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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILLARNEY HELD IN THE LIBRARY MEETING ROOM KILLARNEY ON WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2016**

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA gCRUINNITHE DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHILL ÁIRNE A THIONÓLADH I LEABHARLANN CHILL ÁIRNE AR AN CHÉADAIOIN, 13 AIBREÁN 2016**

**PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR**

**Councillors/Comhairleoirí**

**Cllr. B. Cronin  
Cllr. J.J. Culloty  
Cllr. M. Gleeson  
Cllr. D. Grady**

**Cllr. D. Healy-Rae  
Cllr. N. Kelleher  
Cllr. B. O'Connell  
Cllr. J. Sheahan**

**In attendance/i láthair**

<b>Ms. A. McAllen</b>	<b>Delegated Executive for the MD of Killarney</b>
<b>Mr. P. Neary</b>	<b>Senior Executive Engineer</b>
<b>Mr. L. Quinlan</b>	<b>Meetings Administrator</b>
<b>Mr. G. O'Brien</b>	<b>SEO Enforcement</b>
<b>Ms. N. O'Sullivan</b>	<b>Municipal District Officer</b>
<b>Mr. D. Ginty</b>	<b>Executive Planner</b>
<b>Mr. M. Lynch</b>	<b>SEE Planning &amp; Sustainable Development</b>
<b>Mr. C. Mangan</b>	<b>SEE Water Services</b>
<b>Mr. C. O'Leary</b>	<b>EE Water Services</b>
<b>Ms. C. Farrell</b>	<b>SEO Sustainable Communities</b>
<b>Ms. B. Conway</b>	<b>AO Housing</b>
<b>Ms. J. Dillane</b>	<b>SO Housing</b>
<b>Ms. B. Mulryan</b>	<b>EE Killarney</b>
<b>Mr. B. Mulhern</b>	<b>AE Killarney</b>
<b>Mr. K. O'Halloran</b>	<b>AE Killarney</b>
<b>Mr. T. McSwiney</b>	<b>SEE Capital Infrastructure Unit</b>
<b>Mr. P. Curry</b>	<b>SE Kerry National Road Design Office</b>
<b>Mr. G. Kearney</b>	<b>A/EE Kerry National Road Design Office</b>
<b>Ms. M. Galvin</b>	<b>CO Corporate Affairs</b>

The meeting commenced at 10.15am.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. B O'Connell took the Chair.

**16.04.13.01 (a) Confirmation of the following Minutes:**

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. N. Kelleher, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Municipal District of Killarney held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 be confirmed.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. Cronin, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Gleeson, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Killarney held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 be confirmed.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. Cronin, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Healy-Rae, it was agreed that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Killarney held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 be confirmed.

#### **16.04.13.02 (a) Reception of Deputation from Residents of White Bridge, Killarney**

Cllr. B. O'Connell welcomed

*(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)* to the meeting.

*(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)*

addressed the Members as follows:

*"Today I want to firstly thank you, the elected representatives of the people, particularly John Joe Culloty who requested this meeting on our behalf and to thank the executives of our council for this opportunity to address you and to thank you for this public opportunity to highlight the flooding nightmare that has plagued the life of my grandparents, parents and now my family, particularly since 2009 and the recent double flooding of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015.*

#### ***The history of flooding at White Bridge***

*As a child I recall my mother telling us to get up out of bed, we had been flooded, the year 1973. A day off school it sounded great, of course it was not, but child innocence is great! The next flood was December 78, but this time it was not so great, the nightmare unfolded, house and business buildings again flooded, mobile homes, a lot of hard work, a shoulder had to be put to the wheel as the tarmac roads were ripped up and the tarmac displaced onto the grass. We overcame through strength of sinew but unfortunately we were not off the hook yet. Nov 1980 another flood, I recall Donal Grady who is here today, in his fire officer days rescuing the (details with Directorate) in the fire brigade. That same night was my father's retirement do from his job at Irish Life Assurance Company. A party was being held in a local hotel in recognition of his services to the company.*

*My mother and father made the most of that night but I am sure it could not have been easy. When we returned home the next day and when the flood waters receded, the utter catastrophe and devastation was laid bare for all to*

see. Throughout our caravan park roads were again ripped up, house flooded and extensive damage done to the caravan park and mobile homes. A nice start to one's retirement! My parents decided something had to be done to control this uncontrollable river beast, enough was enough. They decided to dredge the river and build embankments to prevent future flooding. They replaced the tarmac roads throughout the park with cement roads, all this work at great expense to themselves. Fortunately, from 1980 to 2009 these embankments prevented flooding and no further damage to the house or park occurred for 29 years. We started to feel normal and safe in our home like everyone else. The river beast was tamed and held within its boundary. The development and growth of Fleming's White Bridge as part of the Tourism product of Killarney.

Now that the flooding was dealt with we were able to concentrate fully on our Caravan Park and managed over the next few decades to build up a very solid tourism business that contributes in no small way to the tourism product of Killarney. Today with a capacity of over 100 pitches, along with mobile home hire our many customers support local businesses, shops, petrol stations, restaurants, hotels, bars, visitor centres, tour companies, taxis and bike hire, everyone is a winner just as it should be. Interlinkage between business and community being vital for all of us to survive.

Fleming's White Bridge has all the modern facilities that our world wide customers expect, reception area, three modern sanitation blocks, laundries, dayroom, games /TV room. A very high standard is maintained consistently over the decades in this magnificent rural setting.

We are a multi award winning 4 star park, awards include Fáilte Ireland- "The Best Caravan and Camping Park in Ireland" and many times winner of the Killarney Looking Good – Best Self Catering Award to name but a few.

One achievement which is definitely worth mentioning was achieved in 1992 when the Caravan Club of Great Britain, established over 120 years ago, choose Fleming's White Bridge to be the first site in Ireland to join their Club network. The marketing and economic advantages for FWB were tremendous, direct access to over a million caravanners who were recommended by their Club when holidaying in Ireland, to visit Killarney and stay at Fleming's White Bridge, their Club Site. This resulted in much business for us and the town of Killarney and even to this day our business relationship with the Caravan Club is as strong as ever and growing.

(iii) Legacy issues associated with the new White Bridge, 2003. Then came 2003 and the building of a new bridge at White Bridge. Shortly after works commenced, concerns arose which resulted in an Engineer, a Hydrologist and solicitor being employed by us to scrutinise the works being carried out. Many meetings were held where issues were thrashed out but not resolved. The bridge however got built but we were left with our concerns. Concerns such as: Why the OPW allowed this bridge to be built at a lower level thus breaching the normal standards that the OPW apply under section 50 of the Arterial Drainage Act 1945.

*Concerns such as: Why embankments that were to be removed, to widen the river and to maximise the flow of water under this new bridge in flood conditions, were not removed at all, even though both the Kerry County Council's Hydrologist and our Hydrologist agreed that such actions were necessary.*

*Concerns about the substantial raising of the road levels leading to the new bridge, outside our entrance and which now prevents flood water escaping from our entrance in a flood situation causing raised water levels in the Caravan Park, with resulting consequences.*

*These and many other issues of concern were raised throughout this stressful period of 2003. We highlighted our concerns but our resources could take it no further and we had to accept the new situation even though we along with our hydrologist and engineer, believe that the flooding situation for us has now been worsened.*

*Disaster struck in November 2009 and we were shocked to be flooded in all buildings, in the mobile homes and our own home, as we had not been flooded for 29 years. Our concerns about the new bridge were justified and all our preventative measures that had worked for us down through the years was nullified.*

*To validate such concerns, I would like to draw your attention to a list of figures compiled by the OPW, these are records of the highest recorded water level each year on the river Flesk, since 1947 to the present day. The highest recorded water level figures for 1985 and 2009 are coincidentally exactly the same (224.30), however, in 1985 no damage was caused at Fleming's White Bridge unlike the disastrous damage that was caused with the same water levels in 2009.*

*Since the flood of 2009 we have been threatened on a few occasions by possible flooding, and unfortunately in December of 2015 we unbelievably flooded twice, on the 5<sup>th</sup> Dec and again on the 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. We have just gone through a horrendous Christmas and New Year but the most poignant moment of all for us was when we had to get a small water storage tank to float our 16 year old son out of our home to climb the nearby railway embankment, so that he could get chemo treatment for his cancer that day, which could not be postponed. Possibility of infection by flood water was also a concern to us.*

*The question is where do we go from here? Must my family and I hold our breath each time a bad weather forecast is given, knowing now that our embankments are no longer able to protect us, that our home is no longer a haven of safety and comfort.*

*When each of you hear a terrible forecast you at least have the solace of retreating to your warm and comfortable home but such a retreat is denied to my family, by the now perpetual threat of flooding and when it occurs, it turns our home into a cold, shivering, damp den as it did in 2009 and twice in 2015.*

*Must we agonise while the river rises, counting down the hours, will it, won't it flood. Watching the night sky in the hope of seeing stars, the twinkle an indicator that clouds are dispersing, hope seeping into our veins, if lucky, calm is restored, the mind settles, happy once again to have escaped the flood man's noose. Surely this is no way to live and run a business in 2016!!*

*(v) Seeking the Council and the Councillors help?*

*That is why we are here today to seek your help, we have done everything that we could to protect ourselves, by ourselves, but now we need you the state to help us. I have told you about our past history, the legacy issues relating to the new bridge of 2003, but today I want to move on and not revisit and debate the issues of the past, I want to draw a line in the sand and together use our energies to get a solution.*

*Fortunately there is a solution, I am holding it here in my hand. It is an OPW document. It is our only lifeline, but we need you all to breath life into it, so that we can have a normal life. The OPW in their Southwest CFRAM study have in conjunction with Mott Mac Donald Engineers, come up with a solution for this flooding problem, and fortunately, our area is emerging as a preferred option for river flood defences.*

*The OPW assure us that their defences will work, we believe them, they have studied the area. The OPW look at impact on residential and business, I think you will agree that we meet that criteria. They have done a cost benefit analysis and they have told us that it is cost effective to put these defences in place.*

*In early 2017 we should know if we are to be included in their flood defence projects and this is precisely where we need your help and influence. We know the OPW works closely with local councils, so we feel that it is imperative that you highlight the merit of our case to them, to give us the best chance of being included in the OPW defence projects.*

*The OPW is a state organisation and let's not forget that the state has enjoyed the rewards of three generations of labour at White Bridge but has failed to fulfil its responsibilities to those same citizens. The responsibility to allow us to live free from the constant threat and horror of flooding with all its inevitable consequences.*

*Surely the time has come for both you our councillors and you the KCC executive to help end this nightmare, this constant threat and let us enjoy the same normal existence as our fellow citizens.*

*To conclude I would like to read a short letter published by The Irish Times dated 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016, from a citizen who has never been affected by flooding."*

**Letter published in The Irish Times Wed 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**Responding to flooding crisis**

*"Sir, - Yesterday, on passing by some flooded areas of the country, the dreadful plight of the people whose homes and businesses are devastated made me realise how lucky the majority of us are not to have to endure the horrors visited so gratuitously on those unfortunate people since early December.*

*Now as I write this in my warm and comfortable home, I am trying to envisage what it must be like to keep one's sanity in the face of such damage to property and belongings, not to mention health and wellbeing. I ask myself is there anything that can be done by those of us who live far from the flood victims and therefore unable to help personally.*

*I think there is. We could stand up and be counted. We could and should demand that the problem be treated as a top priority by all elected politicians, whether in Government or Opposition, and tell them we will hold them to account.*

*It is the least we can do for our poor fellow citizens who have suffered so distressingly during what should have been a season of joy and happiness.*  
*- Yours, etc.*

*(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)*

*"After being flooded it was heart warming for us to realise that our fellow citizens displayed such humanity contained in this letter, I hope it will act as an impetus to you all to help us resolve this horrible flooding nightmare. So that the 4<sup>th</sup> generation, never feel the mental torture of flooding. Go raibh míle maith agaibh, thank you."*

Cllr. J.J. Culloty thanked the speakers for their presentation. He said it is devastating to see the effect that the flooding has had on their home and business when it is obvious that they take great pride in what they do. It is incumbent on us to find a solution to this. He gave his opinion that the bridge at this location is the cause of the problem and the roadway is not helping the situation and that an embankment would not be difficult to provide. He also said that it is vitally important that the OPW sort out the problems here. Cllr. Culloty congratulated the (details with Directorate) on their achievements to date and stated that they had the goodwill of the Members going forward.

Cllr. D. Grady commented that this was a first class presentation. He was aware of the flooding at this location. He had visited the location when he worked with the Fire Service in (details with Directorate) father's time and saw at first hand the effects of the flooding. The speaker had commented that the bridge that was built was inadequate and was proved correct. Cllr. Grady said that he had raised this issue previously and approached the OPW on the matter and said that the river must be dredged from the Flesk Bridge to Foiladonn.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated that the family had presented the Members with a very detailed and comprehensive outline of what they have endured. To continuously come back from these flooding events must be very hard. There may be a solution in conjunction with the OPW. Cllr. Cronin PROPOSED that a letter issue to the OPW requesting them to implement the scheme for Killarney and the White Bridge area to enhance their protection.

Cllr. N. Kelleher SECONDED the Proposal and enquired if the OPW had provided costings for these works.

*(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)* replied that the Cost Benefit Analysis which includes other measures to Killarney, and not just to the Caravan Park, has been estimated at " 1.4m. In his opinion if these works are not carried out, the damage caused will result in a cost of " 2m.

Cllr. J. Sheahan stated that the speakers had made an excellent presentation. Having seen the Caravan Park after Christmas, Cllr. Sheahan vowed to give his full support to the family and committed to follow up the matter with the OPW to resolve this.

Cllr. M. Healy-Rae thanked the speakers for their presentation and stated it was devastating to see what the family had gone through and said it is a horrendous situation and she agreed to provide her full support to the family.

Mr. D. Ginty addressed the meeting and outlined the next steps in the CFRAM project. A Draft Flood Management Plan is due to be published in June 2016 by the OPW and will include the preferred option and additional non-structural measures. Public consultation will take place in July on the Draft Flood Management Plan and the Plan will come before the Members in the third quarter of this year for approval. The construction costs of the scheme at this stage are estimated at " 1.4m. Mr. Ginty stressed that this capital cost is a matter for the Central Government. He advised that there are 300 of these schemes nationally and hopefully this scheme will receive Government approval.

#### **16.04.13.02 (b) Deputation from Kerry Parents & Friends regarding their concerns relating to the pedestrian crossing at Port Road, Killarney**

Mr. G. O'Brien informed the Members that the deputation were unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments but hope to be in a position to attend a future Killarney Municipal District Meeting.

**Cllr. D. Grady stated that he wished to welcome Cllr. M. Healy-Rae to the Killarney Municipal District and wished her well in her role as a Killarney Municipal District Councillor.**

**16.04.13.03(a) Filling of casual vacancy on the Killarney Municipal District Strategic Twinning Committee following the election of Deputy Danny Healy-Rae to Dáil Éireann**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. D. Grady, SECONDED by Cllr. N. Kelleher it was agreed that Cllr. M. Healy-Rae be nominated to fill the vacancy on the Killarney Municipal District Strategic Twinning Committee.

**16.04.13.03(b) To consider the Killarney Municipal District Strategic Twinning Report and Amendments to the Terms of Reference**

Cllr. J.J. Culloty addressed the Members. He stated that the Strategic Twinning Committee has been successful but there is a lot of work ahead. Cllr. Culloty read his letter addressed to the Members as follows:

*"22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2016*

***Chuig/ Cathaoirleach B. O'Connell  
Gach ball de Cheantar Bardasach Chill Áirne***

***Re: Killarney Municipal District Strategic Twinning Report***

***A Chomhairleoir, a chara,***

*The attached report, for your consideration, has been prepared in response to the decision of the Killarney Municipal District to undertake a review of twinning arrangements for the Killarney Municipal District.*

*The following recommendations are also being put forward by the Members of the Killarney Municipal District Strategic Twinning Committee in relation to the Terms of Reference, which are included in Appendix 1 in attached report and were approved by the Elected Members in May 2015.*

***Membership/Chairing***

- The Term of Office of the Committee which states is 12 months be extended to the end of the Council Term, which is 2019 (an additional three year period).*
- The Term of Office of the Chairman be reviewed in the context of the position of the outgoing Mayor.*
- Acknowledgement of affiliated bodies to be included as the existing Terms of Reference only recognises Killarney Municipal District Strategic Twinning Committee, where the affiliated bodies are Killarney Town Twinning Association and Sliabh Luachra/Castleisland Twinning Committee.*

***The Role of the Committee to be amended to include***



- *A Yearly Work-plan be replaced by Yearly Work Programme*
- *To consider/identify strategic/thematic twinning across the Municipal District & explore relevant funding options.*

*In order to maintain existing relationships and progress twinning activities such as thematic twinning arrangements, the Killarney Municipal District Strategic Twinning Committee are requesting a budget of €12,000 for 2016. All expenditure exceeding €1,000 will be presented to the Elected Members for approval. All expenditure under €1,000 will be approved by the District Manager and Chairperson of the KMD Strategic Twinning Committee."*

Cllr. Culloty referred to the Twinning Report that had been circulated to the Councillors and stated it was an important document and could be used as a template for the other Municipal District areas.

Ms. N. O'Sullivan, SEO Community Directorate acknowledged the contribution of the Strategic Twinning Committee.

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that maintaining a strong Twinning Committee is very important; not just in Killarney but encompassing the whole area. Work should be carried out to the required standard.

Cllr. D. Grady stated he has been a Member of Killarney Town Twinning Association and is also associated with the Killarney Municipal District Strategic Twinning Committee. Cllr. Grady referred to Castiglione di Sicilia in the report and stated they had confirmed a return visit and a sculpture had been received from them. This is an important twinning for Killarney.

Ms. N. O'Sullivan said Castiglione di Sicilia offered great potential and has had contact with them in the last few months. The potential of this twinning has been identified in the Report.

Cllr. Culloty stated that a lot of time had been put into the review and he thanked the Members of the Committee for their work on same.

Ms. O'Sullivan addressed the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference with the Members and the following was agreed:

- The Term of Office for Members of the Committee has been extended to the end of the Council term, which is an additional three year period.
- The newly elected Cathaoirleach of the Killarney Municipal District will replace the present Cathaoirleach on the Committee when his Term of Office comes to an end and this will be case each year going forward. If it is the case that the incoming Cathaoirleach is already a Member of the Committee, it was agreed that no additional Elected Member would be nominated to the Committee.
- It was agreed by the Elected Members that Cllr. John Joe Culloty would remain as Chairman for the next three years until the end of this Council term.

- Acknowledgement of affiliated bodies of Killarney Town Twinning Association and Sliabh Luachra/Castleisland Twinning Committee to be included.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. N. Kelleher, SECONDED by Cllr. M. Gleeson it was agreed to adopt the amendments to the Terms of Reference in relation to the Killarney Municipal District Strategic Twinning Report.

A decision on the budget request from the Killarney Municipal District Strategic Twinning Committee was deferred.

#### **16.04.13.04 Job Creation / Sustainable Economic Development Directorate**

##### **(a) Notices of Motion**

**1. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** That the Council, in conjunction with interested parties, would progress the provision of a permanent sound system for Killarney. Such a facility would be an invaluable addition to the town at times of festival and celebration.

**Reply:** The Tourism Unit, in co-operation with the Killarney Municipal District, is liaising with the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce to secure funding for a permanent sound system for Killarney.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated this was a more positive reply and hoped that engagement will take place between all interested parties in the town. A sound system will enhance all public events in the town and many businesses have indicated they are interested in this proposal being pursued actively.**

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty supported the Motion and agreed that a sound system would hugely enhance the town.**

**2. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** That the Council would provide an update on the progress being made towards the development of the Walkway cum Cycleway from Ross Road to Muckross Road partly along the banks of the River Flesk.

**Reply:** The purchase of lands adjacent to the River Flesk by Kerry County Council is currently being finalised. A portion of the proposed route for the walkway and cycle way is located on these lands. The Municipal District members will be updated in due course on further progress in this regard to this cycle route.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that the provision of this walkway cum cycleway would be a great addition to the town and would be a tourist attraction. Cllr. Gleeson thanked Ms. A. McAllen for her commitment to the project.**

**Ms. McAllen stated that it was positive news that the acquisition of the lands adjacent to the River Flesk was nearing completion.**

**3. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** To ask the Planning Authority to desist from forcing applicants to build in low ground or in hollows and to ensure that floor levels are at least 3ft above the ground level around them.

**Reply:** It is the policy of Kerry County Council that the protection of the rural landscape is of critical importance and Objective ZL-1 of the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 (KCDP) states that ~~it~~ is an objective of the Council to protect the landscape of the county as a major economic asset and an invaluable amenity which contributes to the quality of peoples livesq

In relation to Rural Housing, Objective RS-2 of the KCDP states that ~~it~~ is an objective of the Council to require the design of rural housing to have regard to ~~Building a House in Rural Kerry; Design Guidelinesq~~and Objective RS-4 states that

~~it~~ is an objective of the Council to ensure that the provision of rural housing will protect the landscape, the natural and built heritage, the economic assets and the environment of the Countyq

In assessing planning applications for houses in the rural landscape, the siting of the house is critical when considering its visual impact. According to the ~~Building a House in Rural Kerry; Design Guidelinesq~~ the following points must be considered in order to aim for integration into the landscape:

- (a) Choose a sheltered site,
- (b) Avoid elevated and exposed locations,
- (c) Avoid breaking the skyline or locating between the road and areas of natural beauty such as the sea, lakes and rivers,
- (d) Topography: Work with the contours of the site.

Consideration of the above points will lead to the preference to develop houses on lower ground rather than on elevated and exposed sites.

It is considered that the proposal to ensure that floor levels are at least 3 feet above the ground should not be adopted as the raising of floor levels over the minimum required level would:

- (a) Lead to issues with integration of the house into the landscape and
- (b) Force additional expense on house builders due to costs of extra site trunking and extra blockwork below floor level and extra costs in construction of ramps and steps required to access the house.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae asked the Council to desist from forcing applicants to build in low ground or in hollows. She stated that the new rules had increased the chances that people would be left more at risk of flooding. Something needs to be done here.**

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty Seconded the Motion.**

**Mr. M. Lynch** stated that when granting planning permission, a number of different aspects are factored in. Protecting the landscape is of critical importance to the County's economy and the siting of a house was critical when considering its visual impact. Very low lying land is not an option due mostly to the threat of flooding and sometimes percolation issues. A balance must be struck.

**(b) Questions**

**1. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** Will the long-awaited decorative umbrellas be affording visitors and locals shelter from the summer sun during 2016 as they relax and enjoy some time in Killarney town centre?

**Reply:** This project has merit. Killarney Town Council explored the proposal but it needs further consideration in relation to location, streetscape impact, procurement, operation, on-going maintenance and costing. The Tourism Unit will work with Operations to investigate the proposal further.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson** asked if this proposal was going to be progressed. Killarney Town Council were committed to pursuing with this project.

**Cllr. D. Grady** Seconded the Motion and agreed that Killarney Town Council were committed to the provision of the umbrellas.

**16.04.13.05 (a) To note update report from the Sustainable Communities / Quality of Life Directorate**

It was agreed to note the following Report from Mr. J. Breen, Director of Sustainable Communities / Quality of Life which was circulated:

**REPORT  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES /QUALITY OF LIFE DIRECTORATE  
KILLARNEY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING**

**April 2016**

**Housing Services Report**

**Business Unit Manager: Kathleen Moriarty A/SEO**

***2016 Allocation for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability***

The Council has received notification from DOECLG of the 2016 Allocation for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Grant Scheme of " 2,013,778 of which " 402,756 is to be provided from our own resources. This Allocation reflects an increase of " 180,000 on Exchequer funding from the 2015 Initial Allocation and is most welcome at this early stage of the year. The Council is continuing to allocate grants in accordance with our Priority Scheme.

***Tenant Purchase Scheme***

The Council are writing to all tenants advising them in relation to the new Tenant Purchase Scheme. Notice will also be placed in local media in the coming weeks and we will begin to accept applications and process forms thereafter. Booklets outlining the terms of the Scheme and qualification criteria are being printed by the Housing Dept and will be available at all Council Offices and Website, Citizens Information Centres, Community Centres and MABS Offices.

***Energy Efficiency Insulation***

An Interim Allocation has been received for 2016 under the above programme to allow continuation of installation of energy efficiency insulation works to local authority houses up to a maximum of 50% of our 2015 Allocation i.e. " 253,687. The Council is currently carrying out an assessment of proposed activity and required funding for 2016 and this is being returned to the DOECLG in order to secure additional funding for this very worthwhile programme.

## ***Returning Vacant Housing Properties to Productive Use***

The Housing Department awaits allocation from DOECLG in relation to this Programme for 2016.

### **Library Service Report**

#### ***Business Unit Manager – Tommy O'Connor, Co. Librarian***

##### ***Library service:***

" A new Library Capital Investment programme 2016 . 2021 has been announced. The programme will see a contribution of " 22m. by the Dept. of the Environment, Community and Local Government towards 16 library developments country wide. Kerry Library has been allocated " 0.25m towards the replacement of one of its Mobile Libraries. The current Kerry Mobile Libraries date from 2000 & 2004 respectively.

" As part of a national roll out, since January Kerry Library has added an expanded range of online services for members through its website [www.kerrylibrary.ie](http://www.kerrylibrary.ie) New additions include online newspapers, digital magazines, online languages, e-books, e-audio and e-learning courses. Library members have free access, requiring just a valid library barcode (and an email address for some of the sources).

Usage of online sources has been one of the major growth areas of the Kerry library service in recent years. During 2015, usage increased by 41% on the 2014 figure, going from 53,221 usages to 93,485.

É The annual Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland/Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals (Ireland) will take place at The Malton Hotel, Killarney from 13 ó 15 April 2016. The Conference theme is Survive and Thrive: Strategies for Successøand it is expected that up to 100 delegates will attend.

### **Environment Services Report**

**Business Unit Manager: Liam Quinlan SEO**

#### **County Clean Day 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

1. The County Clean Up day, which is facilitated by KWD Recycling and Kerry County Council, was a great success. Approximately 3,200 volunteers participated which was on par with last years numbers. Practically every community in the county was involved in the biggest clean up to date. Details of the number of bags collected will be reported at a later date when the information is available.

Kerry County Council Operations staff from all municipal district offices were involved in picking litter from roadsides prior to the clean up thereby leading by example. Electronic signs were used to warn motorists that the clean up was in progress.

This was the fifth year of the successful collaboration on the County clean Up Day between KWD and Kerry County Council.

### **Spring Clean**

2. 69 groups have registered to date with the Council to take part in the annual litter Spring Clean around the county during the month of April . This number will increase as we continue to register groups and accept litter under the Spring Clean Programme until mid May depending on demand. Many schools carry out their clean up in May so we extend the date for this purpose.

### **Green Flag Awards**

3. The Green Flag Awards for Kerry Schools will take place in Cork in May. Kerry will have 8 new schools awarded their first flag and a further 56 schools will renew their flags for various environmental modules such as energy, water, sustainable travel, biodiversity and global citizenship.

## **Community Department Report**

### **Business Unit Manager: Brian Looney SEO**

#### **Local Economic & Community Plan.**

The Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan is nearing completion and will go to the April 2016 Kerry Co Co meeting for ratification. The draft document had been sent out for comment for return by 29<sup>th</sup> January last and following this contact had been made with partners re implementation. The Community elements of the Plan were considered and approved at the LCDC on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2016. The economic elements will be considered at the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC on 6<sup>th</sup> April. .

#### **SICAP**

For the delivery of the programme in Kerry the county is divided into 3 Lots with a programme implementers (3 LDCs in Kerry's case) appointed to deliver services in each of the three lots. Each Programme Implementer developed an Action Plan for 2015 for the delivery of services within their Lot area and this plan was approved by Kerry LCDC. The LCDC as the contracting authority is required to monitor and review the performance of Programme Implementers and the meeting of specific targets against the Action Plan. The Mid-Term Review has been complete and the End of Year

Review has now taken place. The Preparation of Action Plans for 2016 commenced in November and are now finalised.

## **LEADER 2014-2020**

Kerry LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) under the LEADER Programme with the 3 Local Development Companies implementing the programme on the ground. The Local Development Strategy (LDS) has been submitted and a decision is awaited. The LDCs, KCC and the LCDC each have a role in the development and implementation of the strategy.

### **Community Support Fund**

The 2016 Community Support Fund has now commenced. Following a review a number of changes were made to the 2016 scheme.

This Funding will be available where:

- Alternative funding is not available
- Where significant matching funding is required and where groups can demonstrate significant local input through time or resources.

The funding scheme is broadly classified under the following areas:-

1. Building Sustainable Community / Quality of Life
2. Community Based Economic Development and Job Creation

Application Forms and all further details are available from:

Community Department, Kerry County Council, Rathass, Tralee, Co Kerry.  
Phone no. 066 7183680 and also on [www.kerrycoco.ie](http://www.kerrycoco.ie);  
It is possible to fill in the form online and submit or to use one of the forms supplied.

**Closing date for receipt of Applications at the Community Department  
Kerry County Council is Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 4pm.**

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

Kerry Comhairle na nÓg Workplan for 2016 has been submitted to the Department for approval. The change for 2016 involves the expansion of the work programme into all 4 Municipal Districts. The aim of this is to encourage county wide participation and to increase the influence of Comhairle na nÓg at a Municipal District level.

The Kerry Comhairle na nÓg will be attending the European Youth Event in Strasbourg in May.

### **Kerry Public Participation Network**

The PPN is the main link through which the Council connects with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors. The main work of the Secretariat during the second half of 2015 and early 2016 has been to consider the most appropriate communication methods for the PPN. The work programme is extensive and includes the Register of Community & Voluntary Groups and the Website development. Work has commenced on



the new website and it is hoped that this will be fully operational by the end of April

In addition to this the Secretariat has been heavily involved in the development of the LECP.

### **Arts Office:**

~ Kerry 2016 events . website at [www.kerry2016.ie](http://www.kerry2016.ie). Printed programmes are available at Killarney Municipal District Office, Library & Tourist Offices. Key events in Killarney MD: Monthly Kilcummin Rambling House . Kilcummin Remembers 1916, The Social Action Group Rathmore . A drama musical documentary, Kerry Comhairle na nÓg . 1916 Themed Fashion Show.

Arts Act Grants Awards and Artists Bursaries in the Killarney Municipal District:

ArtistsqBursaries (Ruti Lachs and Lorraine Neeson) _____	<b>€1000</b>
Ruti Lachs Community Creativity . Art & Music Weekend _____	<b>€1000</b>
The Gathering Festival_____	<b>€600</b>
Milltown Listry Comhaltas C.E. _____	<b>€150</b>
Kerry Musical Society _____	<b>€500</b>
Kilcummin Rambling House _____	<b>€250</b>
Rotary Club, Killarney _____	<b>€700</b>
Listry Community Council Ltd _____	<b>€200</b>
Spraoi Chiarraí _____	<b>€600</b>

### **Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership (KRSP)**

#### **Funding :**

- o KRSP Sports Grants Now Available  
As a means of assisting local sports clubs, Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership (KRSP) disseminate sports club grants through funding received from Sport Ireland, formally Irish Sports Council.

The three strands of grant funding available are as follows:-

Coach Education Grant

Club Start Up Grant

Club Development Grant (Theme Focused)

Theme 1 - Establishing a school/club link  
Theme 2 . Club Disability Provision

Both criteria and application forms are available for download from <http://www.kerryrecreationandsports.ie/funding/>

**Killarney MD Specific Update:**

o Education & Training Workshops Completed Jan - Mar in Killarney:

Safe Guarding 1 Child Welfare and Protection - Killarney Cycling Club  
Safeguarding 3 Designated Liaison Person - Public Course in Killarney  
Workshops Coming Up:  
Safe Guarding 1 Child Welfare and Protection - April 21st - Public Course .  
Fully Booked

**Emergency Services Report for March 2016**

***Business Unit Manager: Michael Hession CFO***

***Operation of the Fire Brigade Service:***

- Operational volumes of work are now up to the end of March 2016 following a dry latter half to March with an exceptional volume of wild-land fires (over 85 such incidents in March . an exceptionally high monthly total. Statistical chart below refers
- There is a continuing reduction in chimney fires from 63 to 49 for the same quarter last year
- There is a continuing reduction in Road Traffic Accidents attended from 39 to 22 (reduction this year running at 44%).
- The elected council were updated and briefed on the work and success of the Kerry Interagency Wildfire Group and the 2016 wild fires reduction strategy.

**Building Control:**

There is further evidence in early 2016 of a modest increase in construction activity:

- The number of Commencement Notices/ 7 Day Notices received to the end of March 2016 up from 81 to 85 (5%) from the same period last year
- Disability Access Certificate applications were up from 21 to 31 (46%) from the same period last year
- Fire Safety Certificate applications were up from 30 to 43 (43%) from the same period last year

### March (Quarter 1) Statistics:

Set out hereunder are the Statistical details in respect of the Fire Service and Building Control for the period 1 Jan 2016 to 31 March 2016 along with the details of 2015 for reference purposes:

		1 Jan 2015 to 31 Mar 2015	1 Jan 2016 to 31 Mar 2016
<b>Fire Service Operations</b>	Total Incidents	306	303
	Total Mobilisations	330	353
	Number of Fires	178	197
	Of which: Chimney Fires	63	49
	Gorse	54	93
	Number of Special Service Incidents	81	60
	Of which: Road Traffic Accidents	39	22
<b>Building Control</b>	Fire Safety Cert Applications Received	30	43
	Disability Access Cert Applications Received	21	31
	Commencement/7-Day Notices Received	81	85

# Social Housing Activity Report as at 21st March 2016

## Killarney Municipal Area (K.M.A.)

### Social Housing Applicants (Year to Date Position)

Accommodation offers made for property located within Municipal Area	16
New Tenancies Commenced	3
Accommodation refusals	2

### Social Houses

<b>Vacant properties within Municipal Area</b>	
Under Repair (Excl those awaiting major refurbishment)	3
Awaiting Allocation	6
Aquired Properties	8
<b>Construction Programme</b>	
Single Rural Dwellings - under construction	0
Single Rural Dwellings -Tender Stage	0
Extensions - applications on hands	6
Extensions - under construction	0

### Rental Accommodation Scheme

	<u>County</u>	<u>L.M.A.</u>
Total Active Tenancies	910	121
New tenancies in 2016	13	1
Tenancies Terminated in 2016	6	0

### Leasing

	County	L.M.A.
Leased Properties	117	13
Leases under Negotiation	21	6

### Housing Adaptation Grants (County Wide)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>"</u>
Grant Allocation 2016		" 2096,050m
New Grants Allocated 2016	393	" 229,788m
Total Commitment	167	" 852,084m
Grants Paid	337	" 178,305m

**(b) Notices of Motion**

**1. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** That the Council would recalibrate the overall layout of the long established Halting Site at Gortroe and examine the possibility of putting in place 3 bungalows with adequate spacing.

**Reply:** There is no current plan in place to replace the existing units at the Gortroe Halting Site with permanent bungalow type accommodation. However, the Council is examining/considering the possibility of replacing all the existing five units on the site with more modern demountable units which have significantly increased standard of construction. This will be subject to the approval and funding being available from the Department of the Environment with whom the proposal has been discussed. In addition, Kerry County Council is currently carrying out improvement/enhancement work to the site entrance at Gortroe Halting Site.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that he was familiar with the families living at this Halting Site who were lovely people. Cllr. Gleeson referred to the Carrickmines tragedy in Dublin where 10 people in a halting site tragically lost their lives; exacerbated by the fact that their units were too proximate to each other. This halting site has served its purpose but is no longer suitable for growing families. He advised of a family located here who is living in totally unacceptable conditions. Cllr. Gleeson requested the Council to seriously consider his request in this Notice of Motion and make it a safer more appropriate and healthy development that fits into the environment.**

**Cllr. D. Grady Seconded the Motion and stated that the residents there have requested that the entrance be improved. The local GAA Club are now doing up the front of this site. Cllr. Grady stated the place was a disgrace and agreed with the sentiments expressed by Cllr. Gleeson. Something needs to be done with this site.**

**Ms. J. Dillane said that the matter would be brought to the attention of Ms. C. Farrell, SEO Housing. Funding is being sought from Department at present.**

**Cllr. Gleeson stated there was an urgency with the situation and this needs to be acknowledged.**

**2. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** That the Council would indicate if any inspections are carried out to seek to ensure that grease traps are in place in hotels and guesthouses in order to capture fats, oils and greases [FOGS].

**Reply:** As responsibility for this matter has now been transferred to Irish Water, we will refer the matter to them and circulate their response to you.

**Cllr. Gleeson referred to the term "fatbergs" which refers to an accumulation of fats in subterranean pipes carrying fat from business premises. Pipes are becoming half blocked by congealing fats from hotels and guesthouses. This has caused problems in the Treatment**

**Plants and in turn it gets into the lakes. Kerry County Council carried out inspections and consultation with all businesses in Dingle and received great co-operation. The chances of Irish Water doing the same is very low. There is goodwill there from Killarney Looking Good, the Chamber of Commerce and businesses. In the interest of the environment and maintaining high standards at the Treatment Plants, due priority should be given to convince businesses of the importance of this.**

**3. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** As the length of time it is taking to begin constructing the twenty houses at The Park, Killarney is totally unacceptable, I call on this Council to provide the Members of the Killarney Municipal District with all correspondence between Kerry County Council and the Department since this process began.

**Reply:** The following points outline the chronology of the application process to-date:

- 04 November 2008 An Bord Pleanála granted permission for development of the proposed scheme.
- The original planning permission granted by Killarney Town Council has been extended until 17/6/2019.
- DECLG Stage 2 approval was given to Kerry County Council to construct 8 dwellings at Park, Killarney as part of the 2014 Jobs Stimulus Programme at a budget cost of " 1,079,768.
- In May 2015 KCC received Stage 1 approval to add an extra 12 houses making a total of 20 3-bedroom units at The Park.
- In June 2015 KCC received a revised Stage 3 approval to develop the entire scheme with an estimated cost of " 3,114,078.00.
- On 06/11/2015 KCC submitted its Pre-Tender Stage 3 request to DECLG, including the full set of drawings and an estimated cost plan of " 3,642,245.
- On 10/02/2016 we received an approval of " 3,370,733 to develop the scheme, a shortfall of " 271,000. KCC reduced the specification of the houses and revised estimated costs had to be prepared.
- On 22/03/2016 KCC submitted a revised cost plan for Pre-Tender stage to DECLG. KCC managed to reduced the cost from " 3,642,245 to " 3,498,160 with difference of " 144,085.
- KCC are awaiting a response from the Department on this revised submission.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated it was incredible that this scheme has taken such a length of time to commence. This shows a lack of empathy and ineptitude from the Department. Cllr. Culloty stated that he asked last summer when these houses would be built. On referring to the response, Cllr. Culloty referred to the first bullet point:**

***"04 November 2008 An Bord Pleanála granted permission for development of the proposed scheme";***

**yet here we are in April 2016:**

***"KCC are awaiting a response from the Department on this revised submission."***

**Cllr. Culloty requested that a letter issue from the Municipal District to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government outlining the disgust of the Members regarding the length of time this scheme is taking to commence.**

**Cllr. B. Cronin supported and Seconded the Motion. In May 2015 an extra 12 houses were approved. The ball has now been kicked down the road. The site has not even been cleared. This is not acceptable and is dragging on. There are too many people waiting for houses. This scheme should be nearing completion now. It is a shocking situation.**

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae supported the Motion and stated that people should be living in these houses by now. Families are looking for accommodation.**

**Cllr. D. Grady agreed that a letter should issue to the Department on the matter.**

**4. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** To ask Kerry County Council to reinstate the public toilets at the Courthouse in Killarney. A dual purpose facility can be provided to service the Courthouse and the public. The only extra cost needed is the cost of a door.

**Reply:** As outlined to Members at previous Municipal District Meetings, the temporary toilets at Fair Hill were removed due to the fact that they were beyond repair and were a safety hazard to the public.

Killarney has a number of public toilets located at the Ha Ha, New Street Car Park and High Street Car Park and the Town Park. This compares extremely favourably with other towns and is considered adequate. The toilets at the Ha Ha are located close to the Fair Hill Car Park site. Kerry County Council have provided increased signage at this location and other locations directing people to public conveniences throughout the town.

The Court Services have advised that there are public toilet facilities available in the Courthouse Building and that adequate signage will be put in place.

Kerry County Council wrote to the Courts Services on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 and will follow up with correspondence for an update on the issue.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that the only cost involved here was the cost of a door. The other toilets located in the town are not addressing the needs in this area.**

**Cllr. M. Gleeson asked if the Court Services had responded positively to the request.**

**Ms. A. McAllen replied that Mr. J. Purcell has been in contact with them. There is a public facility available in the Courthouse building. We requested that adequate signage be provided while the Court is in session.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that correspondence issued to the Court Service notifying them that the toilets are not accessible. We are trying to impress upon them the need to have these facilities fully open. The Council also intends entering into discussions with Bird's Amusements requesting them to provide facilities for their patrons during the Summer when they locate to the Fair Hill Carpark.**

**5. Cllr. D. Grady:** That we, Kerry County Council, would provide a full time Litter Warden for the Killarney Municipal District.

**Reply:** The Traffic Wardens in Killarney, in addition to their traffic duties, also have responsibility for enforcing litter legislation in the town and carrying out litter patrols. In 2015, a very small number of litter related complaints were received from the public in respect of Killarney Town, each of which were fully investigated. This small number is testament to the excellent voluntary work being done by various communities in the town and at business and municipal level as well as the civic mindedness of its inhabitants.

Outside of the town, in the wider Municipal District, litter related complaints are investigated separately by a full time litter warden who also covers the South West Municipal District. Post the amalgamation, Kerry County Council has enhanced the Litter Warden service in the town by providing support services such as litter awareness campaigns etc. The town has featured well in all of the recent IBAL reports and continues to excel in the National Tidy Towns Competition and any relevant comments from the judges are followed up. While it is considered that a dedicated Litter Warden solely for the Killarney Municipal District is not warranted at this time, if there any particular areas of concern to any of the Municipal District Members, we will have these investigated and followed up as a matter of urgency. The Environment Section also undertakes to continue to monitor the adequacy of its litter enforcement resources deployed in this area.

**Cllr. D. Grady stated that he keeps receiving the same reply from the Council and was very annoyed about this. Councillors highlight the problems regarding littering and this is the reply we receive. The Council only has two Traffic Wardens who are already kept busy doing their job. There is no designated Litter Warden in Killarney. The moratorium on recruitment has been lifted so the time is right to employ a full-time Litter Warden for Killarney. People who litter and let their dogs foul the streets need to be stopped. Cllr. Grady Proposed that we hastily employ a Warden.**



**Cllr. J.J. Culloty** referred to the reply where it stated that *"The town has featured well in all of the recent IBAL reports and continues to excel in the National Tidy Towns Competition and any relevant comments from the judges are followed up."* Cllr. Culloty stated that this result is due to the hard work of Council staff and various organisations around the town. The IBAL Report for Killarney might not be so positive if these groups did not carry out this work. If there was less involvement from these groups, we might get a Litter Warden.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson** stated that the recent County Clean-up highlighted the deplorable situation in Kerry. He feared that all the volunteers will walk away and get tired of cleaning up people's waste. Matters are not improving. A total of 15,000 bags of litter were collected that day which is horrendous. In excess of 30 bags were collected in Lissivigeen within 2 hours.

**Ms. A. McAllen** acknowledged the excellent work carried out by communities and organisations. Ms. McAllen agreed to discuss the matter with the Director of Sustainable Communities with a view to employing a full-time Litter Warden. The moratorium on staff recruitment has somewhat ceased.

**Cllr. B. Cronin** stated that very little fines are being imposed for littering. There is a view by some people to dump their rubbish and the volunteers will clean up after them. If these volunteers were not carrying out this work along the roads, what state would they be in? Kerry County Council are sitting back and it is their responsibility to deal with this issue.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan** agreed with Cllr. Cronin's comments and said that he regularly picks up litter. Taking Lawlor's Cross as an example, there is a sign indicating that people found littering will be fined €3,000. If a CCTV were placed at this location for 5 minutes, several people would be caught dumping illegally.

**Mr. L. Quinlan** stated that a full report was brought before the March Council Meeting under the Litter Management Act regarding the activities in the County. The Council does attempt to convict culprits but we have to rely on evidence to secure a conviction in Court. Mr. Quinlan informed the Councillors that the amount of customer complaints received by the Council from the Killarney area is quite small. The Council can only commit to a short-term targeting of the "black spot" locations by the Wardens. In relation to dog fouling, Mr. Quinlan committed to arranging joint patrols between the Litter Warden and Dog Wardens.

**Cllr. Grady** stated he was not happy with the response. A full-time Litter Warden is required. The Elected Members are the complaint system.

### (c) Questions

**1. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** Of what quality was the water in the Folly Stream, lake-side of the treatment plant, during December 2015, January and February 2016?

**Reply:** Samples of lake were taken both by Water Services staff and Laboratory staff of:

- Points upstream and downstream of Killarney Plant (Folly Stream)
- Lough Lein, both at Ross Bay and points throughout Lake

These were taken on a monthly basis as is required from routine sampling programs and as dictated by EPA throughout this period. In addition, Water Services staff regularly monitored the Plant during this time. All routine samples denoted that there was no abnormal impact of downstream site. However, one sample taken in reaction to flooding on 12<sup>th</sup> January by Pollution Control staff did show significant impact on points downstream of treatment plant i/e 6.12 mg/l Ammonia compared with a mean figure of 0.4mg/l. This pointed to significant release of storm flow due to very heavy rains. The next routine sample was taken on 21<sup>st</sup> January by Laboratory staff which indicated return to normal conditions. Samples have been taken at least 5 times since then at impact sites both in Folly Stream and Lake and all indicate normal or acceptable quality.

Here is a combined Sewerage Scheme in Killarney, i.e. both the rainfall run-off and the foul sewage are collected in the same pipes. This is the system used in virtually all such Sewerage Schemes in Ireland. Accordingly, there is storm run-off from the vast majority of the houses in Killarney flowing in the public sewerage system. There are storm overflow manholes on the scheme at times of prolonged and intensive rainfall the excess surface water overflows from these manholes to local watercourses / streams which are in spate on such occasions. This is the conventional / traditional engineering design, mainly for economic reasons, on most wastewater schemes. There are also storm tanks with a storm water overflow at the Killarney Wastewater Treatment Plant. During most rainfall events, excess stormwater is diverted to the storm tanks and is held there to be pumped back through the Treatment Plant during drier conditions. During prolonged periods of heavy rain, the storm tanks can overflow and discharge to watercourses in a similar way to the storm overflow manholes.

It is desirable that a separate system of piping for foul water and storm water, particularly / initially to collect street and carpark run-off, be developed where possible. There has been a substantial amount of work done on providing new storm water drainage systems at various locations in Killarney over the last decade . these include High Street, Upper New Street, Countess Road, Countess Grove and parts of St Brendan's Park.

It is planned to carry out a drainage area study for Killarney. A submission to Irish Water to request funding for the engagement of consulting engineers for this study has been made by the Council.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that he regularly includes Notices of Motion on the Agenda regarding water quality in the lakes, rivers and streams. The results of the water testing indicate quite a good standard. Post 12<sup>th</sup> January, Cllr. Gleeson stated that he had received a very forceful complaint from people walking in that section of The Domain after the extreme weather events. Undesirable material was evident. The Treatment Plant was unable to deal with the volume going into the plant. Can something be done to ensure that this never happens again. This is not acceptable.**

**Mr. P. Neary said that Storm water overflows are standard in Sewerage Treatment Plants. Heavy rain conditions increases the storm water overflow. In relation to the Folly Stream, the Waste Water Discharge Licence for the Killarney Waste Water Treatment Plant has a requirement to investigate the feasibility of piping the discharge from the plant directly to the lake by 2020.**

**2. Cllr. B. Cronin:** What is the progress report on a playground for Firies Village?

**Reply:** Kerry County Council's Housing Liaison Officer has been in contact with the Manager of The Maine Valley Family Resource Centre who have assigned a Project Worker to formulate a committee of residents to help develop this project going forward.

**Cllr. B. Cronin requested that Kerry County Council do everything possible to assist and progress the development and construction of this playground facility. The children who were there when the housing development was constructed are now sitting their Leaving Certificate.**

**3. Cllr. B. Cronin:** What is the current update regarding securing land for a new Burial Ground for Killarney?

**Reply:** Further possible options in relation to the purchase of lands suitable for the development of a graveyard are currently under investigation. This issue is a key priority for the Senior Management Team of Kerry County Council.

**Cllr. B. Cronin stated he was very frustrated at the ongoing delay and asked if the Council would recognise that Killarney is in a crisis as outlined by the Undertakers. Appropriate action needs to be taken.**

**4. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** Can we have an update on the current situation regarding the purchase of a Burial Ground for the people of the Killarney area?

**Reply:** Further possible options in relation to the purchase of lands suitable for the development of a graveyard are currently under investigation. This issue is a key priority for the Senior Management Team of Kerry County Council.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan noted the reply.**

**Ms. A. McAllen responded that the issue regarding the acquisition of lands for the burial ground has gone on for some time. There are limited available spaces in Aghadoe. Ms. McAllen assured the Members of her ongoing commitment to acquiring a suitable location and will give her utmost priority to this matter. The Council are working actively on this.**

**16.04.13.06 (a) To note update report from the Water Services Directorate**

It was agreed to note the following Report from Mr. C. Mangan, SEE which was circulated:

## KILLARNEY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING

### Clár Infheistíochta na Seirbhísi Uisce Comhairle Contae Chiarraí

Achoimre Stádais ar an 4<sup>ú</sup> Aibreáin 2016

### Kerry County Council Water Services Investment Programme

Status Summary at 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016

#### Funding Priorities for Capital Projects

Irish Water has indicated that it will prioritize funding for capital projects based on the key issues to be addressed.

In Water, priority will be given to any Scheme to which a Boil Water Notice (BWN) applies, and any Scheme on the EPA Remedial Action List (RAL) and/or on a legal Direction from the EPA.

In Wastewater, priority will be given to towns (agglomerations) to which ECJ Rulings apply, and on meeting the requirements of the EPA Discharge Licenses.

#### **IRISH WATER CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2014-2016**

The Irish Water **Capital Investment Programme 2014-2016** was launched in May 2014. A total of 8 wastewater Schemes (total value of " 10.7 million) and 7 Water schemes (total value of " 22.5 million) in Kerry are included in the IW Capital Investment Programme. **It is planned that a new CIP will be issued in 2016.**

The Schemes listed in the **CIP** which are located in the Killarney Municipal District are outlined in the following tables.

<b><u>CIP WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS</u></b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>		
<b>Mains Rehabilitation Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Status</b>
	County Direct Labour	" 2.65M	Pipelaying ongoing by Direct Labour . almost complete.
<b>Central Regional Water Supply Scheme</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Status</b>
	Scart Reservoir	" 2.92M	Complete
	Water Treatment Plant - DBO	" 22.5M	Contractor has commenced.

<b><u>CIP WASTEWATER PROJECT</u></b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme</b>	The Scheme is included in the Irish Water <b>CIP 2014-2016</b> . A Consulting Engineer is currently working on the detailed design and contract documents to enable the project to go Tender.

## **IRISH WATER MINOR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME**

Irish Water has also launched a **Minor Capital Works Programme**. This is a rolling programme of **minor improvement works** which can be added to as the need arises. The list of schemes that Kerry County Council has applied for under the Minor Capital Works Programme in the Killarney Area is outlined in the table below.

<b><u>MINOR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME, KILLARNEY DISTRICT</u></b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Status</b>
Water Bulk Meters Upgrade	<b>Countywide</b> project to upgrade bulk meters to give information on water flows	" 123,000	Substantially complete
Castleisland SS - Church St and Limerick Rd.	Replace collapsed length of sewer	" 8,000	Complete
CRWSS Rising Mains Facilitation Works Muckross to <del>Burmag</del> Rd	2.2 Km of new 150MM watermain	" 250,000	Complete
Brosna Knock RWSS Dooneen Rsvr Castleisland	Fencing works	" 8,000	Complete
CRWSS Rising Mains Facilitation Works from Muckross Church to the Black Road and Loreto Road.	2.7Km of new 160 / 200MM watermain	" 450,000	Underway
Brosna Knocknagoshel WSS . Meenleirim Pumphouse	Provide sump to improve operation of pumps	" 10,000	Approved
CRWSS Dromultan Scartaglin Pumpstation	Lay 300M of 100MM pipe to eliminate old pump station	" 35,000	Approved
CRWSS Dromhall Pk Killarney	Replace 375M of 100MM Cast Iron with uPVC pipe	" 64,000	Approved
Mid Kerry Mains Replacement - Coolbane Aglish	Replace 1.5Km of the 200MM diameter PVC Trunk Main	" 300,000	Approved
MKRWSS Faha West	Lay 500M of 80MM watermain	" 95,000	Approved
CRWSS Mains Replacement - Bushmount Raffeens Clounlara	Replace 2.2Km of the 50MM diameter PVC watermain with a 100MM PVC pipe.	" 200,000	Approved
CRWSS Kenmare Place Killarney	Replace 100M of the 150MM Cast Iron watermain with a 200mm PVC pipe.	" 155,000	Approved
CRWSS Brewsterfield Mains	Replace 4.5KM defective mains Knockanes, Headford	" 570,000	Requested
Shrone WSS . <del>Rawq</del> Water Main	Lay main from Lake to WTP	" 160,000	Requested

CRWSS Mill Road Killarney	Lay 500M of 80MM watermain	" 95,000	Requested
CRWSS Cloonts Rathmore	Replace 500M of 1000MM watermain	" 94,000	Requested
CRWSS Barraduff	Lay 470M of 100MM watermain	" 52,000	Requested
CRWSS Woodlawn Killarney	Replace 400M of 150MM AC watermain with uPVC pipe	" 90,000	Requested
			<b>Continued..</b>
CRWSS St Brendan's Tce. Killarney	Replace 200M of 50MM watermain with 100MM uPVC	" 60,000	Requested
CRWSS Dalton's Ave / Marian Tce	Replace 500m of 4+ / 6+ CI and AC with 100MM uPVC	" 111,000	Requested
CRWSS O'Connell's Ave Killarney	Replace 150M of 3+AC watermain with 100MM uPVC	" 34,000	Requested
CRWSS Orchard Way / Green Lane / Pound Lane Killarney	Replace 450m of 3+AC watermain with 100MM uPVC	" 102,000	Requested
<b>Total APPROVED</b>		<b>€1.698M</b>	

## THE RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

The administration and development of the Group Scheme sector continues to be a function of the Local Authorities under the guidance and supervision of the DoEC&LG and Irish Water has no authority, responsibility or involvement.

A total Block Grant Allocation of " 780,100 was allocated to Kerry County Council for the various measures under the Rural Water Programme in 2015.

**The announcement on funding for 2016 is expected in April or May.**

### Takeover of Group Schemes

Since 1 January 2014, responsibility for the Takeover of Group Schemes has transferred to Irish Water.

Nationally, discussions are ongoing between the DoEC&LG, the County and City Managers Association and Irish Water to develop a protocol to facilitate the Takeover of Group Schemes.

## **(b) Notices of Motion**

**1. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** That the Council would clarify if there has been any progress between Irish Water and the residents of Dennehy's Road, Fair Hill, Killarney in the matter of developing a sewerage scheme for the 27 households.

**Reply:** Irish Water's policy is to give priority to upgrading existing substandard sewerage schemes, and also to meeting the requirements of the EPA Discharge Licences for existing Sewerage Schemes, prior to considering investment in new schemes or in extensions to existing schemes. Irish Water's current position is that it has no funding stream to provide (or extend) services to properties with private sewerage facilities, except at the expense of the property owners and on foot of Connection Agreements.

This proposed sewer extension to Dennehy's Road may be suitable for development as a Group Sewerage Scheme.

Kerry County Council applied in late January for a Grant of " 280,000 to develop an 870m long sewer and 2 pump stations to serve 26 houses in Dennehy's Bohereen, Killarney, as part of the Council's annual submission to the Department Of Environment, Community and Local Government for funding for the Rural Water programme 2016. It is expected that the grants for 2016 will be made available in the coming weeks.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that he had previously raised this matter. There was something untoward having a 26 house development in the heart of Killarney that was not connected to the public sewer with residents using their own private septic tanks. The residents are committed to establishing a Group Scheme. He hoped Irish Water would come on board and provide co-operation and leadership to develop a sewerage scheme for these residents.**

**Mr. C. Mangan stated that this was actually a matter for the Department Of Environment, Community and Local Government, and Kerry County Council rather than Irish Water. An application for funding, which includes the Dennehy's Road proposal, for the Rural Water Programme 2016 was made by Kerry County Council to the Department and it is expected that grants will be made available in the coming weeks. When / if this worthy proposal goes ahead, it will be as a Group Sewerage Scheme. Mr. Mangan asked that the name of a principal person Group Secretary be provided to help with liaison with the staff of Kerry County Council's Water Services. This year the Rural Water grants will for the first time be allocated for a 3-year period rather than for just 2016 and this would be suitable for such a Scheme which would require a long lead-in period. It would be necessary that the Group appoint a consulting engineer for such a large Scheme. The Group Scheme would be planned, designed, organised and constructed over the next 2 or 3 years.**



**Cllr. D. Grady Seconded the Motion.**

**2. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** To ask Kerry County Council and Irish Water to provide a public sewerage system for the residents of College Road, Tullig . Black Road, Brosna Road in Castleisland. This request has been ongoing for over 30 years.

**Reply:** Irish Water's policy is to give priority to upgrading existing substandard sewerage schemes, and also to meeting the requirements of the EPA Discharge Licences for existing Sewerage Schemes, prior to considering investment in new schemes or in extensions to existing schemes.

This proposed extension to Castleisland Sewerage Scheme had been on the National Water Services Investment Programme 2007 . 2009 and previous Programmes, but it is unlikely to receive priority in the foreseeable future. Irish Water's current position is that it has no funding stream to provide (or extend) services to properties with private sewerage facilities, except at the expense of the property owners and on foot of Connection Agreements.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that this system was sub-standard. Septic tanks were flooded during the winter and the septic tanks had to be cleaned out every 1 - 2 months. These houses are not serviced by public water and this must be the only town in Ireland where this occurs.**

**Cllr. B. O'Connell Seconded the Motion. He stated he has had this Motion on the Agenda over the last 20 years. There were approximately 126 houses in the town without a public sewerage system and this has gone on for too long.**

**Mr. C. Mangan said this proposed extension to Castleisland Sewerage Scheme had been on various National Programmes over the years. A major rationalisation took place in 2008 whereby this proposal was then dropped. Irish Water's priority is to upgrade existing schemes to ensure they are operating correctly.**

**Cllr. Healy-Rae asked that pressure be put on Irish Water to address the matter.**

**3. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** To ask Kerry County Council and Irish Water to provide funding for the replacing of the water main at Shronedarragh so that the badly needed resurfacing works can be done this year.

**Reply:** The outcome of a submission made in 2015 by the Council to Irish Water for funding of value " 51,000 to replace 470M of old and deficient watermain near Barraduff Community Field, is awaited. It is planned to do this job prior to the road resurfacing works which are scheduled for later this year.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that this road was frequented by heavy traffic. It is the access road to Mallow. This road needs to be resurfaced. Money was allocated last year and transferred somewhere else.**

**Cllr. N. Kelleher stated that the money was transferred to get watermain carried out elsewhere which was the right thing to do at the time because the watermain replacement had not been sanctioned last year by Irish Water. Cllr. Kelleher hoped that resurfacing works would commence on this road soon.**

**Mr. C. Mangan said he was optimistic that funding would soon be received as it was needed soon before the roadworks would commence.**

**Cllr. Kelleher said this was the key factor.**

**4. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** That Kerry County Council Water Services/Irish Water provide a connection to Barraduff Sewage Scheme for Ard na Greine Estate, Barraduff.

**Reply:** This privately developed four-house estate is served by an on-site malfunctioning sewage plant. The cost of providing a pump station and connection to the Barraduff public sewerage scheme is provisionally estimated at " 45,000.

Irish Water's current position is that it has no funding stream to provide (or extend) services to properties with private sewerage facilities, except at the expense of the property owners and on foot of Connection Agreements. If a Group Sewerage Scheme were formed by the owners, the grants of " 6,750 per house would reduce the cost to each house to a provisionally estimated " 4,500.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan asked how four young families are expected to find €45,000. Taking into account the grant, this would leave the four families having to pay €18,000 between them which is a large sum of money. When the Bond money was being used, the residents would have preferred if they had been connected up to the nearby sewerage scheme. The cannot understand why this money was used for cosmetic works in the estate.**

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty Seconded the Motion. The Bond money should have been spent on the sewerage scheme and the Bond would have covered this.**

**Mr. C. Mangan said this was a unique situation where a private development was given planning permission for a biocycle system which is now malfunctioning. There was no sewerage scheme in place at the time of the grant of planning by Kerry County Council for the houses. If the residents want to connect to the sewerage scheme, they must form a Group Scheme. Irish Water is not paying for extensions to sewers and is currently concentrating only on upgrading the existing ones to an acceptable standard.**

**Mr. P. Neary informed the Members that he had met with the residents in relation to the Bond money and they had agreed at that time with the works that were to be carried out. Pumping the waste water to the public road was not part of the agreed works.**

**Cllr. J. Sheahan stated he had every sympathy for these families. This was too much of a burden for them. He asked Kerry County Council to reconsider and come up with a proposal.**

**5. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** To ask Kerry County Council if the date has been set to proceed with the Kilcummin Sewage Works.

**Reply:** The detailed design is currently being prepared by Consulting Engineers with a view to the project going to Tender later in 2016. It is expected that work will commence in 2017.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan noted the reply.**

**6. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** That Kerry County Council Water Services sort out the dilemma with the sewage scheme at Shinnagh as it is not working properly.

**Reply:** There is a difficulty with this sewerage pumping station, located in a public green area at Shinnagh Cross, Rathmore, in that there can be overload at times of extremely heavy / prolonged rainfall, which results in back-up of the existing inadequate storm water overflow system. The Water Services Department is currently pursuing a particular solution to this overflow problem.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan stated this was a serious situation. He had met with the residents and the sewer is overflowing. During good weather, the stench is terrible. The residents are living next to an open sewer. This must be rectified.**

**Cllr. D. Grady agreed with the sentiments expressed by Cllr. Sheahan.**

### **(c) Questions**

**1. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** As the deplorable road surface of the Mill Road, particularly in the townland of Dromhumper, cannot be upgraded until Uisce Éireann has put down new water mains, has that Body given any indication of a timeframe for putting those mains in place?

**Reply:** At times of very high demand or when there is any interruption to the water supply in the trunk mains in Killarney, there can be low pressure or no flow in this old and deficient 1+1/2" diameter spur pipeline to the 5 properties at Dromhumper.

The Council made a submission in 2015 requesting " 95,000 for the laying of 500M of 80MM water main at this location. No response has been received to date.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that money has been allocated to resurface the road in Dromhumper. There is an inadequate pipe there and leaking water is flowing down the road. Cllr. Gleeson asked that the matter be sorted out.**

**Mr. C. Mangan replied again that funding for this has not yet been received.**

**Cllr. Gleeson asked that every effort be made to receive it.**

**2. Cllr. B. Cronin:** What is the position regarding the Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme and has any decision been made on the route?

**Reply:** Irish Water has stated that the design engineers are due to finalise the Report, which will include the recommended solution for Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme, within a matter of weeks.

**Cllr. B. Cronin asked if Kerry County Council were any closer to receiving a plan of the route.**

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty moved Question 6 at this stage.**

**6. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** Has the route for the sewer main between Kilcummin and Killarney been agreed? And if so, when will the road, which is not affected by the works, be repaired?

**Reply:** Irish Water has stated that the Design Engineers are due to finalise the Report, which will include the recommended solution for Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme, within a matter of weeks.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty asked if the route had been agreed and will the roads be reinstated.**

**Cllr. D. Grady moved Question 7 at this stage.**

**7. Cllr. D. Grady:** Update on the sewer from Kilcummin to Killarney.

**Reply:** Irish Water has stated that the Design Engineers are due to finalise the Report, which will include the recommended solution for Kilcummin Sewerage Scheme, within a matter of weeks.

**Mr. C. Mangan informed the Members that Irish Water has said that it will publish the Report within 1 month. There is every indication that the pipe will be laid along the road for most of the route, though some of it may be a pressured main.**

**3. Cllr. B. Cronin:** When is the work to begin on water pipe main replacement from Aglish to Flynn's Forge and Bushmount to Clonlara and will the funding allocated reinstate the road afterwards?

**Reply:** Pipelaying will commence at Bushmount-Cloonlara on the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The Aglish - Coolbane job is planned to go ahead in July and August 2016.

**Cllr. B. Cronin stated he was delighted that work is to commence on 18<sup>th</sup> April. At Aglish, a bad break had recently occurred. He noted the reply had said "Aglish - Coolbane" and requested the Council to look at it from Coolbane - Aglish. Cllr. Cronin enquired if there was money to repair the road.**

**Mr. C. Mangan confirmed that funding was available to reinstate the road afterward. Aglish - Coolbane was in the reply because the flow in the watermain is actually in that direction. There is no question but that the section of pipe which has been failing will be replaced.**

**4. Cllr. B. Cronin:** When will the water pipe replacement work begin on the road opposite Faha National School towards Rockfield?

**Reply:** It is planned that this 500M watermain replacement job will be carried out by the Council's Water Services crews in June 2016.

**Cllr. B. Cronin welcomed the reply.**

**5. Cllr. B. Cronin:** Can the Killarney sewer pipe be extended up Madam's Hill to service the highly populated Aghadoe/Coolgarriv area?

**Reply:** Irish Water's policy on the development of wastewater infrastructure is to give priority to existing Sewerage Schemes in towns to which ECJ Rulings apply, and on meeting the requirements of the EPA's Discharge Licenses for existing waste water schemes. Irish Water also wrote recently that it currently has no funding stream to provide (or extend) services to properties with private sewerage facilities, except at the expense of the property owners and on foot of Connection Agreements.

Kerry County Council's Water Services Department's business to-date with Irish Water suggests that the extensions of the networks at such a location as Aghadoe / Coolgarriv, while desirable, is not currently among the priorities of the utility.

Irish Water is currently planning to carry out an overall study/review of the Killarney Drainage Area and also of the Killarney Waste Water Treatment Plant.

**Cllr. B. Cronin stated the reply was disappointing and asked if there was any possibility to extend the sewer pipe up to the vast housing area in Aghadoe at some stage.**

**Mr. C. Mangan stated that, in accordance with an existing planning permission, the public sewer may be extended by a private developer to Cleeny Cross. Mr. Mangan stated that he does not envisage the sewer**

being extended to Aghadoe and Coolgarriv in the short term / foreseeable future.

**6. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** Question 6 was moved in conjunction with Question No 2.

**7. Cllr. D. Grady:** Question 7 was moved in conjunction with Question No 2.

#### **16.04.13.07 (a) To note update report from the Operations, Health & Safety Directorate**

##### **(b) Notices of Motion**

**1. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** As I have over many years been highlighting the health and safety need for a parking area proximate to the Church in Gneevguilla, would the Council inform if any progress has been made in this vital issue.

**Reply:** A plot of land adjacent to the Church is required for provision of a parking area at this location. Correspondence is ongoing with the landowner in relation to this. Some progress has been made of late.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that this has been on the Agenda many times. Emergency services will not be able to travel down that road in an emergency. Maybe it is time to extend this and refer to "landowners" as opposed to "landowner". Local friendly competition might focus minds.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that negotiations are proving more positive and will continue. If they are not successful, the Council will then look at other options.**

**2. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** That some form of internationally recognised signage would be put in place on the approaches to Killarney town indicating to large trucks, that have no business reason for doing so, that they should not enter the actual town and very especially not enter Plunkett Street.

**Reply:** Advisory signage can be located at key junctions in the town advising drivers of HGVs of the preferred route that they should take to avoid the immediate Town Centre.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that frequently, arctic trucks are coming into Killarney Town when they have no need to do so. They are coming down Plunkett Street and are trying to take the turn onto Main Street. Cllr. Gleeson recalled sitting in his car next to Glebe Carpark while a truck driver had to wait for cars in Main Street to move on. Cllr. Gleeson also saw the driver of an arctic truck delivering a small parcel in Killarney Town. Maybe trucks are entering Killarney due to a satellite navigation problem. Trucks should stay on the N22. The traffic congestion issue needs to be solved before the summer.**

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty Seconded the Motion. The Traffic Management Plan should solve these problems. They would not be hard to sort out.**

**3. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** That the Council would give appropriate priority to the roadway from Dromickbane through Tullaha to Gortahoosh [L.7050] as it is in very poor condition at numerous locations.

**Reply:** There is " 30,375 available for surface dressing works on the L-7050, Gortahoosh . Tullaha roadway for 2016 under the Restoration Maintenance Programme.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that he had a Notice of Motion on this matter previously. He welcomed the reply and asked if Gortahoosh was included.**

**Ms. B. Mulryan confirmed that it was.**

**4. Cllr. B. O'Connell:** That amber flashing warning lights be provided on approach roads to Currow National School.

**Reply:** Electronic Speed Indicator Signs are due to be erected on both L-2033 approaches to Killeentierna Community Centre and Currow National School in the coming weeks. These signs display both the drivers speed and the speed limit. The effectiveness of these signs will be monitored for future use in other areas.

**Cllr. B. O'Connell welcomed the reply. Currow is a very busy village that has a school, a crèche and a community centre. It is located on a straight road and the traffic is travelling through it at a fast speed. Cllr. O'Connell asked if warning flashing lights could also be provided here.**

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated that he had previously raised this issue by way of a Notice of Motion. Flashing lights would be a great asset here.**

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that Cllr. D. Healy-Rae had Notices of Motion on this matter previously. This is not addressing the need of the National School and they are not happy with this. The School and the parents want lights and signs stating where the School is. Indicator signs are a separate issue.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that there was a previous programme for school flashing lights for schools located outside speed limits. No such program existed for School Flashing lights for schools within the speed limits, these lights could be funded under the County Councillors Allocations.**

**5. Cllr. B. O'Connell:** That Kerry County Council provide a School Warden at College Road, Castleisland and reinstate the Traffic Warden for the afternoons.

**Reply:** Kerry County Council is currently carrying out a review of staffing level requirements of all the Municipal Districts. This request will be assessed as part of this review.

**Cllr. B. O'Connell stated this was a serious situation. A School Warden is needed in College Road. There are three schools in this location. A commitment was given at a previous Municipal District meeting that a service would be provided in the afternoons and this has not happened. People know that the road is not being monitored. The service could be rotated until the situation normalises itself. There is not an issue here in the mornings.**

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that this place is mayhem during school collection times. It is a miracle that there have not been any fatalities here. It is a narrow road with a bad surface.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that a review of staffing levels will be carried out and a service will be provided there as part of the review.**

**Cllr. O'Connell asked when was it likely to commence.**

**Mr. Neary replied that the review will commence in the next month - 6 weeks and the situation will be looked at following that. Mr. Neary confirmed that the Council will honour its commitment to provide a School Warden.**

**6. Cllr. B. Cronin:** To request the repair of a number of bad lags on the Ballyhar side of the Two-Mile School and to extend the solid white line through the narrow bridge on the Killarney side of the Two-Mile School.

**Reply:** The L-2019 Scarteen-Dromdoohig roadway is included in the 2016 Road Restoration Programme. There is " 29,700 available for surface dressing works on this roadway. A number of the bad lags will be dealt with as part of this funding. The solid white line will be extended through the bridge on the Killarney side of the Two Mile School.

**Cllr. B. Cronin stated that the bad lags were located above the school near the culvert.**

**Ms. B. Mulryan confirmed that the work would be concentrated in that area.**

**Cllr. Cronin referred to the two pillars of the bridge which make it near impossible for cars to pass each other resulting in a few narrow escapes here. Cllr. Cronin requested that the continuous white line be extended on the Killarney side of the Two-Mile School. There is also continuous ponding on the Two-Mile side of the bridge. He advised of the importance of a pipe here going into the river.**

**7. Cllr. B. Cronin:** To repaint the yellow box and 'keep clear' road markings at the exit from St Bridget's Secondary School and the Cathedral Car Park.



**Reply:** The Yellow box and "keep clear" road marking at the exit from St Bridget's Secondary School and the Cathedral Car Park at the end of New Street will be repainted by the end of Q2.

**Cllr. B. Cronin said there were continuing issues here with traffic entering the "keep clear" and yellow box. Traffic is blocking entrances, particularly at funeral times.**

**Mr. P. Neary confirmed that the matter would be dealt with.**

**8. Cllr. B. Cronin:** To resurface the Port Road, Killarney as one lane is currently in a terrible condition.

**Reply:** This road is the N71 National Secondary Route. Works on this road would be subject to TII approval and funding. Kerry County Council will discuss this proposal with the TII Inspector for Kerry.

**Cllr. B. Cronin stated that this was a major tourist access road. It needs to be upgraded. The left hand side is in an appalling state.**

**9. Cllr. B. Cronin:** Can Kerry County Council proceed with the taking in charge of Hill View Terrace, Woodlawn Road, Killarney.

**Reply:** The taking in charge of this estate is being progressed in accordance with our signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Protocols agreed with Irish Water. We have recently received confirmation from our Water Services Section of their satisfaction with regard to the condition of the water services infrastructure in the estate, following an examination of same, as is required under the MoU. This satisfactory report, together with a report on the general condition of the estate will now be advised to Irish Water in accordance with the MoU. Subject to compliance, we will proceed with the Taking in Charge process in accordance with the relevant legislation and Council Policy for Taking Housing Estates in Charge prior to reverting to the Municipal District Members for decision.

**Cllr. B. Cronin stated that the residents informed him that they had to carry out a pipe survey before the taking in charge process commenced which was unusual. The residents paid for it between them. Cllr. Cronin asked what timeframe is involved in this process.**

**Mr. L. Quinlan stated that the Memorandum of Understanding and Protocols agreed with Irish Water set out clear timeframes. Subject to the agreement of Irish Water, this estate will be in the next tranche of estates to be advertised to be taken in charge.**

**10. Cllr. B. Cronin:** To request that the lights at Greenfields, Furies adjacent to the public road and footpath be taken over by Kerry County Council and turned on as soon as the Bond works are completed.

**Reply:** The financial institution, with whom the relevant planning bond is in place, has arranged to secure the completion of this estate and significant works have been carried out to date. However, to date no valid application has been received from the residents in respect of the taking in charge of this estate. On receipt of a valid application, it will be processed in accordance with our signed Memorandum of Understanding with Irish Water and the Council's Policy on Taking in Charge of Housing Estates.

It is Council policy not to take responsibility for public lighting in housing estates prior to their taking in charge i.e. until they declared to be public roads in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, though this is currently under review in our Public Lighting Policy to be considered by Council in May. However, subject to their certification as part of the above works, we do propose to power up and maintain the public lighting erected as part of the development along the road frontage of the estate with the main public road through Firies Village.

**Cllr. B. Cronin stated that this has been a long and protracted campaign. Substantial work has been carried out here but the main issue is lighting. Cllr. Cronin referred to the reply that stated "*However, to date no valid application has been received from the residents in respect of the taking in charge of this estate.*". Cllr. Cronin stated that the residents were unable to apply because outstanding works are being carried out. The issue with the Bond money is that it cannot be used to turn on lights or pay outstanding bills. Cllr. Cronin asked if Kerry County Council look at the situation where lighting along the front of the estate will be taken over.**

**Mr. L. Quinlan referred Cllr. Cronin to the last sentence in the reply where the Council propose to power up and maintain the public lighting along the road frontage of the estate.**

**Cllr. Cronin appreciated the reply and said this was a positive step.**

**11. Cllr. B. Cronin:** What is the update on the provision of a proper pedestrian crossing for Firies Village and Firies National School. Are the results of the recent survey available?

**Reply:** The report on the recent pedestrian survey at Firies is currently being compiled. On completion, the results of the survey will be made available. If the survey indicates that a controlled pedestrian crossing is required, an application for funding will be prepared.

However, to increase safety for the vulnerable road user at this location, the Killarney Municipal District intend to erect two number school flashing warning signs either side of the junction. Furthermore it is intended to erect a speed detector sign on the Farranfore side of the School junction.

**Cllr. B. Cronin stated that Mr. D. Doyle and Ms. B. Mulryan visited the location and were given clear details of the concerns of the Principal, the Board of Management and the Parents' Association.**

**Ms. B. Mulryan stated that the delivery of the flashing lights is expected shortly so they should be installed within the next 7 - 10 days and a speed indicator sign would be located on the Farranfore side of the Village.**

**Cllr. B. Cronin said there was no adequate forewarning there so this was good news. Cllr. Cronin enquired when the pedestrian survey will be made available.**

**Mr. P. Neary replied that it was hoped that the results would be available by the end of the week.**

**12. Cllr. B. Cronin:** As the halting site at Brennan's Glen is totally unsuitable and unsafe for inhabitants, can Kerry County Council follow up on my previous requests to remove the contents of the site and permanently close it.

**Reply:** The emergency accommodation facility at Brennan's Glen is required on an ongoing basis to deal statutorily with emergency housing needs as they arise. In this regard, it has been outlined previously that closure of this facility could only be facilitated if an alternative emergency accommodation location was available as an alternative. A full assessment of the present facility at Brennan's Glen will be undertaken and we will revert to the next MD meeting with this assessment considering the matters as raised by Councillor Cronin.

**Cllr. B. Cronin stated that he had examined the halting site and it is totally unfit for any human habitation. Cllr. Cronin Proposed before that it is a lethal area to have emergency accommodation on a National Primary route and Proposed that it be closed down as it is not safe.**

**Cllr. M. Gleeson Seconded the Motion.**

**13. Cllr. B. Cronin:** What progress has been made on previous requests I have made to acquire land to provide a footpath from Whitebridge Manor to join the current path towards the Cork Road (N22).

**Reply:** Agreement in principle has been reached with the two adjoining landowners. A design is currently being attended to. A cost estimate for this works, the land acquisition and the accommodation works is being prepared.

**Cllr. B. Cronin enquired what was the timeframe involved here. It is hugely important that the footpath is provided. People are coming out of Whitebridge and have to get off the footpath, walk on the main road before getting on the footpath again.**

**Mr. P. Neary replied that the design and costings will be completed in a matter of weeks. There has been no increase in the Municipal District footpath budget for 2016 so it will have to be reviewed where a funding source will come from. Mr. Neary confirmed that one landowner has signed up and was confident that the other landowner is in agreement.**

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty Seconded the Motion.**

**14. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** That this Council give a commitment to re-surfacing the extremely uneven surface in Scartaglin Village.

**Reply:** Scartaglin Village is to be resurfaced under the Restoration Maintenance Programme 2016.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty welcomed the reply.**

**15. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** As there are a number of gaps in the wall on the right side of the road beyond Dinis Car Park on the way to Ladies View, I call on this Council to replace these sections of wall, and also to ask an Engineer to survey some of the rock on the left side at this location, as one or two of the rocks appear unstable.

**Reply:** The wall in question is located on the N71 National Secondary Route. This wall acts as both a retaining structure for the road and an edge protection for the road user. A structural survey needs to be carried out on this wall and the stability of the rock cut on the opposite side of the road. This project will be discussed with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Inspector for Kerry with a view to attaining funding for the structural survey and any associated works.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty said this was a serious situation and he had inspected the site with Mr. P. Neary. There is a huge drop-off of 6 - 8 metres where there is no wall. This needs to be given serious consideration. There is also one rock on the opposite side of the road that looks very loose and needs to be looked at as a matter of urgency.**

**Mr. P. Neary said that the wall repair could be costly as it is part of the retaining structure for the road. Mr. D. Doyle will raise the issue with the TII Inspector at their next meeting. Mr. Neary thanked Cllr. Culloty for bringing this matter to his attention.**

**16. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** To call on this Council to set out a schedule of works, consisting of replacing the poor standard of kerbing, paving and footpaths in Killarney. At present, many of these are very shabby, and in some cases dangerous.

**Reply:** There is no specific funding included in the 2016 Killarney Municipal District Works plan for the upgrade of Footpaths in Killarney Town. The majority of Grant funding is allocated for Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance works and this funding can only be used for road improvement works. As outlined at the adoption of the Operational Service Plan Adoption Meeting, grant allocations for the maintenance and improvement of local roads has reduced by 50% since 2007, this includes the Discretionary Maintenance Grant. The Discretionary Maintenance Grant, together with own resources funding, is used for general maintenance works to the local roads including pothole repair, patching, drainage works, bridge works and some footpath maintenance.

We will examine the feasibility of providing some funding from our own maintenance budget for targeted footpath repairs and improvements and revert to you at the next meeting. The upgrade of footpaths is also suitable for the Councillor Specific Municipal District Fund.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty said that a walk through the area would highlight the main problem areas.**

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that when the Municipal District was being established, he had said at that time that the problem with footpaths was the biggest issue. It is time we adopted a 5 - 6 year policy to deal with footpaths. They are a huge part of the tourism product as walking has become very popular.**

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty noted the reduction in grants of 50%. The reduction is having a huge impact on areas like Castleisland. We need more staff on the ground as the existing staff cannot get to the jobs in time. This is a huge problem.**

**17. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** As all indications suggest that this year will be one of the busiest ever for traffic in Killarney, and thankfully this trend seems set to continue, I call on this Council, to as a matter of urgency, determine if a road from Castlough to the Cork Road would be a viable option, in reducing traffic on the Muckross Road. Could the Members be presented with any previous plans for this proposed route?

**Reply:** On December 2<sup>nd</sup> last, Transport Infrastructure Ireland was notified of the Notice of Motion passed by the Council requesting the prioritisation of this project and also requesting the provision of funding for it. The TII replied that as the Lissyviggeen to Castlough Scheme is not included in those projects which have been identified for development during the period of Building on Recovery - Infrastructure and Capital Development 2016 - 2022, it *"has no plans to progress same at present"*.

Following on from this, Kerry County Council met with TII and secured agreement to proceed with the preparation of a new Feasibility Report on the scheme. This report is to establish the viability of the scheme as a standalone scheme.

The report will update previous work done on the project and will include an analysis of the effect of the substantial increases in traffic in the general area over the past years, including traffic on nearby Mill Road and Muckross Road serving Moll's Gap.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated that this will be a particularly busy year for tourism. Hoteliers are moving away from bus tours so as a consequence, there will be more cars on the road. This will lead to serious problems with traffic in the town. Cllr. Culloty stated that the standalone scheme would be a huge help and needs to be investigated as soon as possible.**

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae moved Notice of Motion No. 19 at this stage.**

**19. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** That we the Members of the Killarney Municipal Area ask that in light of the recent negative response from the Department regarding Danny Healy-Rae's motion asking that the link road at Castlough to Lissavigeen be built that Kerry County Council make a stronger case to the Department outlining all the relevant needs . gridlock on the Mill Road; all the Moll's Gap traffic going to all other parts of the County and country.

**Reply:** On December 2<sup>nd</sup> last, Transport Infrastructure Ireland was notified of the Notice of Motion passed by the Council requesting the prioritisation of this project and also requesting the provision of funding for it. The TII replied that as the Lissavigeen to Castlough Scheme is not included in those projects which have been identified for development during the period of Building on Recovery - Infrastructure and Capital Development 2016 - 2022, it *"has no plans to progress same at present"*.

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The report will update previous work done on the project and will include an analysis of the effect of the substantial increases in traffic in the general area over the past years, including traffic on nearby Mill Road and Muckross Road serving Moll's Gap.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that she was glad to see that this was a standalone project and informed the Members that she has an item on the Agenda requesting approval to bring in a deputation from the residents of this area to the next Killarney Municipal District meeting.**

**Cllr. B. Cronin stated that the TII has said no to capital development. Substantial money was spent on the proposals to build a road from Farranfore to Lissivigeen and it was never progressed. A link road will not solve everything. The four buses will still want to go into the centre of the town.**

**Cllr. M. Gleeson referred to the Killarney - Farranfore Scheme that had been deferred by the NRA.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that the TII have requested the Kerry National Road Design Office to examine the feasibility of Muckross Road to Lissivigeen as a stand alone scheme.**

**18. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** To ask this Council to investigate the site on the Park Road with a view to providing a public car park.

**Reply:** A planning permission notice has been published in the local papers which suggest a planning application is imminent for this site.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated that if planning permission was not granted, will Kerry County Council take a look at this.**

**19. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** NoM 19 was moved in conjunction with NoM No 17.

**20. Cllr. D. Grady:** That we, Kerry County Council, enter talks with the two property owners at the back of Dunnes Stores with a view to connecting a road that leads to Monsignor O'Flaherty Road exiting at the top of High Street.

**Reply:** Malachy Walsh and Partners have examined the potential benefit of constructing this scheme as part of the Traffic Management Study for the Town of Killarney. The draft Traffic Management Study is nearly complete and it is hoped to make a presentation on the outcomes of the study to the members at the next Municipal District Meeting.

If the Traffic Management Study indicates that there is a benefit to constructing this scheme, the scheme can be progressed subject to available funding.

**Cllr. D. Grady requested that the Council commence negotiations with the two landowners. Acquiring the land here would free up traffic in New Street.**

**Mr. P. Neary confirmed he will contact the relevant landowners.**

**21. Cllr. D. Grady:** That we, Kerry County Council, would provide public lighting at Ballydribbeen from the bridge to the Celtic Field in the interest of public safety.

**Reply:** Currently due to the constraints on maintaining the existing public lighting network, including increasing energy costs, the Council has not been in a position to fund the provision of additional lighting to the public network, except in exceptional circumstances. In recent years the taking in charge of housing estates has increased our public lighting costs and there will be additional costs with the proposed taking in charge of other estates in the coming years.

Under the provisions of EU Directive 2006/32/EC and S.I. No. 542/2009 - European Communities (Energy End-use Efficiency and Energy Services) Regulations 2009, Kerry County Council is also required to make substantial reductions in energy consumption, including on public lighting. This will necessitate substantial investment in either retrofitting our existing public lighting network with more efficient lighting equipment and/or restricting the provision of new lights on the existing network.

This is an issue that needs to be further examined in the context of the limited funding available for the provision of all services, and the needs of the community.

Any request to provide additional public lighting in the Ballydribbeen area, will need to be assessed as part of the Public Lighting Policy, which has been

developed through the Operations SPC and will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption at the May Council meeting.

**Cllr. D. Grady said that 1,200 children are accessing the Legion and Celtic Grounds and requested that the Council look at installing at least 5 lights in the interest of safety. This is an exceptional situation.**

**Mr. P. Neary replied that the Operations SPC will be bringing a Public Lighting Policy before the Council for consideration at the May Meeting.**

**22. Cllr. D. Grady:** That we, Kerry County Council, would write to the appropriate authority to have the speed limit from Raheen School into Killarney reduced to 80 km/h.

**Reply:** All proposed Speed Limit changes will be recorded and considered as part of the present ongoing Speed Limit Review. The Speed Limit Review commenced in 2015 and will take 26 months to complete, having regard to statutory timeframes and extensive consultations.

**Cllr. D. Grady referred to his Notice of Motion which should have read "60 km/h" and apologised for this error. Cllr. Grady said that traffic is speeding on this road and asked that the speed limit be reduced to 60 km/h.**

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae Seconded the Motion and referred to the response that it will take 26 months to complete the review. Cllr. Healy-Rae stated that all that was needed here were a couple of signs.**

**23. Cllr. D. Grady:** That we, Kerry County Council, would overlay the streets in Killarney that are in need of repair and not with tar and chip but with the tarring machine.

**Reply:** Having regard to the damage caused to roads, particularly by the severe weather, some roads in Killarney were repaired using the Durapatcher. However, where roads have a tarmacked surface, particularly the National Secondary network through the town, we will liaise with the TII for a pavement overlay.

**Cllr. D. Grady stated that using tar and chip in this tourist town was never used before. This needs to be reviewed urgently.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that the recent severe weather caused a lot of damage and the most cost effective way to repair this is with the Durapatcher.**

**24. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** That Kerry County Council prioritise the relocating of the pedestrian crossing at Port Road, Killarney.

**Reply:** The relocation of this pedestrian crossing is a very worthy project. This pedestrian crossing is located on the N71 National Secondary Road. A



layout for the new pedestrian crossing will be designed, costed and submitted to the TII for approval.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan said that this is a very serious situation. Cars are parking everywhere. The issue was first raised by a carer at the Kerry Parents & Friends facility. The carer was taking a patient to the National Park and on their return she arrived at the pedestrian crossing and steered the wheelchair into a space between 2 cars and waited for the lights to change. Her line of vision was obstructed by the parked cars. When the carer got the "green light" to cross, she pushed the wheelchair onto the road but an oncoming car failed to stop at the red light and drove straight through the crossing. The carer and her patient were physically unhurt but very shaken and upset after the event. This is a serious situation. Cllr. Sheahan requested that the crossing be moved forwards as soon as possible.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that he had spoken to the TII Inspector on the matter. It will need to be designed and costed but the Council will proceed with the project and it is envisaged that the design would be prepared in the next 6 weeks.**

**25. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** That Kerry County Council prioritise the L7052 Road at Lisnagrove, Headford, for resurfacing. This road is rapidly deteriorating due to the large volume of Heavy Trucks travelling from a local quarry.

**Reply:** The L-7053 leading from the N72 towards the Quarries at Lisnagrove, Headford is to be resurfaced under the Restoration Maintenance Programme 2016.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan welcomed the reply.**

**26. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** That Kerry County Council give a commitment to sweep the full length of Ross Road to Ross Castle on a weekly basis.

**Reply:** Ross Road is currently swept on a six week rota basis. It will be swept every three weeks for the months of June, July and August. It is not possible to sweep on a weekly basis due to the high demand on the sweeper within the Killarney Municipal District.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan stated that he thought this road should be swept more regularly than this.**

**27. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** That Kerry County Council apply to TII to install a 50km/h speed zone on N22 at Beaufort Bridge.

**Reply:** All proposed Speed Limit changes will be recorded and considered as part of the present ongoing Speed Limit review.

Any proposed change to a Speed Limit on the National Roads will require the approval of TII.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan said this was a very serious issue. Motorists are coming off the bridge very fast. A local business owner said that the traffic driving at speed is having an effect on his business and he needs safe access to same. Cllr. Sheahan asked if the Council would erect a few signs asking motorists to slow down.**

**Mr. P. Neary said he would review the matter.**

**(c) Questions**

**1. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** As the first turn on the N22 outbound from Barraduff towards Killarney [from the 50Kph westwards] is extremely uneven and dangerous. Can the Council and TII do whatever is necessary to make it safer for all road users?

**Reply:** These ~~lags~~ on the N72 outside Barraduff will be repaired in 2016.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson hoped that the Council would be in a position to resolve this situation as it is extremely dangerous.**

**2. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** Has a source of funding been identified to allow for the development of at least one footpath from Páirc Chuimín to the Kilcummin Village as the safety of all road users and particularly of children should make the footpath an urgent priority?

**Reply:** Discussions have taken place with adjoining landowners in regard to finalising the land acquisition required for this footpath. The cost of constructing the project and acquiring the land exceeds the development levy available for these works. However the Killarney Municipal District intends to finalise the land acquisition process for this scheme. The additional funding required can be levied on future planning approvals in this area. There are currently two live planning applications for development in this area.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson hoped that the discussions with the landowners would proceed to a fruitful conclusion as soon as possible.**

**3. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** Has the Council definitively determined that a public light at the junction of the N22 and the L.3015 at Curraglass will not be countenanced despite my commitment to allocate from my Councillor's Allocation towards its provision?

**Reply:** Currently due to the constraints on maintaining the existing public lighting network, including increasing energy costs, the Council has not been in a position to fund the provision of additional lighting to the public network, except in exceptional circumstances. In recent years the taking in charge of housing estates has increased our public lighting costs and there will be additional costs with the proposed taking in charge of other estates in the coming years.

Under the provisions of EU Directive 2006/32/EC and S.I. No. 542/2009 - European Communities (Energy End-use Efficiency and Energy Services)

Regulations 2009, Kerry County Council is also required to make substantial reductions in energy consumption, including on public lighting. This will necessitate substantial investment in either retrofitting our existing public lighting network with more efficient lighting equipment and/or restricting the provision of new lights on the existing network.

This is an issue that needs to be further examined in the context of the limited funding available for the provision of all services, and the needs of the community.

Any request to provide additional public lighting at Curraglass, will need to be assessed as part of the Public Lighting Policy, which has been developed through the Operations SPC and will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption at the May Council meeting.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that he will continue his commitment to allocate funds from his Councillor's Allocation towards its provision.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that the Public Lighting Policy will come before the Members at the May Council Meeting for consideration.**

**4. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** Have appropriate safety measures been determined for the village of Barraduff particularly to ensure the safety of road users accessing the N22 from Upper Barraduff and Shronedarragh?

**Reply:** The Operational Service Delivery Plan has recently been adopted by Kerry County Council. The design requirements for the County are currently being assessed and prioritised. This scheme forms part of this assessment and it is intended to complete the design for these works in 2016. Subsequent to the design of this scheme, the works will be prioritised and costed. An application for funding will then be forwarded to the TII for grant approval.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that coming from the Barraduff side into the village, past the old school, that the junction is very dangerous. Cllr. Gleeson asked that the matter be resolved as the local people are very concerned. It is also a very difficult junction for visitors unacquainted with it.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that the TII Safety Officer has requested that a design be prepared and costed for this location.**

**5. Cllr. B. Cronin:** When will the allocated works of " 35,000 be carried out at Boulia Junction, Furies?

**Reply:** Killarney Municipal District is scheduled to carry out its road strengthening programme in June / July 2016. The overlay works at Boolia will be completed during this timeframe. Lining and signing works will be carried out immediately thereafter.

**Cllr. B. Cronin welcomed the reply. It is a dangerous junction and the road surface needs to be repaired.**

**6. Cllr. B. Cronin:** What proposals have the Roads Department put forward to my February Motion regarding the one-way system on New Road, Killarney?

**Reply:** Further to the Notice of Motion from the previous meeting, the Killarney Municipal District has met with the Garda Authorities on this matter. The Garda Authorities have been patrolling this area on a regular basis to ensure there is compliance with the one way system. Furthermore the Gardaí have requested that some further measures be put in place during the operation of the one way system such as an automated barrier at the Port Road exit. The cost of the provision of these further measures are currently being estimated. These further measure would be subject to the required funding and the approval of this Municipal District to a Section 38 public consultation process.

**Cllr. B. Cronin stated that motorists are still driving against the one-way system and noted that the Gardaí were monitoring the situation. Cllr. Cronin asked that the Council revert with a costing for an automated barrier. This road is lethally dangerous and he has heard two reports of cars driving against the traffic going up on the footpaths. If a solution is not found, someone will be killed.**

**7. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** When will the roadside bank which collapsed near the Grotto in Tureencahill be replaced?

**Reply:** Funding for these works were received as part of the Severe Weather Allocation received from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport. The roadside bank on the L-3013 at Tooreencahill will be replaced in 2016.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty noted the reply and requested that this work be carried out as soon as possible.**

**8. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** What is the current position regarding my previous request for Visitor Signage Displays at various positions in Killarney town?

**Reply:** The type of information signage that would be appropriate for Killarney Town is currently being examined. It is intended to procure some signage prior to the summer season.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty asked the Council to look at signage options in other towns that work well and are practical.**

**9. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** When will the culvert at Tullig, Castleisland, be replaced?

**Reply:** Malone OqRegan McGillycuddy has been appointed as the Consultants for the works. This appointment was necessary due to the design of this project involving foundation design for the culvert. Temporary

works will have to be designed such as river diversions and excavation support due to adjacent properties. The properties adjacent to the works require structural surveys. A competent Project Supervisor for the Design Stage is required to oversee the design of the project.

The consultant is currently preparing the required contract / tender documents and will advertise for tender shortly. The construction is likely to commence in late May / early June.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty enquired if it was being done with trenches being dug?**

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that the people in Tullig will be flooded and asked if the River Maine could be cleaned out.**

**10. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** Will this Council place tarmac on the limestone footpath at Tullig, Castleisland?

**Reply:** There is no available funding in the 2016 Roadworks Programme for these footpath works. We will examine the feasibility of providing some funding from our own maintenance budget for targeted footpath repairs and improvements and revert to you at the next meeting. The upgrade of footpaths is also suitable for the Councillor Specific Municipal District Fund.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty asked if the cost for this work was available.**

**Mr. B. Mulhern stated that €11,000 has been allocated for this work from the Councillor Specific Municipal District Operations Fund. If this is increased to €24,000, the Council would improve a section of footpath. Works will be carried out to the value of the Councillors' allocation received.**

**11. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** To ask this Council would it consider opening an entrance on Mission Road, close to the bottle bank, which would allow vehicles enter the Beech Road car park?

**Reply:** Mission Road is a National Secondary Route and this request will have to be approved by the TII in the first instance. This proposal will be discussed with the TII and if their approval is forthcoming an Entrance Only access will be designed.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty acknowledged the reply.**

**12. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** To ask Kerry County Council what progress has been made with the provision of speed ramps or traffic calming for O'Sullivan's Place, Killarney.

**Reply:** A number of speed and pedestrian surveys are to be carried out within Killarney town. It is envisaged that this will be completed in Quarter 2. The results of this survey will be presented to the Members.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae asked the Council to consult with the residents in relation to this study. This road is being used as a shortcut.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that in any event, a Traffic Calming Scheme would have to go out to public consultation initially at which stage, the residents would be provided with an opportunity to comment on the recommendations.**

**13. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** To ask Kerry County Council and the NRA to rectify the unevenness at the Minish Railway Crossing before someone is killed or seriously injured.

**Reply:** Kerry County Council are currently in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Iarnród Éireann in relation to the uneven surface on the N22 at Minish Level Crossing. The Council hope to carry out works in 2016 to resolve the issue.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae asked that a commitment be given on this matter.**

**Mr. P. Neary replied that discussions must take place with Irish Rail in relation to the most appropriate time to carry out this work as a result of line closure.**

**Cllr. M. Gleeson asked if the works could be carried out before the summer.**

**Cllr. Healy-Rae asked that the Members be kept informed on the matter.**

**14. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** To ask Kerry County Council what progress has been made with the provision of LED lights in Gneeveguilla and Rathmore, the previous Council was promised that this would happen in 2015.

**Reply:** There is no immediate plans to upgrade the lighting in Gneeveguilla and Rathmore. However plans are being developed through the TII for safety measures in Rathmore, which may provide for upgrading of a number of lights through the Town.

Furthermore, the upgrading of public lights in the county to LED is being considered as part of the overall public lighting policy developed by the Operations SPC, which will be presented to Council at the May meeting.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae said this issue has been ongoing since 2009. Cllr. Danny Healy-Rae had deputations in at previous Killarney Meetings on the matter.**

**A new Public Lighting Policy is due to come before the Members for adoption in May.**

**15. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** To ask Kerry County Council and the NRA or TII what improvements are to be carried out to prevent future fatalities at the bad bend at Rusheenbeg, Glenflesk.

**Reply:** An application for funding for the extension of the crash barrier at this location was forwarded to the TII in 2015 for grant approval. No grant monies have been forthcoming to date for this project.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that the reply was disappointing. There have been five fatalities at this location. The camber of the road is incorrect and the Gardaí have agreed. The crash barrier is a minor issue.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that the camber of the road is to National standards. Mr. Neary stated that a submission for funding had been forwarded to the TII.**

**16. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** To ask Kerry County Council what improvements will be done to the road surface adjacent to the cinema on the Railway Road, Killarney as it is now in a very bad state.

**Reply:** There is " 34,000 of funding available under the Restoration Improvement Programme to surface this roadway (East Avenue Roadway) in 2017, meanwhile the roadway will be maintained as appropriate. A proposal to carry out some works at this location in 2016 will be presented to the members.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae noted the reply.**

**17. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** Following the grant of " 25,000 from the emergency funding, when will the much needed work on the bridges at Glenflesk be carried out.

**Reply:** The removal of the built up material at the bridges in Glenflesk will take place between June and August when conditions are more favourable.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae asked how far beyond the bridge would be cleaned?**

**Mr. P. Neary replied that the eye of the bridge would be cleaned.**

**18. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** Has the Traffic Management Plan for Killarney been determined to deal with the heavy traffic and will a roundabout be provided at the top of High Street as part of the Plan.

**Reply:** The Draft Traffic Management Study is nearly complete and it is hoped to make a presentation to the Elected Members on the outcome of the study at the next Municipal District meeting.

It is unlikely that a roundabout will be recommended for the High Street Junction. Roundabouts in town centre environments do not cater for the vulnerable road user.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that the situation at present is not alleviating the traffic build-up.**

**Mr. P. Neary replied that the Traffic Management Plan was nearing completion and it is hoped it will be available for the next Municipal District Meeting. Options for High Street will be included in this report.**

**19. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** What progress has been made with the request for the provision of public lighting at Poulgorm Bridge where the junction for Kilgarvan intersects with the N22.

**Reply:** This has been previously raised with the TII who is responsible for safety measures on the National routes but no funding has been approved. We will liaise with the TII again on the matter.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that there was a high incidence of crashes at this location. The two bollards are too far apart.**

**Mr. P. Neary replied that the NRDO had previously inspected these bollards and was satisfied with their positioning. Mr. Neary agreed to discuss the matter with the TII again.**

**20. Cllr. D. Grady:** Update on road overlaying of Scartaglin Village.

**Reply:** Scartaglin Village is to be resurfaced under the Restoration Maintenance Programme 2016.

**Cllr. D. Grady welcomed the reply.**

**21. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** To ask Kerry County Council to prioritise the repair of the dangerous lag on the road down at the end of Ross Road on the approach to Ross Castle.

**Reply:** The lags at the lower end of Ross Road will be repaired at the end of Q2.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan stated that the road is sinking on the right hand side on the way down Ross Road on the approach to Ross Castle.**

**Mr. K. O'Halloran replied that all the sub-layers on the road are in perfect condition but the top layer has worn away from the hooves of the horses. The Council are looking at getting a basalt chip which is hoped will slow down the wearing process.**

**22. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** To ask Kerry County Council if the survey has been carried out, so that works can proceed to have a pedestrian crossing installed on the Woodlawn Road.

**Reply:** This survey has been carried out. A report is currently being compiled and based on the results of this survey it will be determined whether a pedestrian crossing is warranted.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan welcomed the reply.**



**23. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** To ask Kerry County Council if progress has been made pertaining to acquiring a small section of road at Mangerton Road, Killarney.

**Reply:** The National Parks and Wildlife have been approached in relation to acquiring a section of ground to widen the roadway at this location on the Mangerton Road. We are awaiting their response.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan asked if any feedback had been received from the NPWS.**

**Ms. B. Mulryan replied that no response has been forthcoming to date but agreed to contact them again.**

**Cllr. Sheahan asked that the matter be pursued until a section of ground is secured.**

**24. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** To ask Kerry County Council how are negotiations proceeding regarding the dredging of the Gweestin River at Ballyhar?

**Reply:** Severe weather funding is available for carrying out some works adjacent to Ballyhar Bridge. Discussions are currently ongoing with an adjoining landowner in regard to gaining access to the adjoining lands.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan stated that this landowner needs to be contacted. The homes of the people in Ballyhar are being flooded. This river needs to be dredged and the OPW should revert to us on the matter.**

**Mr. P. Neary stated that some works will be carried out around the bridge. The Council will engage with the OPW regarding dredging the river.**

**25. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** To ask Kerry County Council when will works commence to install new paths at Holy Cross Cemetery Kilcummin.

**Reply:** Kerry County Council expect to commence installing some new paths at Holy Cross Cemetery, Kilcummin during the summer months of 2016.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan welcomed the reply.**

**26. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** To ask Kerry County Council when will works commence to build the wall at the old Kilcummin Cemetery.

**Reply:** The work to construct the extension to Old Kilcummin Burial Ground has been put out to tender. It is anticipated that the wall will be constructed during the summer months of 2016.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan welcomed the reply.**

**27. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** To ask Kerry County Council to call on TII to make Glenflesk Village a 60km/h speed zone.

**Reply:** All proposed Speed Limit changes will be recorded and considered as part of the present ongoing Speed Limit Review.

Any proposed change to a Speed Limit on the National Roads will require the approval of TII.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan hoped that this speed limit would be reduced. The people in this area are particularly concerned.**

**28. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** To ask Kerry County Council to call on TII and Irish Rail to provide the funding so that works can proceed on the Railway Crossing on N22 at Minish, Killarney.

**Reply:** Kerry County Council are currently in consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Iarnród Éireann in relation to the uneven surface on the N22 at Minish Level Crossing. The Council hope to carry out works in 2016 to resolve the issue.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan acknowledged that the matter had been addressed earlier in response to a previous Question.**

#### **16.04.13.08 Motions / Questions relevant to other Directorates or issues not relevant to Kerry County Council business**

##### **(a) Notices of Motion**

**1. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** That we, the Members of the Killarney Municipal District, express our support that staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service only, continue to organise and undertake the culling of deer in Killarney National Park.

**Reply:** This is a matter for consideration by the Members.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated that in the 1960s, the Red Deer were almost extinct. The National Park did a great job in taking care of them. Cllr. Culloty stated he is concerned that outside people would be employed to cull the deer. The National Park and Wildlife Service have the necessary expertise to cull the deer.**

**2. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** While the Pretty Polly site is a valuable asset, owned by this Council, it also has a considerable annual cost, so for this reason I ask whatever decision is being considered, that it would be concluded with due haste and that all Members would be kept informed of same.

**Reply:** Kerry County Council has commenced internal consultation for the Part 8 Planning Process and preparation of the required AA and EIA Screening Reports to demolish the former Pretty Polly building.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated that this building was creating a cost to the Council and welcomed the report in relation to demolishing same.**

**Ms. A. McAllen stated that the internal consultation for the Part 8 process has commenced and agreed to revert with the timeline.**

**3. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** That we the members of Killarney Municipal Area ask the Government and the Department of the Environment to do something about the excessive cost of car insurance, especially for young drivers, who cannot afford the savage cost to insure their cars to take them to work.

**Reply:** This is a matter for consideration by the Members.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that the cost of car insurance is a huge issue. Cllr. Healy-Rae referred to a person who had a HDip and as part of his course had to drive to a school to carry out his teaching placement. This person was required to drop out of his course because he could not afford his car insurance to drive to the school. These issues need to be highlighted.**

**Cllr. D. Grady Seconded the Motion.**

**4. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** That Kerry County Council ask the National Parks and Wildlife Service to allow the Jarveys down inside the wall parallel to the Mission Road.

**Reply:** This is a matter for consideration by the Members.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae stated that traffic is a huge issue and this would help alleviate the problem.**

**Cllr. D. Grady Seconded the Motion and stated that this was an important proposal and would help assist with traffic flow.**

**5. Cllr. M. Healy-Rae:** That Kerry County Council again ask the HSE to return the lands with St. Finian's back to Kerry County Council.

**Reply:** A meeting has been requested with the Estates Section of the HSE to discuss possible use of HSE lands and buildings by the Local Authority. The campus at St. Finian's is one of the locations that could be discussed at this meeting.

**Cllr. M. Healy-Rae asked that the issue relating to St. Finian's be discussed with the HSE.**

**6. Cllr. J. Sheahan:** To ask this Council what is happening with the Arás Phádraig. There are many groups in our community who require a facility such as this and we are still in the dark as to what the future holds for this amenity.

**Reply:** Kerry County Council are currently seeking sources of funding for the refurbishment of the Áras Pádraig Building. The acquisition will be concluded once the necessary funding has been secured.

**Cllr. J. Sheahan noted the reply. There are many organisations who have nowhere to go as they cannot afford the high rents. People are hoping that something positive will happen with this building.**

**(b) Questions**

**1. Cllr. M. Gleeson:** Has the Council made any meaningful progress in consultation with the owners towards maximising the potential of the Milk Market from the perspectives of [a] improving Town Centre traffic flow, [b] parking and [c] business development?

**Reply:** This matter is currently under review by the Municipal District Officer and will provide any update at the next Municipal District Meeting.

**Cllr. M. Gleeson requested Management to pursue this vigorously with a view to reaching a satisfactory conclusion.**

**2. Cllr. J.J. Culloty:** When can we expect the purchase of Áras Phádraig to be completed?

**Reply:** Kerry County Council are currently seeking sources of funding for the refurbishment of the Áras Padraig Building. The acquisition will be concluded once the necessary funding has been secured.

**Cllr. J.J. Culloty said there was a great need for a facility like this in the town.**

**16.04.13.09 To consider request for the reception of the following deputation:**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J.J. Culloty, SECONDED Cllr. D. Grady, it was agreed to receive a deputation regarding provision of a link road from Castlough/Muckross to Lissivigeen.

**16.04.13.10 To consider requests for hosting the following receptions:**

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, Seconded by Cllr. D. Grady it was agreed that a reception would be held to honour The Team and Mentors of St. Brendan's College Football Team, Killarney on winning the All-Ireland Colleges Football Final.

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that it was important that the reception for St. Brendan's College Football Team be held before the Leaving Certificate commenced and suggested that an evening in May would be preferable.

- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. J.J. Culloty, it was agreed that a reception would be held to honour Spa GAA Club, Killarney Figure Dancing Team who won the All-Ireland Scór Final.

#### **16.04.13.11 To agree a date for the holding of the next Killarney Municipal District Meeting**

Cllr. B. O'Connell stated that as the next Killarney Municipal District Meeting will be his last as Cathaoirleach, that it be held in his hometown of Castleisland.

It was agreed the next Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Killarney will be held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in Castleisland.

It was further agreed that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Killarney would be held at 10.45am on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in the Council Chambers, Tralee.

#### **16.04.13.12 Correspondence**

It was agreed to note the following correspondence which was circulated.

1.	Letter dated 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2016 from Mr Ray Mitchell, Health Service Executive, Parliamentary Affairs Division regarding provision of full-time GP for Rathmore.
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#### **16.04.13.13 Any Other Business**

##### **Invitation from Kendal Town Council**

Mr. G. O'Brien addressed the Members and stated that the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. B. O'Connell had received an invitation from Kendal Town Council to attend their Annual Meeting on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Cllr. J.J. Culloty, in his capacity as Chair of the Twinning Committee, has also been invited to attend.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty stated that there was a possibility that he would not be able to attend as he would be Chairing a Health Forum on that day.

Mr. O'Brien stated that this matter would be brought before the next Full Council Meeting for formal approval.

##### **Mossie's Turn and Stagmount Junction**

Mr. P. Curry addressed the Members and outlined the Council's plans for road improvement works at Mossie's Turn and Stagmount Junction. Mr. Curry produced a map detailing the proposed route.

There are a series of bends at Mossie's Turn and the Council are at present looking at a long-term solution to this issue. These proposals will require a Part 8 process and land acquisition.

Mr. Curry advised the TII had allocated funding in 2016 for further Safety Improvements to the existing road. The works include the provision of safety barriers if a small plot of land can be acquired.

The meeting concluded at 1.05pm.

**L. Quinlan**  
**L. Quinlan**  
**Meetings Administrator**

**Cllr. B. O'Connell**  
**Cathaoirleach of Killarney MD**