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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TRALEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ÁRAS AN CHONTAE TRALEE ON MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2014.**

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH THRÁ LÍ A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN LUAN 3ú SAMHAIN 2014**

**PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR**

***Councillors/Comhairleoirí***

P. Daly	N. Foley	T. McEllistrim
T. Ferris	S. Locke	T. O'Brien
J. Finucane	P. McCarthy	G. Spring

***In attendance/i láthair***

Mr. C O'Sullivan	Delegated Executive for the MD of Tralee
Mr. G O'Brien	Meetings Administrator
Mr. J Kennelly	A/SE
Mr. F Hartnett	SEE
Mr. C Lynch	EE
Mr. J Fitzgerald	EE
Mr. B Mulhern	A/EE
Mr. A Harty	AE
Mr. L Quinlan	SEO
Ms. H. Switzer	AO
Ms. M Galvin	CO

The meeting commenced at 10.50am.

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**14.11.03.01 Acknowledgement of the Home to Rome Cycle Challenge**

It was agreed by the Members that this matter would be dealt with first.

Cllr. P. Daly welcomed the Home to Rome group. He had proposed that the group be invited to the Tralee Municipal District Meeting to mark their great achievement.

Cllr. J. Finucane wished to echo Cllr. Daly's sentiments. He welcomed (name withheld for data protection purposes) and his colleagues to the Chambers. He complimented the group on the huge fundraising effort undertaken on behalf of cancer groups. A journey of 2,000km was completed by cyclists from the 32 Counties of Ireland inspired by the story of Donal Walsh. Cancer impacts on the entire family. Research work undertaken by various cancer groups is very beneficial. This gives people dealing with cancer some hope. This acknowledgement was to pay due recognition to the group - it was a huge achievement by all involved.

(Name withheld for data protection purposes) was presented with a scroll to mark the occasion.

(Name withheld for data protection purposes) thanked those present on behalf of the cyclists and the team. The group never thought that they would receive this recognition. It was a great journey. Money was raised for the Kerry Hospice and different cancer facilities. He wished to thank (Name withheld for data protection purposes) for their support. The "Live Life" message gave hope for people. He wished to thank everyone who was involved in the cycle.

(Name withheld for data protection purposes) who organised the event addressed the meeting. He came up with the Home to Rome idea early last year. He was approached by (name withheld for data protection purposes) who wanted to partake and the idea grew from there. Moving 30 people through France, the Alps and Italy in extreme heat and crossing hills and mountains was a logistical nightmare. Arriving in Rome was amazing. The group cycled up the main street on the approach to The Vatican. Irish TV captured the event which will be shown on television during Christmas. It was a very emotional journey. The group carried a scroll with Donal Walsh's message. His wife, (name withheld for data protection purposes), came up with the idea. In ancient times messages were delivered on scrolls in Latin. Donal's message was translated into Latin by the Papal Nuncio and was delivered to the Vatican. The group raised " 170,000 for 24 different cancer groups.

#### **14.11.03.02 Presentation by Tralee Chamber Alliance - Mr Kieran Ruttledge**

It was agreed by the Members that this matter would be dealt with next.

Mr Kieran Ruttledge gave a presentation to the Members on the activities of Tralee Chamber Alliance.

The following points were discussed following the presentation:

- Mr Ruttledge stated that the Alliance was criticised during its first two years as it was thought to be too tourism focused. They are now making a special effort to change their focus to growing new business. Unemployment in Tralee was a big concern.

- The Chamber Alliance had an alternative suggestion for the use of the disused steam train which they propose to discuss in the future with the Members.
- Denny site -this facility has huge potential for Tralee and its residents.
- Traffic Management Plan for the town. Some people had expressed concern. The idea of pedestrianisation and shared space was a good one.
- The slow down of business in the pubs in the town was a concern.
- Town centre is also affected by the growth in online trading.
- Parking is the No. 1 issue for businesses in the town.
- Kerry Technology Park - ownership issues need to be sorted.
- Working on twinning opportunities with Yangzhou (population of 4.2m). The Chinese wish to offer something different to Chinese visitors who only visit Dublin and European Capital Cities. We need to bring them to Tralee and Kerry. Also twinned with Westlake, Ohio.
- The Chamber is planning a "get to know you" event through the Kerryman's Association in London.
- Mr Rutledge wished to pay tribute to the 6 people working on their team. They are all employed through a CE Scheme on a part-time basis. The team are all very enthusiastic and dedicated.
- It was also acknowledged that (name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request) who owned their office building, does not charge Tralee Chamber Alliance any rental costs.

Mr Rutledge concluded his presentation by thanking the Members for their continued support.

Cllr. Pat McCarthy thanked Mr Rutledge for his presentation. He stated that people didn't realise what the Alliance has done for Tralee. This should be publicised. Cllr. McCarthy asked if the Chamber would see any assistance being gained from the Department of the Diaspora. He asked if this connection could be exploited more. Cllr. McCarthy also asked if there was potential to provide direct flights from Farranfore to the two cities of Yangzhou and Westlake.

Cllr. Pa Daly thanked Mr. Rutledge. He commended the Chamber's "Shop Local" campaign and commended provision of the Tourism Kiosk in the Town Centre. He shared Mr Rutledge's concerns regarding the Town Centre, in particular, the rents being charged by landlords. He suggested that an emphasis on hill walking and cycling on the Wild Atlantic Way in Kerry should be promoted. Cllr Daly queried the Chamber's lobbying regarding increasing the Local Property Tax. Cllr Daly stated that the Property Tax should be lowered, not raised. Cllr Daly concluded by stating that in general, the Chamber's work was hugely positive.

Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris concurred with Cllr. Pa Daly in relation to the Chamber's request to increase Property Tax. Why was this decision made? Cllr. Ferris complimented the Chamber on the shopping voucher book that was produced last year. Cllr Ferris knew people who had used the vouchers. She asked that the Chamber look at the possibility of producing the same booklet this year. Cllr. Ferris stated that she was concerned in relation to the Chamber's job creation strategy. She recently looked at the Chamber's Employment section on their website. She stated that only low quality jobs were advertised. She stated

that companies were taking advantage of the Gateway Scheme and offering low paid jobs to people. She asked how could the Chamber support this type of employment. In relation to the Wild Atlantic Way, Cllr. Ferris agreed that Kerry should be seen as a "one-stop" destination. She suggested that the promotion of Kerry should centre on St. Brendan's story which would capture the imagination of people. St. Brendan had links with townlands from Ardfert to South Kerry. These links should be exploited.

Cllr. Sam Locke thanked Mr. Rutledge for his presentation and the work carried out by the Chamber. His main concern was the number of empty buildings in the town centre and the need to try and attract new business in. Cllr Locke recently heard that units in (details withheld for data protection purposes) were being provided rent and rate free for a period of time. Is the Chamber trying to attract business into this (details withheld for data protection purposes)? In relation to parking, Cllr. Locke stated that there were facilities for 2,000 cars. Unfortunately, we cannot change the mindset of people who wish to park their cars outside the doors of shops. He supported the initiative of free parking in the town for Christmas. He asked that the Diaspora be informed of what is available in this town. We need to reduce the rent and rates in the town. He stated that people are coming on board promoting the rent free facilities. Tralee Chamber Alliance should promote this. Cllr. Locke stated that he would assist the Chamber with this if they so wished.

Cllr. Terry O'Brien thanked Mr. Rutledge for an informative presentation. He stated that the promotion of Tralee as a tourist destination was a "hard sell" when compared to Killarney and Dingle. Tralee needs a vehicle like the Tralee Chamber Alliance. The Rose of Tralee Festival was vitally important to us and brings huge money to the town. Cllr. O'Brien also agreed that the rent situation was ridiculous in the town. He discussed the issue of free parking and stated that traders have asked that it be discontinued. Workers were taking advantage of the free parking and taking the spaces from 9am resulting in no turnover of traffic. He agreed that people like to park outside the shop door. He complimented the Chamber on the provision of the Tourist Kiosk. He stated that it was a positive that no rent was payable for their office. The town is gathering momentum - keep the town on the up.

Mr. Rutledge addressed the comments. In relation to the Diaspora, they have been of great assistance in making contacts. Minister Jimmy Deenihan invited people from America and the United Kingdom and as a result, received contacts from these people who are interested in Kerry and would like to see Tralee improve and develop. These people have offered their assistance and have agreed to distribute the Chamber's brochure.

In relation to parking in the town, Mr Rutledge appreciated Cllr. O'Brien's comments. He agreed that he would not favour all day free parking but did agree with providing it from 1.00pm to 6.00pm as was done last year.

Mr. Rutledge referred to Cllr. Locke's discussion in relation to (details withheld for data protection purposes). The Chamber had suggested to the owner to create an indoor market. The Chamber is not in a position to help these people financially. They spoke to the people involved in Tralee Farmers' Market and asked if they would be interested in going indoors but they like to move from place to place. They are not interested in 5 days

per week. He agreed there were a lot of empty shops in Tralee and the rents were high. Kerry County Council have kept their rates low - landlords must play their part.

In relation to job creation, the Chamber have met with the IDA, who have said that what we have in Tralee is a largely unskilled workforce or skilled only in the construction industry. There are no construction jobs available. There are people who previously worked in factories. At present, Kerry Technology Park have 50 available positions. They will be undertaking a recruitment drive over Christmas. It is very difficult to get skilled people in the technology industry. People are going where the salaries are. We need to change the training situation we have. Training at the Institute of Technology, Tralee should be for the available jobs.

Cllr. Ferris stated that in relation to the Tralee Municipal District Fund, she would support an initiative where a "virtual Tralee" would compete for internet shopping. She asked that this idea be explored by the Chamber.

Cllr. Norma Foley stated that Cllr. Graham Spring and herself had recently been appointed to the Board of Tralee Chamber Alliance. A major emphasis should be placed on the promotion aspect of the town. A move towards investment was needed. Cllr Foley stated that she was in favour of free parking in the town.

Cllr. O'Brien reiterated his comment that we need to be careful when providing free parking.

#### **14.11.03.03 Confirmation of the Minutes**

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. T. O'Brien SECONDED by Cllr. S. Locke it was agreed that the Minutes of the Tralee Municipal District Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be confirmed.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. T. O'Brien SECONDED by Cllr. N. Foley it was agreed that the Minutes of Meeting of the Members of the Municipal District of Tralee to consider and adopt a Draft Budgetary Plan for the Municipal District of Tralee held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be confirmed.

Following on from last month's Minutes, Cllr. Daly asked if a response had been received from the County Board in relation to the usage of the Austin Stack Park in Tralee.

Mr. Ger O'Brien stated that no response had been received to date.

Cllr. Jim Finucane congratulated the Austin Stacks Football Team on winning the County Final on Sunday. He wished the team well when they meet Ballincollig in the Munster Club Semi-Finals on Sunday week.

**14.11.03.04 To note update report from the Sustainable Communities / Quality of Life Directorate**

It was agreed to note the following report which was circulated:

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

**October 2014**

**Library Service Report**

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

Kerry Library has published 2 guides to support the recently expanded Classroom Novels Collection . (i) a 36 page catalogue listing each book in the collection, organised alphabetically and coded using 11 different subject icons which will allow teachers to choose titles based on subject as well as age appropriate material. (ii) a short guide simply listing each book in the collection.

Copies of the guides will be issued to all primary schools in the county, both electronically & in hard copy.

Primary school teachers may borrow a set of each title free of charge for a 1 month period.

**Community Services and Engagement Report for November 2014**

***Business Unit Manager – Mr Michael Scannell, Senior Executive Officer***

**Local Community Development Committee**

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for this afternoon 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The meeting will consider the Committees role in developing a Leader Strategy for the County and the preparation of the Local Economic & Community Plan in Conjunction with Kerry County Council.

The tenders in respect of the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme have issued and completed Tenders are must be received by 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

**Public Participation Network**

Preparations for the establishment of the PPN continued with registration up to 30<sup>th</sup> September. A number of information meetings were held throughout the county including Tralee detailing the role of the PPN and particularly its functions in relation to the selection of community members for the SPCs, JPC and ultimately for the permanent membership of the LCDC. The meeting to agree nominations for the SPCs & JPCs is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> November in Tralee

## **Pride of Place/Community Awards/Tidy Town Awards**

The national adjudication of the Pride of Place is scheduled for Ennis on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Kerry has four representatives, with the Mitchels Boherbee community Regeneration project from the Tralee Municipal District.

The Community Awards were held in Killarney in the past month and were a huge success showcasing the many voluntary groups in the county. Congratulations to all who took part.

The Tralee Tidy Towns Awards also took place recently and the achievements of the year were acknowledged and the various community and business awards presented .

## **Emergency Services Report**

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

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

- July and August have been moderately active, with a typical Summer months pattern for Kerry. Road Traffic Accidents have been the notable feature.

### **Fire Safety and Prevention:**

- The annual licensing season is well under way without outstanding issues to date.
- The busy Summer schedule of crowd events has passed off without serious adversity to date.

### **Building Control:**

- The first completions of building projects taking place under the new Building Control Regulations of 2014 are beginning to come through. The national Building Control Management System (an online system) has just completed the development of the software to manage the processes associated with the certification and registration of compliant project completions.

### **Civil Defence:**

- Kerry Civil Defence was widely perceived to have led the VES sector excellently for the Ring of Kerry Cycle. Favourable comment included correspondence from the Director-General of the CD Organisation
- The usual provision of leadership and resources, particularly with the implementation of Event Medical Plans, continued with the major Summer crowd events in Killorglin and Tralee
- Recruitment, progression and the training of new and existing volunteer members is ongoing along with participation in Regional CD activities



**Major Emergency Management:**

- Regional participation has been ongoing in Steering and Working Groups and in various sub-groups.

**Housing/Social Services Report for September 2014**

***Business Unit Manager – Mr Liam Quinlan , Senior Executive Officer***

**Activity Report**

- The housing activity report for the period is attached

## Social Housing Activity Report at 20th October 2014

### Tralee Municipal Area (T.M.A.)

#### Social Housing Applicants

Accommodation offers made for property located within Municipal Area	37
New Tenancies Commenced	30
Accommodation refusals	7

#### Social Houses

##### Vacant properties within Municipal Area

Under/awaiting Repair (excl those subject to major refurbishment)	54
Awaiting Allocation	9

##### Construction Programme

Single Rural Dwellings - Transfer Stage	1
Single Rural Dwellings - under construction	0
Extensions - applications on hands	0
Extensions - under construction	0

#### Rental Accommodation Scheme

	<u>County</u>	<u>T.M.A.</u>
Total Active Tenancies	795	393
	(incl. 94 Voluntary)	(incl. 28 Voluntary)
New tenancies in 2014	84	36
Tenancies terminated in 2014	26	10

#### Availability Agreements

	<u>County</u>	<u>T.M.A.</u>
Leased Properties	40	1
Leases under negotiation	4	1

#### Leasing

	<u>County</u>	<u>T.M.A.</u>
Leased Properties	18	3
Leases under negotiation	4	1

#### Housing Adaptation Grants (County Wide)

	<u>No.</u>	<u>"</u>
Revised Allocation 2014		2.039m
New Grants Allocated 2014	360	2.044m
Total 2014 Commitment		2.383m
Grants Paid	222	1.247m

Mr. Ger O'Brien stated that following on from a discussion at the previous meeting, it had been agreed that going forward, staff dealing with the administration and policy side of Housing would be present at all Municipal District Meetings.

Cllr. N. Foley referred to the insulation of houses in the Tralee area and in particular, a specific estate where the residents had received letters last April stating that their houses would be upgraded. No work has been carried out to date. What is the current position?

Mr. Frank Hartnett agreed that he would investigate the matter and revert to Cllr. Foley.

Cllr. T. Ferris referred to a housing tenant who was in RAS accommodation. There were problems with the accommodation and through no fault of their own, this person had to be transferred to another property. The tenant was required to sign a form from the Housing Department agreeing that they were adequately housed and therefore had no requirement to remain on the housing list. Cllr. Ferris was aware that any tenant offered RAS accommodation after April 2011 would be removed from the housing list. However the case she made was that the tenant was compelled to leave the accommodation and therefore this requirement should have been waived and therefore should be allowed to remain on the housing list.

Cllr. Ferris also enquired about applications for extensions to Local Authority housing. Some people are waiting 3 - 5 years with really compelling circumstances. People need to be given a realistic viewpoint of where they stand.

Mr. Liam Quinlan first responded to Cllr. Ferris' query regarding the RAS tenant. He agreed if it was the case that the first offer of accommodation was prior to April 2011 and if she had no alternative but to transfer to alternative RAS accommodation, then she should be allowed remain on the housing list. He asked Cllr. Ferris to give him the details and he would revert on same.

Mr. Quinlan referred to extensions to Council houses. Funding of " 331,000 had recently been received from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government for adaptation of Council houses for people with disabilities. This money must be spent before the end of November. Due to the late notification of the funding and the requirement to have the works executed in a short timeframe in order to drawdown the funding, it was decided to use this funding to carry out minor adaptation works which would result in a significant positive impact on the mobility of the tenant, e.g. level access showers, ramps etc. Mr Quinlan accepted that there were a significant number of tenants seeking extensions and advised that he has assigned an Investigating Officer to review all applications on hands in order

to prioritise these applications having regard to medical and other circumstances and to determine if there were alternative options available e.g. transfer or social leasing. Separate to the DoECLG allocation advised above, Mr. Quinlan advised that it is intended to proceed with a small number of extensions utilising surplus internal capital receipts.

Cllr. Sam Locke stated that the provision of railings and ramps was not going to assist people on the waiting list who were waiting for extensions.

Mr. Quinlan replied that this funding has given leeway to utilise a certain amount of internal capital receipts which otherwise would have to be used.

Cllr. Locke replied that 8 weeks was not long enough to use this money.

Mr. Quinlan agreed that the timeframe was short due to the late notification of the funding by the DoECLG.

Cllr. P. Daly asked if there was any funding available for buying houses in a Local Authority estate where the client wants to sell their house back to the Council.

Mr. Quinlan replied that some funding was made available by the DoECLG for acquisitions to meet the needs of people with a disability. However, more generally we wouldn't prioritise the purchase of ex-Council dwellings over other dwellings on the market.

#### **14.11.03.05 Operations, Health & Safety Directorate**

(a) It was agreed to note the following report which was circulated:

##### **1. Reorganisation Project**

**The following staff are based at the Kerry County Council Tralee Municipal District Operations Office at Prince's Quay (former Tralee Town Hall)**

**Frank Hartnett** Senior Executive Engineer

**Siobhan Horgan** . Senior Administrator

##### **Area Engineers:**

- **John Fitzgerald** (Roads and Environmental)
- **Colm Lynch** (Roads and Environmental)
- **Aidan Harty** (Housing)

All staff assigned to the Tralee Municipal District Operations Office are now in place. Transfer of Staff to new offices was completed by end July 2014

## 2. Road Works Programme for November

<b>Town</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads Programme . Overlay Contracts complete;</li> <li>• Footpaths renewal by contractor commenced at: Connolly Park Bungalows, Clash Road, Marian Park;</li> <li>• Footpath renewal ongoing at Mitchels Road;</li> <li>• Landscaping works ongoing at Strand Road Roundabout and at Castlemaine Road Park ;</li> <li>• Sewer works commenced at Knockmoyle;</li> <li>• Ongoing maintenance of Green Areas</li> </ul>
<b>Tralee Municipal District East</b>	<p><b><u>Restoration Improvement &amp; Maintenance:</u></b></p> <p>All restoration improvement &amp; maintenance projects within the Tralee East Area are now complete.</p> <p><b>Works at the following locations within the Tralee Municipal District from 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N23 Castleisland-Farranfore Road . Bituminous Overlay (500m)</li> <li>• Local Road Bridge Maintenance</li> <li>• CCA Works</li> <li>• National Primary Maintenance (Skirting &amp; Drainage Works)</li> </ul>
<b>Tralee Municipal District West</b>	<p><b>Restoration Improvement &amp; Restoration Maintenance Programmes completed.</b></p> <p><b>Works at the following locations within the Tralee Municipal District from 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tralee to Fenit Amenity Trail (Edward Street to Rock Street, Tralee)</li> <li>• Storm Damage Remedial Works (Fenit &amp; Cockleshell)</li> <li>• Development Levy Contribution Works</li> <li>• Regional &amp; Local Road Maintenance</li> </ul>

### 3. Housing

Insulation works under the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting scheme will be ongoing throughout November. The scheme includes attic, cavity wall and ventilation works to tenanted units.

Maintenance work is ongoing

Work will be undertaken to the following vacant units in November.

<b>Short-term voids</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No 33 Muing</li><li>• No 163 Connolly Park</li></ul>
<b>Long-term voids (Grant Funded)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No 143 Connolly Park</li><li>• No 104 Shanakill</li><li>• No 25 Casement Avenue</li><li>• No 183 Shanakill</li><li>• No 63 Shanakill</li><li>• No 64 Shanakill</li><li>• No 66 Shanakill</li><li>• No 68 Shanakill</li><li>• No 69 Shanakill</li><li>• No 18 Caherina Cottages</li><li>• No 169 Connolly Park</li></ul>

#### (b) Notices of Motion

**1. Cllr. J. Finucane:** That Kerry County Council, in conjunction with the OPW, would provide coach parking and a toilet facility on the green area across the road from the Cathedral in Ardfert. This development would make the Cathedral a far more attractive destination for visitors and coach operators.

**Reply:** Kerry County Council has no current funding for the provision of toilet facilities and additional coach parking in Ardfert. However, we have been advised that the local community have developed proposals which were recently presented to the OPW. We will consult with the local community group and the OPW on the feasibility of providing and operating these facilities, as well as available funding.

**Cllr. Finucane stated that the OPW visited the site recently. He stated that having an attraction with cultural significance and not providing toilets is detrimental. He welcomed the commitment given by the OPW.**

**Cllr. T. Ferris highlighted an issue whereby Kerry County Council has failed to respond to a local community group despite a commitment having been given to do so. The Municipal District Manager agreed to follow up this matter with the relevant Director of Service.**

**2. Cllr. T McEllistrim:** The bridge at Meenagaire, Knocknagoshel to be repaired as a matter of urgency in the interest of road user safety.

**Reply:** Local Road Bridge Maintenance funding is in place for the bridge on the L-6521 (Local Secondary Road) at Meenagaire, Knocknagoshel. The works will be completed by the end of December 2014.

**Cllr. McEllistrim welcomed this reply.**

**3. Cllr. N Foley:** That a very large pothole on the Short Mountain Road be repaired as a matter of urgency.

**Reply:** The large pothole on the L-6516 Short Mountain Road was patched last week.

**Cllr. McEllistrim welcomed this reply.**

**4. Cllr. N Foley:** That the footpath on St. Brendan's Road, Tralee be examined with a view to repair and resurfacing. There are some parts of the path that are seriously damaged and causing concern and risk for pedestrians and residents.

**Reply:** Remedial works to the footpath/open area on the R556 St. Brendan's Road, Tralee were completed last week.

**Cllr Foley asked if a full job was carried out.**

**Mr. John Fitzgerald replied that this was a "patching" job. A watermain is to be laid from Mulchinock's to St. Brendan's Park soon. This work needs to be completed first.**

**5. Cllr. N Foley:** Some residents have raised concern with the speed on the road from the former Locke's shop (Kevin Barry's) to the roundabout. Could same be examined with a view to taking the necessary action to curtail speed.

**Reply:** The distance involved is approximately 300m . there are 3 No. ramps along the section of road already. Further traffic calming measures at this location are deemed unnecessary. As agreed at the last Council meeting, it is proposed to develop a policy in relation to traffic calming in housing estates through the Operations SPC and this can be considered further if a policy is agreed by Council.

**Cllr. Foley stated that the ramps have reduced in height and the speed has increased.**

**Mr. Colm Lynch replied that the ramps were now at the required specification height. Initially they were higher than they should have been.**

**Cllr. Foley stated that the residents had a legitimate concern regarding the speeding cars.**

**6. Cllr. N Foley:** That the issue of water ponding at Old Golf Links, Oakpark, Tralee be addressed as a matter of urgency.

**Reply:** Ponding is an issue at the end of the cul-de-sac at Old Golf Links Road; a gully will be installed in the near future.

**Cllr. Foley welcomed the reply.**

**7. Cllr. N Foley:** That the road surface in Lisbeg, Oakpark be upgraded and the junction be examined so as to improve safety for the residents.

**Reply:** The road surface at Lisbeg will be considered for funding in the 2015 Roads Programme; improvements to the junction are required to restore the profile to the road.

**Cllr. Foley acknowledged the reply.**

**8. Cllr. N Foley:** The hedges on the Short Mountain road be cut as a matter of urgency as this is causing serious issues for drivers.

**Reply:** The issue of hedges along the L-6516 Short Mountain Road will be referred to Sean Barry, Roads Enforcement Officer, to investigate and appropriate action can be taken having regard to our current policy.

**Cllr. Foley acknowledged the reply.**

**9. Cllr. G Spring:** That a decision is made regarding free parking in Tralee for the Christmas shoppers and that it is announced through the local media as soon as possible.

**Reply:** It was agreed at the September meeting of the Tralee Municipal District that the parking arrangements in the lead up to Christmas 2013 will be honoured again for 2014. Therefore parking will be free, both on-street and in the Council run car parks, from 1pm until 6pm, Monday to Sunday, from Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 to Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, both dates inclusive.



**Cllr. N. Foley's Question No. 1 was dealt with in conjunction with Cllr. Spring's Notice of Motion.**

**Mr. Charlie O'Sullivan stated that a commitment was given that arrangements previously in place with the Town Council would be honoured. It has been agreed that free parking will be provided from 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> December between the hours of 1.00pm - 6.00pm. This will cover the Christmas shopping and sales period. We need to work with Tralee Chamber Alliance and the business community.**

**Mr. J. Fitzgerald stated that it was important that we create this attractive environment for shoppers.**

**Cllr. G. Spring enquired if a media campaign would be initiated.**

**Mr. C. O'Sullivan confirmed that this would commence shortly.**

**10. Cllr. T. McEllistrim:** Sign for Ballymacelligott is bigger at the Castleisland side of Ballydwyer Junction, it should be bigger and at the Tralee side too. Also, cut the trees near signs.

**Reply:** The signage indicating Ballymacelligott on the approaches to Ballydwyer Junction along the N21 are the same size and are in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual. We will examine the sight visibility at the junction.

**Cllr. T. McEllistrim stated that people pass this sign without realising it. The business community in the locality have asked for a larger sign. The trees on the Castleisland side need to be cut back.**

**11. Cllr. T. McEllistrim:** Sign for St. Brendan's Church at Ballydwyer Junction should be changed to St. Brendan's Church, Clogher.

**Reply:** There are a number of signs in place, including finger post signs, indicating St. Brendan's Church on both the N21 and the L-2054 (Old N21). The Tralee Municipal District Operations Department does not propose the installation of replacement signs.

**Cllr. McEllistrim stated that St. Brendan's Church was known locally as Clogher Church. He asked if Clogher Church could be added to the sign. There are two Catholic and two Church of Ireland churches in the parish which adds to the confusion.**

**Mr. J. Fitzgerald stated that this signage was on the National Road. They were not authorised to put a townland name on any of these signs as this was part of the NRA policy on National routes.**

**Cllr. McEllistrim asked that this policy should be looked at.**

**Mr. Fitzgerald agreed to liaise with the National Road Design Office who would discuss the matter with the NRA.**

**12. Cllr. T. McEllistrim:** To paint white lines (floating island) at Ballydwyer Junction.

**Reply:** There is a Right-Hand Turning Lane and a Left Turning Slip-Lane in place at the N21 Ballydwyer Junction. The Tralee Municipal District Operations Department does not propose any amendments to the line-marking layout.

**Cllr. McEllistrim stated that the Motion actually referred to re-painting the existing lines on the road as they had faded. He asked that the white and yellow lines be repainted.**

**13. Cllr. T. McEllistrim:** To erect a Ballymacelligott sign at the three approach roads to the Old Creamery in Ballymacelligott.

**Reply:** The old creamery is located within the Townland of Ballydwyer East and the installation of village/town type signs would not be appropriate as per the Traffic Signs Manual.

**Cllr. McEllistrim stated that on entering most villages and towns, a sign indicates the location. From a business person's perspective, a "Ballymacelligott" sign is required.**

**Mr. J. Fitzgerald referred to the Traffic Signs Manual which gives the locations of urban centres, i.e. a village or a town. Technically Ballymacelligott is a townland of Ballydwyer East and is not considered an urban centre. The Manual must be complied with.**

**Cllr. McEllistrim asked if a Ballydwyer sign could be erected.**

**Mr. Fitzgerald will follow up on this.**

**14. Cllr. T. McEllistrim:** To erect a public light to light up the junction at Ballydwyer.

**Reply:** This junction is located on the N21 Tralee to Castleisland road. It is the policy of the NRA not to provide lighting at rural junctions on the national road network, save where such provision is required and satisfies national guidelines for a traffic calming scheme.

**Cllr. McEllistrim noted the reply.**

**15. Cllr. T. McEllistrim:** To erect public lights to light up the crossroads at the Old Creamery, Ballymacelligott.

**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 also increased our public lighting costs.

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. I recommend that a full evaluation of the financial and social implications be examined by the Operations Strategic Policy Committee, and a policy developed for consideration by Council.

**Cllr. McEllistrim stated that extra lighting was needed at this location.**

**Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated that the provision of public lighting must be reviewed with the Operations SPC. The Council is facing difficulties in relation to increasing energy costs and each Local Authority has an obligation to reduce its energy consumption costs by 20% by 2020. At present, no funding is available for new public lighting. There are numerous developments on the outskirts of towns and villages. To keep energy costs down, we need energy efficient lighting which is more costly to install. We also need to be mindful of locations like South Kerry which are included in the Dark Sky Reserve.**

**16. Cllr. T. McEllistrim:** To erect a public light outside (details with Directorate), Ballydwyer.

**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 also increased our public lighting costs.

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. I recommend that a full evaluation of the financial and social implications be examined by the Operations Strategic Policy Committee, and a policy developed for consideration by Council.

**Cllr. McEllistrim acknowledged this reply.**

**(c) Questions**

**1. Cllr. N Foley:** What plans are in place with regard to free Christmas parking in Tralee.

**Reply:** It was agreed at the September meeting of the Tralee Municipal District that the parking arrangements in the lead up to Christmas 2013 will be honoured again for 2014. Therefore parking will be free, both on-street and in the Council run carparks, from 1pm until 6pm, Monday to Sunday, from Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 to Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, both dates inclusive.

**This Question was discussed together with Cllr. G. Spring's Notice of Motion No. 9.**

**Cllr. Foley welcomed the free parking initiative for Christmas. She asked Management if they would be willing to allow all day free parking for the four Saturdays of December.**

**Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated that he was unable to give a firm commitment to this proposal. He stated that he would review the matter and revert to Cllr. Foley.**

**2. Cllr. N Foley:** What is the update on the removal of bins from the public area at the Abbey Car Park, Tralee.

**Reply:** Agreement has been reached with local traders to store bins in the Council sheds in the Abbey Car Park; the majority of the bins have now been removed from the car park.

**Cllr. Foley thanked the staff and acknowledged that there was a huge amount of work involved in this undertaking.**

**3. Cllr. N Foley:** Is there any update on management's deliberations on the new parking payment system by mobile phone texting, app etc as per previous motion at the October meeting.

**Reply:** There is a considerable volume of work involved in the development of this type of parking management system, including assessing IT systems,

parking machines, back office processing and evaluating systems provided by other third parties. Any evaluation of existing systems will also have to examine the potential benefits to customers and the cost implications for the Council. Such an assessment may also need to be considered on a county-wide basis to maximise efficiencies in delivering back office support. As previously stated this will be considered when we are developing our 2015 Work Programme, having regard to available resources, the overall Work Programme for the Department and the priorities of Council. We will be presenting our 2015 work programme to Council as part of the Municipal Area Service Delivery Plan, when full details of all funding are provided.

**Cllr. Foley asked if the report on this would be available in 2015.**

**Mr. C. O'Sullivan stated that they would be preparing the Work Programme for 2015 and this initiative will be considered as part of this Programme. Factors such as the resources to assign to it and other options available will be taken into consideration regarding this proposal. Comparing Tralee to Dublin City Council is not proportionate and DCC have a dedicated team assigned to this Unit, which generates very significant income from substantially higher parking fees.**

## **AOB**

### **Repair broken concrete**

Cllr. Pat McCarthy stated that across the way from Dunnes Stores on North Circular Road there were some trees that were surrounded by a concrete base. The concrete has broken and a woman recently fell at this location. Could the concrete be replaced by pebbles?

Mr. C. Lynch replied that the work involved was not excessive. He confirmed that the repairs would be carried out at the earliest opportunity.

### **Hedgecutting**

Cllr Pat McCarthy referred to hedgecutting and the problem where landowners do not comply with the hedgecutting notices. The landowners should be charged when the Council have to cut their hedges.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan asked that the names of the landowners be forwarded to Sean Barry who would follow up on same. He confirmed that the hedges could be cut between September and March. They can only be cut outside this period if the trees cause a traffic hazard.

Cllr. McCarthy stated that some landowners have not cut their hedges even though they are in receipt of 3 or 4 letters from the Council. What is the statutory period in which they have to comply with these notices? We need to follow through with this.

Mr. O'Sullivan agreed to follow the matter up with Sean Barry.

#### 14.11.03.06 Water Services Directorate

(a) It was agreed to note the following report which was circulated:

##### **Irish Water Capital Investment Programme 2014-2016**

Irish Water Capital Investment Programme 2014-2016 was launched in May. A total of 8 wastewater Schemes (total value of €10.7 million) and 7 Water schemes (total value of €24 million) in Kerry are included in the IW Capital Investment Programme. The schemes listed in the CIP which affect the Tralee Municipal District are outlined in the following tables:

<b><u>CIP TIONSCNAIMH SHOLÁTHAIR UISCE</u></b> <b><u>CIP WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS</u></b>			
<b>Tionscnamh Project</b>	<b>Stádas Status</b>		
Mains Rehabilitation Projects	Description	Value	Status
	Tralee Estates Mains Replacement Contract Works	" 1,835,000	Contractors Wills Bros. have commenced work on the replacement of Lead Distribution mains at St. Brendan's Park, Connolly Park, Riverside, Kerins Park, Lohercannon and Marian Park. The EPA has served a summons on Irish Water and KCC re non-compliance with a Direction on Lead mains in St. Brendan's Park. All cast iron / lead pipework in St. Brendan's Park is scheduled to be replaced by June 2015.

Central Regional Water Supply Scheme	Description	Value	Status
	Scart Reservoir, Farranfore	" 292,000	Construction completed and reservoir in operation.
	Lough Guitane Water Treatment Plant . Design, Build and Operate	" 2,250,000	Updating Tender documents to align with procurement requirements of Irish Water. Due diligence being carried out on all aspects of the design to-date; progress to Tender stage with a view to commencing construction by the end of the current CIP in 2016.

<b><u>CIP TIONSCNAIMH FUÍOLLUISCE</u></b> <b><u>CIP WASTEWATER PROJECTS</u></b>	
Tionscnamh Project	Stádas Status
Ardfert SS	Scheme included in Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme 2014 - 2016. Tender Documents for the contract submitted to Irish Water for review and updating to meet specifications of Irish Water. Application made to Irish Water to proceed to Tender stage. Business Case application also made for the inclusion, as Advance Works, of stormwater separation sewer.
Fenit SS	Scheme is included in Irish Water Capital Investment Programme 2014 - 2016. Contract Tender Documents have been submitted for review to Irish Water.

#### **Funding Priorities for Capital Projects**

Irish Water has indicated that it will prioritise funding for capital projects on the basis of key issues to be addressed. In water, priority will be given to schemes on a Boil Water Notice (BWN), on the EPA Remedial Action List (RAL) and/or on a legal Direction from the EPA. In wastewater, priority will be given to any town (agglomerations) on which there is an ECJ Ruling, and also on meeting the requirements of the EPA Discharge Licenses.

#### **Irish Water Minor Capital Programme 2014-2016**

Irish Water has also launched a Minor Capital Works Programme 2014. 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 Tralee Area is outlined in the following table:

<b>MINOR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME</b>			
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Status</b>
Castleisland SS - Church St Sewer	Replace collapsed length of sewer	" 3,500	Completed
Castleisland SS - Limerick Rd. Sewer	Replace collapsed length of sewer	" 4,500	Substantially completed
Fenit Sewerage Scheme	Replace 50m of sewer damaged by storms	" 25,400	Completed
Brosna Knocknagoshel WSS - Dooneen Res.	Provide Security Fencing	" 8,000	Requested
Dromultan Scartaglin Pumping Station	Lay pipe to eliminate pumping station	" 35,000	Requested
Brosna WSS - Meenleirim PH	Provide Underground Storage Tank	" 12,000	Requested
Lyreacrompane WTP - Sludge Treatment	Complete Sludge Treatment Plant	" 50,000	Underway
Lyreacrompane Water Supply	Install new Scour Valves and provide sampling points on existing scour-outs	" 17,000	Requested
Ballyheigue Water Supply	Refurbish Water Softener	" 7,000	Requested
Tralee Sewerage Scheme (Knockmoyle)	Lay 100m of dedicated 225mm diameter Storm pipe and manholes	" 14,000	Partly approved
Ardfert South Water Supply Scheme	Installation of 3no. PRVs and 9no. Air Valves	" 24,500	Underway
Tralee WWTP UV	UV Disinfection System upgrade	" 2,791	Underway
Castlemaine Road	Pump replacement and Upgrade of Control Panel	" 15,422	Approved
Castlemaine WW Tank	Pump replacement and Upgrade of Control Panel	" 11,848	Approved
Knockawaddra Pump House, CRWSS	Installation of inline booster pumps	" 18,300	Approved
Garryruth and Cloghers Sewage Pumping Stations	Provision of mobile electricity generator	" 20,000	Requested
Castleisland SS - Barrack Street Bridge	Reconfiguration of Existing River Crossing	" 45,000	Requested
Castleisland SS - Church Street Bridge	Reconfiguration of Existing River Crossing	" 45,000	Requested
Mulgrave Bridge Pumping Station	Upgrade PLC	" 6,224	Requested
<b>Total</b>		<b>€365,485</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 €906,600 has been allocated to Kerry County Council for the various measures under the Rural Water Programme in 2014. This includes grants of €625,100 for Group Water Supply Schemes and €281,500 for Group Sewerage Schemes.**



### **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. Pending the publication of this protocol, all Takeover applications are 'on hold'.

### **Group Water Supply Schemes**

Almost all the €625,100 grant for GWSSs is allocated towards the completion of ongoing upgrade works on existing schemes in other parts of the county.

### **Group Sewerage Schemes**

#### **General Background**

The DOECLG Grant for any proposed Group Sewerage Schemes (GSSs) was increased to €6,500 per house or 75% of the cost of the scheme, whichever is the lesser, in December 2012. The members of a proposed group scheme must contribute the balance of the initial capital / construction costs. It is also necessary that each GSS and Irish Water agree, in advance of the Scheme's construction, that Irish Water will take over that scheme on its satisfactory completion. Kerry County Council has discussed this with Irish Water and does not anticipate any difficulty in obtaining the consent of IW.

#### **Alderwood Road Group Sewerage Scheme**

This Road is located north east of Oakpark in Tralee. There are approx 100 houses on the route and a sewer line of approx 3.1 km is necessary. The DoEC&LG allocated €10,000 towards a feasibility study on the proposed connection of this district to the existing public sewer. There is a difficulty in that the existing sewer system 'downstream' is unable to cope with any proposed increase in sewage. The feasibility study is to investigate and quantify the works necessary on the existing system to accommodate the proposed Alderwood Road Group Scheme.

#### **Killeen Road Group Sewerage Scheme**

This proposed scheme is located off the Oakpark Road, Tralee and would involve the connection of seven existing houses. The design of the scheme is currently under review with the Group's engineer.

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

**1. Cllr. N Foley:** What is the up to date position regarding the replacement of pipes from the main to the stopcock in Árd na Lí, Old Golf Links and Liosdara Estates. Some estates in the area have already been completed.

**Reply:** A countywide list of all the cast iron mains with lead connections has been newly compiled by Kerry County Council following a desktop survey, and also using the data collected by the Irish Water's domestic metering contractors.

This list and accompanying location map have been submitted to Irish Water for consideration. The Árd na Lí, Old Golf Links and Liosdara Estates are included.

**Cllr. Foley asked when would a decision issue from Irish Water.**

**Mr. J. Kennelly stated that Irish Water are compiling a list of all cast iron mains for the entire country. The programme will run over 5 - 10 years. They are confirming same with the EPA at present.**

#### **14.11.03.07 Deputation from St. Brendan's Park, Tralee regarding lead levels in their water supply**

Mr. Ger O'Brien referred to the request from Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris that a deputation from the residents of St. Brendan's Park, Tralee would be received at the Tralee Municipal District Meeting. Mr. O'Brien stated that as approval to receive this deputation had not been granted at the last Municipal District Meeting, all the Members were in agreement. To comply with Standing Orders, at least half of the Members needed to be in favour of receiving the deputation.

Mr. J. Finucane welcomed the deputation to the Meeting.

(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request) addressed the Meeting. She asked Kerry County Council why "no drinking notices" were not issued to the residents of St. Brendan's Park. (Name withheld for data protection purposes) stated that there was an exceedance of lead in their water. The accepted EU level is 10 micrograms per litre. All the houses that have been tested in St. Brendan's Park have over 10 micrograms per litre in their water. A representative from Irish Water said it was up to the HSE to issue a "no drink notice". She stated that no one is taking responsibility for the issue. No one is listening to them. The residents called on Kerry County Council to issue a ban on the drinking water and provide an alternative water source.

(Name withheld for data protection purposes) addressed the meeting. He stated that this problem has been ongoing for 4 months and the residents are getting angrier. He called on the Members to take action as they voted for the Councillors to represent them. It is unfair to expect them to drink this water. They will pay for the water when the pipes are replaced. They need a water tanker in St. Brendan's Park.

Cllr. J. Finucane noted the residents frustration in dealing with a number of agencies. Cllr. Finucane stated that the HSE needed to declare the water unfit to consume.

Mr. J. Kennelly addressed the meeting. He stated that he wished to state clearly the role of Kerry County Council. Our function is working as agents of Irish Water in consultation with the HSE who advise on public health issues. A Service Level Agreement is in place and we are the agents and carry out work as instructed by Irish Water. The HSE are the only competent Authority to deal with matters of public health. If there is ever an exceedance in the water, we always seek and take the advice of the

HSE. Kerry County Council have no role in water charges. All matters of this nature must be directed to Irish Water.

Mr Kennelly stated that the Chief Executive asked that direct questions be issued to the HSE to clarify the situation. We asked whether every house in St. Brendan's Park should be tested and their answer was no.

The HSE advised us to issue a letter to each property highlighting the risks of drinking water containing lead. It is assumed other houses will have levels of lead. The replacement of pipes was the best way to deal with this problem. Lead plumbing in individual houses is also a problem too.

An alternative source of drinking water should be used for infants and pregnant women.

We have not received advice or instruction from the HSE or Irish Water to provide an alternative water source at this time. Advice letters will issue to all residents in the coming days.

Cllr. T. Ferris asked if the Local Authority could independently provide water tankers to the Park. She stated that the letter that was to issue was not of any benefit. Their water is not fit for human consumption. People feeding children with formula cannot use bottled water due to high levels of sodium and neither can they use the water containing lead. Why can't the Local Authority provide water out of compassion to these tax and rate payers?

Cllr. T. O'Brien welcomed the deputation. He stated that it was unfortunate that a decision on the matter could not be reached. He concurred with Cllr. Ferris in regard to the provision of a water tanker for the Park. The problem needs to be rectified.

Cllr. G. Spring concurred with his colleagues. He empathised with the residents. This matter needs to be discussed in an open forum. He had requested that a representative from Irish Water attend a meeting of Kerry County Council. He stated that a Senior Environmental Health Officer and HSE Official should also attend with a view to resolving the situation. He stated that he had moved a Notice of Motion at a previous meeting regarding Irish Water and the HSE. We need to wait and see what response we receive.

Cllr. S. Locke stated that it was a human right to have drinkable water in our homes. He concurred with the sentiments of the Members. We are the Public Representatives. We are asking Kerry County Council to take note. This product is not drinkable. We must supply drinkable water. The Executive must come on board with us and supply the Park with drinkable water this evening. The problem relating to lead piping is a national one which is not going to go away. These lead pipes were laid in the 1940s and 1950s. Now we are more educated. We can't wait for other bodies to come on board.

Cllr. P. McCarthy stated that the control had left Kerry County Council and gone to Irish Water. If a big freeze occurred and the water pipes were frozen, we would supply water tankers. Emergency steps must be taken. The Council should take the lead and not stand idly by. The residents have to go to other parts of the town or County for water. We should take the rap from other organisations and take the lead.

Cllr. N. Foley stated that we are completely disenfranchised when it comes to Irish Water. We are now agents of Irish Water. We must have some level of autonomy here. There is no light at the end of the tunnel for the residents. A letter is being issued acknowledging that the vast majority are exceeding the accepted limit. The HSE will not take the extra step to authorise a full ban. What is the exact technicality that prevents taking the last step to a full ban? Cllr Foley asked that we do something without Irish Water's permission. We represent these people. Let the residents know that Kerry County Council will provide a water supply.

Cllr. P. Daly supported the views of all the Councillors and Cllr. Ferris' request last month to provide an alternative water source as soon as possible. We should pass an emergency motion to ask the HSE why a "do not drink" notice is not issued. There are a number of other estates in Tralee with lead piping.

Cllr T. McEllistrim asked that representatives from Irish Water meet with the Councillors and listen to the residents. The pipes need to be replaced urgently. The Council should provide an alternative water source. The residents should not pay for the water until the matter is sorted.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated that only 15 houses had been tested. Does every house need an individual test?

Mr. J. Kennelly stated that the HSE said that it was not necessary. They are assuming that every house has the same issue. Irish Water will issue a letter. We will arrange a letter drop through our own staff. It is hoped the letter will issue in the next couple of days.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated that if the HSE say that it is not necessary to carry out testing in each house, then that is an admission from Irish Water there is a problem with the water.

Mr. J. Kennelly stated that when an exceedance exists, we always go to the HSE and always take their advice. We never second guess them. We will not go against the HSE's advice.

Cllr. N. Foley asked what was the step that prevented the HSE from issuing a full ban.

Mr. J. Kennelly stated that he wished to reiterate that he was not a representative for the HSE. He was informed that two aspects were at play. Firstly, there was insufficient scientific evidence from the HSE point of view. Secondly, if we impose a ban, the first thing we have to agree would be how to lift the ban.

The replacement of lead piping has started and it is hoped that this will finish by May 2015.

Cllr. P. McCarthy asked if the pipes were frozen due to frost, is there anything in the legislation that says we have to provide water.

Cllr. T. Ferris acknowledged that Mr. Kennelly was being put in a difficult position and that he couldn't answer on behalf of the HSE. Why can't the HSE issue a "do not drink" notice. Can we, independently of Irish Water provide water to the residents. Cllr Ferris stated that the Councillors would be willing to consider an allocation towards the supply of water from our Councillors' Allocation.

Cllr. G. Spring stated that the letter from Irish Water sounds like an insult. Residents are aware of the situation already.

Cllr. T. O'Brien asked can Kerry County Council provide a water source in St. Brendan's Park.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated that provided the letter goes out, can we get an assurance from Irish Water stating that the water is not fit for consumption and not charge the residents.

Cllr. S. Locke stated that everyone knows the water is unfit for consumption. A water tanker is needed now. We will provide the expenditure for same out of our Councillors' Allocation. We are demanding that this is in place.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan referred to Cllr. McCarthy's query regarding provision of water during severe weather and stated that this was a different situation as there would be no water available in this instance. Kerry County Council does not have the competency in this matter - this is a matter for the HSE. The HSE have not said the water is unfit. They are only advising of the risks to certain categories of consumers.

Cllr. T. Ferris asked can the water be provided for the categories that were deemed at risk.

Mr. J. Kennelly replied that this was not an option. The Council must adhere to the advice of the HSE. We also do not own the infrastructure any longer.

Cllr. T. Ferris PROPOSED the provision of a water tanker, SECONDED BY Cllr. S. Locke.

Cllr. J. Finucane requested that a meeting be held with the HSE in the afternoon.

Cllr. Ferris stated that if the HSE do not agree to a meeting, then a decision to put the tanker in place by tomorrow be made. She stated that it was a private supply to 300 households, not a public supply.

Cllr. J. Finucane stated that he would seek a meeting and revert to the Councillors.

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

**1. Cllr. G Spring:** That Kerry County Council write to Irish Water requesting a representative to attend Kerry County Council meeting to update Councillors on developments with the water supply to St. Brendan's Park, Tralee.

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

**This matter was dealt with in conjunction with the deputation from St. Brendan's Park.**

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

It was agreed that the next meeting of the members of the Municipal District of Tralee would be held on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Going forward, Members agreed that meetings would be held on a bi-monthly basis. If an urgent issue arose in between, a special meeting could be convened.

#### **14.11.03.10 Any Other Business**

##### **Rat Infestation at Marian Park**

Cllr. S. Locke referred to a problem regarding rat infestation in the areas of Boherbee / Mitchel's / Marian Park in the town. The problem was caused by dumping of waste and the overgrowth of weeds over a wall in the grounds of Kerry General Hospital. The HSE were asked to trim back the weeds 12 months ago and to date, nothing has been done. The weeds have gone out of control resulting in the escalation of rat infestation. Can Kerry General Hospital be contacted regarding the matter?

##### **Campervans at Rear of Ashe Memorial Hall**

Cllr. T. O'Brien discussed the problem where a certain number of campervans are being parked up at night at the rear of the Ashe Memorial Hall. These people are regular visitors and not tourists. Can anything be done to stop this? This group of people move around from place to place.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan agreed to look into the matter. The Parking Bye-Laws need to be reviewed for Tralee Town. The parking in Denny Street needs to be restructured. Mr. O'Sullivan stated that campervans were welcome in the town. This issue related to a small group who park overnight with an element of anti-social behaviour. Mr O'Sullivan will address the problem with the Roads Enforcement Officer.

##### **Tralee Golf Club**

Cllr. T. Ferris asked if there was any development regarding Tralee Golf Course and access to Barrow Beach via the Golf Club. Cllr. Ferris stated that the Golf Course were crossing Kerry County Council property during the last 2 - 3 weeks with heavy

machinery. She stated that as a gesture of goodwill, the Golf Course should afford the public the same courtesy as was shown by the Council in allowing access to their property.

Mr. G. O'Brien confirmed that a letter issued to the Golf Club. He agreed to follow up with the Manager of Tralee Golf Club.

The meeting concluded at 1.40pm.

**Gerard O'Brien**  
**A/SEO Corporate Affairs**

**Mayor of the Municipal District of Tralee**