted up to 7 days prior to the meeting. The number of Emergency Motions raised by members is minimal and they should be permitted.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated it is important that members who move motions at MD level and are not satisfied with the response are permitted to bring the motion to full Council.

Cllr. T. Ferris stated in Monaghan County Council members can submit two motions; the first is specific to the role of the local authority. The second motion is a matter for the members and the timeframe for submitting those motions is shorter.

The Chief Executive highlighted that the timeframe for the submission of motions was reviewed recently and it was agreed to extend the time for the submission of all motions to 10am on the Monday two weeks prior to the meeting. She assured members that Management are not attempting to curtail democracy in the Council Chamber. Members expressed concern at area specific issues appearing on the Agenda for full Council and that is why Standing Orders were reviewed. The Chief Executive strongly refuted suggestions that this was an attempt to curb democracy. She suggested that each of the Standing Orders mentioned in the report would be dealt with individually.

Mr. O'Donoghue suggested that Standing Order Nos. 26 and 27 could be taken together. Following suggestions from members the following amendments were proposed:

Procedures for dealing with Urgent Business

- "26. *Emergency Notice of Motions must refer to urgent business or issues which have only arisen in the period between the deadline for receipt of routine Notices of Motion and the actual Meeting (in the 14 days preceding the meeting).*

Such motions should not relate to matters which are before a Municipal District for consideration.

Urgent Notice of Motions should not deal with matters where statutory provision / formal processes exist or where statutory processes have been or are due to be followed.

The urgent Notice of Motion must be in writing and must be handed to the Cathaoirleach at the commencement of the meeting. The Cathaoirleach / Mayor will inform the Chief Executive.

Urgent Notices of Motion will be dealt with prior to the commencement of the Agenda Item on Notices of Motion.

At least one-half (16) of the total number of members of the authority must vote in favour of any such Notice of Motion for it to be a valid resolution of Council.

27. *The Definition of "Urgent Business" will be the decision of the Cathaoirleach." (no change)*

Cllr. B. Cronin PROPOSED the amendments outlined by Mr. O'Donoghue to Standing Order Nos. 26 and 27 be adopted.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED this proposal.

A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Beasley, Cahill, Connor-Scarteen, Cronin, Culloty, Daly, Ferris, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Flynn, Foley, Gleeson, Grady, J. Healy-Rae, M. Healy-Rae, Kelleher, Locke, Lucid, McEllistrim, Moloney, Moriarty, Quigg, Thornton, O'Shea **(24)**

Against: None **(0)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal CARRIED.

Mr. O'Donoghue then referred members to Standing Order 59 which relates to the reception of Deputations and he stated the proposed amendment reads as follows:

Deputations

59. *Approval for the reception of deputations at Municipal District meetings will be a matter for the members of the relevant Municipal District. A request for the reception of a Deputation shall specify the group or body seeking the Deputation (including the names and contact details of the representative) and shall detail the specific matter / matters to be raised as part of the Deputation.*

Where a request for a deputation is before a Municipal District for consideration or has been approved by a Municipal District then no Notice of Motion on that issue should be submitted or considered from any Councillor at either full Council or Municipal District.

Cllr. B. Cronin PROPOSED that Standing Order No. 59 as outlined by Mr. O'Donoghue be adopted.

Cllr. J. Finucane SECONDED this proposal.

A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Beasley, Cahill, Connor-Scarteen, Cronin, Culloty, Daly, Ferris, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Flynn, Foley, Gleeson, Grady, J. Healy-Rae, M. Healy-Rae, Kelleher, Locke, Lucid, McEllistrim, Moloney, Moriarty, Quigg, Thornton, O'Shea **(24)**

Against: None **(0)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal CARRIED.

Notices of Motion Standing Orders 30 & 38

Mr. O'Donoghue then referred to Standing Order No. 30 and stated that it was apparent from earlier contributions that members were not in agreement with the proposal that a Motion would have to be considered at MD level twice prior to being referred to full Council.

Having regard to the views of the Members he advised that the following is now the proposed amendment to Standing Order 30 as follows:

Whilst at all times recognising the right of members to bring relevant motions before full Council Meetings, Municipal District Meetings are the appropriate forum for raising and discussing specific local issues. If the issue has not been resolved or addressed to the member's satisfaction within two months, that

member, following discussions with the Meetings Administrator may refer the matter to the full Council by way of Notice of Motion.

Cllr. B. Cronin referred to proposed amendment to Standing Order No. 38 which reads

Subject to Standing Order 37 any matter decided or dealt with by the local authority by Notice of Motion or on the report of a committee shall not be re-opened within 6 months of the date of such decision.

He advised that members sometimes feel a motion is not dealt with correctly and for this reason they want to raise the issue at full Council.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated there should be a minimum time before the motion can be brought back to Council.

Mr. O'Donoghue informed the meeting that the CPG would monitor the effectiveness of the amendments to Standing Orders.

The Chief Executive stated if a motion could not be given effect for budgetary reasons then effectively a decision has been taken on the motion. The objective of these amendments to Standing Orders is to ensure that the issues brought to full Council are relevant and that the Municipal Districts operate successfully.

Cllr. N. Foley stated she appreciated the motivation behind the proposed amendments was to streamline procedures but suggested that the words '*dealt with*' would be omitted.

Mr. O'Donoghue advised members that it is not intended to amend further the proposed amendment as set out above to Standing Order 38.

Cllr. J. Finucane PROPOSED that Standing Order Nos. 30 and 38 as outlined by Mr. O'Donoghue be adopted.

Cllr. B. Cronin SECONDED this proposal.

A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Beasley, Cahill, Connor-Scarteen, Cronin, Culloty, Daly, Ferris, Finucane, Flynn, Foley, Grady, J. Healy-Rae, M. Healy-Rae, Kelleher, Locke, Lucid, McEllistrim, Moloney, Quigg, Sheahan, Thornton, O'Shea **(22)**

Against: None **(0)**

Not Voting: None **(0)**

The Cathaoirleach declared the proposal CARRIED.

16.07.18.08 Summary of proceedings at the Conferences/Seminar/Training events

On the PROPOSAL OF Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Moloney it was agreed to note the following reports on Conferences/Seminars and Training events which were circulated.

- (a) Cllr. J. F. Flynn's report, on behalf of all the Kerry County Council delegates that attended, the AILG In-Service Training Event, on the theme "Local Community Development and LCDC's Role for Local Authorities" held in Kilkenny on the 7th May 2015.
- (b) D. Healy Rae's report, on behalf of all the Kerry County Council delegates that attended the Conference on the theme "Local Economic and Community Plans" held in Clonakilty from the 10th to 12th July, 2015.
- (c) Cllr. N. Kelleher's report, on behalf of all the Kerry County Council delegates that attended the Superior Training Conference on the theme "Local Government Environment Policy" held in Carlow on the 4th & 5th December 2015.
- (d) Cllr. J F Flynn's report, on behalf of all the Kerry County Council delegates that attended the Conference on the theme "EU Cohesion Policy Funding 2014 - 2020" held in Clonakilty from 5th to 7th February, 2016.
- (e) Cllr. L. Purtill's report, on behalf of all the Kerry County Council delegates that attended the Planning Conference 2016 on the theme "Implementation and Engagement Planning in a New Era" held in Athlone from the 13th - 15th April 2016.

16.07.18.09 Report on the operations and activities of the Association of Irish Local Government

It was agreed to note Cllr. P. Connor Scarteen's report on the operations and activities of the Association of Irish Local Government which was circulated in accordance with Section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001.

16.07.18.11 Approval for the opening of tenders

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. Cronin, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Gleeson it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Environmental Consultancy Service for the preparation of an EIS for the proposed viewing point at Bray Head, Valentia Island - Closing date: Friday 22nd July, 2016 at 4pm.

- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Kelleher, SECONDED by Cllr. J.F. Flynn it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Tralee Active Travel - Technical Services - Closing date: Friday 22nd July 2016 at 4pm.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. N. Foley it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N86 Tonavane Cross - Pavement Overlay and Junction and Verge Definition Works - Closing date: Wednesday 17th August 2016 at 2pm.
- (d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Sheahan it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N72 Stagmount Bends - Vehicle Restraint System and Ancillary Works - Closing date: Wednesday 17th August 2016 at 2pm.
- (e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. R. Beasley, SECONDED by Cllr. S. Locke it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Leachate Removal Services from North Kerry Landfill to Tralee Wastewater Treatment Plant - Closing date: Wednesday 17th August 2016 at 4pm.
- (f) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Healy-Rae, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Cahill it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the Construction of a Single Rural Dwelling and associated works at Callinafercy, Milltown - Closing date: Friday 26th August 2016 at 4pm.
- (g) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen, SECONDED by Cllr. M. O'Shea it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N86 Dingle to Camp Road Improvement Scheme - Japanese Knotweed Eradication Contract - Closing date: Monday 5th September 2016 at 2pm.
- (h) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. Grady, SECONDED by Cllr. N. Kelleher it was agreed to approve the opening of any tender that may arise up to the September Council Meeting.

16.07.18.12 Notices of Motion

- 1. Allowable Tax Credit for purchase of house alarm from a registered company.**

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M Gleeson PROPOSED:

That the cost of purchasing a House Alarm from a registered company and of its installation would be an Allowable Tax Credit for the house owner.

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

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated he placed the Motion on the Agenda at the suggestion of a Community Garda who states that the absence of Alarm systems is a major factor in facilitating the criminal. He states with great certainty that the presence of an Alarm is a clear and very effective deterrent to the would-be criminal. In our daily lives all of us actually vindicate what he is saying by making sure that we always lock our cars or bicycles even if we are only leaving them for a very short while.

The payment of a few hundred euro of a grant would greatly encourage householders to install an Alarm. It would also be most cost effective as it would save considerable Garda time investigating crime and it would help stabilise or maybe even reduce house insurance costs. It would also ensure that people, particularly the elderly would feel safer and more secure in their own homes.

Cllr. B. Cronin SECONDED the motion.

2. Assessment of suicide cases

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D. Grady PROPOSED:

That a full assessment be carried out by the relevant authorities into each suicide case in the Country in order to help with suicide prevention.

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

Cllr. D. Grady stated the rate of suicide in Ireland is increasing year on year. Behind all of the statistics are families who are left devastated at the loss of their loved ones, their son or daughter, husband or wife. They blame themselves; they ask themselves if they could have done more or if they could have said something that would have prevented their loved one taking their own life.

Cllr. Grady called on Kerry County Council to write to the relevant authority to ensure that a full investigation is carried out into each suicide to ascertain the root cause in an effort to prevent future deaths.

Cllr. J. Finucane SECONDED the motion and added that sadly people are still not reaching out for help.

3. NAMA properties

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

Has Kerry County Council been offered properties from NAMA, if so, how many did they purchase and how many were available.

The following report issued:

The Housing Agency were charged with responsibility with managing the examination of the NAMA property portfolio to assess suitability for Social Housing proposals.

Originally a total of 219 properties came within the scope of the exercise but after initial screening the Housing Agency reduced this to a total of 42 properties which were offered to Kerry County Council for consideration.

All 42 properties were assessed and 29 were deemed not suitable, 1 was purchased, 1 offer was refused and 11 are currently being investigated.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae stated members regularly hear stories of groups of houses being bought from NAMA and he was concerned that the Council may be missing out on value for money. There are many houses for sale around the county and he called on management to be more proactive in trying to purchase them as there is an urgent need for additional social housing.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae **SECONDED** the motion and stated with the housing crisis surely it was possible to purchase more than 1 property from NAMA.

Mr. O'Donoghue informed the meeting that the initial list from NAMA contained 219 properties but after scoping this was reduced to 42.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Council met its housing targets in 2015 and she was confident that the targets for 2016 would be met also.

4. Gathering of Kerry diaspora to promote IDA unit in Kerry Technology Park

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

That this Council host a gathering of all Kerry diaspora to promote and seek a tenant for the new 25,000sq ft. IDA unit in Kerry Technology Park.

The following report issued:

The new proposed 25,000 sq. ft. unit will be a significant asset to County Kerry. Kerry County Council continues to liaise with Kerry Diaspora and has recently hosted a number of local information sessions in Castleisland & Listowel in co-operation with Connect Ireland. This work will continue which allows the Council reach out to the Diaspora through contacts within communities and to promote the new facility. Kerry County Council will continue to work with the IDA on this matter.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated in the past Kerry was dependant on the IDA to bring investors to Kerry and for some years there were no visits to the county. Now that a new unit will be built he believed that Kerry diaspora should be invited to Kerry to explore any ideas they may have. It is important to ensure the IDA are

actively looking for a tenant for this building also. Cllr. Finucane suggested that the unit should be advertised on the internet.

Cllr. T. Ferris **SECONDED** the motion and agreed that a forum as outlined by Cllr. Finucane could be accompanied by a Mayoral Reception to make it more prestigious.

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that Kerry County Council will be jointly promoting this unit with the IDA.

5. Erosion of the Cliff road Ballyheigue

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. R. Beasley PROPOSED:

That immediate action be taken to protect the Cliff Road in Ballyheigue as it is in danger of further erosion as we face into another Winter. There are two housing estates and several private houses that would be in danger of being cut off and this is also the main route to Kerry Head.

The following report issued:

The issue of coastal erosion is a particularly challenging one for the County. Kerry has a length of coast of 684km and of that 378km is considered soft coastline. Previous studies have shown that approximately 100km of the Kerry coastline is at risk due to coastal erosion with an estimated 25km requiring immediate attention if funding was available. The Council is intending to undertake a Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study of all the vulnerable areas along the Kerry coast. This is a requirement of the funding authority who is the Office of Public Works. The study would also inform the decisions to be made regarding the engineering solutions that may be feasible at individual sites and the prioritisation of schemes. It is intended to further brief the Members in relation to this matter at the Council meeting in September.

In relation to the Cliff Road, Ballyheigue, the Council applied to the OPW in 2014 for funding of €500,000 to undertake 280m of emergency coastal protection works following the severe storm damage that occurred earlier that winter. However, this funding was not granted. In accordance with the current terms of the OPW Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme it is now a requirement to carry out the Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study outlined above prior to the submission of any new application for funding of coastal protection works at the Cliff Road, Ballyheigue. The Council will not therefore be in a position to make a submission for coastal protection measures at this location until the countywide study is completed. We will, however, continue to monitor and inspect this area on a regular basis.

Cllr. R. Beasley stated it was brought to his attention since the severe weather in 2015/2016 the situation with the Cliff Road in Ballyheigue has deteriorated. He requested that the problem of coastal erosion adjoining this road would be investigated and a report brought to the next Listowel MD meeting. A large population would be impacted if the road was closed and there are real concerns that the road will be damaged by coastal erosion.

Cllr. J. Lucid then moved Notice of Motion No. 16.

16. Call to carry out coastal protection works at the Cliff Road, Ballyheigue

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

That Kerry County Council request the OPW to provide funding to carry out coastal protection works, on the section of the Cliff road at Ballyheigue, from the village green back as far as Sraid Thaidhg Housing estate. The cliff is badly eroded in this area and threatens the collapse of the main road serving Kerryhead.

The following report issued:

The issue of coastal erosion is a particularly challenging one for the County. Kerry has a length of coast of 684km and of that 378km is considered soft coastline. Previous studies have shown that approximately 100km of the Kerry coastline is at risk due to coastal erosion with an estimated 25km requiring immediate attention if funding was available. The Council is intending to undertake a Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study of all the vulnerable areas along the Kerry coast. This is a requirement of the funding authority who is the Office of Public Works. The study would also inform the decisions to be made regarding the engineering solutions that may be feasible at individual sites and the prioritisation of schemes. It is intended to further brief the members in relation to this matter at the Council meeting next September.

In relation the Cliff Road, Ballyheigue, the Council applied to the OPW in 2014 for funding of €500,000 to undertake 280m of emergency coastal protection works following the severe storm damage that occurred earlier that winter. However, this funding was not granted. In accordance with the current terms of the OPW Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme it is now a requirement to carry out the Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study outlined above prior to the submission of any new application for funding of coastal protection works at the Cliff Road, Ballyheigue. The Council will not therefore be in a position to make a submission for coastal protection measures at this location until the countywide study is completed. We will, however, continue to monitor and inspect this area on a regular basis.

Cllr. J. Lucid stated it is no secret that the cliff here has been deteriorating over the years. This situation has been exacerbated by the storms and high tides of 2014. Each year that goes by the condition of the cliffs in this area get worse. It is now too serious to be left unaddressed any longer.

If the cliff collapses, which is very likely if nothing is done, then the main road will collapse with it. People living in the Castlclawn area will be worst affected in that they will be unable to access their homes, either to get in or out. Don O'Neill, the very well-known fashion designer who is an outstanding ambassador for Ballyheigue, Kerry and Ireland, his family home is one of the worst affected.

The residents of Sraid Thaidhg and Marian Park will be adversely affected as will the residents of Doon, Old Mill, Dromature, Ballylongane, Glenderry, Keel, Tiduff and Dreenagh all townlands served by this road.

This road is part of the Wild Atlantic Way route and obviously if the road is damaged then this will impact adversely on tourism. It goes without saying that many people in the area depend on tourism to make their livelihood.

Then there are the services supplied under the road such as water and telecoms. The water mains would be damaged by any collapse and this would have serious consequences. Worse still the sewerage pipes are under the road leading to the sewerage treatment plant at Dromature. If the sewerage pipes are damaged and the effluent leaks onto the Bay it would be an environmental disaster.

People living in the immediate area are very concerned with the current situation and are concerned that nothing seems to be getting done about it. This is a situation that must be tackled urgently. An intervention now will certainly avoid a plethora of problems down the road. The cost of intervention will be less costly financially than a major repair job later on. A stitch in time saves nine.

The area needs to be assessed properly now and appropriate remedial action taken as soon as possible. Cllr. Lucid thanked Cllr. Beasley for putting down a similar motion and he added that he hoped the fact that two councillors have raised the issue expressing the vital need for action now will be reflected in the communication that will issue to the OPW.

Cllr. R. Beasley SECONDED this motion.

6. Call to allow the Private Sector to run Public Hospitals and the Health Service

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

That Kerry County Council call on the Government and the Minister for Health to allow the Private Sector run Public Hospitals and the Health Service and address the "Health Crisis" in this country for once and for all.

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

Cllr. M. Cahill stated the reason he put down this motion was because successive Governments have failed to get the Health Service right. Billions have been pumped into the Health Service for years but the service has not improved. There are still long waiting lists and it is said the St. Mary of the Angels Respite Care will be cut. Cllr. Cahill requested that his motion would be forwarded to the Minister for Health for consideration.

Cllr. T. Ferris opposed the motion and stated that there is usually controversy following the privatisation of any service. The primary motive of private companies is profit. Much of the Housing Service has been privatised over the past number of years and it has not worked.

Cllr. P. Daly stated if the Health Service was privatised it would work for shareholders but not for the sick.

Cllr. Cahill stated the Health Service is in crisis. There are many business people like Brian McCarthy in the county who would do a better job if they came together. Cllr. Cahill stated he was not trying to take medical cards off people.

A vote was then taken on Cllr. Cahill's motion which resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Cahil, O'Shea **(2)**

Against: Cllrs. Beasley, Cronin, Culloty, Daly, Ferris, Flynn, Foley, Gleeson, J. Healy-Rae, M. Healy-Rae, Lucid, Moloney, Moriarty, Sheahan, Thornton **(15)**

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

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion DEFEATED.

7. Call to surface dress the roadways in Killarney National Park

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. T. McEllistrim PROPOSED:

To ask the National Park and Wildlife Services to surface dress/tar the roadways in the Killarney National Park.

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

Cllr. T. McEllistrim stated Killarney National Park is the jewel in the crown in Kerry. However many of the roads in the Park are in a bad condition. Many visitors have commented on this and it is time it was addressed.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion and stated a few weeks ago a fundraising cycle in memory of Joan Herlihy was held in Killarney and the only complaint he heard was in relation to the state of the roads in the National Park. The old Kenmare Road is full of potholes and he recently spoke to Mr. Dawson and he agreed. The only upgrade to roads in the National Park in recent times was from their own finances. That is the reason for the current crisis.

Cllr. J. Sheahan stated representatives of Killarney National Park recently met Minister Humphries and requested funding to repair the roads.

8. Call for Grant aid to repair septic tanks

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Sheahan PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council write to the Minister for Environment, Mr. Simon Coveney to request that home owners experiencing problems with their septic tanks may be permitted to apply for grant aid through their Local Authority.

The following report issued:

This is a matter for consideration by the Members. The National Grant Scheme which currently operates relates only to properties which have been inspected under the EPA's National Inspection Plan and which have received an advisory notice as a result of a failed inspection. There is currently no general National Grant Scheme available for replacement or up-grading of domestic wastewater treatment systems other than that outlined above. Any proposal to provide such a scheme would be a matter for the relevant Government Department. However, there is a tax-credit scheme operated by Revenue in relation to home-refurbishment works (the Home Renovation Incentive Scheme) and certain works relating to up-grading of domestic wastewater treatment systems may potentially qualify for credit.

Cllr. J. Sheahan stated he was contacted by people who want to repair their septic tank but they cannot access grant aid. They were very surprised grants are not available and when they contacted Kerry County Council they were informed they would have to be inspected and issues identified with their septic tank before they would be eligible to apply for grant aid. This is totally unacceptable and must be addressed.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECONED the motion.

10. Call to ensure that the increase in rent cap for Kerry is on a par with increases in other counties

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. N. Foley PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council call on the Government in the interest of fairness and equity to ensure that the increase in rent cap for Kerry is on a par with increases introduced in other counties throughout the country.

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

Cllr. N. Foley stated hundreds of people in Kerry depend on Rent Supplement. The increase recently announced for Kerry was minimal when compared to other counties similar to Kerry. This is very unfair on people who are under severe financial pressure. There is no comparison between the increase in Galway and Kerry and there is no justification for such inequitable disparity. Cllr. Foley called on the Minister to amend the cap on the Rent Supplement for Kerry.

Cllr. N. Kelleher then moved Notice of Motion No. 29.

29. Review of rent allowance thresholds.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr N Kelleher PROPOSED

To ask the Minister for Social Protection to review the rent allowance thresholds put in place on the 1st July last they are not adequate for the current rental market in this County.

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

Cllr. N. Kelleher SECONDED Cllr. Foley's motion and stated a 5% increase in Rent Supplement was sanctioned for Kerry while the rest of the country got a 20% increase. According to Daft.ie in Q1 the average rent in Galway was €618 while it was €623 in Kerry. Roscommon also got a 20% increase and this inequality is unacceptable.

11. Retention of the Sports Capital Grant for 2017

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. P. Connor Scarteen PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council request the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Mr. Shane Ross, to retain the Sports Capital Grant for 2017.

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

Cllr. P. Connor Scarteen stated the Sports Capital Programme is the primary vehicle for supporting the development of sports facilities. Under the 2015 round of the Sports Capital Programme, a total of 1,592 applications were received. 891 applications were successful with €41.1 million allocated in total. €130 million was invested in Sports Capital since 2011.

Kerry

In 2015, Kerry Sports Clubs were allocated funding totalling €950,000.

Between 2011-2014, €1.669,312 in Sports Capital funding was allocated. A huge amount of clubs received funding when Kerry Minister John O'Donoghue was Minister for Sports.

Programme for Government

Significant social and health benefits that participation in sport delivers, more people leading healthier lifestyles, less smoking and alcohol consumption.

Current Official Position

Minister Ross stated (17th May, 2016)

"No decision has been made on the timing of any future rounds of the Sports Capital Programme."

Any interested group should register online now at www.sportscapitalprogramme.ie as this portal will be the only way to apply under any future rounds of the Programme.

Speaking Points (as of July 13th)

Minister Donovan is currently in negotiations regarding future rounds of the Sports Capital Programme and is hopeful that Minister Ross will soon sign off on allocations.

Cllr. J. Moloney SECONDED the motion.

12. Provision of bus shelters in Farranfore

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

As the bus stops in Farranfore Village are on the N22 road connecting to both Cork and Limerick, can a shelter be provided at both locations for the public.

The following report issued:

The National Transport Authority (NTA) has statutory responsibility for the development of public transport infrastructure including bus stops and bus shelters in the State.

This matter was the subject of a previous motion at the Killarney Municipal District meeting on the 29th July 2015 and the Council has written to the NTA requesting that they examine the provision of bus shelters in Farranfore.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated he moved similar motions each year from 2011 – 2015. Farranfore is on a national primary route and there is a regular bus service. There is a railway station in Farranfore and Kerry Airport is located nearby. He

witnessed elderly people and students standing in the rain waiting for the bus. On one side there is a high wall while on the Pharmacy side it is open to the elements and there is nowhere to shelter. The reply indicates it the NTA who is responsible for the provision of these bus shelters and he asked that his motion would be forwarded to them for consideration. If needs be he would be prepared to cover the cost of the bus shelters provided NTA gave permission to erect them.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECONDED the motion.

The Cathaoirleach moved Notice of Motion No. 13 on behalf of Cllr. McCarthy.

13. Call to locate an extra emergency ambulance in the County during the summer

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

That Kerry County Council calls on the HSE to locate an extra emergency ambulance in the County during the summer due to the higher population of tourists.

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

14. Provision of full and comprehensive perinatal hospice care service

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

To call on the Minister for Health to provide a full and comprehensive perinatal hospice care service throughout the country, to women who have been told that their babies may not survive long after birth.

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

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated when parents learn the devastating news that their baby may have a life limiting condition they need all the support that the State can give them. Perinatal Hospice or Perinatal Palliative Care is a compassionate model of care that begins at diagnosis. It means continuity of care so women see the same medical team. It means providing factual information so parents are properly informed about the condition and understand their baby is not suffering and will be cared for after birth. Its about providing bereavement midwives and councillors and ensuring the necessary medical support is provided throughout the pregnancy and at birth.

Perinatal hospice and palliative care is a new and compassionate model of support that can be offered to parents at this very difficult time. Perinatal means around the time of birth and hospice incorporates the philosophy and expertise of hospice and palliative care into the care of patients. The parents of these vulnerable babies and the babies themselves deserve the full support of all our

legislators, but incredibly some of our TDs seem obsessed with removing the equal right to life of these babies. So much so that they are willing to ignore the advice of the Attorney General that such a move would be unconstitutional. As many of our national politicians appear incapable of understanding the very serious implications of such a decision, it is very important for local government representatives who believe in the equal right to life of every human being in this State, both born and unborn to work to keep this equal right enshrined in our Constitution. Cllr. Culloty asked that perinatal hospice care be made available in every maternity unit in Ireland which would be hugely beneficial to parents at this very difficult time in their lives.

Cllr. P. Daly **SECONDED** the motion and added that the Proclamation states that all the children of the nation will be treated equally.

Cllr. T. Ferris stated while she supports the motion she did not support the reasons outlined by Cllr. Culloty. As someone who lost a niece she commended the staff of the hospital for their excellent care and support given to the parents at that time. This issue is not related to the 8th Amendment.

15. Provision of public toilets at the Courthouse in Killarney

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

That we the members of Kerry County Council revisit the proposal to provide public toilets at the Courthouse in Killarney with the view to providing a dual purpose facility to service the general public and those who attend court sittings as it is clear the facilities that are in place at present do not cater for the categories outlined in my motion.

The following report issued:

This matter was raised at the Killarney MD Meeting on the 13th April 2016. The position outlined at that meeting remains unaltered.

As outlined to Members at the Municipal District Meeting, the temporary toilets at Fair Hill were removed due to the fact that they were beyond repair and were a safety hazard to the public. Killarney has a number of public toilets located at the Ha Ha, New Street Car Park and High Street Car Park and the Town Park. This compares extremely favourably with other towns and the facilities in Killarney Town is considered adequate. The toilets at the Ha Ha are located close to the Fair Hill Car Park site. Kerry County Council has provided increased signage at this location and other locations directing people to public conveniences throughout the town. At this point therefore the Council will not be revisiting any plans to provide a new public toilet facility at this location.

In relation to facilities associated with Court sittings, the Court Services have advised that there are public toilet facilities available in the Courthouse Building and that it was their intention that adequate signage would be put in place. Kerry County Council has on-going contact with the Courts Service and has met them last week in relation to Court facilities in the County. Further meetings are planned in early September as part of the on-going review of facilities. Any update in respect of the Court Service approach to the Killarney facility will be advised to the MD Members following those meeting.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated on the 4th July Danny Healy-Rae met with members of the Court Service. It is not appropriate when the Court is not sitting that these toilets are not available. They are not categorised as public toilets and there is one room in the Courthouse that is not used and if the Court Service agree a public toilet could be provided there. Business people in the area are annoyed that members of the public use their facilities.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty **SECONDED** the motion and stated he also submitted a motion to the Killarney MD on this issue. He called for an improved service and the provision of mediation rooms at Killarney Courthouse.

17. Flooding prevention in Glenflesk area

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. N. Kelleher PROPOSED:

At our Killarney Municipal meeting in February the Executive gave assurances to the Deputation regarding flooding prevention in Glenflesk area, an application was to be made to the OPW, has this been done. And if not why not.

The following report issued:

The South West CFRAM study is currently being progressed by the Office of Public Works who are the lead government agency responsible for flood risk management. The OPW works in close partnership with Local Authorities in delivering the objectives of the CFRAM programme. The River Flesk has been extensively modelled as part of this study and detailed maps are now available showing the flood extent and depth in areas adjacent to the Flesk.

Glenflesk Village has been identified as an Area of further Assessment (AFA's) under the study. Flood Management Plans were published last Friday, the 15th July 2016 and recommend a scheme of defensive walls, embankments and select road raising to defend the settlement. These plans are available for inspection in the Killarney Municipal District offices and members of the public may make a submission / observation to the OPW.

The Council wrote to the OPW on the 18th January 2016 following the January Killarney Municipal District meeting, seeking the inclusion of the Foiladuane area in the CFRAM study as an AFA. The OPW responded on the 16th May and stated that at the earlier stages in the CFRAM study, the flood risk to the Foiladuane area was not considered significant enough to warrant the inclusion of the area in the subsequent stages of the study as an AFA. The OPW did, however, outline in the correspondence that the CFRAM study would produce finalised flood extent mapping for the Foiladuane area. This information was also published last Friday, the 15th July 2016.

Arising from the correspondence with the OPW, the Council is examining the possibility of an application to the OPW for specific works to mitigate the risk of flooding at a small number of dwellings upstream of Glenflesk Village in the Foiladuane area under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works Scheme. This type of application is assessed by the OPW having regard to the specific economic, social and environmental criteria of the scheme, including a cost benefit ratio. There is, therefore, a requirement for detailed surveys, analysis and design work to be undertaken in consultation with the OPW prior to any submission. This work has been ongoing over the past number of months. If the scheme meets all of the OPW's criteria, the design confirms that there will be no adverse effect on other properties and agreement can be reached with the landowners concerned, then we anticipate that a formal application could be submitted to the OPW by the end of September 2016.

Additionally, Transport Infrastructure Ireland have approved the commencement of a Flood Study on the N22 National Primary Route centred around Garries Bridge to identify measures which can reduce the risk of the N22 flooding and becoming impassable. The procurement of a consultant is nearing completion and the Flood Study and Proposed Solutions Report are due to issue by the end of 2016.

Cllr. N. Kelleher quoted the following from the reply: *"The OPW responded on the 16th May and stated that at the earlier stages in the CFRAM study, the flood risk to the Foiladuane area was not considered significant enough to warrant the inclusion of the area in the subsequent stages of the study as an AFA."* He received the same response to a Notice of Motion at the Killarney MD on the 12th February 2016. However this reply is not acceptable to the people of Foiladuane. The CFRAM Maps were published the previous Friday and there are pictures available that show the flooding has been more extensive than shown on the maps. A deputation from the residents of Foiladuane was received at a Killarney MD Meeting and they were given a commitment that the Council would take a lead role in addressing the flooding. That has not happened to-date. This work needs to be done immediately. The old bridge had four eyes but now there is one or two functioning. Cllr. Kelleher asked that the Council would take a lead

role in addressing this problem. The primary concern is that it is the landowners responsibility to dredge the river. This river was dredged 20 years ago and he asked why it could not be done again.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty **SECONDED** the motion and he asked that the islands that have formed would be removed. He asked if meters could be installed at Curreal. It was stated that a study of three houses would be undertaken and he asked if this study was done.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae requested that the river at Foiladuane be cleaned.

The Chief Executive refuted the claim that nothing was done by Kerry County Council since the flooding. The CFRAMS is being carried out by the OPW and their view is that the flooding at Foiladuane is not bad enough to include the area in the CFRAMS. An application for funding is ready for submission to the OPW. However there is no guarantee it will meet the criteria for funding. When the N22 was flooded TII gave a commitment to consider this area for funding. However there is a procedure to be followed to access this funding.

Mr. D. Doyle informed members that consultants will be appointed to assess the impact of raising the level of the N22. Council officials met with representatives of the Fisheries and Wildlife Services and they have agreed that the area in the vicinity of the bridge can be cleared out. The cleaning of a river is the responsibility of the riparian landowners.

19. Call to allow the front two rows of trees to remain standing when felling a plantation

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

As the visual aspect of our County, particularly of our hills and mountains, is of vital importance to the promotion of tourism in Kerry, that Coillte as a semi state Body would allow the front two rows of Trees to remain standing when felling a plantation and that they would remain standing until the new plantation becomes well established.

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

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated tourists come to Kerry primarily to be enchanted with the wonderful scenery. We are privileged to be able to afford them views of mountains, lakes and oceans that are as beautiful as are to be seen anywhere in the world. That beauty is their daily privilege, it is our constant challenge.

It is for that reason that he placed this Motion on the agenda. Each of us as we pass by a recently felled forest will feel affronted by the appearance of wasteland that remains and remains for a number of years. This is particularly so when the plantation has been on hill or mountain- side.

Cllr. Gleeson stated he was not opposing the planting of forests he was simply asking that a little thought and consideration would be given by Coillte and by private forestry owners when the time comes to fell the forest. In due course when new growth emerges to the rear they will be able to knock those trees that were left standing. So they will not be at any financial loss. The county, their county and the visitor will be the beneficiaries.

Cllr. M. O'Shea **SECONDED** the motion.

20. Number of outdoor staff in 2008 and at present

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

How many outdoor road staff had Kerry County Council in 2008 and how many have they now.

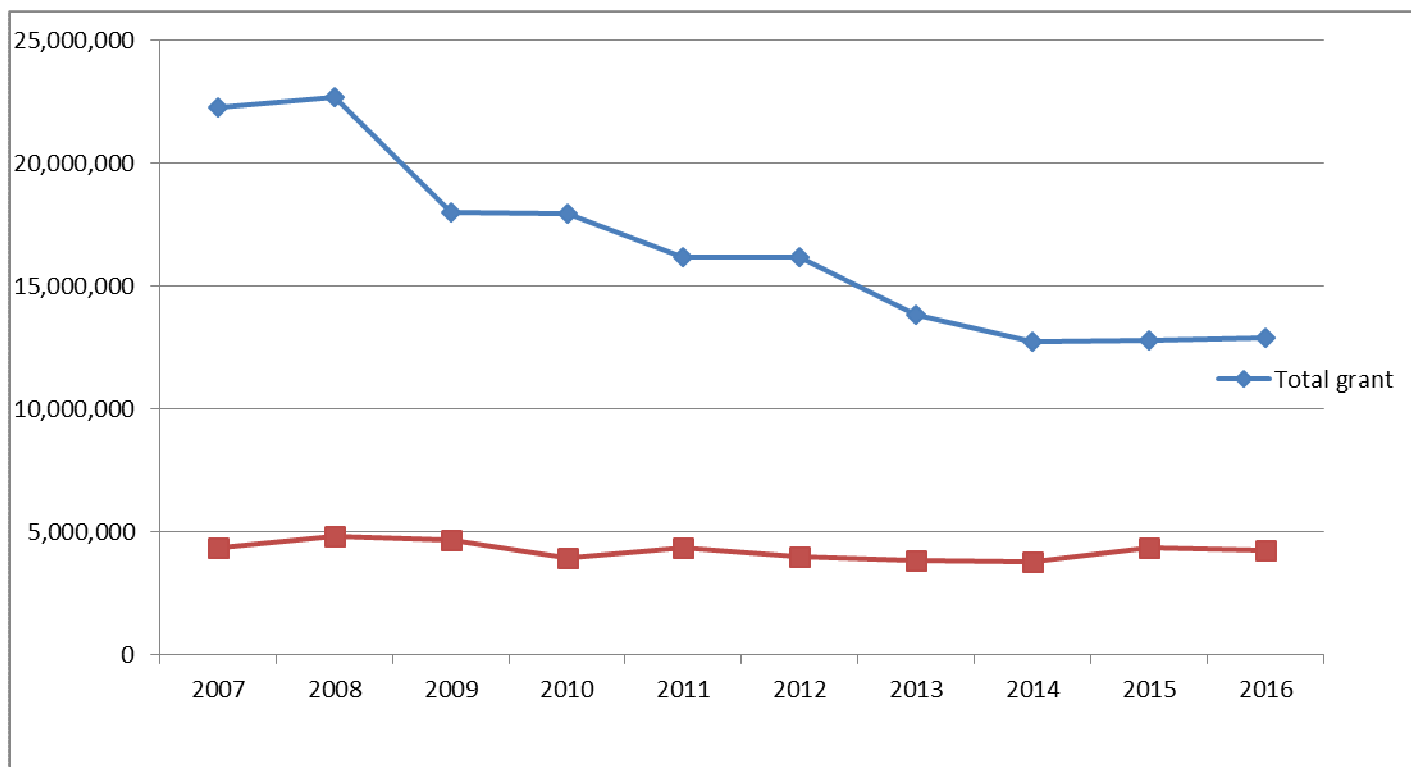
The following report issued:

This issue of staffing generally and particularly the issue of the number of staff engaged on our direct labour force and outdoor staff has been well documented. The issue has been discussed at Council a number of times over recent months including at Budget time and at the Special Meeting on the Operations Department Service Delivery Plan - Roads Programme on 11th April last.

There are a number of factors influencing the staffing level in the Roads Areas. Factors such as work design and organisation, technology, the nature and scale of the works and roads funding have down through the years affected staffing levels. The actual number of staff employed by the Council Areas has always fluctuated. In addition in more recent times the manner in which roads grants are administered by central government have seen a more seasonal nature to the roads programme with a peak in activity levels between March and September. This has had a resultant impact on employment with a greater emphasis on seasonal workers.

The level of funding available for the Roads Programme is the primary determining factor in manning levels. The following outlines the position on the relevant funding and the % of total funding provided locally through own resources.

Department of Transport Tourism & Sport Funding 2007-2016



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total grant	22,697,813	17,985,097	17,935,942	16,185,945	16,158,344	13,809,639	12,744,971	12,774,206	12,916,783
Own resources	4,839,438	4,691,387	3,928,000	4,361,975	4,000,000	3,856,000	3,791,500	4,350,468	4,236,500
	21%	26%	22%	27%	25%	28%	30%	34%	33%

It is clear that there has been a significant reduction in available funding from central government for Roads activities.

The Council in framing the Budget is conscious of the needs of our public roads network. In addition the Council must also remain conscious of the extensive range of other roles, responsibilities and services the Council is obliged to provide. Members will be aware of the full range of work programmes adopted as part of the budgetary process against a continuing difficult and uncertain economic outlook. Despite the very challenging economic environment the Council has maintained its own resource funding during this period.

Overall staffing levels have fallen during the period 2008 to 2016 although 2008 must be recognised at the peak of activity levels and would be recognised at the peak year for employment levels as well. This has been

well flagged previously. Indeed there has been a significant reduction in seasonal staff generally across Council services due to the reduction in work programmes and available funding.

Between 2009 and the end of May 2016 overall staff numbers across all categories fell from a headcount of 1493 to 1257 a reduction of 236 (209 expressed as whole time equivalents) or almost 16%.

In the outdoor staff across all categories and work types the headcount fell from 738 to 596 a reduction of 142 (109 expressed as whole time equivalents) or almost 19%.

It is also important to stress that during this period a number of services traditionally provided by the Councils were discontinued (e.g. Refuse Collection Services). In addition a Public Sector Voluntary Redundancy programme was in place along with an extensive moratorium on recruitment and vacancy filling.

At the commencement of Kerry County Council's 2008 Roads Programme the total number of staff assigned to Kerry County Council Roads Areas was 222 (made up of 190 permanent and 32 temporary - this figure of 222 does not include "Town Councils").

As of July 2016 the total number of operations staff, within the 4 Municipal Districts, assigned to the delivery of the roads programme is 194 (made up of 172 permanent and 22 temporary – this includes the former Town Council roads responsibilities). The numbers of staff currently employed has been influenced significantly by the additional special funding received in the current year for storm damage/ weather related work arising from winter 2015/16.

Staff levels in the roads area will continue to fluctuate with available funding and for 2017 should funding from central government reduce (assuming a significant reduction in the special allocation for weather events) then overall staffing levels will reduce from the 2016 programme levels.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae stated his aim was to highlight the reduction in the number of road staff in each MD since 2008 while the same amount of work is required to be done. He acknowledged the same level of grants is not available but the drop in staff numbers is substantial. In the Kenmare area 14 staff members have gone for one reason or another in the past 8 years and they have not been replaced. There are 14 staff remaining and they cannot carry out the same level of maintenance work as a staff of 28. Staffing levels are also at crisis point in Caherciveen and he expressed concern that some work is being neglected as a result of staff shortages. Gullies are not being cleared and this has resulted in

flooding in some areas. When members ask for repairs to gullies etc. they are being asked to contribute to the cost of the work from their Councillors Allocations. Cllr. Healy-Rae asked that temporary staff would be taken on permanently as some are temporary for up to 14 years. A new temporary panel could then be created.

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

Mr. M. O'Donoghue stated in 2008 the Town Councils were in existence but there are not now. The additional temporary staff taken on this year was a result of the €4m storm damage funding received. It is a matter for the Chief Executive to decide what staff will be taken on.

The Cathaoirleach moved Notice of Motion No. 26 on behalf of Cllr. McCarthy.

26. Call for an increase in respite care hours

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

That Kerry County Council ask the HSE to increase respite care hours.

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

28. Provision of funding to bring vacant properties up to standard

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

Following an earlier motion highlighting the amount of vacant properties in our County which clearly are not at a standard for the occupation of tenants, did Kerry County Council make any progress with the idea of providing funding to the owners of these properties to bring them up to the required standard which they could retrieve when these properties are being rented

The following report issued:

As Members are aware the Government are currently finalising a Housing Strategy which is expected to be launched by the end of the month.

As part of the analysis/ preparatory work the issue of vacant properties has been raised nationally (by the Local Government Sector and by Kerry County Council) as an issue to be considered as part of the Strategy.

Any scheme to address the issue is a matter for Government and we await the launch of the Strategy.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated the motive behind her motion was to address the housing crisis. If the owners received a grant it could be recouped from the rent. There is a lot of vacant houses in Kerry and if they were occupied it would bring life back into these areas.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae **SECONDED** the motion and said there are 20 vacant houses in Kilgarvan. They could be purchased very reasonably but they would require substantial renovation. The purchase of these houses in areas where services are available would help to rejuvenate rural areas.

30. Call for an Emergency meeting with the new Minister for Health to discuss the Cystic Fibrosis Drug Orkambi

**Pursuant to notice duly given Each Member of the South & West Kerry MD
PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council arrange an emergency meeting with the new Minister for Health, Simon Harris, T.D., in regards to the life changing Cystic Fibrosis Drug Orkambi.

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

Cllr. M. Cahill moved this motion and stated it is very disappointing Orkambi has not been approved in Ireland. He knew families whose children had it and it was very beneficial and improved their lives.

Cllr. J.F. Flynn **SECONDED** the motion and added that there is a number of CF sufferers in Mid Kerry and members should do anything they can to help them.

18.07.16.13 Correspondence – Conferences and Seminars

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Moloney, **SECONDED** by Cllr. N. Kelleher it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cathaoirleach, Cllr. M. O'Shea, at the National Day of Commemoration Ceremony held in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham on Sunday 10th July 2016.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Kelleher, **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Lucid it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllrs. Fitzgerald, Purtill, Finucane, Connor-Scarteen, J. Healy-Rae, Moloney, Kelleher, O'Shea, Ferris and Sheahan at the Conference on the theme BREXIT - The Economic Consequences for Ireland to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 05/08/2016 -- 07/08/2016.

Cllr. J. Moloney was nominated to report to Council on this Conference.

- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Moloney, **SECONDED** by Cllr. N. Kelleher it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. Foley at the Conference on the theme Local Economic and Community Plans to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 26/08/2016 -- 28/08/2016.

Cllr. Foley was nominated to report back to Council on this Conference.

- (d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Kelleher, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Sheahan it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllrs. Nolan and McEllistrim at the AOU 10th Anniversary Conference on the theme “Urban Futures Cities-Towns in Transition” to be held in Dublin Castle, Dublin from 01/09/2016 -- 03/09/2016.

Cllr. Nolan was nominated to report back to Council on this Conference.

18.07.16.14 Correspondence General

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

1.	Letter dated 10 th June 2016 from the HSE in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the provision of a Stroke Unit at University Hospital Kerry.
2.	Letter dated 10 th June 2016 from Eirgrid in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the connectability or options to access the national grid of individual farmers regarding the potential from solar output from their lands.
3.	Email dated 8 th July 2016 from Minister Denis Naughten in response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the connectability or options to access the national grid of individual farmers regarding the potential from solar output from their lands.
4.	Letter dated 14 th June 2016 from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling on the Minister for Climate Change to reverse the statutory instrument which means waste collection companies will start charging for green waste on 1 st July.
5.	Email dated 6 th July 2016 from Cork County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority regarding funding for special educations classes for students with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis at secondary level.

The meeting concluded at 5.15pm.

Liam Quinlan
Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council