

These Minutes are edited for Data Protection purposes because in effect putting them on the Internet is publishing them. An unedited paper copy is available on request.

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE MHIOSIÚIL DE COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN LUAN , 11 MÁRTA 2013

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2013

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

R. Beasley	J. Brassil	T. Buckley
M. Cahill	P. Connor-Scarteen	B. Cronin
J. J. Culloty	P.J. Donovan	T. Ferris
J. Finucane	S. Fitzgerald	N. Foley
M. Gleeson	M. Griffin	D. Healy-Rae
J. Healy-Rae	P. Leahy	P. McCarthy
A. McEllistrim	B. Moynihan Cronin	B. O'Connell
P. O'Donoghue	M. O'Shea	L. Purtill
J. Sheahan	G. Wharton Slattery	T. O'Brien

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Mr. T. Curran County Manager	Mr. J.D. Flynn, Dir. of Corp. Serv.
Mr. O. Ring, Dir. Env. & W.S.	Mr. J. Breen, Dir. Hsg. & Comm&Ent
Ms. A. McAllen, A/Head of Finance	Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. of Roads
Mr. M. McMahon, Dir of Planning	Mr. P. Stack, SE Planning
Mr. G. O'Brien, Meetings Admin.	Mr. T Sheehy S.E. Environment
Mr. L Quinlan SEO Housing	Mr. M. O'Donoghue, SEO HR
Ms. L Sexton, Exec. Planner	Mr. P. Corkery Press &Comm.Off.
Ms. L O'Donnell, AO Environment	Ms. J Brosnan, AO Housing
Ms. B. Reidy, S.S.O. Corp. Affairs	R Ó hEartáin, Oifigeach Gaeilge
T. Ó Loinsigh, Translator in training	Ms. C. Fitzgerald, ASO Corp. Aff.
Ms. O. O'Shea, C.O. Corp. Affairs	

The meeting commenced at 10.35am.

The Mayor Cllr. T. O'Brien took the Chair.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald sympathised with the family of the late Tomás Ó Conchúir who worked with the Council up to the time of his death. He was very involved with the local GAA and will be sadly missed.

Cllr. M. O'Shea SECONDED this vote of sympathy.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae sympathised with the family of the late Mattie O'Donoghue who was a retired Council lorry driver. Mattie gave distinguished service to the Council and was helpful and courteous to everyone.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen SECONDED this vote of sympathy.

Cllr. M. Gleeson sympathised with (*Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request*) of the Killarney Area Office on the death of her mother.

He also sympathised with Mr. Padraig Burke, County Registrar on the death of his mother.

All members said they wished to be associated with these expressions of sympathy.

13.03.11.01 Mayor's Report on the CPG Meeting held on 5th March 2013

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

"Item 1 Agenda for the March Council Meeting

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

In relation to Item 4 Mr. McMahon informed members that while the decision on this application is a matter for An Bord Pleanála Kerry County Council as a planning authority and the elected members have an opportunity to comment on the application. A detailed report will be circulated to members in advance of the March meeting.

In relation to Item 6 Mr. McMahon informed the meeting that the Draft Tralee/Killarney Hub Functional Area Local Area Plan 2013 – 2019 will be put on public display on the 13th March for a period of 4 weeks. Following this a report on the submissions received will be brought back to Council for consideration.

In relation to Item 9 Mr. Breen informed the meeting that notification was received of the 2013 allocation for Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability and it is down by 56% on the 2012 figure. A detailed report will be circulated to members with the March Agenda.

Item 1 County Development Board Update

Mr. J. Breen briefed the meeting on the following matters presently being attended to in respect of the work of the County Development Board:-

- The process for annual approval of plans of the Local Development Companies has commenced with both North and East Kerry Development Limited and South Kerry Development Partnership having submitted their plans to the Board. These plans will be considered by the Executive of the County Development Board at a meeting scheduled for 13th March next and must be approved or rejected and notified to POBAL by 29th March next
- Work on the development of a singular Tourism Strategy for the County has commenced in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and Go Kerry. The first step in this process is to produce an issues paper and thereafter to engage in both stakeholder and public consultation on the plan. Noreen O'Mahony of the Community and Enterprise Department is managing this project which will be completed in this calendar year.
- No further updates, circulars or direction have been received with regard to the format, membership or role of the Socio-Economic Committee which will replace the County Development Board as set out in the policy document "Putting People First".
- Arrangements are continuing for the adjudication of entries and for preparations for the 10th Annual Community Awards which will be held in Killarney in April. Once again this year, the standard of entry is extremely high in each category continuing the tradition of the last 10 years.
- A meeting of various agencies has been convened by the County Development Board to consider how it can reinforce and redouble its efforts in the area of rural isolation. The SIM subgroup of the CDB has been doing some work on this area; however, we are now looking to see what initiatives we could again focus on to assist in combating this problem. We are partnering with the Kerry Film Festival on a series of "Silver Screening" afternoon films for those living alone.
- The agriculture subgroup of the CDB continues to pursue its planning and support for the Department of Agriculture Policy Document "Harvest 20/20" which sets out a vision for the agriculture sector for the future. Its focus has been in the areas of forestry, short rotation energy crops and value added food production.

- The CDB continues to raise, at National and every level, the problem of the non availability of broadband in our County. To this end, we will take the opportunity to attend a question and answer session by Mr. Seán Griffin of the Department of Communications, Energy and National Resources when he attends the next meeting of the South West Regional Authority in Tralee on 26th March next. Without high speed broadband, talking about job creation is meaningless.
- Members of the CDB attended a stakeholder consultation with the Commission for Economic Development of Rural Areas, chaired by Mr. Pat Spillane at the IT Tralee recently. The overwhelming views coming out of the meeting was the resilience of Kerry people in the face of adversity coupled with a desire and a willingness to “get on with it” ourselves rather than waiting for national guidance or regulation.
- A submission has been made to the Department of the Environment regarding the new architecture for Foreshore Licensing in co-operation with the Community and Voluntary Forum.
- Notwithstanding the work of the CDB Community Subgroup on fire safety and gorse burning, it is most distressing to see the damage caused to our unique landscape in the past fortnight. We need to redouble the message of assistance with and to our Fire Service to protect this landscape.

Item 2 Update on National Issues

- **Update on the National Spatial Strategy – Circular PL 2/2013**
Mr. McMahon informed the meeting it was recently reported in the Press that the Minister scrapped the National Spatial Strategy. This is not correct as he said he would review the NSS within 12 months. Notification was received from the Department confirmed that the NSS continues to apply until the new NSS is in place.

Item 3 Update on the Household Charge/NPPR

Ms. K. Moriarty informed the meeting the Council is continuing to accept payment for the Household Charge in County Buildings, Ashe Hall and in the Area Offices in the county.

The current position as of 27th February is that 45,013 properties have registered which is 76.56% of all households in the county.

The Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 was signed into law in December 2012. A number of amendments are being made in the Finance (Local Property Tax) Amendment Bill 2013 which has been published.

The Household Charge will be abolished and replaced by the Local Property Tax, which will come into effect from 1 July 2013. The LPT will be administered by the Revenue Commissioners.

The arrears of the Household Charge will be capped at €130 if paid by 30th April 2013.

Where the Household Charge for 2012 has not been paid by 1 July 2013 the arrears amount will be increased to €200 and will be included as part of the Local Property Tax liability in respect of the property. The arrears of the Household Charge will be collected through the LPT system.

The Revenue Commissioners are expected to write to residential property owners in March 2013 giving guidance on the LPT.

The annual NPPR charge is payable for 2013 and is liable as at 31st March and must be paid by the end of June to avoid penalties. The Council continues to collect and pursue NPPR in order to maximise collection levels for this important source of local income.

Item 4 Update from Chairs of SPCs

Cllr. P. McCarthy briefed the meeting on the items considered at the last meeting of the Planning SPC under the following headings:

- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)
- Review of County Development Plan
- Unfinished Estates

Item 8 Civic/Mayoral Receptions

The CPG agreed that the Mayor would confer a Civic Acknowledgement on Mr. Tim Corkery for his work with the Kerry Cancer Support Group and the bus provided for cancer patients travelling for treatment to and from Cork.

The CPG agreed that the Mayor would also confer a Civic Acknowledgement on the Kerry Minor B Hurling Team who won the All Ireland B Hurling Final in September 2012.

Item 9 Any other business

The Mayor said the March Meeting will be the last that Cllr. B. Moynihan Cronin will attend as she is resigning on the 29th March. He paid tribute to her and acknowledged her work both as a T.D. and councillor.

Mr. J. Breen, Director of Housing also paid tribute to Cllr. Moynihan Cronin who was a very effective Chair of the Housing SPC. “

Cllr. M. O'Shea said he attended a Conference the previous week and Pat Spillane was one of the speakers in his new role as Chair of the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas. He was sensational and spoke passionately about rural isolation, emigration etc. He asked that Mr. Spillane be invited to address a future meeting of the Council. Cllr. O'Shea objected to the terms and conditions of the Local Property Tax. A recent Credit Union survey stated that following payment of all bills many households only have €50 left. He did not have a problem with the LPT for those who can afford to pay but the criteria should be changed to provide relief for those who cannot afford to pay. The present system allows for a deferral of payment but this will result in a 4% penalty interest being added on to the charge. He PROPOSED that no interest would apply, to allow households some respite until they can afford to pay the charge.

Cllr. P. McCarthy SECONDED this proposal. He asked that a letter would issue to the Minister for Environment and Minister for Finance asking them to consider this proposal.

Cllr. T. Ferris referred to Page 33 of the February Minutes where she “PROPOSED when given the power to do so in 2015 that the members would now give a commitment that they would not approve an increase in the rate of property tax, beyond the rate of tax imposed in July 2013.” She pointed out that Cllr. B. Cronin seconded her proposal but this was not recorded in the Minutes.

Cllr. Ferris expressed solidarity with the workers in the BCD Travel Office at Kerry Group HQ. The Company are only offering statutory redundancy and the staff balloted last week to take industrial action. She then referred to the Local Property Tax which she is opposed to as any tax should be based on ability to pay.

Cllr. R. Beasley supported the views expressed by Cllr. Ferris in relation to the BCD workers.

Mr. J.D. Flynn referred to Cllr. Ferris's proposal not to increase the Local Property Tax in 2015 and pointed out that members must act in accordance with legislation.

13.03.11.02 Confirmation of Minutes

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. O'Connell, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Finucane it was resolved that the Minutes of the February Ordinary Meeting of Kerry County Council held on 18th February 2013 be confirmed.

13.03.11.03 Disposal of Property

- (a) Mr. J.D. Flynn Director of Corporate Services, referred members to report dated 25th February, 2013 on this item which was circulated. He briefed them on the report and said as this is a valuable property there is a clause in the lease to allow the Council to terminate the lease if necessary.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. P.J. Donovan, SECONDED by Cllr. P. Connor Scarteen it was agreed to dispose of Industrial Unit No. 8, with a gross floor area measuring approximately 303m² on a site area of 4402m², situated in the townland of Garranearagh, in the Barony of Iveragh, in the Electoral Division of Caher to Cahersiveen Men's Shed Limited, Cahersiveen Industrial Park, Valentia Road, Cahersiveen by way of a 20 year lease in accordance with the terms of notice issued 25th February, 2013 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Section 211 and Section 211 (5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

- (b) Mr. J. Breen, Director of Housing & Community & Enterprise, referred members to report dated 28th February, 2013 on this item which was circulated. He briefed them on the report.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. R. Beasley, SECONDED by Cllr. P. McCarthy it was agreed to dispose of a plot of land measuring 0.835 acres approximately in total situated in the townland of Dromin in the DED of Killehenry to *(Names and address withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the unedited Minutes is available on request)* in accordance with the terms of notice issued 28th February 2013 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Article 206 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001.

13.03.11.04 Shannon LNG application for consent for a proposed Combined Heat and Power Plant

Mr. M. McMahon, Director of Planning referred members to a comprehensive report dated 4th March, 2013 which was circulated with the Agenda on this item. He informed the meeting that Shannon LNG had, on the 21st December, 2012, made an application to An Bord Pleanála for consent under the Planning & Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 in connection with the erection of a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant at Ballylongford. A copy of this application is available for inspection in the offices of the Planning Authority. Kerry County Council welcomes the application. There is tremendous synergy between the LNG Plant and the CHP Plant as heat can be transmitted from one to the other making it more efficient. This will also be environmentally friendly.

While the Act provides that this application will be determined by the Board, Kerry County Council has a key consultative role. Prior to the 13th March 2013 the Council is required to prepare and submit to the Board, a report setting out the views of the Planning Authority on the effects of the proposed development on the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Prior to submitting that report, the Manager is required to submit the report to the Members of the Council and seek the views of the Members on the proposed development. The Members may, by resolution, decide to attach recommendations, specified in the resolution, to the report and these recommendations shall be attached to the report submitted to the Board. In addition the views of the Members as expressed at the meeting will be forwarded to the Board.

Mr. McMahon reminded Members that they are entitled, as individuals, to make detailed submissions or observations in relation to the proposed development to the Board. He added that the planning authority considers the application to be in accordance with national and regional policy and the Kerry County Development Plan. They recommend that consent be granted and the report circulated sets out possible conditions which are broadly similar in content to the conditions the Bord attached to the consent for the Gas Terminal.

He referred members to Page 32 of the report which recommends that no Roads Levy be applied in view of the improvement works to be carried out by the Developer on foot of the grant of permission for the LNG Terminal. Land was acquired for the widening of the road and the CPO was published. This was funded by the Company. It is felt they have already made an adequate contribution to the improvement of the road network in the area. Mr. McMahon referred members to Condition No. 5 on Page 35 of the report which requires a contribution of €75,583.05 in respect of roads infrastructure and he said this condition will be deleted.

Cllr. J. Brassil stated in accordance with Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 he is Chair of Shannon Development who still owns the landbank at Ballylongford. While he did not think there was a conflict of interest he would leave the meeting while this item was being considered.

Cllr. Brassil then left the meeting.

Cllr. L. Purtill then read the following statement into the record of the meeting: "The development of this C.H.P. Plant (Combined Heat & Power) at Ralappane and Kilcolgan is of vital importance, not alone to this area, but for the entire country. The N.S.S. (National Spatial Strategy) has noted the need for additional generating capacity to augment the grid. The N.D.P. (National Development Plan) has stated that the objective of the energy programme will be to ensure security of supply.

It is important to have an energy supply that is competitively priced. This plant is an investment by private funds which will improve the energy infrastructure. It is vital to have energy available at a competitive price to attract industry to this country. The development of this C.H.P. plant would be a catalyst to attract other industry to this site.

North Kerry is in dire need of investment that would create employment. We are loosing a whole generation of young people to emigration and as a result our communities are poorer both socially and financially. We need employment to stop the haemorrhaging of our youth. The development of this C.H.P. plant could be the kick start for further investment in this area."

Cllr. J. Finucane said this proposal is being considered at a time when Shannon LNG is in the 2nd week of a 3 week High Court case. He complimented the Director of Planning and all involved with this project for the professional manner that they dealt with this application. The potential beneficial impact of this project cannot be overstated. Ireland is in the top two or three most expensive countries in Europe for energy and we are starting at a disadvantage in trying to attract industry. The cost of energy has increased by 42% over the past few years and a number of pharmaceutical companies in Cork intend putting up a windmill to supply their energy needs. The cost of energy in the US is 1/3 of the cost of energy in Ireland. This plant will give an added source of energy and it will make Kerry more attractive to the pharmaceutical industry. This is one of the most critical pieces of infrastructure for Kerry and indeed the country. Cllr. Finucane again referred to the High Court case involving Shannon LNG and said he hoped the tax payers would not have to pay some of the costs. This CHP Plant and the LNG Plant would help to improve our economic future. He commended the Company for continuing to invest in this project.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae supported this project and he commended the Company for their efforts to bring employment to the county. Unemployment figures in Kerry are down because of the number of young people emigrating. He asked if Kerry County Council will have to provide matching funding for the improvement of the road network in this area.

Cllr. P. Leahy supported the sentiments expressed by previous speakers. He thanked Mr. McMahon and his staff for the comprehensive report presented. In conclusion Cllr. Leahy said he hoped this project would be successful.

Cllr. M. O'Shea said he recently heard Cllr. Finucane interviewed on Radio Kerry with Minister Rabbitte in connection with the LNG Project and he came across very well. He commended Kerry County Council and Shannon LNG for proceeding with this project. If it was in Leinster he was convinced there would be no delay with it. He asked if there is a will in Government for this project to succeed.

Cllr. R. Beasley commended the Council and in particular Mr. McMahon for supporting this project. Twelve months ago a deputation from Kerry County Council met with the Taoiseach and Minister Rabbitte and they seemed to be overly protective of Bord Gáis. It is time to call on the Minister to cut out the bureaucracy and let this project succeed. Young people are leaving Kerry in droves and the employment this project would bring is badly needed in North Kerry.

Cllr. A. McEllistrim said the importance of this project to Kerry cannot be overstated. It would increase the capacity to the national grid and would benefit the region.

Cllr. T. Buckley said this is a critical application for the county and a positive outcome is needed to progress it.

Cllr. N. Foley supported the application for a CHP Plant which is very efficient. The CHP Plant will use the energy and the LNG Plant can use the excess energy. The benefit to these two projects will be significant and it is a very proactive proposal.

Cllr. P. McCarthy expressed his support for this project and congratulated Mr. McMahon and his staff on compiling the report. He welcomed the removal of Condition No. 5 and said we must do all we can to help this project succeed. The Company have been very patient and deserve our support.

Mayor T. O'Brien said everyone wants to be positive about this project and also the LNG project. Kerry County Council has never been found wanting in supporting them. The Planning Department and the County Manager have also given tremendous support to the Company. He met a representative of the US Embassy the previous week and he was fully aware of this project and was very supportive of it.

Mr. McMahon informed the meeting that the cost of upgrading the road will be levied 100% on the developer. The roads levy is in excess of €6m and the Company have paid the portion due to-date. The Company have been extremely upfront with the Council and he was satisfied that the funding for the road will be available once the project proceeds.

13.03.11.05 Review Process for Kerry County Development Plan

Mr. M. McMahon, Director of Planning referred members to his report dated 5th March, 2013 on this item which was circulated. He informed the meeting that a Planning Authority must commence the review of its development plan 'not later than 4 years' after the making of the plan. The Kerry County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 was made on the 6th April, 2009 and therefore the review must commence not later than the 5th April 2013. The proposed schedule for the review of the plan was circulated with his report and will commence with the publication of the statutory notice on the 27th March, 2013 and conclude with the adoption of the plan on the 2nd March, 2015.

Mr. McMahon pointed out that unlike Local Area Plans; the Draft Plan that goes on public display is approved by the Elected Council. It will be a matter for the Members of the existing Council to agree this (Jan/Feb 2014) while the newly elected and enlarged Council (post Local Elections) will adopt the Plan (Feb/March 2015). The newly elected Council will be straight into reviewing the submissions from the public/statutory bodies following the election. Mr. McMahon outlined the issues to be addressed in the plan for the first time:-

- Landscape (Florence Convention)
- Public Rights of Way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank and other places of natural beauty or recreational utility (to be listed and mapped)
- Reduced Energy demand/Greenhouse Gas/Climate Change.

Mr. McMahon then outlined amendments to planning legislation introduced by the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and the Environmental (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 which will impact on the preparation of the Draft Plan. It is intended that most, if not all of the review, will be completed in-house.

In conclusion Mr. McMahon pointed out that the process which he outlined is based on the law as it currently stands and that this process may change if and when new legislation is enacted to give effect to the local government reform proposals contained in "Putting People First".

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae asked if members could exercise some discretion with the dates involved in this process as some of it will be during the Local Elections campaign. It is unusual that the present and the new Council to be elected in June 2014 will have an involvement in the process. He asked if the process could commence after the Local Elections and is it the same for all counties.

Mr. McMahon said the timescale set out in the Schedule circulated for the review of the Plan are all set out in legislation. If some of the work takes less time the timeframe may change slightly but not significantly. We do not have a choice in this and the last Development Plan was adopted in April 2009 just two months before the Local Elections. The Plan will last for 6 years.

13.03.11.06 Tralee/Killarney Hub Functional Area Local Area Plan 2013-2019

Mr. M. McMahon, Director of Planning, referred members to the Draft Tralee/Killarney Hub Functional Area Local Area Plan 2013 – 2019 which was circulated. This is a very important Hub Plan for the county and this continues the process of bringing Local Area Plans in line with the Core Strategy. The Draft Plan will be on public display during March and April and depending on the volume of submissions received the Manager's Report will possibly be presented to the May Meeting for consideration or a Special Meeting will be held. A day of public consultation will be held in Tralee on the 9th April in Room 14 in County Buildings and in Killarney Library on the 11th April. The amount of zoned land required in the Plan is 231 acres and this will result in the dezoning of 1,931 acres of land that is currently zoned for residential development. Land will only be zoned in settlements with existing waste water treatment plants.

Cllr. T. Ferris said the next round of Electoral Area Meetings will be held in April and she asked that members would be briefed on the Draft Plan and in particular on the areas to be dezoned.

Cllr. A. McEllistrim asked if there are sites zoned 'open to consideration' within the boundary.

Mr. McMahon said there is more than sufficient land zoned in the Draft Plan. In the last plan large sections of land were zoned and they are now dezoned. Between Tralee and Killarney environs there is almost 1,000 acres being dezoned.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae asked if land is zoned within Killarney town for residential development.

In response Mr. McMahon said this plan relates to the areas outside the town boundary and Tralee and Killarney Town Councils have adopted Development Plans.

Cllr. M. Gleeson said 25 hectares are zoned for development in the Killarney Development Plan.

13.03.11.07 Nominee to attend the Eighty-Seventh Ordinary General Meeting of the Irish Public Bodies

Cllr. J. Finucane PROPOSED that Cllr. B. O'Connell be nominated to attend the Eighty-Seventh Ordinary General Meeting of Irish Public Bodies on Friday 17th May, 2013.

Cllr. P. McCarthy SECONDED this proposal and it was agreed.

13.03.11.08 Litter Pollution Report 2012

Mr. O. Ring, Director of Environment and Water Services, referred members to his report dated March 2013 which was circulated. Mr. Ring said the report considers 4 main areas as follows:

- Litter prevention and control programmes undertaken
- Enforcement action taken
- Education and Public awareness campaigns
- Community participation.

1. 1 Litter Prevention and Control Programme

The 2012 Programme included:

- Blue Flag Award 13 Kerry beaches achieved this standard in 2012, meeting litter and waste management criteria. Bins for dog fouling waste were provided and 'pooper scoopers' were made available.
- Tourist Season Anti-Litter Grant This scheme facilitated the clean-up of key scenic rural and visitor areas during the peak summer period.

- 'Adopt a Road Scheme' 10 Community groups participated in regular clean-ups of road-sides in their areas, resulting in 80km of litter free roads.
- 'Adopt a Bottle Bank' Scheme 33 groups participated in maintaining their community bottle banks in a litter free status during 2012.

1.2 Enforcement Action and Analysis

The main enforcement actions taken in 2012 were:

- 401 cases of illegal dumping investigated – down from 501 in 2011
- 2 cases of abandoned vehicles investigated
- 64 on-the spot fines issued
- 2 successful court prosecutions
- 5 notices served to clean up sites

The litter wardens have reported that there continues to be a decrease in the level of small scale dumping i.e. one or two bags, with a slight increase in the number of sites with large volume of waste recovered.

Due to increased surveillance and signage the number of cases of illegal dumping requiring investigation has dropped from 501 cases in 2011 to 405 cases in 2012.

Three on-the-spot fines were issued during 2012 for littering at Bring Banks.

Under the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System 90% of sites surveyed come within the unpolluted and slightly polluted category; with no significant pollution or grossly polluted sites discovered during the survey.

1.3 Public Awareness including Educational and Information Initiatives

Kerry County Council continued its educational campaigns including:

- Green Schools Programme 5 new Green Flags were awarded bringing Kerry's total to 96 Green Schools
- Tidy Town Participation KCC hosted an Annual Tidy Town Seminar and Workshops

- Dog Fouling Campaign A Newspaper and Radio campaign was run during 2012
- Chewing Gum A chewing gum awareness campaign was run in May in conjunction with IBEC

1.4 Community Participation

Public participation continues to form a critical element of litter management throughout the County. The following campaigns during the year proved very successful in maintaining the image of the County and reducing litter:

- 'Spring Clean Campaign' In April 2012, volunteers collected 3,000 bags of litter throughout the county
- Clean up Kerry Day A clean-up of roads throughout the County was held in April 2012 as part of the National Spring Clean in conjunction with KWD
- Local Agenda 21 16 of the 41 groups receiving funding were linked to litter control in 2012
- Tidy Towns 43 groups throughout the County now participate to varying degrees in the Tidy Towns competition.

In conclusion Mr. Ring said litter is a persistent problem in Kerry, as it is throughout the country. It is crucial for Kerry to maintain its reputation as being a clean place to visit, as tourism plays a significant role in the economy of the County. Both National and Council budget constraints mean that financial resources for litter management have been reducing in recent years. Kerry Co. Council makes great efforts to support community initiatives through grant funding from the Anti-Litter Grant Scheme etc. This funding stream will continue to be offered to local groups once funding is received from Central Government. Any reduction of government grants in the future will be reflected in funding available to support community groups combating litter in their own area.

The general public are now more vigilant in reporting littered areas, as is evidenced from the number of complaints received. We continue to encourage the public to police their own areas and to notify the local authority of littered areas/illegal dumps. The co-operation of the public will continue to play a significant role in addressing the problem. The assistance of local groups in arranging the clean-up of littered areas is an invaluable resource to the local authority, particularly given the significant expenses associated with such clean ups.

As outlined in the report circulated, considerable resources have been allocated to promotional events, environmental awareness initiatives, clean-up campaigns and enforcement activities. The problem of litter is a simple one if each member of the community acts responsibly.

Cllr. M. Gleeson said in a county where tourism is the life blood it is sad there is a lot of littering. He complimented Council staff who respond promptly to calls regarding illegal dumping. He also complimented local communities who do tremendous work to keep their areas clean and he urged them to continue this work. Their work not only transforms their area but also inspires people to do other work i.e. planting of flowers etc. He welcomed the introduction of the refuse bags with the Council logo and said it made a big difference. He asked that when a clean up is taking place that bags could be left centrally rather than scattered over a wide area. There is potential to involve businesses as sponsors of the 'Adopt a Road Scheme'. There is a need to liaise further with schools in particular in relation to chewing gum which is very unsightly and a huge problem in all towns. As Chair of the Environment and Water Services SPC he called for the continued operation of Transfer Stations which are vitally important for Kerry. It is inspirational to see the advances made by Tidy Towns Committees all over Kerry and he called on any village not participating to do so. There is a huge amount of litter on the roadsides which is being thrown out car windows. Cllr. Gleeson said the time has come for the Minister to seriously consider introducing penalty points for people who litter from cars. He formally PROPOSED this. This is damaging to the local economy. In conclusion Cllr. Gleeson said it is good to see progress being made in this area and only the filthy litter.

Cllr. R. Beasley complimented Mr. Ring and the staff of the Environment Department on improvements achieved in the past 12 months. He paid tribute to the Litter Warden who responded very quickly on the two occasions he called her regarding illegal dumping in the past twelve months. Tourism is the major industry in Kerry and it is important to keep the county clean in particular the seaside towns. They require extra help as they are suffering from the economic downturn. A large number of towns and villages have Tidy Towns Committees and do excellent work. The outdoor Council staff also do great work in cleaning the streets and he asked that they would be allocated additional time for this purpose at long weekends. The cleanliness of Killarney is excellent and an example to all other areas. He welcomed the proposed media campaign for April and said he hoped it would be a success. The issue of chewing gum on the streets needs to be addressed.

Cllr. B. O'Connell asked what progress has been made in the surveying of households in the county to establish how they dispose of their refuse. If this survey was carried out it would establish problem cases where the household does not avail of a collection service. If we are serious about wanting to eliminate littering this survey could be done in conjunction with the Local Property Tax. If it would be expensive to do the survey it could be done gradually town by town.

Cllr. P. McCarthy complimented Mr. Ring and his staff on the detailed report. During the weekends, in particular, rubbish is thrown from cars and this is more evident on the national primary and secondary roads. He called for the provision of a bottle bank for Ballymacelligott at the Kerry County Council site at Ballycarty. This is very convenient and is frequented by council staff who could monitor it.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae commended Mr. Ring, Mr. Sheehy and the staff of the Environment Department who do excellent work. He thanked the Tidy Towns Committees also for their great work. Cllr. Healy-Rae referred to the bottle banks at Gneeveguilla and said they are often full at long weekends and he asked that they would be emptied more promptly. He referred to dead badgers on public roads and said there is one at Clonkeen and one at Knockanes. Badgers are known to spread TB to cattle. There is a need for a policy on how they should be disposed of. This is a very serious matter and should be addressed. He asked Mr. Ring how it will be addressed. Dead deer are also a regular problem on public roads and sometimes they are left there for days. This is not healthy especially in summer.

Cllr. M. Cahill acknowledged the work of the council in the fight against litter and he asked that towns and villages would continue to be cleaned. A lot of festivals are held in Kerry and it is a huge operation to keep towns and villages clean. He acknowledged the assistance given to Tidy Towns Committees and also the beach cleaning undertaken. There is a significant improvement in the bottle bank site in Killorglin which is now very clean and he welcomed this as it is important these sites are well presented. It is vital that Transfer Stations are kept open as a large number of people avail of these facilities. He expressed concern at the proposal to close Transfer Stations at lunch time as this is the time many customers visit them. He asked if it could be managed in any other way.

Cllr. M. O'Shea commended the Environment Section on their excellent work in keeping the county clean. However, he said there is an increase in the dumping of black bags of refuse on tertiary roads yet no evidence can be found to identify those responsible. Cllr. O'Shea said Minister Hogan signed legislation recently which will mean all food waste must be kept separate from other waste. He asked if this will mean an additional bin will have to be used and will it increase the cost of the refuse service. He asked if the Council has any control over the spiralling cost of the refuse service. Rubbish is still left at Bottle Banks in more isolated areas and he asked that those responsible would be named and shamed. He commended Tidy Towns Committees and the Council on their excellent work.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty complimented Mr. Ring and the staff of the Environment Department on their excellent work. Tourism is vital for the county and there is still illegal dumping. The annual clean up day is very successful and he complimented the Council and KWD on their involvement. The closing of the Transfer Stations for lunch will be difficult and he asked if there was any other way around it as a lot of people use them at lunch time.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen thanked Mr. Ring, staff in the Environment Department and Area Offices and Tidy Town Committees for their efforts to keep the county clean. He believed there would be a difficulty in the future as property owners will not be able to afford to maintain their properties. Children are better informed of the importance of the environment through education and they are more concerned and interested in it. He called for the taking of more prosecutions against those caught dumping illegally and said fines should be increased. He thanked the staff for cleaning up the Kenmare area. Cllr. Connor-Scarteen said the ongoing use of CCTV is important in the battle against litter.

Cllr. J. Brassil thanked Mr. Ring and the staff for the tremendous work done in this area. He complimented the Litter Wardens, those involved in the Spring Clean and the Adopt a Road or Bottle Bank Scheme. He SECONDED Cllr. Gleeson's proposal that anyone found littering from a car would get penalty points. He asked that this proposal would be referred to the Minister for consideration. The fine for illegal dumping does not appear to be a deterrent and should be reconsidered.

Cllr. P. Leahy complimented Mr. Ring and the Environment staff on their work. The Litter Warden acts promptly on any reports of illegal dumping and this is very much appreciated. He complimented the Tidy Towns Committees on their work and also the Council for their ongoing work with these committees. He asked when would the Clean Up Week be held.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery welcomed the report and supported Cllr. Gleeson's proposal. She referred to the dumping of rubbish into rivers in particular where she lives and said the Tidy Towns Committees do not clean rivers. Many people do not realise that electrical items can be recycled free of charge. She asked that this would be publicised. Many of our young people, in particular TY Presentation, Tralee are very helpful with the Tidy Towns and it is at this age they need to get involved. She asked how dead animals on the road should be dealt with.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald concurred with the sentiments expressed by previous speakers. He said while a lot of progress has been made more is required and it will not be an easy task. He asked for further information on the 'Adopt a Roads Scheme' and said if more people were aware of it they might participate. Cllr. Fitzgerald expressed his disappointment at the proposal to close Transfer Stations at lunch time in particular the one in Dingle which is only open 3 days a week. He asked that it would be kept open at lunch as many people use it at that time. He asked if someone from the Area could provide cover for this period. He referred to the refuse service provided by KWD and said customers in Lispolie say the refuse is not collected according to the schedule.

Cllr. B. Cronin concurred with the compliments paid to staff by previous speakers. He expressed his gratitude to the Litter Wardens who are sent out to deal with distasteful scenes. It is important to make the public conscious of their area. Tremendous work is being done by Tidy Towns Committees and they take great pride in their area. Dog fouling on the streets and in the National Park is a huge issue. He was contacted by a number of people on this issue and he asked if fines are issued. He called on Mr. Ring to contact the NPWS in relation to the National Park to ask that a rota of the rangers would be set up to monitor and impose a fine on the busier routes. This is creating a huge problem for parents with buggies and young children on bicycles.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue said there is great credit due to our staff on the strides made in dealing with litter pollution. The Area Engineers are also very proactive in engaging with the Tidy Towns Committees. He believed it was a retrograde step to remove the plastic bottle banks. He was informed this was done to end indiscriminate dumping at the sites but that is not so. In his opinion the plastic bottle banks worked well.

Mr. O. Ring thanked the members for the compliments to staff and volunteer groups. It is a dirty job to clean up after others, however we are making progress. In relation to Cllr. O'Connell's query on an audit of households Mr. J. Breen informed him of an audit of 1,000 households carried out in Killarney. 10% could not account for how their waste is disposed of and these are being followed up. He would take advice from the Veterinary Officer in relation to dealing with dead animals on the roadside. It is proposed to close Transfer Stations from 1.30 pm to 2.15pm. The staff member must have a lunch break in order to comply with the Working Time Act. 15 minutes is allowed to close up with 30 minutes of a lunch break. Following an analysis of the Transfer Stations this was found to be the least busy time. It would be too expensive to provide cover; therefore, it is necessary to close for 45 minutes. The advice received suggests that that we should not name and shame those found dumping illegally at bottle banks. The question of penalty points for those found littering from cars is a matter for Council to resolve and it can then be referred to the Minister for consideration.

Mr. Ring suggested that anyone who witnesses illegal dumping from cars should take the registration number of the vehicle and report it. They should also be willing to give evidence if required. Mr. Ring said the fines are adequate but evidence is required to bring a successful prosecution. He undertook to act on Cllr. Wharton Slattery's request to inform the public that electrical goods can be recycled free of charge. He also undertook to check with KWD in relation to the refuse collection at Lispole. A campaign was run last year in relation to dog fouling but it is very difficult to get evidence. Kerry County Council does not have jurisdiction in the National Park but it might be helpful if the NPWS provided pooper scoopers. People dumping illegally at Bottle Banks have been identified through the use of CCTV and on the spot fines were issued. For minor items warning letters are issued.

Cllr. M. O'Shea said he understood changes will be introduced in relation to household waste and he asked if this will result in additional cost for the householder.

In response Mr. O. Ring said it was intended by the Government that the private sector would be in competition and this would influence charges. In relation to the segregation of organic and food waste this will be introduced over a three year period. Provision is included in most Regional Waste Plans that the waste collector must facilitate this. It must be introduced to meet the EU Directive on landfills.

Cllr. B. Cronin asked that a letter would issue to the NPWS calling on them to instigate a campaign on dog fouling in the National Park.

Cllr. J. Sheahan accepted that there is a major issue with dog fouling in Killarney. There are signs in the National Park advising that dogs must be kept on a lead. He undertook to bring the issue of dog fouling in the National Park to the next meeting of the Killarney National Park Liaison Committee. Dogs running free in the National Park are a major issue for jarveys and tourists.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae asked that dead badgers in particular would be removed from public roads.

Resignation of Cllr. Breeda Moynihan Cronin

The Mayor informed the meeting that this is Cllr. Breeda Moynihan Cronin's final meeting. He wished her the very best for the future and said it was a pleasure working with her. He thanked her for her support.

Cllr. B. O'Connell said he was sorry to see Cllr. Moynihan Cronin leave Kerry County Council again. She was a great colleague and will be missed.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery also said she would be sorry to see Breeda leave and she thanked her for her support, advice and friendship. She wished her well in her retirement.

Cllr. P. Leahy said Breeda was an excellent councillor and he worked with her for many years. He wished her well in the future.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae extended his gratitude to Breeda for her contribution to public life in Kerry both as a Councillor and as a T.D. They worked well together on many issues and he wished her well in the future.

Cllr. J. Finucane said Breeda's decision to resign from Kerry County Council took many members by surprise. Breeda's family served the county well and with great passions. She will be a great loss but he wished her well.

Cllr. N. Foley said it was fantastic for the members to have someone of Breeda's experience and knowledge in the Council. She thanked her for sharing it with the members. She served on the Housing SPC with Breeda who was an outstanding Chairperson. She wished her well in the future.

Cllr. B. Cronin thanked Breeda for the experience and knowledge she brought to her work. Breeda was very committed to her constituents and worked tirelessly for them. He wished her well in her retirement.

Cllr. A. McEllistrim complimented Breeda on her hard work on behalf of her constituents and wished her well in her retirement.

Cllr. M. O'Shea said Breeda was an outstanding politician and a very hard worker who will be sadly missed.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty wished Breeda well in her retirement and said it was a privilege to serve on the Housing SPC with her. She was a very efficient and fair Chairperson. He wished her well in her retirement.

On her own behalf and on behalf of Cllr. Beasley, Cllr. T. Ferris wished Breeda well in her retirement.

Cllr. M. Gleeson said as Chair of the Killarney Electoral Area he wished to acknowledge Breeda's contribution to the area.

Cllr. M. Cahill acknowledged Breeda's contribution to politics both at a national and local level. He wished her every success for the future.

Cllr. J. Brassil said he wished to be associated with the tributes to Breeda. He wished her the best for the future and said she was an outstanding politician who always conducted her business in a friendly and cordial manner.

Cllr. J. Sheahan concurred with the compliments paid to Breeda by previous speakers and said she represented her constituents well. He wished her well in the future.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue said he was glad when Breeda returned to the Council as she had a very valuable contribution to make. He was sad to see her leave again. This is the end of an era. The Moynihan family have given tremendous service to the county. Breeda's late father was one of the hardest working politicians who was magnanimous in victory and dignified in defeat. He wished Breeda every happiness in the future.

Cllr. T. Buckley paid tribute to Breeda who was a wonderful colleague. She gave excellent service as a TD and a councillor.

Cllr. P.J. Donovan said he wished to be associated with the tributes to Breeda and said she will be sadly missed. He wished her well in the future.

Cllr. M. Griffin also said he wished to be associated with the tributes to Breeda and he wished her well in the future.

Cllr. P. McCarthy wished Breeda well and said every member is proud to have worked with her. She was an excellent worker for her constituents.

The County Manager said it was a pleasure to work with Breeda. She always treated the staff with respect and he wished her well in the future.

Cllr. B. Moynihan Cronin thanked her colleagues for the compliments. She was first elected to Kerry County Council in 1991 and this is the end of an era for her family. It was a privilege to be elected and her time in public life was a pleasure. She thanked the staff who were very trustworthy and courteous in their dealings with her. In conclusion she thanked her constituents and the members of the Labour party for their support.

13.03.11.09 Dates for the next round of Electoral Area Meetings

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. A. McEllistrim, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Finucane it was agreed that the next Tralee Electoral Area Meeting would be held on Monday 8th April, 2013 at 10.40am in the Council Chamber.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was agreed that the next Killarney Electoral Area Meeting would be held on Wednesday 10th April, 2013 at 10.00am in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Killarney.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. T. Buckley, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Brassil it was agreed that the next Listowel Electoral Area Meeting would be held on Monday 22nd April, 2013 at 10.00am at Áras an Phiarsaigh, Listowel.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Griffin, SECONDED by Cllr. M. O'Shea it was agreed that the next Dingle Electoral Area Meeting would be held on Thursday 25th April, 2013 at 9.45am at Farranakilla House, Dingle.

On the PROPOSAL OF Cllr. P. O'Donoghue, SECONDED by Cllr. P.J. Donovan it was agreed that the next Killorglin Electoral Area Meeting would be held on Friday 26th April, 2013 at 9.45am in the Area Services Centre, Killorglin.

13.02.18.10 2013 Allocation for Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability

Mr. J. Breen, Director of Housing referred members to his report dated 4th March, 2013 on this item which was circulated. Notification of the 2013 allocation of just €1.445m was received on the 1st March. This is a reduction of 56% on the 2012 allocation while the average reduction nationally was 40%. Presently we have grant commitments (grants approved but not paid pending notification of allocation) in the amount of €900,000. We also have grants in the priority one status awaiting approval in the amount of €1.263m and this does not include emergency situations which may arise. Mr. Breen informed the meeting that he spoke with an official in the Department and it appears we are being penalised because of our efficiency. The reduction in funding will affect not only the applicants but also the small trades people who depend on this work. 87 grant applications were received in the months of January and February. The 2013 allocation will only allow for the funding of some, not all, priority one applications. Therefore all priority one applications will be considered and the remaining resources will be allocated. There is no scope to deal with new applications as there is no funding available for them. He would require the full co-operation of members in relation to the allocation of existing funding for 2013 as very difficult decisions will have to be made. He spoke with the Department that morning and they will be reviewing the scheme.

Cllr. J. Brassil said he raised this issue at the Special Roads meeting such was his concern. He was baffled at the logic behind the calculation of the allocation. Members are at one on this issue as the cut in this allocation makes no sense. Taking into account the applicants that benefitted from grants and the people who carried out the work the effect was cost neutral to the Exchequer. He was not satisfied that the Minister understands the importance of these grants and the change they make to people's lives. The Housing staff do tremendous work in processing these applications and a number of applicants who are priority one have been informed they will get a grant this year. He asked that a delegation from Kerry County Council would seek an urgent meeting with the Minister to outline their concerns to her. This can be addressed by allocating additional funding. He was beginning to wonder what members purpose was as all funding is being cut. The roads allocation was reduced yet we still have the same number of staff who are trying to carry out relevant work. Members agree with the Executive on this issue and this level of funding cannot be accepted and must be reversed.

Cllr. M. O'Shea said this reduction in the housing allocation is devastating for those in need. In the Programme for Government they supported the rights of people with disabilities etc. Yet since coming into government the Household Charge was introduced, Social Welfare rates were cut, carer hours were cut, the fuel allowance was cut and prescription charges were increased. He asked what have the government against these people. Kerry County Council did tremendous work in processing the grant applications. He asked if applications would continue to be accepted. He called on Cllr. Brassil to amend his proposal to ask the County Manager to call an emergency meeting and to invite the 11 Oireachtas members to attend. They could then raise members concerns at national level. This reduction in funding is devastating for applicants.

Cllr. M. Cahill **SECONDED** Cllr. Brassil's proposal to seek an emergency meeting with the Minister. He suggested that it would be beneficial if the Oireachtas members attended the meeting with the Minister also. This reduction in funding is a savage attack on the sick and most vulnerable in Kerry. It was a dreadful decision to reduce the allocation by 56% and no funding will be available in 2013 for new applications as the allocation is already accounted for. The works carried out under this Scheme are emergency works to keep houses warm and accessible. It also keeps people off the housing list. This reduction in funding will make life very difficult for staff in the Housing Department. In conclusion Cllr. Cahill said this is a disgraceful proposal from government and an emergency meeting should be sought with the Minister.

Cllr. N. Foley said members must acknowledge this is a devastating blow to the most vulnerable and the economy and it is an affront to our staff who went above and beyond the call of duty in processing these applications. The throughput of applications was the envy of other local authorities. It is the Council's function to do our best to improve the quality of the lives of its citizens. This sector seems to be constantly hit. She supported the call for an emergency meeting with the Minister and a meeting with the Kerry Oireachtas members. She asked why Kerry got a 56% reduction when the average reduction was 40% and why is Kerry being penalised. This is demoralising for staff, councillors and even more so for the people of Kerry.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty supported Cllr. Brassil's call for a deputation to meet with the Minister and also his contention that the grants are in effect cost neutral. This reduction in allocation will seriously affect local contractors who rely on this work. As a result of this reduction people could end up on the housing list. It is difficult to imagine that any Department could not see the devastation this reduction would cause at a time when the Local Property Tax is being imposed on households. The housing staff, who process these applications, are most humane in the way they deal with them.

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Mayor informed the meeting that it was 1.30pm and it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Foley, SECONDED by Cllr. P. O'Donoghue it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue.

13.02.18.10 2013 Allocation for Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability (Cont'd)

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae expressed his serious dissatisfaction that the allocation for housing grants was cut by 56% in 2013 while other local authorities had their allocation reduced by 40%. These are very successful schemes and staff that deal with them are excellent. All members will be affected by the virtual closing down of these schemes. He was aware of a number of very genuine cases, which he outlined to the meeting, who were informed they would have to wait for the 2013 allocation. He did not know how he would tell them of this reduction in funding. These applicants are trying to live independently. He asked the Fine Gael and Labour councillors to approach the Minister to explain that Kerry has suffered a larger reduction than any other local authority and this is not acceptable. This is the worst thing that has happened and the role of elected members is being diminished.

Cllr. T. Ferris supported the call for an urgent meeting with the Minister. This reduction means that old people/ people with cancer admitted to hospital will not be in a position to return home because funding will not be available to adapt their homes. It is unlikely that even emergency cases will be funded in 2013. This scheme is more than cost neutral and the reduction in the allocation will result in additional costs to the State. We have seen the removal of services and grants and now the reduction in this allocation. She said perhaps the Minister does not comprehend the implications of this decision and if she did she might reverse it.

Cllr. P. McCarthy concurred with the views expressed by previous speakers and said it is unbelievable that Kerry's allocation was reduced so much more than other local authorities. He supported the call for an urgent meeting with the Minister. He said there is merit in arranging a meeting with the Kerry Oireachtas members so they can pass on member's views to their Ministers.

Cllr. B. Cronin said these grants, operated by Kerry County Council, are a fundamental part of our services. This is one of the most important services to the vulnerable in our society. He said words could not describe his upset at this reduction in funding. He questioned the mindset of the Minister and his advisors who attack the most vulnerable. 'Putting People First' is a joke. There is no funding for new applications and only extreme emergencies will be funded. It is a disgrace that all priority one applications cannot be funded. He asked is it Minister Hogan's intention to wipe out county councils as the processing of Driver Licences, Higher Education Grants, and Water Services are all being removed from local authorities. Nationally the two parties in government have reneged on their promises to the disabled and most vulnerable yet they have not targeted the horse racing industry. Many priority one applicants hoped they would be successful in getting funding this year but now that may not happen. He agreed that an urgent meeting should be sought with the Minister on this issue.

Cllr. A. McEllistrim said the elderly and those with disabilities are extremely disappointed at this reduction in funding. Many of them are in a desperate situation and even those in priority 2 and 3 need work done. These grants generated a great opportunity for local trades people and they will be badly affected by this reduction in funding. She agreed that an urgent meeting should be sought with the Minister.

Cllr. P. Leahy expressed his disappointment with the reduction in the allocation for housing grants as these schemes were very beneficial for many applicants. He contacted the Department during the week and was informed there was not sufficient funding. The alternative was to cut the energy grant or the regeneration funding. He asked how much funding the Housing Department applied for as he was informed that the allocation was based on their application. He supported the call for a delegation to meet with the Minister. He asked how the 2012 allocation compared to that of other local authorities.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery expressed her disappointment with the 2013 allocation for housing grants and said she wrote to the Labour Party and Minister Hogan on it. Minister Hogan is chipping away at local democracy. Kerry has sustained a 56% reduction in funding for housing grants while it has one of the highest levels of compliance with the Household Charge. Most of these applications are emergency cases. People are living longer and in the past while some families were in a position to help their parents that is not the case now. She referred to the Mitchel's Regeneration Project and said Minister Jan O'Sullivan was delighted with the work done on this Project. As a member of the Labour Party she was bitterly disappointed. She supported Cllr. Brassil's proposal that an emergency meeting would be sought with the Minister. She also agreed that Oireachtas members should be invited to this meeting.

Cllr. P. Connor Scarteen said that for people with a disability these grants are a necessity. This will take a lot of money out of the economy. He agreed that Oireachtas members should also go on the deputation to meet with Minister Jan O'Sullivan and Minister Hogan. These cuts go too far. No one is happy with the cuts to funding for Roads, Water Services etc. but this reduction is not acceptable as it will affect the elderly and the disabled who have already been affected by cuts.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae expressed his disappointment with the reduction in funding for housing grants and said he was very concerned. He had a number of urgent cases and he did not envy the staff in the Housing Department who must now decide who will get funding. He supported the call for a deputation to meet with the Minister.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue said in all his years in politics this is one of the most devastating reports presented to Council. The Council's role is to provide proper housing and housing grants are a vital part of our core service. This is an excellent scheme for people with a disability and the reduction is a most savage attack on the old, infirm and disabled. Kerry was very compliant in the payment of the Household Charge and Kerry County Council was more than diligent in the way they operated the scheme. He asked where the fairness in a 56% reduction in funding is. He concurred with Cllr. O'Shea who called for a meeting with Oireachtas members who could then put down motions in the Dáil.

Cllr. O'Donoghue said government policy is in conflict with itself. Minister Reilly wants to keep people at home yet Minister Hogan is cutting grants by 56%. This is the most reprehensible cut of all. He said members must do more than go on a deputation. They must vent their anger more seriously. He PROPOSED that a resolution would be agreed calling on the Taoiseach to remove Minister Hogan from his Ministry and to put someone in that Department who has an appreciation for the more vulnerable.

Cllr. M. O'Shea SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. J. Finucane said the Fine Gael councillors would be in contact with the Minister on this issue and they supported the call for a deputation to meet with the Minister. He said the former AIB building in Tarbert is for sale and any gains from the sale should go to the most needy.

Cllr. T. Buckley supported the call for a deputation to the Minister with the Oireachtas members. He suggested that all public representatives should pressurise Oireachtas members to raise this issue nationally with a view to securing additional funding.

Cllr. P. McCarthy said he just contacted Minister Deenihan who undertook to try to arrange a meeting with the Minister for a cross party delegation from the Council.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald said the housing grant schemes are excellent but this reduction in funding will have an adverse impact on the disabled. He agreed that a deputation should meet with the Minister as soon as possible.

The Mayor said there were a number of proposals to be considered. He did not think it was necessary to arrange a meeting with Oireachtas members as they are aware of the impact of the reduction in the allocation. It is possible that Minister Deenihan can arrange for a delegation to meet with the Minister in the next few days and that would be welcome. He would be speaking to members of the Labour Party on this issue in the coming days. He suggested that the members of the delegation should be agreed.

It was agreed that the delegation would consist of the Mayor, the Party Whips and one name to be selected by lot from the following councillors:- Cllrs. Cahill, D. Healy-Rae, B. Cronin and M. Gleeson.

It was further agreed that a representative of the Oireachtas members would be invited to the meeting with the Minister.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue called for a vote to be taken on his proposal.

Cllr. J. Finucane said it is inappropriate to seek a meeting with the Minister while at the same time seeking to have him removed from office.

The Mayor agreed with Cllr. Finucane.

Cllr. O'Donoghue again called for a vote to be taken on his proposal

Mr. G. O'Brien informed the meeting that a vote would then be taken on Cllr. O'Donoghue's proposal as follows: "To call on the Taoiseach to remove Minister Hogan as Minister for Environment".

The vote resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Brassil, Cronin, Culloty, Ferris, Foley, Gleeson, D. Healy-Rae, J. Healy-Rae, McEllistrim, O'Donoghue and O'Shea **(11)**

Against: Cllrs. Buckley, Connor-Scarteen, Donovan, Finucane, Fitzgerald, Leahy, McCarthy, Moynihan-Cronin, O'Connell, Sheahan, Wharton Slattery and O'Brien **(12)**

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

The Mayor declared the resolution DEFEATED.

The Mayor said the meeting would then adjourn for lunch and the meeting would resume at 3.00pm.

The meeting resumed at 3.05pm.

Cllr. P. Leahy said he previously stated the cut in the allocation for Housing Grants in 2013 was based on the Council's application. He asked how much funding was applied for in 2013.

Mr. J. Breen, Director of Housing said the Department requested an application to include the number of approved applications on hand etc. An application in the sum of €2.6m, which is the same as the 2012 allocation, was submitted. The average reduction was 40%. In 2012 Kerry received the 4th largest allocation based on the applications on hands. Because of that and the level of applications likely to be received it could result in 600 applications being received in 2013 with no funding available.

Cllr. B. Cronin asked how much funding was received for the construction of Single Rural Dwellings for the current year.

Mr. Breen said notification of funding of €400,000 was received on the 1st March.

13.03.11.11 Report on the operations and activities of Killarney National Park Liaison Committee by Cllr. J. Sheahan

It was agreed to note Cllr. J. Sheahan's written report on the operations and activities of Killarney National Park Liaison Committee which was circulated.

13.03.11.12 Report by Cllr. P. McCarthy, Chair of the Economic Planning and Development SPC

Cllr. P. McCarthy, Chair of the Economic Planning and Development SPC informed the meeting that the following items were considered at a meeting of the SPC on 25th February, 2013.

- **Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM)**

Mr. P. Cremin, Water Services, updated the Committee on progress in relation to the preparation by the OPW of Flood Risk Maps for 8 no. river catchments in the country, 2 no. of which impact on Kerry. The outcome of these studies will be the subject of public consultation in the Autumn.

- **Review of County Development Plan**

The Committee was briefed on the schedule for the review of the County Development Plan which is about to commence.

- **Unfinished Estates**

The Committee considered a detailed report on the work of the Unit. In particular it noted:-

- The current policy regarding the release of Bonds
- Arrangement for carrying out work when Bonds are called in
- 2012 Survey of Unfinished Estates (DoECLG)
- Candidate list of sites for possible clearance
- Waiver of liability for Local Property Tax for developments in serious problematic condition.

13.03.11.13 Summary of proceedings at Conferences/Seminars

24th Colmcille Winter School

- (a) It was agreed to note report on behalf of the delegates that attended the 24th Colmcille Winter School from 22nd to 24th February, 2013 by Cllr. T Buckley which was circulated.

13.03.11.14 Cur i láthair ar obair Oifig na Gaeilge Comhairle Contae Chiarraí

Dúirt an Mhéara ba mhaith leis fáilte a chur roimh Roibeard Ó hEartáin agus Tadgh Ó Loinsigh ó Oifig na Gaeilge. Beidh Roibeard ag déanamh cur síos ar an obair a dhéanann Oifig na Gaeilge leis an bhfoireann agus le pobal Chiarraí mar chuid de Sheachtain na Gaeilge. Tá Córas aistriúcháin á úsáid again freisin chun cabhrú leis na comhairleoirí nach bhfuil an Gaeilge chomh láidir acu, cosúil leis féin. Dúirt sé go raibh súil aige go mbainfidh na comhairleoirí taitneamh as an taispeántas.

Thug Roibeard Ó hEartáin, Oifigeach Gaeilge na Comhairle cur síos gairid ar obair Oifig Ghaeilge Chomhairle Contae Chiarraí mar chuid de Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2013. Thagair sé don dá phríomhaidhm a chuireann Oifig na Gaeilge i bhfeidhm, sé sin...

AIDHM 1: Tacú le foireann na Comhairle a cuid seirbhísí a chur ar fáil do phobal Chiarraí trí Ghaeilge. (*Scéimeanna Gaeilge*)

AIDHM 2: Oidhreacht theangeolaíoch agus chultúrtha na gceantar Gaeltachta a chosaint agus an Ghaeilge a chosaint mar theanga pobail. (*SG9-3 Plean Forbartha Chontae Chiarraí 2009-2015*)

Cuirtear AIDHM 1 i bhfeidhm in dhá slí ...

AIDHM 1a): An fhoireann a chumasú le Gaeilge chun seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a chur ar fáil don gcustaiméir...

- Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) le hOllscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad (98 Teastas bainte amach ó 2006 agus 18 ag tabhairt fé i mbliana)
- Ranganna Comhrá don bhFoireann Bainistíochta ó 2011 i leith
- Tá 31 Oifigeach Ainmnithe Gaeilge in Údarás Áitiúla Chiarraí
- Tá Dioplóma sa Ghaeilge ó Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh bainte amach ag 10 den bhfoireann agus tá beirt eile ina mbun i láthair na huaire.
- Tá cúrsa Gaeleagras sa Ghaeltacht curtha i gcrích ag 16 den bhfoireann.
- Seachtain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh sa Chomhairle go bliantúil agus sinn ag tacú le Bliain na Gaeilge 2013.

AIDHM 1b): Scéimeanna Gaeilge Údarás Áitiúil Chiarraí a chur i gcrích, go háirithe...

- Foirmeacha dhátheangach fé chlúdach amháin
- Suíomhanna idirlín le bheith dhátheangach
- Tugann Oifig Ainmnithe Gaeilge seirbhís i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla ag na cuntaí phoiblí agus i roinnt cásanna deineann siad obair aistriúcháin go himmheánach.
- Tá seirbhís dhátheangach ar fáil ag cruinnithe Toghcheantair an Daingin ó 2008 i leith, ina measc leagan dhátheangach scríofa de na miontuairiscí & na rúin mar aon le aistriúcháin comhuaineach le linn na gcruinnithe.
- Déileáil le gearáin ón bpobal le hOifig an Choimisinéara Teangan i leith ár gcuid dualgaisí Gaeilge, sé sin 115 gearán ó 2005 i leith. Níor deineadh aon imscrúdú riamh ar Chomhairle Contae Chiarraí.

Cuirtear AIDHM 2 i bhfeidhm *‘Oidhreacht theangeolaíoch agus chultúrtha na gceantar Gaeltachta a chosaint agus an Ghaeilge a chosaint mar theanga pobail’* tríd tacú le forbairt agus úsáid na Gaeilge i gCiarraí, agus le straitéisí teangeolaíochta a fhorbairt i bpáirt le pobal na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge.

Dianchúrsa Gaeilge do Thionóntaí

Cuireadh Dianchúrsa Gaeilge ar fáil do Thionóntaí, agus go dtí seo dhein 26 Tionónta, agus 9 eile, na cúrsaí idir 2008-2012 i bpáirt le Dún Chíomhain (Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh) agus le tacaíocht Údarás na Gaeltachta, Seirbhísí Oideachais Chiarraí & Roinn Tithíochta na Comhairle.

Forbairt Gaeilge na hÓige

Tacú le Ógras (Óg-Eagraíocht Gaeilge) Club Óige Gaeilge a chur ar fáil do leanaí bunscoile thionóntaí na Comhairle agus eile i nGaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne.

Club Sóisialta & Spóirt Ghaeilge - Gaelspraoi

Bunaithe ar éilimh agus i bpáirt le hÚdarás na Gaeltachta tá club sóisialta 's spóirt bunaithe i nGaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne chun imeachtaí míosúla a eagrú do dhaoine fásta, ar mhaithe le droichead a thógáil idir cainteoirí dúchasacha agus foghlaimeoirí na Gaeilge.

Cúrsa Píolóta & Ciorcail Chomhrá

I bpáirt le hOidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne táimid ag forbairt Cúrsa Píolóta bunaithe ar agallamh le lucht na siopaí sa Ghaeltacht chun cabhrú le foghlaimeoirí, atá nach mór líofa, a gcuid scileanna labhartha a fhorbairt. Cabhróidh seo le droichead a thógaint idir foghlaimeoirí agus muintir na háite chun an bhearna idir foghlaim agus úsáid na Gaeilge a líonadh. Mar aon le seo táimid ag tacú le Ciorcail Chomhrá do thionóntaí na Comhairle i nGaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne.

Úsáid na Gaeilge i gCiarraí

Ó 2007, táimid ag comhoibriú le réimse mór féilte, eagraíochtaí pobail agus scoileanna ar fud Chiarraí chun cabhrú leo úsáid, sealbhú agus saibhriú na Gaolainne a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn i gCiarraí.

Ó 2008 i leith tá tacaíocht €76,362 dáilte amach againn ar 35 ghrúpa éagsúil ar fud an chontae, agus €28,485 ó Fhoras na Gaeilge mar chuid de sin. Ó tháinig deireadh le ionchur Fhoras na Gaeilge tá ár dtacaíocht tite ó €20,000 sa bhliain ar mheán go beagáinín os cionn €8,000 anuraidh.

Fóram Gaeilge Chiarraí

Bunaíodh Fóram Gaeilge Chiarraí chun guth a thabhairt do phobal Gaeilge Chiarraí i bhforbairt polasaithe sa chontae go háirithe tríd an Bord Forbartha Contae Chiarraí.

Aighneachtaí ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla

Aighneacht curtha go Roinn na Gaeltachta ag Comhairle Contae Chiarraí agus ag Fóram Gaeilge Chiarraí mar chuid de Chomhairliúchán Poiblí ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 i Mí Eanáir 2012.

Clár Tacaíochta Teaghlaigh

Clár chun tuismitheoirí Gaeltachta a spreagadh le leanaí a thógaint le Gaeilge. Deineadh seo i bpáirt Tús Maith, Comhluadar, agus Bord Forbartha Contae Chiarraí mar aon le Roinn na Gaeltachta agus an HSE agus dhein Oifig na Gaeilge agus Coiste Seirbhísí Leanaí Chiarraí áisitheoireacht air. Cuireadh tús leis an gClár an tseachtain seo in Ospidéal Ghinearálta Chiarraí.

Pleanáil Teangan sa Ghaeltacht

I bpáirt le Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne chun tacú leo Plean Teangan a ullmhú agus a chur i bhfeidhm sa mheánscoil Ghaeltachta is mó i gCiarraí. Is é AIDHM an phlean seo ná iompar teangan na scoláirí a athrú go Gaolainn roimh Mheán Fómhair 2013 i dtimpeallacht na scoile i gcomhthéacs an Chomhaontú Ard-Chúirte agus mar chuid d'fhorbairt ar scéim phiolótach 'Brat Ógra'.

Turasóireacht na Gaeilge

I bpáirt le hInstitiúid Teicneolaíochta Thrá Lí agus Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir chun luach agus tionchar Turasóireacht na Gaeilge i gCiarraí a mheas. Tá taighde idir láimhe ag Mic Léinn Margaíochta na hInstitiúide ar an margadh nideoige seo fé láthair. Tar éis an tsamhraidh tosnóidh na Mic Léinn céanna ar chéim 2 den obair seo, sé sin straitéis margaíochta chun Turasóireacht na Gaeilge a fhorbairt i gCiarraí.

Bliain na Gaeilge 2013

Táimid ar cheann de chaoga eagrais ag ceiliúradh Bliain na Gaeilge (120 bliain ó bhunaíodh gluaiseacht athbheochan na Gaeilge), a sheoladh sa Daingean ar oíche chinn bhliana.

Chuir gach comhairleoir fáilte roimh an cur I láthair.

Dhéan an Clr. M. Gleeson comhghairdeas leis an bhfoireann a oibríonn ag an oifig fáilte a fhreagraíonn na fóin as Gaeilge. Rinne an Bainisteoir agus an tUasal Seán Ó Broin agallaimh ar Raidió na Gaeltachta agus bhí said ar fheabhas. Tá sé ana-thábhachtach an Gaeilge a chosaint agus a neartú sa chontae o thaobh tionscail agus turasóireachta de. Beidh Oireachtas na Gaeilge ag teacht ar ais go Cill Airne i mí Dheireadh Fómhair agus tá sé tábhachtach go bhfuil an Ghaeilge láidir sa chontae. Rinne sé tagairt don chomharthaí bóithre a chuir an NRA suas ina bhfuil Cill Airne litrithe mícheart. Tá an chuid is mó de litriú na logainmneacha athraithe agus tá roinnt dóibh caillte freisin. Tá sé ana-thábhachtach na bun logainmneacha a chaomhnú. Is é ár ndualgas ár gcanúnt a chosaint.

Dhéan an Clr. T. Ferris comhghairdeas le Roibeard agus an fhoireann ar chur chun cinn na Gaeilge. Léirigh sí inní na staitisticí a léiríonn go bhfuil laghdú suntasach ar an daonra sa Ghaeltacht agus go bhfuil laghdú ollmhór tagtha ar líon na ndaoine a úsáideann Gaeilge taobh amuigh den scoil. Chuir sí fáilte roimh an obair atá á déanamh chun tacú le teaghlaigh sa Ghaeltacht ar mian leo a gclann a thógáil le Gaeilge. D'iarr sí go mbeadh ranganna Gaeilge curtha ar fáil do chomhairleoirí.

Cllr. B. O'Connell said some local authorities have a list of phrases in front of councillors and it might be apt to consider doing this in Kerry.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this could be done in conjunction with the Irish Office.

Ghabh an Clr. S. Fitzgerald buíochas le Roibeard agus an fhoireann as cur chun cinn na Gaeilge. Cúpla blain ó shin ní raibh a lán daoine ag úsáid an Gaeilge ach tá athrú mór tagtha ar seo le blianta anuas. Is iontach an rud é na comhairleoirí a chloisteáil ag caint as Gaeilge ag na cruinnithe. Tá sé ana-chabhrach nuair a thugann an Bhainisteoir nó oifigigh ón gComhairle agallamh ar Raidió na Gaeltachta mar tugann sé tuiscint níos fearr do phobal na Gaeltachta ar cheisteanna comhairle. Tugann Raidió na Gaeltachta seirbhís den scoth. Maidir leis an bhfadhb a léirigh Clr. Gleeson tá Bord ag déileáil le logainmneacha agus ba chóir dúinn dul i dteagmháil leo ar an gceist seo.

Gabh an Bainisteoir Contae buíochas le Roibeard agus foireann na Comhairle as an oibre a dhéanann said ó thaobh cur chun cinn na Gaeilge. Ghabh sé buíochas chomh maith leis na hOifigigh ainmnithe Gaeilge as an obair a dhéanann siad. Thréaslaigh sé le Raidió na Gaeltachta as a gcabhair nuair a bhíonn sé faoi agallamh. D'admhaigh sé go bhfuil fadhbanna le logainmneacha a bheith litrithe go mícheart ar chomharthaí bóithre agus dúirt sé go bhfuil an Coiste Logainmeacha ag déileáil leis an gceist seo. Má tá logainm i nGaeilge go bhfuil na daoine áitiúla sásta leis ba chóir é a úsáid seachas ceann nua a chur ina áit. Tá an Ghaeilge ana-thábhachtach don chontae agus ceapann sé nach bhfuil go leor a dhéanamh chun an Gaeilge a chosaint sa Ghaeltacht.

The Mayor thanked Roibeard for his presentation and Tadgh for doing the translation.

Reception of a deputation

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae requested that a deputation be received from the Residents of Woodlawn Drive and Deerpark areas in relation to anti social behaviour.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. Healy-Rae, **SECONDED** by Cllr. J. Healy-Rae it was agreed that this deputation would be received at the next Killarney Electoral Area Meeting.

13.03.11.15 Approval for the Opening of Tenders

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. B. Cronin it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the Lough Leane Loop Trail – Tender for the Provision of Environmental Services – Closing Date: Tuesday 26th March, 2013 at 4.00pm.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Mayor T. O'Brien it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N71 Killabunane and N71 Milleens Pavement Overlay – Closing Date: Thursday 18th March, 2013 at 4.00pm.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. P. McCarthy, SECONDED by Cllr. B. Cronin it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the 2013 Non-National Roads – Bituminous Overlay Requirements – Closing Date: Friday 5th April, 2013 at 4.00pm.
- (d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Mayor T. O'Brien it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N71 Eirk Pavement Overlay – Closing Date: Friday 12th April, 2013 at 4.00pm.
- (e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. P.J. Donovan, SECONDED by Cllr. P. O'Donoghue it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the N70 Caherdaniel to Brackaharagh Pavement Overlay – Closing Date: Friday 12th April, 2013 at 4.00pm.
- (f) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. O'Connell, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Gleeson it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for the Removal and Transportation of Leachate from North Kerry Landfill to Tralee Waste Water Treatment Plant – Closing Date: Friday 3rd May, 2013 at 4.00pm.

13.03.11.16 Notices of Motion

1. Signage strategy that would inform road users of Cul De Sacs

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

That the Council and the NRA would devise a signage strategy that would inform road users of approaching minor roads that are in fact Cul De Sacs. It is absolutely ludicrous and highly dangerous that drivers/cyclists have to access the minor road before they are informed that it is not a through road.

The following report issued:

This motion was considered at the September 2012 Killarney Area Electoral Meeting, at which the following response was given to the members:-

“The Department of Transport’s Traffic Signs Manual, dated November 2010, does not provide for warning signs in advance of junctions, indicating that the side road is a cul-de-sac. As this is a relatively recently issued document, it is unlikely to be reviewed by the Department for a number of years.

The Council is statutorily obliged to erect all road traffic signage in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual, which is issued to local authorities, under a Ministerial Directive. The Traffic Signs Manual requires that a standard Cul De Sac sign be provided at the junction”.

Whilst, I appreciate there may be some limited merit for such signage, the Council has to balance the cost of providing the signage, in the context of the limited funding available for the maintenance of our road network, the volume of traffic affected and the risk to road users. The vast majority of “cul-de-sac” roads in the county are private roads.

Cllr. M. Gleeson referred to two local roads namely the L11703 at Minish and the L11205 at Inch both of which have junctions with the N22. Hundreds of cars turn in the road at Minish each year believing they can get to Muckross. There is a cul-de-sac sign 60m after the turn off but traffic must then turn and cross over the white line into the line of traffic again. The position at Inch is similar and it causes annoyance to the residents. It is not unreasonable on the approach sign that a red line would be inserted to indicate it is a cul-de-sac. While he was informed that type of sign is not recognised he saw one such sign recently. The cost of putting the red line on road signs to indicate a cul-de-sac is not prohibitive and would help to ease the annoyance of residents on these roads.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen **SECONDED** the motion.

2. Amendment to Rule 22 by the League of Credit Unions

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. G Wharton Slattery PROPOSED:

That this Council writes to the League of Credit Unions asking that they change their recent amendment to Rule 22. I feel that 30 days notice by ordinary pre-paid post is not sufficient.

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

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery explained if you have a dormant account with the Credit Union that is inactive for three years the account holder is written to by ordinary post but in some instances the account holder has moved. As a result they do not receive the notification and something needs to be done to address this. She suggested that the letter should be registered.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion.

Cllr. B. Moynihan Cronin also supported the motion.

3. Restoration of the Non-National Roads grant to at least the 2012 levels of funding

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. P. O'Donoghue PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council calls on the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to immediately restore the Non-National Roads grant to at least the levels of funding of 2012 as the current proposals will have a huge detrimental effect on the roads network in the County.

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

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue said Mr. O'Sullivan, Director of Roads broke down the figures for members at the Special Roads Meeting which stated there was a 15% reduction in the allocation for non national roads. A lot of very good work was done over the past 15 years to bring the road network in the county up to a decent standard yet these roads will now deteriorate due to lack of funding. The NRA has stated that the reduction in the maintenance allocation for motorways means some motorways will begin to deteriorate in three years. He asked that a letter would issue to the Department of Transport calling for an increase in the allocation for non national roads to at least the same level of funding as 2012.

Cllr. M. O'Shea SECONDED the motion and said substantial funding was spent on improving roads over the past number of years and they will go into disrepair if they are not maintained.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Roads, said he received correspondence late on Friday evening giving local authorities discretion to spend up to 30% of the Restoration Improvement Grant on the maintenance of regional and local roads. He asked his staff to look at the implications of this on the 3 year Roads Programme which was recently adopted. If funding is to be taken from this programme it would have to go back to the members for approval. At this point in time he did not think it was necessary to redirect this funding.

4. Impact of Croke Park agreement on the delivery of Council Services

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

Since the enactment of the original Croke Park Agreement (a) how many vacant positions have the four Kerry Local Authorities filled and (b) how many promotions have been made within the organisation, also what were the total staff numbers pre Croke Park in comparison to the total staff numbers currently employed and how has this impacted and affected delivery of Council services to the public.

The following report issued:

There are a number of factors that impact on the current manpower planning activities of the Council. For a considerable time now there has been a Moratorium in place on the Recruitment of Staff. This Moratorium provides for detailed technical arrangements in respect of the identification of and the approval to filling of vacancies. The circumstances under which this is allowable are limited in scope. The process provides for detailed engagement with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. In addition there exists a statutory framework under which the County Manager is empowered to make and implement decisions in respect of staffing. As part of the Public Service Agreement (Croke Park) there was an absolute commitment that Compulsory Redundancies would not be implemented in the Public Service. These constraints and considerations are additional to the normal employment Law framework that all Employers – Public or Private operate within. This essentially means that from a staff numbers management perspective we operate in an extremely complex operating environment.

In addition and perhaps more relevant in the Local Government context is the fact that a significant portion of our activities and service delivery levels are determined by external funding. Recent years has seen significant reductions across all funding sources. This has resulted in a reduction in services being provided in these areas. Despite these reductions the Council is constrained in the response it can implement from a staff numbers perspective.

In other areas there has been new or expanded services required following Government Initiatives and Statutory changes – Shared Services Procurement, Application of VAT for LG, Additional reporting requirements EU/ IMF & Central Government, additional charges/ income sources etc. These additional and expanded services have been implemented within existing staff resources.

The period covered by the Croke Park Agreement and the data being provided in this response is from 1st June 2010 to date.

Permanent Appointments

Transfer from other LAs	1 (CO)
Appointments from open competitions	14 (all fire)
CIDs (Contracts of Indefinite Duration)	27
Promotions	14
Total	56

The following should be noted

- Transfers from other Local Authorities are a regular feature across the sector. They involve a two way transfers and result in no nett increase in numbers – the process does involve a technical appointment however and is included for that reason.
- CIDs or contract of indefinite duration is a technical process under the Statutory Framework covering employment. Essentially this involves a re-classification of employment relationship in the case of long term contract staff. In the case of the numbers covered here it related to regularisation of historic issues relating to existing staff and there was no increase in staff numbers.
- Promotions are detailed below.

Promotions

Fire Services	11
Killarney TC	1
Tralee TC	1
Machinery/ Garage	1

In summary it can be seen from the forgoing that there are very low levels of activity for such a large employer. There has been little recruitment and what has taken place has been at fire-fighter level in the fire service – which has been done on grounds of public safety.

All the promotions have been in the outdoor staff and again primarily in the fire-fighter area.

Staff Reductions

Staff Reduction since 1st June 2010

01-Jun-10					26-Feb-13	
Headcount			WTE		Headcount	WTE
Employees	Perm	1334	1145.94	Perm	1266	1086.4
(excl Retained FF & Non DoEC&LG)	Temp	84	79.07	Temp	40	33.51
Total		1418	1225.01	Total	1306	1119.91
Non DoE		33	13.08	32		12.08
Retained FF		96	102			

		Headcount	WTE
Difference			
1 Jun 10 – 26 Feb 13		112	105.10

The figures demonstrate a significant reduction in staff numbers – this is only a part of the overall reductions that started earlier than the Croke Park Agreement. This movement has primarily been dependant on the age profiles of our staff. The age profiles within Local Government do vary significantly across the sector and some comparable Counties have seen even more dramatic reductions.

In relation to the impact on services there is no doubt that any reduction in staffing resources has an impact of service delivery. At the same time it is only part of an altogether more complex situation given the full range of service we provide and the dependency on external funding sources. There is a proactive management of resources and redeployments have taken place within the Council and indeed to other parts of the Service. This somewhat mitigates the impact on services.

There has however been a clear impact in certain areas through a combination of funding constraints and staff reductions.

Areas where there has been a clear impact are:

Roads
Housing
Motor Taxation
Water Services

In other areas the impacts may be less visible and more subtle.

Cllr. B. Cronin welcomed the detailed reply and said the purpose of the motion was to establish the impact of Croke Park on service delivery. He said the 56% cut in the Housing Grants in 2013 would have a huge impact on staff. Also the reduction in funding for roads will impact on staff. He asked how many fewer staff would be required as a result of these reductions. He also requested further clarification on the 27 Contracts of Indefinite Duration.

Mr. J.D. Flynn said there was a reduction of 112 staff since June 2010. Some staff initially got a contract and this rolled over on a number of occasions and they subsequently got Contracts of Indefinite Duration. This is not an increase in staff numbers as they are employed for a long time. The new Croke Park II deal has a mechanism to see more staff leave before 1st August, 2014.

In relation to Housing Mr. J. Breen said the situation is impacting in that where we had 4 engineering areas this was reduced to 3. The work involved in the expansion of the RAS Scheme, the Leasing Scheme and the processing of 600 grant applications each year means staff have more than enough work to keep them going.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Roads said in 2007 and 2008 when large sums of money were available for roads the Council took on temporary staff. However with the reduction in road grants in recent years the number of seasonal staff taken on has reduced significantly and seasonal staff are taken on for a shorter duration.

Mr. O. Ring, Director of Water Services said it is not yet clear the impact Irish Water will have on Water Services as the change over is likely to take a few years. It is likely that less staff will be employed in this area.

Mr. J.D. Flynn said we have mitigated some of the effects of the reduction in staff numbers and funding as staff have taken on additional work. There is a lot of additional work in compiling EU/IMF returns and savings of €7m were achieved from 1st April to 31 December 2012 through staff efficiencies, plant hire etc.

5. Free Travel Pass for children under 16 who are wheelchair bound

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

That Kerry County Council write to Ms, Joan Burton, Minister for Social Protection with a view that all children under 16 who are wheelchair bound be provided with a free travel pass.

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

Cllr. J. Sheahan said a constituent raised this issue with him as she felt her 16 year old grandson was being discriminated against. Many children in wheelchairs must attend appointments in Dublin yet people who are blind are issued with a travel pass. He asked that this issue would be highlighted to the relevant Minister.

Cllr. M. Cahill supported the motion and asked that Companion Passes would also be issued to them and to Down Syndrome children who do not get a Companion Pass at present. He called on the Minister for Social Protection to address this issue urgently.

6. Re-instatement of the CONNECT Programme

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

That Kerry County Council call on the Government for immediate action to re-instate the CONNECT programme; a service that works at the cutting edge of rural isolation.

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

Cllr. M. O'Shea said a group in Castlemaine applied for funding under this programme in 2006 and set up a Home Visitation Service. They provided an excellent service to people living in a very broad area for approx. €12,000 per annum. He understood this programme was initially funded through the Dormant Accounts. This funding has now dried up and if it was continued it would help address rural isolation. He called on the Government and Minister for Social Protection to provide funding for this programme and that it would be broadened nationwide. One of the aims of the Programme for Government that the two government parties signed up to is to address rural isolation.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue SECONDED the motion.

7. Asset testing of farmers, pubs and other small businesses for third level grant eligibility.

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

That Kerry County Council calls on the Minister for Education, Ruairí Quinn to rule out asset testing of farmers, pubs and other small businesses for third level grant eligibility.

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

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald said he understands the Minister for Education is reconsidering this proposal. It is important to point out that these assets support parents to earn an income. There is a myth that all farmers' children get higher education grants but this is not true. Approximately 50% of farmers' children never get a grant. Grants should be based on income.

Cllr. B. Cronin **SECONDED** the motion and said grants should be based on income. He recently read an article in the Farmers Journal which said the Government were considering including machinery as an asset. Income only should be taken into account and it is important that Minister Quinn realises this. The income of 55% to 60% of the farming community is miniscule.

8. Introduction of stronger laws regarding the sale of SIM cards

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

That the Government/Regulator introduce stronger laws regarding the sale of SIM cards which at present can be purchased without any form of identification, recent cases confirm this anonymity can at times facilitate bullying and harassment which is wholly unacceptable.

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

Cllr. N. Foley said at present anyone can purchase a ready to go phone without producing any form of ID. These phones are used in crimes and in cases of bullying. She called on the Government to introduce legislation that would necessitate the production of ID to purchase ready to go phones and SIM cards.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty **SECONDED** the motion.

9. Provision of a pedestrian crossing at McSweeney's corner in Killarney

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

That Kerry County Council and Killarney Town Council would provide a pedestrian crossing at McSweeney's corner in Killarney.

The following report issued:

This request relates the Lewis Road, which is a Regional road in the charge of Kerry County Council.

This motion was considered at the September 2012 Killarney Area Electoral Meeting, at which the following response was given to the members:-

“The feasibility of providing a controlled pedestrian crossing at McSweeney’s corner was examined a number of years ago when the National Roads Authority funded the Killarney Pedestrian Crossings Safety project. The location does not meet the safety criteria prescribed in national road design guidelines as the buildings restrict the desirable sight lines. It is preferable that the location remains as an uncontrolled crossing with the pedestrians determining the appropriate time to cross the street.”

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said he submitted the motion last September and he was again asking that this request would be reconsidered. He sees there is merit in providing a pedestrian crossing at McSweeney's corner and he did not agree that it does not meet safety requirements. He witnessed a number of near accidents at this location and if a "press button" crossing was provided it would be much safer. He pointed out there is a pedestrian crossing at the edge of the roundabout at Park Road. He asked that a letter would be sent to the NRA calling on them to seriously reconsider this request.

Cllr. B. Moynihan Cronin **SECONDED** the motion.

Cllr. B. Cronin also supported the motion and said this situation is extremely dangerous. There is a huge volume of people accessing the town from this area and the road is narrow to get to Casey's corner. The sentence in the reply 'The location does not meet the safety criteria' is correct as this crossing is not safe for anyone at present. Cllr. Cronin pointed out that there is pedestrian crossing at the Cleeney Roundabout and he called on the NRA to prepare an estimate for the provision of a pedestrian crossing at this location.

10. Request to the IDA to make presentation to Council regarding the development of Technology Park.

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

In the likelihood that the IDA will be responsible for the Technology Park, that they would be requested to make a presentation to the Council on how they are going to promote and develop the facility.

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

Cllr. J. Finucane said a number of Fine Gael councillors met Minister Varadkar in Killarney recently and pointed out their dissatisfaction with this proposal. He is now informed that Enterprise Ireland will have responsibility for the Technology Park and all this confusion is not helping. The IDA made just one visit to Kerry in 2012 and this is completely unsatisfactory. He asked that the IDA would be asked to make a presentation to the Council on how they promote Kerry.

Cllr. P. McCarthy **SECONDED** the motion.

11. Construction Workers' Pension Scheme

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

That this Council call on the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, to immediately look at the anomalies that exist in relation to the Construction Workers' Pension Scheme, and in particular to the situation in relation to construction workers on a three day working week. At present, the Employer is obliged to pay the rate for five working days. This is putting Employers at an even greater disadvantage, when competing for work against those who do not contribute to this Scheme.

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

Cllr. J.J. Culloty said if an employer hires a person for 3 days they must still pay the rate for 5 days. He appreciated there will be a problem in 10 to 15 years with pensions but said this is not helping. He had people employed part time and had to pay the full rate. It is one of the reasons he does not employ people any more. It is important to help the small employer who employs one or two people. There is an anomaly there which discourages employers from taking on employees. He pointed out that employers must now pay the first two weeks of sick leave and they must also pay all redundancy.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae SECONDED the motion and said everything is loaded against the small employer. This is very unfair as an employer must pay the full cost of the stamp even if the employee only works an hour in the week. This is making it very difficult to take on employees. It should be pro rata for the time a person is employed.

12. Provision of statistics on internet and mobile coverage throughout the County.

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

That Kerry County Council request the Minister for Communications and the Communications Regulator to provide statistics on internet and mobile coverage throughout the County. Currently the standard is unacceptable.

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

Cllr. P. Connor Scarteen said broadband services are very poor in parts of the county and recently the mobile phone network is also very poor. He asked that a letter would issue to the Minister for Communications outlining this problem as it seems to be getting worse. He called on the Minister to resolve this problem as soon as possible.

Cllr. J. Sheahan SECONDED the motion.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen then moved Notice of Motion No. 24.

24. Powers, functions and make up of the proposed new Socio Economic SPC.

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

That Kerry County Council obtains from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government details of the powers, functions and make up of the proposed new Socio Economic SPC. It is hoped this body will be successful in securing jobs for the County.

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

13. Jobs crisis in Kerry

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

That Kerry County Council call on the Taoiseach, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Cabinet Committee on jobs to immediately address the jobs crisis in Kerry, to investigate why the IDA has ignored the County in respect of job announcements during the past five years, the reason why there has been so few IDA site visits to the County in comparison to Limerick, Cork & Clare and if they will look favourably on the County as a base for jobs in Irish Water that are to be announced this year.

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

Cllr. M. Cahill said Kerry has been completely ignored by the IDA and every town and village has experienced mass emigration. The GAA are finding it difficult to field teams and in some cases entire families are emigrating. There is an urgent need to address the jobs situation and he understood there would be a significant announcement regarding Irish Water and he asked that Kerry would be given favourable consideration. He asked that an invitation would be extended to Minister Bruton to come to Kerry to meet with members to allow them to brief him on this issue. The biggest problem for Kerry was the loss of Objective 1 status.

Cllr. P. McCarthy SECONDED the motion.

Mayor T. O'Brien also supported the motion and said this is a very important issue for Kerry. He would prefer that the IDA would refer companies to Kerry that are interested in investing rather than the IDA coming to Kerry themselves. Not only are rural clubs struggling to field teams but this is also the case in urban areas. He suggested that a deputation from the Council would travel to Dublin to meet with Minister Bruton to point out the seriousness of the situation for the county.

Cllr. Cahill agreed to this.

14. LEADER funding

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

To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan, T.D., not to put County Councils in charge of LEADER funding as this would take away the life blood of our partnerships that have done excellent work in local communities with over 20 years

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

At the outset the Mayor cautioned members if they are Directors of development companies they need to be careful how they represent the Company.

Cllr. P. Connor Scarteen declared he is a Director of South Kerry Development Partnership and he is also Chair of the County Development Board and he would leave the meeting while this motion was being considered.

Cllr. Connor Scarteen then left the meeting.

Cllr. B. Moynihan Cronin said she is also a Director of South Kerry Development Partnership and IRD Duhallow and there appears to be inconsistencies in how this issue is being dealt with by various local authorities. She takes her responsibilities very seriously and she did not want to bring either into disrepute. She is also a public representative and she wanted to know how there could be a conflict of interest.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery said she is also on the Board of North and East Kerry Development and she too had submitted a motion and had to withdraw it. The development companies believe it is in order for public representatives to raise issues on their behalf. She called for a definitive clarification in writing for members on this issue.

Mr. J.D. Flynn, Director of Corporate Services said under Ethics legislation the onus is on the Councillor to decide if there is a conflict of interest or not. The Director of Corporate Enforcement recently gave a presentation to staff and councillors and he raised an issue regarding a person's obligation as a Director of a Company. If government policy is to give responsibility for the administration of funding for development companies to local authorities development companies and local authorities must comply with this decision. It is a matter for each member to make a decision on how they will deal with this issue.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery said clarification is needed for future reference if this issue arises in the future.

Mr. J.D. Flynn said members are issued with Ethics Declarations for completion each year and this is matter for each individual councillor to decide.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae said he had a similar Motion last year on why the Minister should not give the administration of funding for local development agencies to local authorities. He felt it would be more appropriate to leave the funding in the hands of the partnership groups. There is a lot of misinformation out there. It is said money can't be drawn down because the funding is going through the partnerships but that is incorrect. The partnerships are in operation for 20 years and in Europe these companies are being held up as an example of the way to go. Down through the years they helped businesses and local communities. They are in limbo at present and in the Killorglin area they will not accept an application for funding for a playground as the funding arrangements are not certain. He asked that a letter would issue to the Minister asking him to allow the existing funding arrangements for partnerships to remain. He would prefer that the partnerships would be left alone and that the Council would focus on the provision of their services. Local authorities should be allowed to continue to issue driving licences, to administer the Higher Education Grants Scheme and to continue to deliver existing services.

Cllr. B. O'Connell opposed the motion and said it would be a dereliction of the duties of a public representative if councillors did not want to have a say in how €33m is spent. This could be very beneficial if councillors had an interest in projects and wanted to secure funding for them. It is wrong to condemn the Council for taking charge of this funding and they are more than capable of contributing to what the Minister is proposing. There is a lot of innuendo out there by the partnerships that jobs will be lost but this is not true. He believed this funding should be administered through local authorities. The Minister wants to enhance the partnership Boards. The salaries paid to employees of partnerships need to be reviewed. In conclusion Cllr. O'Connell said Kerry County Council is more than capable of administering these funds and he would welcome an opportunity to sit on one of these Boards.

Cllr. J. Finucane concurred with the sentiments expressed by Cllr. O'Connell. He referred to Interim Report of the Steering Group and quoted the following from it:

"The work of the Steering Group identified some €227m delivered in 2011 through local development companies on programmes/schemes on behalf of the State. Four core programmes account for some €186m (or 81%) of the overall amount. The cost to the State of administering these four programmes in 2011 will be in the region of €35m. An analysis of available data suggests that a significant proportion – some €71m (or 31%) of the overall amount allocated – is expended on employment costs for some 1,943 employees.

An analysis on the cost effectiveness of the LCDP in November, 2010, examined indicators from the 52 local development companies and found that in relative terms, the levels of administration costs within local development companies (i.e. costs not allocated to programmes and projects) are high, at between 30% and 45%. It was recommended that administration costs should be set at 25% in line with other small businesses.

Input of Local Government

Under the current arrangements and structures, there is a clear gap in accountability to the democratically-mandated local government structures. This is notwithstanding the role Councillors and local authority officials play on the boards of these companies and the shared involvement of all in the CBD structure. Ultimately, local authorities have little input into strategy or decision-making in relation to programmes and interventions delivered by local development companies“.

Cllr. Finucane said some partnership Manager's are looking for parity with County Managers. This is an excellent opportunity to increase the role of the local authority at a time there was just one IDA visit to Kerry in 2012. The partnerships were established to create jobs and develop communities. It is now up to councillors to have an input into real jobs and this proposal will not be contributing to bureaucracy. The partnership companies are lobbying aggressively but this process needs to be streamlined. He asked how many real jobs have they created and said this fragmentation is not acceptable.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae supported the motion because people living in rural areas see this as negatively affecting them. The partnership companies benefit the rural working class. IRD Duhallow fits alarms for the elderly and helps to make older people feel safe in their homes. North and East Kerry Development also provide a very good service in Scartaglin and Castleisland. Members were informed that the cost of administering the programme is between 18% and 22%. There appears to be conflicting views on this and he asked what the correct figures are. He asked what the cost of administration will be if Kerry County Council takes responsibility for administration of the funding. He did not doubt that Kerry County Council is capable of doing this work and said it is regrettable that the Council has lost some of its functions recently. He believed Minister Hogan is giving this role to local authorities to compensate for the functions they lost. The people operating these partnerships do a very good job and the rural areas fear there is greater representation from urban areas and they will suffer as a result.

Cllr. P. McCarthy said 26% of the €59m was spent on administration. Ms. McAllen administers an annual budget of €120m and is not on a huge salary.

Cllr. M. Cahill said he was very uneasy regarding the direction of the debate. It is not appropriate that members should be debating whether the partnerships did a good job or not. He was a member of South Kerry Development Partnership in the past and they worked very closely with local communities. Mr. Noel Spillane is an excellent CEO. There should have been a closer working relationship between the partnerships and local authorities. Nationally in excess of €40m was returned unspent in 2012 and this is very disappointing.

The Mayor informed the meeting that the motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Healy-Rae and seconded by Cllr. D. Healy Rae and a vote would be taken on it.

Cllr. B. Cronin said he must abstain from the vote as he is a member of a group who have applied to a partnership for funding.

Cllr. M. Gleeson said that he is also a member of a group that have applied for funding to a partnership company and he would not vote for this reason.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery said that she too was involved with a group who had applied for funding and for this reason she would abstain from the vote.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue asked if it was wise to have a vote. He did not think Europe holds the partnerships up as a role model in fact they were critical at the lack of take up of the €40m returned.

The County Manager said he understood where the motion is coming from but said the Minister is not proposing to take the lifeblood from the partnerships. The motion states this but the Minister is only proposing that the funding would be administered through local authorities. It will still be up to community groups to put projects forward for funding. He works well with the CEO's of the various partnerships and the Minister's proposal suggests closer alignment between partnerships and local authorities. In future he envisaged partnerships would continue with their role while local authorities continued with their roles. At present partnerships must have their plans approved by the County Development Board.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae said he was acting in the best interests of the county and he believed what he was saying to be correct.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue said the motion is not correct.

Mr. G. O'Brien informed the meeting that a vote would then be taken on Notice of Motion No. 14 which reads as follows:

"To ask the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan, T.D., not to put County Councils in charge of LEADER funding as this would take away the life blood of our partnerships that have done excellent work in local communities with over 20 years."

The vote resulted as follows:

For: Cllrs. Cahill, Donovan, D. Healy-Rae, J. Healy-Rae **(4)**

Against: Cllrs. Finucane, Fitzgerald, McCarthy, O'Connell, Sheahan, O'Brien **(6)**

Not Voting: Cllrs. Cronin, Gleeson, Moynihan-Cronin, O'Donoghue, Wharton Slattery **(5)**

The Mayor declared the motion DEFEATED.

15. Development of designated trails incorporating important archaeological and heritage sites in Kerry.

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

As Kerry has a great number of very important archaeological and heritage sites, that the Council would become actively involved in the development of designated trails incorporating those sites. Such developments would greatly enhance the tourism product in the county.

The following report issued:

Whilst acknowledging the merits of the proposal in principle, the Council is currently actively involved in the development of a number of recreational trails in the county, in conjunction with local development agencies, town councils and local communities. These include the Tralee – Fenit route, the Spa to Ballyseedy Route (via the River Lee Walk), the Glenbeigh to Cahersiveen old railway line, and the Lough Leane Loop, as well as a number of other smaller projects. There are substantial constraints to be addressed in delivering these routes, requiring a significant amount of staff time, with limited resources and funding. Given the current workload and limited funding, the Roads Department is unable to commit resources to additional projects at the present time.

The development of such trails is within the remit of the Local Development agencies, but the agency should consult with the NPWS, the Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, and the Council, if considering any physical works in proximity to an archaeological and/or heritage site.

Cllr. M. Gleeson said long before the arrival of the camera the recording of field monuments depended on artist with their water colours and drawings. Ireland was singularly fortunate to have had William Burton Conyngham who in the 2nd half of the 18th century recorded more than 600 watercolours. His was the first archaeological inventory work and was in truth the foundation stone of modern Archaeology.

On November 24th of last year the government Publication Office in Molesworth Street closed. Just before the doors closed for the last time he dashed in and asked if they had any remaining copy of the Archaeological Inventory of Kerry. The lady went into the back room and arrived with the volume which was for sale at half-price, €20. He clutched the treasure with some delight and was amazed on later inspection to find that it was only Volume I and dealt only with South West Kerry.

This beautiful volume deals only with Kerry to the south and west of Mangerton and Currán Tuathail. There are a total of 4,234 items referred to in the volume from Souterrain to Dolmen; from a hut site at Gearhanaghould to an ecclesiastical site at Church Island, from an early medieval hose at Aghatubrid to a ring fort at Milleens.

There is in our county an incredible richness of relicts of times past. They lie there largely unknown to all but the specialist. They are a treasure trove of information of how life was over the centuries. They are a gold mine of information and could be a gold mine of finance for a county desperately in need of finance.

To maximise their rich potential we must announce their existence and signpost their location. We must develop Archaeological Trails that will attract visitors to come not just to discover their roots but to see and experience where and how their forebears lived.

Of course we are proud of Killarney's Lakes and of the beauty of the Ring of Kerry but we have a hidden wealth of priceless monuments and artefacts that we must announce and present. Tá saibhreas iontach ársa again sa chontae agus tá a bhformhór os cionn talon. Tá dualgas orainn ar mhaithe le eacnamaíocht na ndaoine é a oscailt suas do chuairoteoirí.

We have an almost endless reservoir of archaeological riches. We are duty bound to develop and expand its rich potential. Many of our sites are marked, if at all, by poor signage that gives little or not indication of the great richness of history and anthropology that lie half hidden from the eye.

Cllr. Gleeson said it is only our own efforts, our local natural beauty and our own incredible rich resources that will lead us from our present terrible financial ghetto of almost hopelessness.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery supported the motion and said as an avid hill walker she must stray off trails to find these sites many of which are not adequately sign posted. She asked in future when walking trails are being developed that they would incorporate archaeological sites in the area.

16. Appeals to S.U.S.I.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. P. O'Donoghue PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council calls on the Education Minister to take the necessary steps to ensure that the Student Grant Appeals Board deals with appeals in an expeditious fashion and also ensures that appeals are dealt with in a manner which is fair and equitable.

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

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue said he submitted this motion as many students in the country are in dire straights. SUSI has failed students, parents and tax payers. The previous system was administered by local authorities and students got a fair hearing. Under the new system thousands of students do not know if they will get a grant or not. He added that just 6% of appeals were successful. The Ombudsman is specifically precluded from dealing with these. It is incumbent on councillors to recognise the plight of students some of whom are sleeping on floors and going hungry. He called on the Minister for Education to revert to the system in place whereby local authorities processed grant applications. He condemned one particular third level college who engaged the services of debt collectors to pursue collections.

The Mayor informed the meeting that Notice of Motion No. 25 is similar and would then be taken.

25. Processing of student grant applications by S.U.S.I.

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

In view of the extreme financial hardship being experienced by students and their families, I propose that Kerry County Council call on the Minister for Education & Skills Mr. Ruairi Quinn TD to ensure that: (a) the fiasco in respect of the processing of student grant applications by SUSI is never repeated again and (b) that there be no further cuts to student grants or increases to student fees.

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

Cllr. M. Cahill said SUSI has been an absolute disaster for students and their families. Some students had to leave college and more considered it. Students and their parents sent in the same information up to eight times yet they were asked for the same information again. Parents whose children will be going to college in the next few years are very worried. This is the cause of great stress on the already financially burdened where a grant is the only way their child can go to college. While additional staff were employed on SUSI it still did not resolve the difficulties with this system.

The Mayor asked that a letter would issue to the Minister for Education calling on him to take the necessary steps to review SUSI and to revert to the system in place previously while retaining the online applications system.

17. Extension to the public sewer in Killarney.

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

What is the estimated cost of extending the public sewer from Cleeny, Killarney to service the substantial existing housing and tourist developments in Aghadoe, Cahir, Coolgarrive to Knockasarnett and can funding be sourced through a loan or Public/Private Partnership for this vital important extension in the near future.

The following report issued:

The estimated cost of extending the public sewer to serve the areas referred to in the Motion is in the order of €1 million. The estimate is based on recent tender costs along with land, design and project management costs. The required works would involve approximately 3.2 km of sewer, including 1 km of rising main together with at least two pumping stations.

A proposal to extend the public sewer to this area is part of the Killarney Main Drainage Scheme submission made by the Council for inclusion in the Water Services Investment Programme. However, this scheme is not on the current Investment Programme and will not receive Department funding until such time as it is included on future Programmes.

As regards public/ private partnership, the previous support model for such partnerships in the form of the Serviced Land Initiative is no longer available. Kerry County Council is not in a position in the current circumstances to apply for a loan or to make a significant contribution out of its own resources towards funding this proposal. Therefore, the funding would have to be almost 100% from the private sector if this infrastructure was to be delivered in the near future.

Cllr. B. Cronin said this densely populated sensitive area urgently needs to be sewered. This is vital for the maintenance and upkeep of Lough Leine. It is not on the Investment Programme and this is very negative. He had hoped that a partnership or alternatively a loan could be secured to advance this scheme. This is a very urgent environmental issue as there is a huge concentration of septic tanks in the area. The reply does not give any hope in the short or long term of this area being served by a public sewer. The €1m required would have to be funded by private developers and he could not see that happening. He PROPOSED that this area would be included in the Water Services Investment Programme.

Mr. O. Ring, Director of Water Services informed the meeting that every so often the Council is asked to identify our needs. The Department then considers our Assessment of Needs and provides funding during the term of the Programme. He did not see any hope that this scheme would be funded as priority would be given to towns to bring them up to a proper standard. His Department will prioritise areas we have responsibility for and we are not responsible for this area.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty SECONDED the motion and said there is a very high concentration of houses in this area with poor ground conditions. It is also near Lough Leane and he called on the Minister to include it on a priority list.

Mr. O. Ring said it would be more appropriate to call on the Department to fund the strategic Main Drainage Scheme for Killarney. This is the only way this area will be funded ahead of the villages.

Suspension of Standing Orders

The Mayor informed the meeting it was 5.30pm and it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders.

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

17. Extension to the public sewer in Killarney (Cont'd)

Cllr. B. Cronin said much of this area could be served by gravity. He asked Mr. Ring if in his opinion this area will be serviced in the medium term.

Mr. Ring said it is unlikely to be funded ahead of areas where we have a statutory responsibility and could be prosecuted.

Cllr. B. Cronin pointed out that a contract was signed for Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme but it did not proceed.

18. Overlay of a section of the National Secondary route N72 at Bealnadeega, Gneeveguilla, Rathmore.

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

That Kerry County Council overlay a section of the National Secondary route N72 at Bealnadeega, Gneeveguilla, Rathmore from (name supplied) east to the Grotto.

The following report issued:

This motion was considered at the June 2012 Killarney Area Electoral Meeting, at which the following response was given to the members:-

“This section of the N72 National Secondary Road will be considered for submission to the National Roads Authority for funding under the 2013 Pavement and Minor Improvement Scheme when the Authority next invites proposals from the Council”.

This section of road was considered in our submissions to the NRA for funding in 2013, but regrettably the scheme was not approved for funding by the NRA this year.

Cllr. J. Sheahan expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply. This road is in a very bad condition and is extremely dangerous. Cars are driving on the wrong side of the road to avoid the bad section. He asked that a case would be made to the NRA for funding as this is an accident waiting to happen.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae SECONDED the motion and said this stretch of road is very bad. Large volumes of traffic use this road and the potholes stretch right across the road.

19. N86 Annascaul to Dingle road revised plan.

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

To ask what is the up to date position with the N86 Annascaul to Dingle road revised plan.

The following report issued:

Correspondence was received from An Bord Pleanala, dated the 7th November 2012, requesting revisions to the scheme, including the elimination of the cycleway, review of the alignment, to minimize landscape impact, and the submission of more detailed landscape proposals. A response is to be submitted to An Bord Pleanala, by the 7th May 2013.

The response is currently being prepared in consultation with the NRA and will issue to the Board by the deadline date.

Cllr. M. O'Shea said this proposed scheme is very important for West Kerry. It is vital to create a new wave of interest in the area. It is important that the submission is made to the Bord as this project will be a gem for West Kerry if it proceeds. He asked if there is any indication from the NRA that they are still committed to it.

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald SECONDED the motion.

20. West Kerry Community Hospital

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

That Kerry County Council calls on the HSE to enter into negotiations with persons who may be interested in opening the third 24 bedroom section of the West Kerry Community Hospital.

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

Cllr. S. Fitzgerald said just 2/3 of the new Community Hospital in Dingle is open and 24 beds remain closed. It is not anticipated they will open any time soon. There are 10 people from the area in nursing homes outside the area. People are interested in providing a nursing home and the HSE should consider leasing the remainder of the Community Hospital to them. He called on the HSE to consider entering into a contractual arrangement to lease the remainder of the Community Nursing Home in Dingle.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED the motion.

21. Friday evening flight from London to Kerry Airport and the late Sunday evening flight from Kerry Airport to London

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

That we the members of Kerry County Council ask Ryanair to reconsider their proposed axing of the late Friday evening flight from London to Kerry Airport and the late Sunday evening flight from Kerry Airport to London as this would seriously affect those from Kerry working in London who wish to come home at weekends to their families.

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

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said when he submitted the motion it was rumoured that the current late Friday evening flight from London and the late Sunday night flight to London would be axed. However he now understands this issue is resolved. He asked that a letter would be sent to Ryanair at Farranfore calling on them to ensure this service is retained. This service is very popular among Kerry people commuting to work in London.

The Mayor said he understood these flights are less than half full.

The Manager said it took strong lobbying to get this service in place. It was poorly supported initially and Kerry Airport has waived charges to facilitate this service. From the Airport point of view everything possible will be done to retain this service but ultimately it is a matter for Ryanair. He informed members that no letter would issue to Ryanair.

22. Vacated bank buildings

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

That the bank buildings that have been vacated by the banks, would be offered to the local community as potential resource centres

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

Cllr. J. Finucane said since he submitted the motion the AIB Branch building in Tarbert was put up for sale. He called on AIB to make a contribution to the local community from the proceeds of the sale.

23. Bridge at Knockrour, Scartaglin.

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

As the road at Knockrour, Scartaglin, has been closed since last October, due to a partial collapse of the bridge, causing great inconvenience to the people living in the area, I am calling on this Council to complete the works to this bridge as soon as possible, and have this road re-opened. This is a minor bridge, and it is very unfair on these people to have the road closed for this length of time.

The following report issued:

This motion was considered at the November 2012 Killarney Area Electoral Meeting, at which the following response was given to the members:-

“The culvert at Knockrour, Scartaglin has to be replaced in its entirety due to failure of the masonry arch caused by a slippage of the adjacent high embankment. The culvert has been designed and the precast concrete culvert sections are on order from the manufacturer. The scheduled delivery date is the week before Christmas, therefore it will be January at the earliest before the bridge is re-opened”.

The delivery of the precast units was longer than anticipated but work has recommenced on site and the units are to be installed this month.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty said when he submitted the motion work had not commenced on this bridge. All that was required were small culverts. He asked would it not have been possible to put down a small base when the problem arose and then put in the shuttering. This would have saved time and money.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan said he had not gone into the specific detail of this work with the Area Engineer. He undertook to review the work being undertaken on this bridge.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty said it did not make sense to have this road closed for so long.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae requested that Notice of Motion No. 26 would be deferred to the April meeting.

This was agreed.

27. What constitutes an uninhabitable house?

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllrs. P. McCarthy & J. Sheahan PROPOSED:
That Kerry County Council clarify as to what constitutes an uninhabitable house and if it is exempt from the forthcoming property tax.

The following report issued:

The Finance (Local Property) Act 2012 defines residential property as ' any building or structure (or part of a building) which is used as, or is suitable for use as, a dwelling and includes any shed, outhouse, garage or other building or structure and includes grounds of up to one acre'.

There is no definition of a uninhabitable house within the Act.

The Act and the new Bill does in fact include certain exemptions as listed below:

- **New and previously unused properties that are purchased from a builder or developer between 1 January 2013 and 31 October 2016 will be exempt until the end of 2016.**
- **Properties purchased by a first time buyer between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013 will be exempt until the end of 2016. The exemption is subject to certain conditions, including that the property must be the person's sole or main residence. If the property is subsequently sold or ceases to be the person's main residence between 2013 and 2016, the exemption no longer applies.**

- Residential properties that were constructed by a builder or developer but remain unsold and have not yet been used as dwellings (Trading Stock).
- Residential properties that have been affected by a significant level of pyrite induced damage
- Residential properties used by a charitable body in connection with recreational activities facilitated by that body where such activities take place in the course of the actual carrying out of the primary purpose of the charity.
- Certain properties situated in unfinished housing estates (commonly called “ghost estates”), to be specified by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.
- Residential properties that are owned by a charity or a public body and used to provide accommodation and support for people, who have a particular need in addition to a general housing need, to enable them to live in the community, such as sheltered accommodation for the elderly and the disabled. A “charity” must be granted an exemption for tax purposes by the Revenue Commissioners to avail of this exemption.
- Registered Nursing Homes.
- A property which was occupied by a person as his or her sole or main residence and has been vacated by the person for 12 months or more due to long term mental or physical infirmity. An exemption may also be obtained where the period is less than 12 months, if a registered practitioner is satisfied that the person is unlikely at any stage to return to the property. In both cases, the exemption only applies where the property is not occupied by any other person.
- Mobile home, vehicle or a vessel.
- Property fully subject to commercial rates.
- Diplomatic property.

The forthcoming Local property tax shall be under the care and management of the Revenue Commissioners in accordance with the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012. In simple terms the owner of a residential property, subject to a number of exemptions, will be liable to pay the tax. Any clarification of Act including the term ‘uninhabitable’ will be determined by Revenue.

29. Extension of the time allowable for hedge cutting along public roads.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllrs. J. Healy Rae & D. Healy Rae PROPOSED:
That we the members of Kerry County Council ask the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to extend the time allowable for hedge cutting along public roads as it is nonsensical to suggest that birds would make their nest between the ditches and the side of the public roads.

The following report issued:
Section 40 of the Wildlife Act, 1976, as amended by Section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 prescribes that it is an offence for any person “to cut, grub, burn or otherwise destroy any vegetation growing in any hedge or ditch between the period beginning on the 1st March and ending on the 31st August”.

The relevant Department for the implementation of this legislation is the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae called for some derogation to allow landowners to cut hedged later in the year. Under existing legislation they cannot now cut hedges.

Mr. J.D. Flynn informed the meeting that the Minister recently announced he is reviewing this legislation with a view to extending the time of cutting hedges.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae PROPOSED that a letter would issue to the Minister calling for an extension of time for the cutting of roadside hedges.

Cllr. J. J. Culloty SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery pointed out that it is important to preserve nature also.

30. Endorsement of tourism projects in the county.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllrs. M. Cahill & J.J. Culloty PROPOSED:
That Kerry County Council identify promote and endorse in conjunction with Local Communities two tourism projects one in North Kerry one in South Kerry that will help create jobs, attract visitors to the county and assist local businesses.

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

Cllr. M. Cahill said the development of the walkway between Glenbeigh and Cahersiveen would help to create jobs and support existing businesses.

Cllr. J. J. Culloty supported the motion.

13.03.11.17 Correspondence – Conferences and Seminars

- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllrs. O'Donoghue, D. Healy-Rae, J. Healy-Rae, Leahy, Cronin, Sheahan and Culloty at the Training Seminar for Councillors on the theme 'Freedom of Information' to be held in Woodfield House Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick from 22nd to 24th March 201.

Cllr. O'Donoghue was nominated to report back to Council on this Seminar.

- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. P.J. Donovan it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllrs. Fitzgerald, McEllistrim, Griffin, Brassil, O'Shea, Ferris, Foley, Leahy, Sheahan, Wharton-Slattery and Finucane at the LAMA Spring Seminar 2013 to be held in The Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford on 5th & 6th April 2013.

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

- (d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. J. Healy Rae, Chair of the Community, Culture and Tourism SPC at the Joint Library Conference to be held in Dublin on the 10th and 11th April, 2013.

Cllr. J. Healy Rae was nominated to report back to Council on this Conference.

- (e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Finucane it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllrs. Brassil, Wharton Slattery and Finucane at Cantillon 2013 on the theme of 'The Economy and Entrepreneurship' to be held in the Institute of Technology, Tralee on 11th & 12th April 2013.

Cllr. Brassil was nominated to report back to Council on this Seminar.

- (f) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Sheahan it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Mayor T. O'Brien at the London Rose Selection on Friday 12th April, 2013.

Mayor T O'Brien was nominated to report back to Council on this event.

- (g) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllrs. Fitzgerald, Purtill, Cronin, Griffin, Leahy and Sheahan at the 11th National Tourism Conference on the theme of 'The Gathering - bringing our diaspora back home' to be held in The Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow from 18th to 20th April 2013.

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

- (i) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Sheahan it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. McCarthy, Brassil, O'Donoghue, Wharton Slattery, D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae at The Westport Conference on the theme of 'Seminar on Media and the Councillor - Social Media and Traditional Media' to be held in the Westport Country Lodge Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo from 19th to 21st April 2013.

Cllr. Wharton Slattery was nominated to report back to Council on this Seminar.

- (j) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Cahill it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllrs. O'Connell, Culloty and Cahill at the Elected Member's Training Seminar on the theme 'Water Services Bill 2013' to be held in Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo on the 19th & 20th April 2013.

Cllr. O'Connell was nominated to report back to Council on this Seminar.

- (k) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Sheahan it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. J.J. Culloty at the Water Ireland Conference 2013 on the theme 'Implementing a National Water Utility' to be held in Pillo Hotel, Ashbourne, Co. Meath on the 15th May 2013.

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

13.03.11.18 Correspondence General

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

1.	Letter dated 19 th February, 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence regarding the Equality for Women Measure.
2.	Letter dated 27 th February, 2013 from the Minister for Housing and Planning in relation to funding for Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a disability.
3.	Letter dated 1 st March, 2013 from the NRA regarding funding for the overhead bridge at Mountain Stage.
4.	Letter dated 11 th February, 2013 from Leixlip Town Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority rejecting any move to allow increased drink-driving limits for rural dwellers.
5.	Letter dated 18 th February, 2013 from Shannon Town Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority condemning the proposed planned saving of €721m by the HSE.
6.	Letter dated 18 th February, 2013 from Shannon Town Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling for the enactment of legislation making the wearing of high visibility vests or belts/bands by pedestrian compulsory at times of darkness or low visibility.
7.	Letter dated 18 th February, 2013 from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority calling for a change in legislation on commercial rates.
8.	Letter dated 27 th February, 2013 from Monaghan County Council in relation to a Section 140 resolution adopted by that authority calling on the County Manager to refrain from increasing the rent payable by local authority tenants as a result of the Government's Property Tax.

Votes of Sympathy

The following Votes of Sympathy were noted from the Vote of Sympathy book:

- (a) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Betty Murphy.
- (b) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late John Joe Gleeson.

- (c) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Hannah Kissane.
- (d) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Mattie O'Donoghue.
- (e) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Gerry O'Connor.
- (f) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Tom Keane.
- (g) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Bridie O'Connor
- (h) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Norah Casey.
- (i) Cllrs. J. Healy-Rae and D. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Eileen Murphy.
- (j) Cllrs. J. Griffin and T Buckley proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Tom O'Connor Scarteen.

13.03.11.19 Any other business

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery requested that a letter of congratulations would issue to the Kerry Rape and Sexual Assault Unit who are celebrating 25 years in operation.

It was agreed that a letter would issue from the Mayor.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae wished the Mayor and Manager every success on their forthcoming visit to New York. He called on them to further the plight of the undocumented Irish if the opportunity arose.

The meeting concluded at 6.05pm.

Gerard O'Brien
Meetings Administrator

Mayor of Kerry