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**MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE SPEISIALTA PLEANÁLA DE COMHAIRLE
CONTAE CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN
CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN LUAN 2 MEÁN FHÓMHAIR 2013.**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE,
TRALEE ON MONDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2013.**

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

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

APOLOGY/LEATHSCÉAL

M. Gleeson

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Mr. T. Curran, Co. Manager	Mr. M. McMahon, Dir of Planning
Mr. J. Breen, Dir. Hsg. & Comm. & Ent	Mr. M. O'Donoghue A/Dir. Corp. Serv.
Mr. O. Ring, Dir. Env. & Water Serv.	Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. of Ser. & Nat. Proc. Off.
Ms. A. McAllen, A/Head of Finance	Mr. G. MacNamara, D/Dir. of Roads
Mr. P. Stack, SE Planning	Ms. M. Enright, Sen. Exec. Planner
Mr. M. Lynch, SEE Planning	Ms. D. O'Malley, Sen. Exec. Planner
Mr. E. Fleming, Executive Planner	Mr. M. Fitzgerald, Executive Planner
Mr. T.J. O'Mahony, Executive Planner	Ms. L. Sexton, Executive Planner
Ms. A. M. Costelloe, Asst. Planner	Mr. D. Burke, Assistant Planner
Mr. E. Kelliher, Assistant Planner	Ms. A. Murphy, Assistant Planner
Ms. N. O'Connor, A.S.O. Planning	Mr. G. O'Brien, Mtgs. Administrator
Mr. L. Brosnan, AO Planning	Mr. P. Corkery, Press & Comm. Off.
Ms. B. Reidy, S.S.O. Corp. Affairs	Ms. D. Reidy, CO Planning

The meeting commenced at 10.40am.

The Mayor, Cllr. S. Fitzgerald took the Chair.

Members Duties under Ethics Legislation.

Mayor Fitzgerald informed members that he wished to remind them of their duties under Part 15 (Ethics Framework) of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Code of Conduct for Councillors. He then read the following statement into the record of the meeting.

“Councillors should be aware that the onus for complying with the requirement of the Act and the Code of Conduct lies with each individual Councillor. Under the beneficial interest provision and should that provision apply, a Councillor must

- (1) Disclose the nature of his/her interest or the fact of a connected persons interest at the meeting and before discussion or consideration of the matter commences and
- (2) Withdraw from the meeting for so long as the matter is being discussed or considered, and accordingly, he/she shall take no part in the discussion or consideration of the matter and shall refrain from voting in relation to it.”

In conclusion the Mayor informed members that there could be no interaction with members of the public during the meeting.

13.09.02.01 Manager’s Report on submissions/observations received following the initial public consultation regarding the review of the Kerry County Development Plan 2009 – 2015

Mr. M. McMahon, Director of Planning said the County Manager’s Report on the pre-draft consultation was given to members in July and copies were available if any member wanted one. This is the first stage that elected members will be involved in the review of the County Development Plan. There are big changes since the last County Development Plan was reviewed. In 2009 the country was after 10 years of unprecedented growth and now we are after a number of years of the worst recession this country has known. The Manager’s Report sets out the results of the initial round of public consultation. The process for the review of the Plan is set out in the Planning Act and it will take 2 years. Initially an issues document was put out for public consultation. 56 submissions were received and they are detailed in the Manager’s Report. 7 public meetings were held to allow the general public to outline their views or concerns. A list of people who made submissions is included in Appendix 2. The submissions are summarised into 7 broad categories i.e. (1) Regional/Strategic Issues and Overall Strategy (2) Housing (3) Economic development (4) Tourism (5) Infrastructure (6) Natural Environment and (7) Heritage and The Gaeltacht.

Under the provisions of Section 11(4)(c) to (f) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, the Section 11 Manager’s Report was submitted to the Members of Kerry County Council on **15th July 2013** for their consideration.

Following the consideration of the report the Members of the planning authority, may issue directions to the manager regarding the preparation of the draft development plan, and any such directions shall be strategic in nature, consistent with the draft core strategy, and shall take account of the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government, and the manager shall comply with any such directions. This is a change since the last Plan was reviewed. Following the introduction of the Planning and Development Act 2010 and the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 the onus is on members to ensure the Plan is in line with legislation. In all 27 planning Guidelines were issued to planning authorities and we must have regard to these. If not the onus is on members to outline why the Development Plan does not comply with the Guidelines. The Minister intervened in three Development Plans in the last 12 months as they did not comply with legislation and Guidelines. Members have 10 weeks from the time they received the Manager's Report to consider it and the 10 weeks expire on 22nd September. If members conclude consideration of the Manager Report at this meeting in accordance with Section 5(a) of the Act the Manager shall, not later than 12 weeks following the receipt of any directions, prepare a draft development plan and submit it to the Members of the planning authority for their consideration. The process for reviewing the County Development Plan is different to Local Area Plans in that members do not have an input into Local Area Plans at this stage. It is likely that the Draft Development Plan will be put on public display in late January or early February 2014. He then called on Mr. P. Stack to brief members on the Manager's Report.

Mr. P. Stack, SE Planning said 56 submissions were received and these are summarised in 7 broad headings. He proposed to go through the 7 headings, summarise the submissions and then outline the Manager's opinion. He would then take direction from members under each heading.

1. Regional / Strategic Issues & Overall Strategy

Mr. Stack said a number of submissions directly or indirectly addressed **Regional/Strategic Issues** affecting the County. He referred members to Page 8 of the Manager's Report where a summary of the issues raised in submissions is set out and he pointed out that these are not the views of management.

Core Strategy

- A Core Strategy should provide a clear statement as to where funding priorities should be targeted within the county in the short to medium term.
- The Council should continue to promote the Tralee-Killarney Hub Functional Area as the primary location for future development within the county.

- The Core Strategy must provide for the future planning and sustainable development of the county.
- A landscape and Green Infrastructure strategy should form part of the 'Core Strategy'.

Population / Settlement Hierarchy

- The estimated growth in population is aspirational, until such time as appropriate employment opportunities are available in the county etc, only then, will there be an end to the mass emigration from County Kerry.
- The Draft Plan should be consistent with the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) 2010 - 2022.
- The settlement strategy should be informed by the availability and capacity of water and waste water services, transport, energy and other infrastructural considerations.
- It is important all new development is directed towards settlements and areas that have the infrastructural capacity to absorb growth.
- The balance of population growth between urban and rural areas needs to be managed.
- The settlement hierarchy leads to a prioritization of development; this should not operate to preclude development such as retail provision, in areas where there is a deficiency.
- Killarney and Tralee are recognised as the key focus area for growth in the County. However, this should not limit the Council in responding to development proposals that contribute to both jobs and employment in the other major towns.

General Issues

- Ensure that the Plan is consistent with the Development Plan Guidelines 2007(DoEHLG).
- Strengthen the Kerry and Dingle Peninsula brand name.
- There is a need to focus on an economic and investment strategy for employment creation.
- The Retail Planning Guidelines note that the development plan system encompasses both strategic planning policies and more localised action initiatives. However, because retail planning requires consideration of the

catchment area of retail centres, emerging plans should also review the hierarchy of settlements and town centres and provide broad guidelines on priorities for the location of additional retail development across the region. Such general guidelines should not be constrained by administrative boundaries which cut across catchment areas.

- The Council should seek to maximise the potential of the E.U. for the grant aiding of projects.

Manager's Opinion on the Issues Raised

- The main aim of this Plan is to promote sustainability as its core principle, which entails the balancing of economic, social/cultural and environmental demands.
- The Core Strategy shall provide a clear statement as to where the future population growth and associated funding priorities should be targeted within the county in the short to medium term.
- The economic development of the county is a priority. Having regard to the current economic difficulties faced by the entire Country, it is essential that the Draft Plan creates a platform on which the future economic development and growth of the County can be built.
- The CDP shall acknowledge the importance and potential of the knowledge, service and green industries as future employment sectors for the county.
- It is planned to carry out a review of the settlement strategy and hierarchy, in order to ensure that the strategy reflects both National and Regional strategies and the carrying capacity of each settlement in the County. As is currently the case, settlements will be designated for different levels of growth, based on their strategic location in the County (HUB) and the existing/proposed infrastructure available in the settlements.
- The growth targets and population allocation figures will be reviewed including the allocation to each settlement and their subsequent housing land requirement. These growth figures will take into consideration the 2011 census, the targets and population projections as included in the Regional Planning Guidelines and the availability of services.
- The four new municipal areas will replace the existing functional areas. The settlement hierarchy will be amended to reflect this.

- The core strategy and settlement hierarchy will indicate the level of priority and role given to retail development in each settlement. It is acknowledged that the Hub towns of Tralee and Killarney are the main retail centres for the county for the sale of higher order and comparison goods.
- The implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-22 and all other Ministerial Guidelines will be at the core of the new plan.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies that promote and facilitate:

1. Compliance with the Regional Planning Guidelines in relation to population allocations for each settlement.
2. The development of employment opportunities, in particular attention to promoting the development of small and medium enterprises, local services, rural enterprise and tourism.
3. The importance and potential of the knowledge, service and green industries as future employment sectors and shall contain objectives in this regard.
4. The use of land within existing settlements for employment/enterprise purposes, rather than promoting employment developments on stand alone sites within rural areas, except in case of small home based commercial enterprises to be identified and categorised.

Mr. Stack then invited members to make their comments on these issues.

Cllr. J. Finucane said the Tralee/Killarney Hub status has meant nothing over the past few years. He would like to see targets included in the Draft Plan that would support the objective of the IT Tralee to obtain University and Technological status. There is economic growth in Dublin but not in the rest of the country. This Plan needs to be more energetic and specific to support the creation of jobs. There should also be support for the Wild Atlantic Way and Shannon LNG which are the only realistic options to create employment in Kerry. He asked that specific reference would be made to these in the opening remarks in the Draft Plan. Technological status for IT Tralee is critical for the county, the future development of the Technology Park and for Shannon LNG.

Cllr. P. McCarthy said the development of Kerry Airport is vital for the future development of the county together with adequate access roads to the county. The lack of good access roads is choking development in our county. Cllr.

McCarthy referred to No. 2 in the Manager's Policy Recommendations and asked for a definition of 'rural enterprise'.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said the centralisation of services is creating a rural / urban divide. All services are being centralised i.e. SUSI, Driving Licences, Medical Cards and Ambulance Control Centre all of which have been lost from the county. It is important that the Council would work together to ensure no other services are removed from the county. Kerry Group announced the location of a new facility in County Meath recently and this was very disappointing. Shannon Airport was downgraded when transatlantic flights no longer had to set down at Shannon. Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said we must promote the creation of jobs in the Tralee/Killarney HUB. Access roads through Macroom and Adare are bottle necks and Minister Varadkar has indicated that he will do his best to ensure the Macroom By-Pass goes ahead in the lifetime of the present government. It is important to make provision in the Plan for families living in urban areas who own land in rural areas for a certain length of time to ensure they get favourable consideration for permission. Under the present County Development Plan people living in towns are prohibited from moving into rural areas and this is not acceptable. It is important to revitalise rural areas and landowners know best how to enhance their areas.

Cllr. R. Beasley emphasised the importance of tourism in Kerry. The Wild Atlantic Way was developed to help communities on the western coast and that is the way it should be retained. Killarney and Dingle are brand names but many seaside resorts are in decline. While the good summer was a help these areas must be promoted. The population is in decline and will continue because of the economy. Many young people are emigrating yet the Government are saying the number of people unemployed is reducing but that is not the case. There is a major problem with the infrastructure leading into the county and the traffic delays in Macroom and Adare are major stumbling blocks for tourism and development in Kerry. It is vital that all access roads into the county are upgraded. Cllr. Beasley said he hoped the Shannon LNG project would be allowed to proceed and this would ensure Bord Gáis will not have a monopoly. The Government and the EU are dictating policy on raised bogs but the argument put forward by the turf cutters is valid. The rights of people who use these bogs are being done away with and he called on the Minister to give consideration to local people.

Cllr. T. Ferris questioned the logic of the way management were going through the report and she asked if it was wise to proceed this way. She referred to the Core Strategy on Page 8 of the Manager's Report and in particular to point no. 4 as follows: *"The Core Strategy must provide for the future planning and sustainable development of the county. This includes social and economic infrastructure, conservation of the environment, community and cultural requirements of the county and its population. The integration of policies and objectives is to provide a clear and strategic vision for the future"*. Cllr. Ferris said but for the wisdom of the Council to include lands in Feint if any fuel is found

off the coast there would be no land zoned to facilitate this development. She would not like to see any impediment to what could be a huge opportunity for our county.

Cllr. B. Cronin referred to Page 13 of the Manager's Report and to No. 4 in the Manager's Policy Recommendations which reads: *"The use of land within existing settlements for employment/enterprise purposes, rather than promoting employment developments on stand alone sites within rural areas, except in case of small home based commercial enterprises to be identified and categorised."* This contradicts the submission outlined on Page 11 which reads *"There is a need to focus on an economic and investment strategy for employment creation"* and it is unacceptable especially in Kerry. He has seen small businesses of 2 or 3 people run into huge problems in trying to get permission in a rural area. They are told to get a Unit in Killarney which is not reasonable as rents are astronomical there. He asked that the wording in No. 4 on Page 13 would be amended. It is possible there would be a viable project in the future in Furies or Fenit and they would be told they could not get permission because of the objectives in the County Development Plan. Cllr. Cronin said he was totally opposed to this objective. Kerry Airport is critically important for the county and he agreed with the submission that said the development of the airport is vital for the county. He then referred to Page 9 of the Manager's Report and read the following: *"Given the on-going economic difficulties, it is unlikely that there will be any significant investment in water services infrastructure outside the Water Services Investment Programme. It is therefore important that all new development is directed towards settlements and areas that have the infrastructural capacity to absorb growth."* Cllr. Cronin said the Council will be loosing control of water services to Irish Water and he asked what that would mean for rural villages.

The County Manager said the submissions came from the general public and the critical issues are our response to them. It is up to members to decide what they want in the Plan. It is important that appropriate wording is included and that it complies with legislation and Guidelines. During the review of the Local Area Plans thousands of acres of land were dezoned and this has taken away a lot of the decision making now. No decision can be taken unless it complies with the Guidelines.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae said the NRA appeal permissions granted on national roads and that is a big issue for members.

The Mayor informed Cllr. Healy-Rae that issue can be raised when the section on infrastructure is being dealt with.

Mr. McMahon said management made a suggestion on how the meeting should progress. The issue raised by Cllr. Healy-Rae can be dealt with under the section on infrastructure. Mr. McMahon said the wording referred to by Cllr. Cronin at No. 4 on Page 13 will not appear in the County Development Plan as it is.

Mr. Stack said management identified this as a huge issue.

Cllr. Ferris said it would make sense to include '*there will be exceptions*' in No. 4.

Cllr. N. Foley requested that the 'Arts' would be included in No. 2 in the Manager's Policy Recommendations.

Mr. M. McMahon said agriculture should also be included.

Cllr. N. Foley said while education is not within our remit it should also be included.

2. Housing

Mr. Stack said Housing is divided into two (1) Rural Settlement & Housing and (2) Development Management/Guidelines. He referred members to Pages 14 to 17 of the Manager's Report where details of submissions received on the first section are set out. 9 submissions were received on **Housing** and he summarised these as follows:

- Existing substantially completed developments should be taken in charge by Local Authority within 2 years of substantial completion.
- Holiday homes should only be permitted in towns and villages, never in the scenic areas of the county.
- The new plan could include strong policies with regard to unsustainable one-off rural housing; the direction of development into existing settlements; and the emphasis on the use of design guidelines.
- Holiday home developments should be required to locate within an existing settlement, where there is existing infrastructure provision, where they can contribute to the maintenance of essential rural services and act as a revitalising force in counteracting population decline.
- Favourable consideration should be given to a family member of urban based family applicants who apply for permission to build on land, on the periphery of the given town that has been in family ownership for a long duration.

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- The principal effect that settlement policy can have on tourism development is in contributing to the retention of Kerry's rural character and scenic beauty. With many visitors and visitor revenue based on the quality of the scenery it is essential this resource is protected for future generations.
- Section 3.7 regarding 'Amenity Areas' with reference to the importance of protecting the scenery of the county should be retained in the new development plan.
- The existing section on holiday homes should be retained in the new development plan.
- The current availability of housing stock should be adequate for the anticipated growth in population and utilising this stock first should be a more principled sustainable approach.
- Ensure that adequate levels of social and community infrastructures such as public and private housing, education, health facilities, community centres and sports and recreational facilities are provided in appropriate locations and in a timely and sustainable manner to support population growth.

Manager's Opinion on the Issues Raised

- Many of the issues raised support the objectives and policies that are contained in the current Development Plan. These policies however need to be further analysed and amended where appropriate in the light of experience obtained during the current plan period and changed economic circumstances which have led to an overhang of housing provision in some areas.
- It is considered that the current holiday home policy is operating successfully in that those with a bona fide link to a rural area, such as a son or daughter are being accommodated. Second homes/holiday homes are not permitted in rural areas.
- The 2011 census indicated that 26% of the housing stock in County Kerry was vacant. This figure includes holiday home and second homes. This figure is substantially higher in certain parts of the County. There is concern regarding the social impact these holiday homes and vacant dwellings are having on the permanent residents in the local community.
- It is recognised in County Kerry, that there is a tradition of dispersed settlement patterns in the countryside. It is apparent that the recent rate of housing construction and scale of dispersed rural housing is unsustainable and is uneconomical in terms of infrastructure provision and quality of life.

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- The council has a policy on the taking in charge of housing estates. It is the policy of Kerry County Council to take in charge private residential housing developments, where certain conditions have been met.
- The Council has design guidelines for rural housing. It is recommended that all proposals consider these guidelines with regard to design and integration.
- It is considered that all rural housing developments should comply with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines DoEHLG 2005.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include policies that promote and facilitate:

1. Persons with a genuine rural housing need to build a dwelling house in the rural areas in accordance with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines 2005.
2. The utilization of the overhang in housing provision in preference to constructing a new house (*in areas under urban pressure*).
3. The development of permanent places of residence on vacant/infill sites, within existing cluster developments.
4. The provision of holiday houses in towns and villages.
5. The development of housing in Gaeltacht areas which do not affect the linguistic heritage of the area.

Development Management/Guidelines

Mr. Stack then referred members to Pages 18 to 20 of the Manager's Report where details of submissions received on Development Management/Guidelines and the Manager's Opinion and Recommendations are set out. 8 submissions were received relating to Development Management/Guidelines and he summarised them as follows:

- Development Management Guidelines and Standards should be dealt with at the end of each chapter in the plan. Apart from making it easier for planning staff and professionals it would make the plan more user friendly.
- The integrity of the Planning System should be maintained and should operate for the benefit of the whole community, the environment should not be jeopardised by inappropriate and environmentally damaging

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development and the policies and objectives of the Plan should be implemented and adhered to.

- The policies, objectives and zonings, relating to lands with extant permissions, within the new Development Plan, should be retained similarly to those within the current Development Plan.
- A coherent policy in relation to the sign posting of business throughout the county should be included.
- All employment and industrial development in rural areas should be contained in the villages (except craft/hairdressers/mechanics/childcare)
- Safeguard and protect skylines and ridgelines from development.
- Ensure that development (particularly new development) will not have a disproportionate visual impact.
- That the Council would ensure that every effort is made to ensure the proper reinstatement of quarries.
- Recommend inclusion of a specific community-led Village design statement policies.
- Best practice should be promoted in respect of water conservation in all developments through methods such as rain water harvesting, reuse of grey waters, reduction in usage and minimisation of water loss from supply infrastructure.

Manager's Opinion on the Issues Raised

- The current development management standards will be reviewed and altered as appropriate in the Draft Plan. The Development Management Guidelines and Standards are contained in one section of the plan as these policies apply to all developments.
- The Planning System operates for the benefit of the whole community in the interest of the common good.
- A SEA and HDA report will form part of the Development plan, this will ensure that the policies and objectives of the Plan are sustainable and environmentally appropriate.
- It is the policy of the Council to seek the completion of derelict estates etc. the zoning of lands for specific land uses is not included in the County Development Plan.

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- The County Development Plan will have regard to the *Policy on the Provision of Tourist & Leisure Signage on National Roads (published by the NRA)*.
- The County Development Plan will incorporate a signage policy for all Non National Roads.
- The council will facilitate the erection of appropriate signage at certain locations for small business and commercial units.
- The council will facilitate persons who wish to work from home and the development of small business and commercial units at appropriate locations subject to no loss of residential amenities. A Policy in relation to this issue will be incorporated in to the Draft Plan.
- KCC recommend that all rural housing developments have regard to the *Building a house in Rural Kerry; Design guidelines*. The use of these guidelines should minimize visual impact on the landscape.
- It is considered that the Council take enforcement action in cases of unauthorised development, where it is appropriate to do so in accordance with legislation.
- It is the policy of the Council to seek to have all registered quarries reinstated in accordance with restoration plans.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies:

1. That will facilitate sustainable development which provides clear guidance to architects/agents in the preparation of planning applications.
2. Provide guidelines for the erection of all forms of signage including finger post signs, shop fronts and roadside signs.

Cllr. N. Foley referred to No. 5 in the Manager's Policy Recommendations on Page 17 in relation to the development of housing in Gaeltacht areas and to No. 2 also in the Manager's Policy Recommendations on Page 20 in relation to shop fronts and she asked if they are binding.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty expressed concern that the Report states there is an adequate housing stock for the anticipated growth in population in accordance with the 2011 Census. However houses like his old family home which is deteriorating were counted in that Census. Also some houses that are partly constructed will probably be knocked and holiday homes are not available for housing. It is unfair if a person wants to live in an area this argument is used against them. He welcomed proposals to facilitate anyone who wants to work from home.

Cllr. T. Ferris commended management on their views on holiday homes. She asked that the Draft Plan would provide for people from towns who would like to live in rural areas. There should be flexibility on this important issue. She asked that the 'Guidance for Agents' would be updated and it would be helpful if members received guidance from management on the best agents.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen welcomed the recommendation to protect the environment and said there are vacant houses and available land on the periphery of towns and villages and he asked that those with land in rural areas would be accommodated.

Cllr. P. McCarthy referred to Page 15 of the Manager's Report and point No. 2 which states "*Favourable consideration should be given to a family member of urban based family applicants who apply for permission to build on land, on the periphery of the given town that has been in family ownership for a long duration.*" He requested that the number of years the land is owned would be specified and said 10 years would be appropriate.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said the land should be owned for 8 years if a person wants to move out of a town or village. This is prohibited at present and it is important to revitalise rural areas. Members were informed that the issue of signage would be addressed in the new County Development Plan and some businesses are failing due to lack of signage. Jobs are at stake and it is unfair the current policy does not allow them to advertise their business. If they were allowed to put signs at junctions it would be helpful.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae referred to Page 17 of the Manager's Report and the first recommendation which reads "*Persons with a genuine rural housing need to build a dwelling house in the rural areas in accordance with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines 2005*". There is a problem at present as the Council grants permission and the NRA appeal it to An Bord Pleanála. As a result some of these applications are being refused. He mentioned one instance where a farmer's son applied for permission with a proposal to use the same entrance as his parents. Permission was granted by Kerry County Council but the NRA appealed it to the Bord and he was subsequently refused permission. He is still living with this father and mother and using this entrance and this is the only land he has to build a house. For the past two years one state agency has been objecting to another state agency's decision and this must be resolved.

Cllr. R. Beasley asked what is the current policy on derelict houses and businesses especially public houses and shops. Tidy Towns Committees try to make contact with the owners but to no avail. Unless owners are living in the premises they will not be maintained and eventually become derelict.

Cllr. P. Leahy said there is a large number of unfinished houses where permission has expired. Under the new regulations the site could fail the percolation test and he asked if there was any way they could be facilitated.

Mr. P. Stack said all the issues raised by members would be noted. In relation to the issue of the NRA appealing permissions issued by Kerry County Council the Council must be guided by the National Spatial Strategy and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012). The National Roads Guidelines is a critical document and is why the NRA appeals decisions to the Bord. Mr. Stack referred members to Page 36 of the Manger's Report which reads "*Section 2.6 of the NRA Spatial Planning & the National Roads Guidelines identifies exceptional Circumstances where planning authorities may identify stretches of national roads where a less restrictive approach may be applied, but only as part of the process of reviewing or varying the relevant development plan and having consulted and taken on board the advice of the NRA.*" Consultation on this issue is ongoing. In that regard we are now reviewing the County Development Plan and have commenced discussions with the NRA to agree the 'exceptional circumstances' clause. This is very important as there is in excess of 300km of national secondary roads involved. To-date two meetings were held with the NRA and it is intended to have further meetings on this issue. This relates to the N69, N86 and the Ring of Kerry road.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae welcomed the meetings with the NRA in an effort to resolve this issue because as it stands there will be no new houses on the Ring of Kerry road.

Mr. Stack said it will be a difficult issue to resolve. He assured members that the issues raised by them on Housing were noted. He referred to Cllr. N. Foley's query relating to the preservation of the linguistic heritage of the Gaeltacht and said this issue will be addressed in the Draft Plan and will be discussed with members at length. He added that guidelines are not binding.

Cllr. P. McCarthy said Kerry has 8 or 9% of national secondary roads in the country. If progress is not made with the NRA a delegation from the Council should meet with the relevant Minister.

Economic Development

Mr. Stack referred members to Pages 21 to 23 of the Manager's Report for details of the submissions received and the Manger's response. 7 submissions were received relating to **Economic Development** in the county and he summarised the issues raised as follows:

- The tourism industry has a greater capacity for growth than more traditional employment industries.
- Agriculture will always provide a significant number of jobs, provided too much land is not taken out of farming, either for sites for housing or afforestation.
- There will be an increase in Agricultural (including Aquaculture) activity in the County associated with objectives of CAP Reform and Harvest 2020. This increased activity has the capacity to significantly affect the aquatic environment and the fishery therein. The development plan must ensure that land use change and farming practices do not affect the aquatic environment e.g. by introducing objectives protecting aquatic habitats including riparian areas.
- Retail is a significant contributor to the economy, and a provider of a significant number of jobs. The plan should, in formulating policy, consider the role of retailing in generating economic growth, employment, service provision and urban regeneration. The plan should provide for retail development in areas where there is a demand.

Manger's Opinion on the Issue Raised and general Economic Factors

- Having regard to the current economic difficulties faced by the Country, it is essential that the Draft Plan creates a platform on which the future economic development and growth of the County can be built. In order to respond to the economic downturn and to encourage the development of employment opportunities, there should be a positive presumption on employment creation where it can be demonstrated that there will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment and residential amenity.
- The Draft Plan should aim to maintain the County's competitiveness through policy which focuses on the indigenous strengths of the County. While it should continue to promote development of large-scale knowledge and manufacturing based employment, there is a need to pay particular attention to promoting the development of small and medium enterprises, local services, rural enterprise and tourism. The Council can 'assist' employment by way of promotion, servicing, zoning, providing good linkages, trying to match employment areas with living areas, and promoting the concept of 'bringing people and jobs together'.
- The development of all economic sectors should be achieved through finding a sustainable balance between the protection of the County's heritage and its economic development.
- The scale and location of retail development should be consistent with the principles of the Core Strategy.

- There should be sufficient lands zoned for industrial/commercial and mixed use purposes to accommodate the level of growth outlined in the Core Strategy.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies:

1. An Employment Strategy, which will set out an overall economic strategy for the County. The Strategy should set the framework for economic growth in the most suitable and sustainable locations. It should be compatible with the Council's Settlement Hierarchy, and have regard to the potential economic strengths of the different parts of the County. The plan must ensure that the Strategy sets out a framework within which sufficient zoned and serviceable land is available for employment purposes.
2. The Strategy should seek to optimise the use of land within existing settlements for employment purposes, rather than promoting employment developments on stand alone sites within rural areas. It is, however, recognised that job creation in rural areas is important, and notwithstanding the presumption in favour of urban areas, policies should also be developed within which employment proposals in rural areas can be evaluated.
3. The employment Strategy should be consistent with national strategic objectives as set out in documents such as the NSS and RPGs.
4. Policies should be included to specifically cater for small and medium sized enterprises and the service sector.
5. Tourism should be promoted as a key economic driver.
6. The importance and potential of the knowledge, service and green industries as future employment sectors for the plan period should be recognised.
7. Retail is an important employment sector and the plan should make provision for the development of retail in appropriate locations and in accordance with the Core Strategy.
8. Policies should encourage and facilitate home working, where residential amenity and traffic safety permits.

Cllr. B. Cronin referred to Manager's Policy Recommendation No. 2 on Page 23 which reads '*It is, however, recognised that job creation in rural areas is important,*' and said this is an improvement. He is supportive of job creation in rural areas and asked that more favourable terminology would be used.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said farmers cannot plant forestry on unenclosed ground. 80% of the land planted must be enclosed ground with just 20% on unenclosed ground. Enclosed ground is green land while unenclosed land is rough. Many farmers want to use unenclosed land for forestry but they will not qualify for grants if they do. In South Kerry most of the farms are 7 or 8 acres green with 70 or 80 acres unenclosed and jobs are being lost in this area as a result.

The Mayor said this is a matter for the Department of Agriculture and Oireachtas members should take it up at a national level.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae asked that an objective would be included in the County Development Plan to aid and support forestry and agriculture.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said it is proposed that farmers would not be allowed to farm their land within 30m of a river or stream. If that proposal is implemented some farmers will have very little land. It is important to ensure that this proposal is not implemented. Farmers know best how to utilize their land.

Cllr. J. Finucane said the County Enterprise Board is central to our jobs programme but their offices are not in a suitable location and there is no wheelchair access. Their offices should be located in conjunction with Enterprise Ireland. A policy should be included to provide suitable office accommodation for the County Enterprise Board.

Cllr. T. Ferris referred to Page 23 and Manager's Recommendation No. 8 which states '*Policies should encourage and facilitate home working, where residential amenity and traffic safety permits.*' She asked is this already contained in the County Development Plan.

Mr. McMahon confirmed that it is in the County Development Plan.

Cllr. T. Ferris said this policy is not working as she was aware of a hairdresser in Causeway who was refused permission. She asked that the Planning Department would be more realistic about what people expect and that every effort would be made to facilitate people who work from home.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue said there is only a passing reference to Piers and Harbours / Aquaculture and he has long believed that our piers and harbours should be developed. He asked if the Council is aware of the EU Draft Directive on Integrated Coastal Management and the Marine Spatial Strategy. If this is implemented it will mean that the Council must draw up a Coastal Strategy and

will be involved in maritime planning. We need a strong coastal plan in place before the EU tell us what to do in relation to tourism, piers and harbours etc.

Mr. Stack said the next section of the Manger's Report deals with Tourism. We will be looking at what is proposed and it is likely a national Coastal Strategy will be drawn up.

Cllr. O'Donoghue said 8 countries, including Ireland, expressed their reservations regarding this Draft Directive but it is likely to proceed.

Tourism

Mr. Stack referred members to Pages 24 to 30 of the Manager's Report for details of the submissions received and the Manger's response. There were a large number of submissions relating to all aspects of **tourism** and the issues raised can be summarised as follows:

Strategic Matters

- Promote and maximise the tourism potential of Kerry
- Develop the role of tourism and the development of a high quality and diverse tourism product throughout the County in a balanced and sustainable manner.
- Identify the hub towns of Tralee and Killarney as visitor hubs.
- Promote the development of marine leisure and recreation clusters at appropriate locations along the county's coastline.

Promoting Tourism Products

Mr. Stack said a number of submissions directly or indirectly addressed the issue of promoting **tourism products** in the County. The following is a summary of the issues raised in these submissions:

- Kerry's landscapes are the county's primary tourism product.
- A greater range of activities should be promoted in rural areas including mountain and other off-road biking facilities, maritime trails, bird watching, deer watching, whale and dolphin watching, painting, photography, field studies, back-packing, orienteering, para- and hang- gliding, canoeing, kayaking and rafting, caving, rock climbing, adventure sports, swimming in waterways, wild camping, pony trekking, boating, eco- and green tourism. These activities should be coordinated, where appropriate, with adjoining counties.

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- Promote, maintain and improve access to the coast and seashore.
- Dark Skies i.e. areas which are free of man made light, is a tourist resource which Ireland has and something that many other counties do not have. The protection of dark skies should be enshrined in the Kerry Development Plan and the plan should contain policies and development standards to manage and limit unnecessary lighting.
- Artisan Art, Food and Craft and Culture-Based Tourism should continue to be supported and specific measures taken to develop this industry in conjunction with other interested bodies.
- Walking trails incorporating sites of archaeological interest should be developed.
- Urban and Business tourism should be developed by creating attractive towns and villages.
- Cross activity tourism, for example angling and walking, is becoming popular and should be supported.
- The plan should facilitate the development of driving trails in County Kerry
- Marine leisure industry should be developed.

The following tourism products should be developed:

- The Wild Atlantic Way.
- The Tralee and Blennerville Railway.
- Work in partnership with relevant agencies/organisations and the public to promote, understand, conserve and manage Skellig Michael.
- Develop the old Railway lines in the county as cycle routes linking into adjacent counties.
- Support the accreditation to UNESCO standards e.g. Blasket Islands.
- Complete the development of the downhill mountain bike trail outside Killarney.
- The Dark Skies initiative in South Kerry and the Dunquin Blasket Island Initiative in West Kerry should be supported.

- The Council should prioritise the development of flagship tourism products; such as The Skelligs, The Great Blasket Islands, Dingle Ocean world, the Tralee Aquadome and the Wild Atlantic Way.

Manger's Opinion on the Issue Raised

- Tourism is a key economic driver and the industry has the potential to grow significantly. In order to do this it is necessary to protect and conserve those natural, built and cultural heritage features that form the basis of the County's tourism industry. These include important and scenic landscapes, coastal scenery, areas of important wildlife interest, historic buildings, heritage structures and the traditional form and appearance of towns and villages. To achieve this, the development plan must provide for effective cross-compliance of policies and objectives in relation to tourism and other plan sectors. An Bórd Fáilte, for example, note that the settlement policy as it relates to building homes in the countryside, could have a negative effect on Kerry's rural character and scenic beauty.
- The Kerry tourism sector has, over recent years been diversifying and outdoor and nature related tourism is growing steadily. The plan should include objectives to facilitate the further development of this type of tourism by improving access to the countryside, including water bodies, and the development of the necessary infrastructure.
- Urban, business, arts, crafts, food, nature and cultural heritage are both individually and collectively important niche markets and should be promoted.
- Objectives to maximise the value of existing attractions should be considered. Such attractions if integrated into other tourist experiences would increase the economic return while providing visitors with a better 'tourism experience'. The Kerry County Development Board is preparing a tourism strategy. This strategy will look at the issue of integrated tourism and the economic value of different types of tourism.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

In the preparation of the plan the planning department should work closely with the County Development Board in its development of a County Tourism Strategy. The plan should include objectives and policies that:

- (1) Put tourism at the heart of the county's economic strategy. The development of tourism should be undertaken in a sustainable manner, one that protects the heritage values on which the tourism industry relies.

- (2) Facilitate the development of integrated tourism in partnership with other bodies and stakeholders.
- (3) Increase public access to the countryside and to water bodies in a sustainable manner.
- (4) Facilitate, in partnership with all relevant agencies and stakeholders, the development of the infrastructure necessary to facilitate the growth of all niche industries, such as water sports and heritage trails.
- (5) Facilitate the development of the tourism projects outlined above.
- (6) Facilitate, in particular, the development of the Atlantic Way. The landscape, views and prospects, and the general amenity of the area along the route should be evaluated and objectives should be formulated to ensure that development does not have an adverse impact on the amenity of the route.
- (7) Facilitate sustainable tourism development in areas where tourism is currently underdeveloped and where there is a need for local tourism development initiatives.
- (8) Provide objectives and management standards to protect the integrity of night skies.
- (9) Target urban and business tourism as growth markets. Settlements will need to be made attractive enough to support this form of tourism.
- (10) Improve visitors' first impressions of the county, e.g. views and prospects, landscaping etc.
- (11) Facilitate the development of a marine based leisure industry.
- (12) Develop the amenity value of waterways as part of a system of walking routes between amenity and recreational areas.

Tourism Infrastructure

Mr. Stack referred members to Page 31 of the Manager's Report for details of the submissions received and the Manger's response. He summarised the issues raised as follows:

- Policies are required to facilitate the development of better tourist infrastructure including the following: signage, visitor car parking, toilets, information provision, e.g. increased opening hours of tourist offices, better transport links, public transport services along key routes, and park and ride facilities at tourism hubs.

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- Improvement of Broadband and 3G coverage to facilitate tourism information and bookings
- There is a need to facilitate the development of infrastructure for water based activities. Such facilities would include pontoons for boats or launching activity, fishing bays, changing rooms and slipways etc.
- The continued development of cycle routes and walking routes.
- Support the development of high quality children's playgrounds.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised

- It is acknowledged that the provision of infrastructure to facilitate the tourist industry is vital for its on going development.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

- Objectives and policies should be included in the Draft Plan to encourage and facilitate the development of appropriate infrastructure to support the Tourist industry as a vital driver to economic development in the county.

Environmental Effects of Tourism

Mr. Stack then referred members to Pages 32 and 33 of the Manager's Report for details of the submissions received that directly or indirectly addressed the issue of the **environmental effects of tourism** in the County. The following is a summary of the issues raised in these submissions:

- The development plan should adhere to the principles of sustainable development.
- Ensure landscapes and scenic views are protected and not adversely damaged by tourism development.
- The protection of the aquatic environment should not be comprised by proposals to develop tourism.
- The principal tourist attraction in Kerry is quality of its landscapes. The number of houses in rural areas is damaging the landscape. Stricter planning control and extension of areas zoned for Amenity is needed to protect landscapes.

- Tourism related enterprises should be encouraged to reduce their impact upon the environment by reducing their energy demand, increasing recycling and utilising best practice procurement policy.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised

- (1) The tourism industry will grow significantly over the coming years. The challenge is to ensure that the industry grows without having a significant adverse affect on the environment which sustains it. This will be the key to achieving sustainable long term growth. See the section of this report which relates to the protection and preservation of the natural environment.
- (2) The plan should include a section on responsible tourism. Responsible tourism is an approach to tourism development that ensures that the negative impacts of tourism are minimised; while the positive impacts are simultaneously harnessed to benefit local communities and economies.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the objectives for the development of tourism should seek to develop a sustainable tourism industry, which will not have significant adverse impacts on the natural and cultural heritage values of the county.
2. The plan should include a section on responsible tourism. Responsible tourism is an approach to tourism development that ensures that the negative impacts of tourism are minimised; while the positive impacts are simultaneously harnessed to benefit local communities and economies.

Cllr. J. Finucane said the marketing of tourism has changed and magazine adverts and posters do not warrant too much attention. We should facilitate the authentic experience and he asked that there would be specific mention of surfing which has huge potential. Young people are very mobile and will return. Rod fishing is also very popular and the economy benefits from this type of tourism. It is important to facilitate the disabled who want to fish also. Pensioners have time to travel and consideration should be given to offering parking passes at a reasonable rate which would allow the motorist park anywhere in the county. We must update our marketing strategy for the county.

Cllr. N. Foley said it is short sighted not to include the arts, writers etc. in this section. It is important to promote this and Kerry County Council has an excellent Arts Office. Proper signage for the arts should be provided. She said arts should be an integral part of tourism.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue concurred with Cllr. Foley that the arts are important for the county and the important issue is funding which is in short supply. The Wild Atlantic Way is a fantastic project and good roads and viewing areas should be provided. Norway developed these facilities and it is very successful. We should formulate a plan to upgrade our infrastructure and provide viewing areas and have it costed. The Government is in favour of applications for grants for these facilities. All the local authorities involved in the Wild Atlantic Way should come together to formulate a plan and apply for grant aid to allow them to implement the plan. He encouraged the County Manager to meet with this colleagues involved in the Wild Atlantic Way with a view to formulating a joint plan.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae said there was substantial investment in roads but the hedges are not being cut. As a result they are growing out onto the road and it is getting more serious year on year. The hedge cutting policy is not working and 90% of hedges are not cut. It is a health and safety issue for locals and tourists alike.

Cllr. J. Sheahan agreed that activity holidays are very popular and should be facilitated and promoted. A number of people in Killarney are pursuing the development of downhill bike trails and this will be an important facility for tourists.

Cllr. A. McEllistrim said the NRA is very strict on the signage they permit but this should be reviewed. Businesses and tourists depend on signage.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery said it is important to promote the arts in the County Development Plan. Much of our signage is hidden and she said the idea of Church tourism/graveyards should be promoted also. Many tourists visit for just a few days and want to go back to their roots. The guidelines on Bed and Breakfast premises need to be updated to ensure these premises, especially the older ones, are adapted for the disabled. Also when an amenity is developed it is important to market it. Walking and cycling have become very popular and we should develop facilities further and promote it. This is very popular in the domestic market with 900 runners taking part in the Rose of Tralee marathon with many of the competitors coming from outside the county.

Mr. Stack said Kerry County Council is very supportive of cycling and had granted permission for a downhill bike trail in Killarney.

Infrastructure

Mr. Stack said a large number of submissions relate to infrastructure. These have been divided into 5 areas (1) Roads and Transportation (2) Waste Management (3) Waste Water Treatment (4) Telecommunications/National Power Grid and (5) Water fluoridation.

Roads & Transportation

A number of submissions address **Roads & transportation** affecting the County.

Summary of the Issues Raised:

- The KCDP should continue to include objectives for the improvement of the national road network within County Kerry.
- Have regard to the provisions of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) and Policy on the Provision of Tourist & Leisure Signage on National Roads (March 2011).
- The Draft Development Plan should support objective RTS 03 of the RPGs by encouraging the development of strategies for walking and cycling that promote the goals and aspirations of Smarter Travel and the National Cycle Policy Framework.
- Planning applications for significant development proposals should be accompanied by Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) and Road Safety Audits (RSA) carried out by suitably competent consultants.
- Protect and promote the ongoing development of Kerry Airport as it is of major importance to the future of the county and improve linkages to public transport networks.
- Development should not be allowed which would interfere with or impede the operation of the airport and/or the operation/calibration of the all instrument Landing System (ILS) along with the already protected Annex 14 surfaces in Kerry Airport.
- Reopen the former Tralee to Blennerville Railway.
- Promotion and development of amenity trails, cycle ways and associated facilities along disused railway lines etc.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised

- The plan will aim to address issues of traffic safety, traffic calming and road improvements throughout the County, as resources allow. The Council will work with the NRA in relation the upgrading of sections of the national primary and secondary road network.

- The requirements as set out in the NRA submission and to the NRA guidelines relating to the protection of the safety, carrying capacity, efficiency of the national roads network and signage are noted. While the plan will facilitate an integrated approach to land use and transportation throughout the County, it should be recognised that it may not always be desirable to prevent the use of national networks by traffic generated from local developments especially given the overriding requirements of the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines. The guidance documents published by the National Roads Authority will also be recognised within the plan.
- It must be recognized however that County Kerry has approximately 420km of National Road including 330km of National Secondary Road(12.5% of the National Total) and consequently major restriction on access to this network will impact negatively on residential, commercial, industrial and indeed tourism related developments in the County.
- Section 2.6 of the NRA Spatial Planning & the National Roads Guidelines identifies *exceptional Circumstances* where planning authorities may identify stretches of national roads where a less restrictive approach may be applied, but only as part of the process of reviewing or varying the relevant development plan and having consulted and taken on board the advice of the NRA. Consultation on this issue is ongoing.
- While the development and improvement of public transport falls under the control of other agencies, the Council does have an important role to play in facilitating its provision. The Council can play an important role in the provision of more sustainable modes of transport through the facilitation of multi-modal networks providing opportunities for a number of varying modes of transport to be used in order to arrive at a final destination. The Council actively promotes land use patterns which reduce the need to travel and support public transport, including higher population growth allocation and higher housing densities in the Hub towns, at public transport corridors and nodes (such as Farranfore) and will cooperate with service providers to ensure the delivery of a reliable, integrated and cost effective public transport system for the County.
- The Council will encourage walking and cycling in the County through the provision of high quality trails, walking and cycling routes. The development of disused railway lines where appropriate is desirable and will be part of the policy to promote an active lifestyle.
- The Council will encourage the development of Kerry Airport and the development of an integrated transport system in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies that promote and facilitate the following in relation to **Roads and Transportation**.

1. The continued improvement of the National primary and Secondary Road Network in the county to improve linkage to the gateways of Cork and Limerick and to facilitate the economic and social development of the county.
2. In accordance with s2.6 of the *Spatial Planning & National Roads Guidelines*, the Plan will identify *Exceptional Circumstances* in relation to rural housing needs in consultation with the NRA.
3. The plan will promote the delivery of a reliable, integrated and cost effective public transport system for the county.
4. The Draft plan will encourage and facilitate sustainable travel in accordance with the national policy "Smarter Travel" and the "National Cycle Policy Framework".

Waste Management

A number of submissions address **Waste Management** affecting the County.

Summary of the Issues Raised:

- The CDP should acknowledge the importance of waste management infrastructure to ensure compliance with environmental objectives, and as a critical element in supporting growth and development, both through the provision of services to ensure a competitive operating environment for other enterprises and through the direct provision of employment;
- The role of the private sector in providing infrastructure and services in areas such as waste management is essential in the context of supporting the development of the County in the next plan period;
- The CDP should contain an objective to provide a regional scale integrated waste management facility within County Kerry and specifically within the Tralee-Killarney Hub Functional Area, which would be the optimum location for such a facility;
- The Transfer Stations should remain in operation and the facility to dispose of Recyclable goods free of charge should remain.

- The Council should support best-practice environmental management including energy efficiency, waste management, procurement and recycling in accommodation providers and tourism enterprises in the County, through the use of accreditation and eco-labelling.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised

- The issues raised in relation to waste management focused mainly on the area of recycling. The CDP will acknowledge the importance of waste management and full compliance with the Waste Management Plan for the region.
- The current plan places a strong emphasis on 'reduce, re-use and recycle' which shall be carried through into the new County Development Plan. The plan will encourage and facilitate the development of appropriate recycling facilities in appropriate locations.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies that promote and facilitate:

1. The development of waste management facilities including thermal treatment and mechanical/biological treatment in the County.
2. The Plan shall include policies and objectives supporting the Regional Waste Management Plan.

Waste Water Treatment

Mr. Stack said a number of submissions address **Waste Water Treatment** affecting the County. Summary of the Issues Raised:

- Ensure the ecological integrity of surface waters are protected.
- Development of a sewerage scheme in Cloghane
- Include policies which restrict developments in areas where the sewage infrastructure facilities necessary for development do not exist.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised:

- The plan will aim to facilitate the development of vital infrastructure where necessary and promote the future development of towns and villages throughout the County.

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- The plan will encourage the development of more 'water efficient' homes which aim to reduce the demand on infrastructure through water conservation methods and recycling/re-use of waste water where possible.
- The potential for and benefits of alternative treatment methods for individual residential development in the rural countryside is recognised, in particular the development of integrated wetland systems. The plan will facilitate the development of alternative wastewater treatment methods in appropriate locations and where adequate information is supplied demonstrating the practicality of such methods.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies that promote and facilitate:

1. The sustainable development of vital infrastructure.
2. The development of more 'water efficient' homes.
3. The development of alternative wastewater treatment methods in appropriate locations.

Telecommunications / National Power Grid

A number of submissions address **Telecommunications/National Power Grid** affecting the County.

Summary of the Issues Raised:

- Telecommunication masts should be sited as far away from homes as possible due to health concerns and in areas where they will not be visually intrusive.
- Except in exceptional circumstances, locations in the direct line of national monuments, listed views or prospects shall be avoided.
- The size of infrastructure should be minimised and it must be adequately screened, to minimise adverse visual impacts on the environment, providing that the landscape is able to support additional screening measures and does not result in over-provisioning and undue proliferation.
- Require the co-location of new or replacement antennae on existing masts or preferably a single mast. The co-location and clustering of new masts on existing sites should be required.

- Facilitate the establishment of Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised:

- The development and roll-out of adequate telecommunications and power grid is recognised as key infrastructure required in order to promote the future economic growth of the County and attract inward development. The plan will promote the development of telecommunication and power networks throughout the County in a sustainable manner with due regard to the topography, existing developments and landscape sensitivities of the County.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies that promote and facilitate:

1. The development of the national electricity grid in the county for economic development and green energy technologies.
2. The establishment of Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure including recharging points throughout the county.
3. The development and roll-out of new telecommunications throughout the County in a sustainable manner in accordance with the DoEHLG "Guidelines for Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures".

Water fluoridation

A number of submissions address **Water fluoridation** affecting the County. Summary of the issues raised,

- Kerry County Council to make a stand against water fluoridation and call for a motion to end the addition of fluoride to the drinking water in County Kerry and the rest of Ireland.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised:

- It is a legal requirement to fluoridate drinking water. This is set out in the Fluoridation of Water Supplies Regulations 2007, (S.I. No. 42/2007) As a local authority, Kerry County Council has no option other than to comply with the law as it stands. The official advice of the HSE is that fluoridation is beneficial to dental health.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

- The inclusion of policies and/or objectives in relation to this issue is inappropriate in a land use development plan.

Cllr. A. McEllistrim referred to the funding for Inner Relief Roads and said they will never progress if we are depending on development levies to fund them. She asked that an alternative funding source would be identified.

Cllr. P. Connor-Scarteen said unfortunately the NRA objected to the Adare By-Pass and this is detrimental for those travelling to / from Kerry. However he understood there is good news in relation to the Macroom By-Pass and he hoped this would commence in the near future. Cycleways should be developed in the county to promote tourism. Cllr. Connor-Scarteen emphasised the need to provide funding for wastewater treatment facilities in towns and villages. He asked that fibre optic broadband would be provided in rural areas as soon as possible.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said mobile phone coverage is in decline and he was informed the reason was due to the large numbers of mobile phones in use. He pointed out that many people no longer have land lines and they need proper coverage.

Cllr. P. McCarthy asked management how the Adare By-Pass can be progressed.

Cllr. R. Beasley expressed concern at the delays in progressing the Great Southern walkway in Kerry.

The County Manager said An Bord Pleanála turned down the Adare By-Pass and he understood Limerick County Council is working on resubmitting it for approval.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue asked if incineration is being considered for the disposal of waste.

The Manager said that will be a matter for the members.

Cllr. O'Donoghue said he understood the incineration plant would be located in Limerick.

The Manager said there are new Regional Waste Management Plans being drawn up which will detail how waste will be disposed of in the region in the future and these Guidelines must be taken into consideration in the County Development Plan.

Natural Environment

Mr. P. Stack said a large number of submissions relate to the Natural Environment. These have been divided into the main headings of (1) Landscapes and Views & Prospects (2) Ecology (including Designations, Biodiversity, Water Quality, Trees/Hedgerows and Habitats) (3) Renewable Energy and Climate Change (4) Natural Resources and (5) Public Rights of Way. Details on this section are set out on Pages 44 to 55 of the Manager's Report.

Landscapes and Views & Prospects

Mr. Stack said a number of submissions directly or indirectly addressed the issues of **landscape and Views & Prospects** in the County. Summary of the Issues Raised:

- Scenic areas, views and prospects and features of natural beauty or interest should be protected from inappropriate development, which would adversely impact on the quality of the landscape.
- A Landscape Strategy should be prepared to provide a framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes. This Strategy should have regard to the Florence European Landscape Convention.
- Protect and enhance the landscape and important views along the trail of the 'Wild Atlantic Way'.
- The quality of landscapes can be adversely affected by combinations of development types such as housing; wind farms, forestry, quarries, electrical power stations and landfill.
- The protection of the landscape can be best secured through zoning.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised

- It is recognised that landscape is a key component of the county's quality of life and the lifeblood of the tourism industry. The planning authority's strategy for the protection and enhancement of Kerry's landscapes in the current County Development Plan is based on amenity zonings namely; prime, secondary, and rural amenity areas. Each zoning indicates not only the quality of the landscape but also its capacity to absorb further development without undermining its character and scenic quality. The landscape will continue to be protected under the objectives of the new plan. While it is agreed that zoning is important in the protection of scenic landscapes these must be supported by a range of development objectives.

- It is important to identify and protect views and prospects which the visitor will encounter on first entering the county.
- The Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) was informed by a landscape character assessment of the County. This landscape assessment included an evaluation of landscape sensitivity to wind development. The tourism chapter will also identify a range of tourism products which depend on the quality of the landscape.
- It is the intention of the planning authority to prepare a Landscape Strategy to provide a framework for the identification, assessment, protection and management of landscapes. The Minister has indicated that new guidelines for the preparation of landscape strategies are likely to be forthcoming.
- It is considered that given the importance to tourism of the proposed 'Wild Atlantic Way', the landscape and views likely to be visible from the route should be reassessed and protected where necessary.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies that promote and facilitate:

1. The protection of existing Views and Prospects and the addition of Views and Prospects during the plan review.
2. The review of Views and Prospects in the vicinity of the proposed Atlantic Way to ascertain their importance to the amenity of the route.
3. The inclusion of an objective to prepare a landscape strategy for the county.

Ecology (including Designations, Biodiversity, Water Quality, Trees/Hedgerows and Habitats)

Mr. Stack said 10 submissions directly or indirectly addressed the issues of ecological protection and enhancement. The following is a summary of the Issues Raised:

- The protection of the environment should not be comprised by future development.
- The Development Plan should include policies to ensure that development does not lead to the spread of invasive species.
- The management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries is important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000

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network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.

- In ecologically sensitive areas, where parking is required, it should be provided in the form of green parking areas.
- Future golf courses should not be permitted in designated Natura 2000 or Natural Heritage Areas.
- Flood Plains should remain free from any development.
- The planting of native trees and the introduction of 'Wild Flower Gardens' in various locations should be encouraged as tourist features and to enhance biodiversity.
- The new development plan should facilitate the development of Greenway Development Routes. This should be done with the involvement of the community.
- Run-off from agricultural land, forestry, septic tanks and municipal sewage discharge should be managed to avoid damage to natural environmental values.
- The Blue Flag scheme contributes to the protection of biodiversity and should be retained and expanded.
- PFRA mapping and adherence to Flood Risk Management Guidelines should be included in drafting the Plan and SEA.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised

- The preservation of the natural environment is critical to preserving quality of life of the people of Kerry and the ecosystems on which the world depends. Furthermore, natural heritage tourism is a growing sector of the tourism economy. For these reasons, sustainability and bio-diversity will be central in the formulation of policy with regard to The Heritage and Biodiversity plan 2008-12. A new Biodiversity plan will be prepared during the life time of the County Development plan.
- The Plan will be prepared in accordance with Ireland's obligations under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the EU (Birds) Directive (79/409/EEC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), and the Flood Directive (2007/60/EC).

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- A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the likely environmental effects of plan will be prepared in tandem with the development plan. This will ensure that there will be no likely significant effects on the environment. Furthermore a Habitat Directive Assessment (HDA) will be carried out to ensure that the plan will not significantly affect the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites.
- The SEA and HDA will assess the impact of the plan on water quality and aquatic species, and an integrated management plan will be included for the management and protection of coastal zones.
- The assessment and management of flood risks in relation to planned future development is an important element of proper planning and sustainable development. A flood risk strategy will be developed as part of the preparation of the plan. This strategy will be informed by the Office of Public Work's Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies and their product – Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs), and the National Flood Risk Management Guidelines.
- The development of greenway development routes linking parks, waterways and urban areas have the potential to provide for recreation and biodiversity. It should be an objective of the development plan, subject to an assessment of environmental impacts, to develop greenway routes.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies that promote and facilitate:

1. The provisions of the Biodiversity Plan for the County.
2. The protection and enhancement of public accessibility to amenity and recreational facilities.
3. The development of a flood risk strategy.
4. The protection of the heritage value of the county.
5. The development of greenway development routes.
6. The protection of traditional field systems, hedgerows, demesne planting, urban trees/trees/stone walls.

Renewable Energy and Climate Change

Mr. Stack said 14 submissions directly or indirectly addressed the issue of Renewable Energy and Climate Change.

Summary of the Issues Raised:

- The comprehensive and proactive approach that Kerry County Council has taken with regard to the future planning and development of renewable energy within County Kerry should be retained in the new development plan.
- A Bio-energy plan has been published by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources which should be considered in the preparation of the plan.
- The plan should support the development of Tidal/ Wave power as an energy source.
- The development of hydro energy has the potential to cause environmental damage and a loss of access rights for recreational users. Policy in relation to hydro must avoid adverse impacts in these respects.
- Wind and hydro development should not be permitted in scenic landscapes or in proximity to housing.
- Wind development should not result in the destruction of rare peatland habitats. The current development plan policies should be reviewed in this regard.
- Policies regarding the rehabilitation of quarries should be reviewed to ensure that where there is a demand for product, quarry sites are fully restored, the impact of extraction is minimised and policy prepared in consultation with local groups.
- Transportation is one of the key elements contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Electric Vehicles (EVs) are central to any plans for zero carbon emissions transportation.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised:

- Climate Change and Energy Efficiency are central to developing a sustainable development strategy for the county. These should underpin the formulation of policy.
- It is considered that renewable energy development is a vital part of Ireland's strategy to tackle two major challenges facing us today – ensuring a secure energy supply and combating climate change. It is also a provider of a

significant number of jobs and should be fully supported and facilitated. The current Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) which was adopted as a variation to the existing plan was subject to an SEA and HDA. These environmental assessments have ensured that any development arising on foot of the strategy will not have a significant affect on the environment as it relates to: landscape; architecture; archaeology; cultural heritage; water quality; flooding; biodiversity; Natura 2000 sites and the Habitats & Birds Directive.

- Each type of renewable energy and the related technologies for harvesting that energy has the potential to impact on the county's landscape; it's ecological, recreational and/or cultural and built heritage resources. The nature and extent of such impacts are particular to each renewable energy type. Diversifying into all available forms of renewables will contribute significantly to avoiding and/or limiting the cumulative impacts arising from any one form of renewable energy. It is, therefore, an objective of the planning authority to support the development of all renewables, existing and developing, and to avoid over development of any one resource.
- It is an objective of the RES to promote renewable energy sources and technologies for the generation of transport energy.
- The Shannon Estuary is the only area off the coast of Kerry suitable for the development of tidal energy. The SEA carried out by SEAI on offshore energies found that tidal energy development in the estuary would have a significant adverse impact on marine ecosystems. However, the issue of tidal energy developments in the Shannon Estuary is being re-evaluated in the preparation of the Draft Shannon Integrated Framework Plan. The planning authority will be guided by the findings of this plan when adopted.
- In relation to wave energy such developments are supported in the RES subject to considerations relating to the proper planning and sustainable development of the county.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies that promote and facilitate:

1. The review of the existing RES in light of any national guidance and policy documents issued after the adoption of the strategy.
2. The review of the impact of development arising on foot of the strategy to determine how effective the strategy has been and whether it should be amended.

3. The review of the RES to ensure the natural assets of the county are protected and enhanced, while facilitating an appropriate level of public accessibility and recreational activity in the development of renewables.
4. The development of the necessary infrastructure to service electric vehicles in appropriate locations.
5. To include a strategy for addressing the issues relating to climate change.
6. To ensure the policies and objectives in the Development Plan fully reflect, and are compatible with international, national and regional climate change policy.

Natural Resources

Mr. Stack said 6 submissions directly or indirectly addressed the issue of Natural Resources as follows:

- The potential for adverse impacts on visual, ecological, environmental and recreational values must be avoided in the development of the forestry industry.
- Stringent forestry management practices in sensitive areas is required to protect water quality e.g. through loss of nutrient to waters.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised

- The county has a number of naturally occurring resources that contribute to the social and economic fabric of the county. They include among others the extractives industry and forestry. The nature and scale of the development and operations required to develop these resources can have significant environmental impacts. Any adverse impacts could damage other economic sectors such as tourism and recreation. Protecting the environment from the adverse impacts of such development is important to the development of sustainable rural communities and the preservation of the countryside.
- The registration of quarries is governed by S261 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended). Policies regarding the operation and rehabilitation of quarries shall be reviewed.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies that promote and facilitate:

1. The development of Natural Resources in appropriate locations and in a manner which will not adversely impact on the environment.

2. The inclusion within the plan of a policy framework for developing essential mineral and aggregate reserves, whilst ensuring that the adverse environmental impacts associated with mineral extraction are kept to a minimum and are compatible with the proper planning and sustainable development of the county.
3. The provision of a strong policy framework for the sustainable development of the forestry industry.
4. The protection and enhancement of native woodlands through the use of appropriate planning and development measures.

Public Rights of Way

Mr. Stack said 11 submissions directly or indirectly addressed the issue of **Public Rights of Way and Way marked Trails**. These are summarised as follows:

- Encourage and financially support local communities that wish to develop off-road Walkways/ Cycleways.
- To create new rights of way, where resources permit, to recreational and amenity areas, including beaches inland waterways and amenity areas.
- To facilitate the creation or expansion of walking/cycling routes.
- Protect, enhance and improve existing public rights of way, where appropriate and where resources permit, and investigate the provision of additional rights of way to inland lakes canal banks and waterways.
- Policy in relation to hydro must not result in loss of access rights for recreational users.
- A way marked coastal path should be developed along the entire coastline, as a tourist and recreational amenity.

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised

- Access is an important issue in supporting and developing tourism and providing access for local people to amenities. For this reason the development plan should maintain and safeguard public rights of way to mountains, commonage and other hill land, moorlands and forests, rivers, lakes, valleys, nature reserves, other natural amenities and to the countryside in general. The plan should also make provision for establishing new rights of way where they are required.

- It should be noted under Section 10 of the 2010 Planning and Development Act a development plan must include measures for the preservation of public rights of way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility.

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include objectives and policies that promote and facilitate:-

1. The inclusion of a list of existing public rights of way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility in accordance with the 2010 Planning and Development Act.
2. The identification of new public rights of way where they are required to provide access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility.
3. The development of a marked coastal path along the entire coastline.
4. The establishment of Rights of Way, Trails and Amenity Routes throughout the county.

Cllr. T. Ferris said it is important to protect the views and prospects along the Wild Atlantic Way. In the Manager's Report it is suggested that 2 areas in North Kerry would be suitable for wind energy and this is a contradiction with the protection of the Views and Prospects associated with the Wild Atlantic Way. She asked which would take precedent. In accordance with Section 10 of the 2010 Planning and Development Act the Council must list and map Rights of Way. She asked if they would be mapped in the new County Development Plan and what determines if they are listed or not. Will this include existing Rights of Way or will we just acknowledge the Right of Way. She hoped the Right of Way to Fenit Castle would be included and she said just two landowners are objecting to it. She asked how new Rights of Way would be identified.

Cllr. P. McCarthy referred to the submission on the planting of native trees and said the list available to the public when they get permission does not include native trees. This suggests that the trees on the list would not give great screening in the winter months. He suggested that it is time to review that list and to include evergreens.

Mr. Stack said the Renewable Energy Strategy will be reviewed in the context of the review of the County Development Plan.

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Cllr. Ferris asked if an application is submitted will the Draft County Development Plan be taken into account or the Renewable Energy Strategy.

In response Mr. Stack said we are required to map and list Rights of Way. A number of staff are working on the list and the direction and guidance from the Department is that we should focus on the established Rights of Way that are not controversial. Other ones can be introduced at a later date.

Cllr. T. Ferris expressed concern at this course of action and said we know Rights of Way exist but there are one or two objectors. If the Council does not list them we will win their case for them. She asked that all Rights of Way would be identified and mapped and the objectors can challenge it.

Cllr. P. McCarthy asked if there are national guidelines on proving a Right of Way exists.

Mr. M. McMahon said there were a few High Court and Supreme Court decisions on Rights of Way. One related to ramblers in Wicklow and this set down the criteria to establish if a Right of Way exists. In this instance the ramblers lost the case. The second case was in relation to Lissadell House which was fought in the High Court and has now gone to the Supreme Court. This is very costly and Sligo County Council won in the High Court where it was found there were Public Rights of Way in existence. In that case there was a clean indication by the people of the Right of Way. In the Fenit Castle case the people undertook to provide evidence of the Right of Way but this evidence was not provided.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue urged caution and said the list should not be exhaustive as it is fraught with danger.

Cllr. T. Ferris PROPOSED that the Right of Way to Fenit Island Castle be included on the list.

The County Manager said he could not give a guarantee that would be included. The evidence he has suggests there is no public Right of Way in existence but there may have been a permissive Right of Way. The concern is that we would end up in the High Court or subsequently in the Supreme Court. That is why the Department advises local authorities to include the agreed Rights of Way only and to work on the others. The difficulty we could have is which case to take to the High Court and he did not want to expose the County to that financial risk.

Heritage & The Gaeltacht

Mr. Stack referred members to Pages 56 to 60 of the Manager's Report for details on this Section. 12 submissions address Heritage & the Gaeltacht affecting the County.

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The following is a summary of the Issues Raised:

- The guidelines for heritage towns need to be more strongly worded and subsequently fully complied with.
- An integrated approach towards protection of the county's valuable environmental resources is required by all stakeholders.
- Greater emphasis on protection of the vulnerable coastal region is required.
- Research may be required on the protection of Leck Castle Ruin?
- Protect Recorded Monuments and places/structures of archaeological heritage importance.
- Ba chóir go mbeadh ról lárnach ag Pobail Ghaeltachta Chiarraí agus na páirtithe leasmhara i bPlean Forbartha Chontae Chiarraí agus gach polasaí amach anseo. *Kerry Gaeltacht communities and all stakeholders should have a central role in any Kerry County Development Plan and all future policies.*
- Ba chóir go mbeadh polasaí láidir teanga ag an gComhairle ceangailte le gach cuid dá seirbhísí agus ranna. *The Council should have a strong language policy attached to all parts its services and departments.*
- Líofacht níos fearr a chur chun cinn i measc na foirne agus soláthróirí seirbhísí sa líne tosaigh. *Promote a greater fluency amongst the staff and front line service providers*
- Úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn, seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge, scoláireachtaí srl., tríd an suíomh idirlín, fógraíochta, margaíochta, bileoga srl. *Promote the use of Irish, provide services through Irish, scholarships etc., through the website, advertising, marketing, leaflets etc.*
- Forbairt ar pholasaí teanga níos láidre a chur chun cinn ag leibhéal áitiúil, náisiúnta agus Eorpach. *Promote the development of a stronger language policy at local, national and European level.*
- Straitéis fadtéarmach chun an teanga a leathnú i bpáirt le páirtithe leasmhara eile a chur chun cinn. *Promote a long term strategy for the expansion of the language in conjunction with other stakeholders.*
- Go mbeidh an cineál gnó luaite i nGaeilge ar chomharthaíocht nua os cionn siopaí sa Ghaeltacht. *That all new signage above shopfronts in the Gaeltacht include the type of business in Irish.*

Manager's Opinion of Issues Raised

- The CDP will set out a comprehensive strategy for the protection and management of the country's heritage, recognising that heritage must be valued not only for its intrinsic worth, but also for the economic, educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities that it offers.
- The existing CDP includes policies regarding the protection of known and unknown archaeological sites and it is proposed that these policies be maintained and strengthened.
- Leck Castle is situated north of Ballybunion, it is a national monument and is therefore protected under legislation.
- Is mór an luach a chuireann Comhairle Contae Chiarraí ar thábhacht an Ghaeilge do mhuintir Chiarraí, sa Ghaeltacht agus taobh amuigh de. Beidh polasaí breise maidir le cosaint agus cur chun cinn na Gaeilge sa Phlean Forbartha Contae.
Kerry County Council greatly appreciates the importance of Irish to the people of Kerry, both within and outside our Gaeltacht areas. The CDP shall include additional policies regarding the protection and promotion of the Irish language.
- Tugann an Chomhairle tacaíocht don fhoireann chun seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a chur ar fáil do phobal Chiarraí (Scéimeanna Gaeilge) ina measc cúrsaí Gaeilge go rialta.
The Council supports staff in providing services through Irish for the people of Kerry (Scéimeanna Gaeilge) and provides Irish language courses on a regular basis to staff.
- Cuireann an Chomhairle comharthaíocht Gaeilge chun cinn. Cuirfear polasaí agus treoirínte maidir le comharthaíocht Gaeilge sa dréacht Phlean, ina measc méar eolas, aghaidh siopaí agus comharthaí bóthair. *The council promotes the use of Irish signage. The draft Plan shall provide a policy and guidelines for the erection of Irish forms of signage including finger post signs, shop fronts and roadside signs.*

Manager's Policy Recommendations

Arising from the submissions received and the above responses to these issues it is recommended that the plan include policies that promote and facilitate the following in relation to **Heritage and the Gaeltacht**.

1. Promote best practice with regard to Heritage conservation and Heritage management.

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2. To ensure that the policies and objectives in the Development Plan fully reflect, and are compatible with the architectural heritage protection guidelines issued from the DoAHG.
3. Provide information to raise awareness, appreciation, and enjoyment of the County's Heritage.
4. Establish and promote partnerships to achieve heritage objectives.
5. Provide a policy and guidelines for the erection of Irish forms of signage including finger post signs, shop fronts and roadside signs.
6. The CDP shall include additional policies regarding the protection and promotion of the Irish language.

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. P. McCarthy, SECONDED by Cllr. N. Foley it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue.

Mr. Stack said Appendix 1 contains a list of Ministerial Guidelines, Appendix 2 contains a list of persons who made a submission, Appendix 3 contains a list of prescribed authorities notified, Appendix 4 contains a list of non prescribed authorities notified and Appendix 5 contains a list of Open Days and Public Consultation.

Mr. McMahon informed members that the Draft County Development Plan would be prepared over the next 12 weeks for the members' consideration. The Draft Plan must be given to the members before the 24th November 2013. It will also be discussed with the SPC.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue asked the Manager is he will meet with his counterparts from other local authorities involved in the Wild Atlantic Way.

The Manager said there is a Notice of Motion on this issue listed for the September Council Meeting and it will be discussed at that time.

The meeting concluded at 1.35pm.

Gerard O'Brien
Meetings Administrator

Mayor of Kerry