

# **Kerry Local Authorities**

## **Údaráis Áitiúla Chiarraí**

### **Annual Report 2013**

#### **Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2013**



## **CONTENTS**

**Foreword by An Mhéara  
County Manager's Statement**

### **MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

#### **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Members of Kerry County Council  
Report on Council Meetings  
Report on Electoral Area Meetings  
Report on Corporate Policy Group & Strategic Policy Committees  
Membership of Boards/Committees  
Conferences Attended**

#### **DIRECTORS OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

**Director of Housing & Social Support  
Director of Roads, Transportation & Safety  
Director of Environmental Services  
Director of Water Services & Emergency Services  
Director of Economic Planning & Sustainable Development  
Director of Community, Culture & Recreation  
Director of Corporate Services**

#### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**Financial Management  
Efficiencies & Savings**

#### **REPORT FROM KERRY COUNTY ENTERPRISE BOARD**

**Kerry County Enterprise Board**

#### **REPORTS FROM THE TOWN COUNCILS**

**Tralee  
Killarney  
Listowel**

#### **NATIONAL SERVICE INDICATORS**

#### **CORPORATE PLAN REVIEW**

#### **CHAIRPERSONS/MAYORS OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **Foreword by An Méara**

As Mayor of Kerry I am delighted to introduce the 2013 Annual Report for Kerry County Council.

There is no doubt that the past 12 months have been significant in terms of the structure and future of Local Government in Ireland. Two areas in particular will cause a significant impact on the way local government operates, not only in Kerry, but throughout Ireland.

The establishment of Irish Water, which takes over responsibility for water and wastewater infrastructure from all local authorities from the start of 2014, marks a huge change in the manner in which water is managed and delivered in Kerry and in Ireland.

As a county with a significant reliance on agriculture and tourism, investment in a reliable water network is crucial, and I, along with my fellow elected members, local and national, will be fighting to ensure that Kerry's water network gets the investment it needs.

I also want to pay tribute to the staff of the Water Services Department, indoor and outdoor, clerical and technical, for their efforts. They will continue to play a crucial role in the delivery of clean, quality water as Kerry County Council will operate the water network on an agency basis for Irish Water.

The second area of change is the overhaul of the Local Government structure with the abolition of the Town Councils.

For decades the Town Councils have represented their areas with distinctions and have been crucial to the wellbeing and success of the urban areas around the country. In Kerry, the staff, management and elected members of Tralee, Killarney and Listowel Town Councils have worked relentlessly for the betterment of their respective towns and I think we can see the fruits of that labour over the years.

It will be a challenge for Kerry County Council to replicate that level of service, but it is a challenge that I am confident will be taken up.

Looking back over the past 12 months, the economic climate again continues to cast a dark shadow on our efforts to improve and promote Kerry at local, national and international level.

Nevertheless, we have seen some significant developments carried out throughout the year. The official opening of the €98m Tralee Bypass in August by Minister for Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan TD, will have a positive impact on access to Tralee town centre and will benefit businesses and residents of Tralee.

In addition, the opening of the N86 Annascaul to Gortbreagogue Road Improvement Scheme by Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Leo Varadkar TD in July, saw the beginning of a scheme that is crucially important to the Dingle Peninsula and tourism in the county. Unfortunately, we have had difficulties in the planning process for the remainder of this scheme, but hope that we will be in a position to further progress it.

Coming from the Dingle Peninsula, it gives me particular satisfaction to attend the official opening of this scheme as Mayor. Similarly, I was also proud to be wearing the Mayoral chain for the official opening of Phase 2 of the Dingle Inner Relief Road in September, by Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr Phil Hogan TD. This is a road that will greatly benefit traffic flow around Dingle town, particularly during the busy summer months and I look forward to the next phase being progressed.

We have also seen some significant improvements to the water supply, with Minister Hogan officially opening the Waterville Water & Wastewater treatment plants, while I was delighted to officially open the upgraded An Mhuiríoch – Baile Breac Water Supply in December, a supply which serves my own homeplace. As stated above though, we will need to exert all of our pressure to ensure this investment continues.

Tourism continues to be a key part of our economy, and Kerry County Council is working with local communities to ensure that we have a worthwhile product for our visitors, whether they come from near or far.

It is incumbent on us as a Council to work with the local communities to help them and together better this county. To this end, the work carried out by everybody on making The Gathering such a success was fantastic. I would like to thank everybody who helped organise over 200 events around Kerry in 2013, bring in thousands of extra visitors to the county.

It is efforts like these that will help this county overcome the challenges we face, working together and pushing forward in a positive manner.

Kerry County Council's staff and management, along with the elected members are working towards the same common goal, that of a better Kerry and will continue to do so. I would like to thank them for their efforts and their assistance to myself and my fellow councillors. With the abolition of the Town Councils, we will have six additional elected members after the local elections in 2014, but as a Council, we will continue to serve the people of Kerry and the county as best we can.

**Cllr Seamus Cosáí Fitzgerald**  
**Mayor of Kerry**

# County Manager's Statement

As Kerry County Manager, I present the 2013 Annual Report of Kerry Local Authorities.

The economic situation has again challenged Kerry County Council's ability to provide services to the people of the county. With restricted budgets and reductions in funding from central government, difficult decisions continue to be forced upon the management of Kerry County Council, with the emphasis continuing to be on the provision of our core services.

The coming year promises to be as challenging, with a number of changes to the funding model creating uncertainty in relation to the level of funding that Kerry County Council will be receiving as part of the Local Government Fund.

This is funding for services which are crucial to Kerry. Services such as our Emergency Services, roads funding, parks & playgrounds, street & beach cleaning, litter wardens, libraries, public lighting and many more. We must continue to work with our elected representatives at national level to ensure that Kerry receives adequate funding to carry out the essential services that this county requires.

However, while the impact of the recession is deep, Kerry has benefitted from investment in a number of infrastructural projects during 2013. The Mayor has spoken of the Tralee bypass and N86 Annascaul to Gortbreagogue road improvement projects. I share his hope that we can progress the N86 scheme between Camp & Dingle, which will provide a huge boost to Dingle Peninsula.

Additionally, I am hopeful that we will continue to see progress in the development of a bypass for Listowel Town, something that will greatly benefit Listowel and the greater North Kerry area.

As a County Council, we must always look to develop opportunities for this county and cannot simply rely on national bodies and organisations to promote this county at a global level.

As such, I have long seen the traditional St Patrick's weekend visit to America as an event that allows us to take advantage of this global celebration to meet with tourist and business interests, to promote our county and to try and open doors in relation to attracting visitors and business opportunities. We are continuing to work in this sphere and along with the Institute of Technology Tralee, have generated some excellent contacts in key sectors.

Additionally, over the past 12 months we have developed a relationship with the Chinese province of Zhejiang, and have welcomed senior officials from the Zhejiang province to Kerry, signing a memorandum of understanding to further develop our relationship. Areas where this relationship can be developed are in agriculture and education and I am certain that Kerry will benefit in the medium and long term.

We are also continuing to work with the local communities and with the national tourism bodies to develop the tourism product of this county.

In Valentia, the development of the Cromwell's Point Lighthouse as a tourism destination is a key example of the collaboration between the Council and the local communities. We are working to further this around the county

It would be remiss of me not to mention the changes in the structure of local government. The Mayor has already spoken of the establishment of Irish Water and the abolition of the Town Councils. Kerry County Council has served this county well as a water authority and we will continue to do so, on an agency basis for Irish Water. To the Town Councils, their staff and management and to the elected members of Tralee, Killarney and Listowel Town Councils, I want to express my admiration and gratitude for your efforts over the years.

As someone who has worked at Town Council level and also served as Killarney Town Council Manager, I have seen at close-up level the work that goes into serving the people of these towns and the dedication of staff and councillors, often within their own communities. Regardless of the structure, we will continue to work to promote these towns as key economy drivers for Kerry.

And it is partly as a result of the abolition of the Town Councils that we are making significant changes to the structure of Kerry County Council. The current structure has served this county well, but with certain functions being taken from local authorities and the emphasis of local authorities moving to other areas, I feel the time is right to look at the structures we currently operate under. It is our aim to create a structure that will be more appropriate to respond to the challenges we face, and to the people we serve.

It all ensures that 2014 will be busy, and to add to this we will also have local elections in the middle of the year. I would like to pay tribute to all the elected members, thank them for their service over the past 5 year, and to wish them well in the elections. It is a difficult time to be an elected member and I want to place on record my appreciation for your efforts on behalf of the people of this county.

In closing, I have announced that I will be retiring as Kerry County Manager in the coming weeks. It is not a decision that I have taken lightly, but I am confident that the incoming Chief Executive, management and staff have the skills and experience to continue to push this Council and this county forward. I have hugely enjoyed my time working in Kerry County Council and am honoured to have been able to serve you as Kerry County Manager. I hope that in my time as Manager I have been able to do some good for the county and I would like to thank everyone for their kind words.

**Tom Curran**  
**Kerry County Manager**

# MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



## Kerry County Council Senior Management Team

**Kerry County Manager**  
**Tom Curran**



**Director of Economic  
Planning &  
Development**  
Michael McMahon



**Area Manager**  
*Tralee  
Electoral Area*

**Town Manager**  
*Tralee*

**Director of Housing,  
Director of Community &  
Enterprise**  
John Breen



**Area Manager**  
*Killarney  
Electoral Area*

**Town Manager**  
*Killarney*

**Director of Roads,  
Transportation &  
Safety**  
Charlie O'Sullivan



**Area Manager**  
*Listowel  
Electoral Area*

**Town Manager**  
*Listowel*

**Director of Water Services  
& Emergency Services  
Director of  
Environmental Services**  
Oliver Ring



**Director of  
Corporate  
Services**

John D. Flynn



**Area Manager**  
*Killorglin  
Electoral Area*

**Area Manager**  
*Dingle Electoral Area*

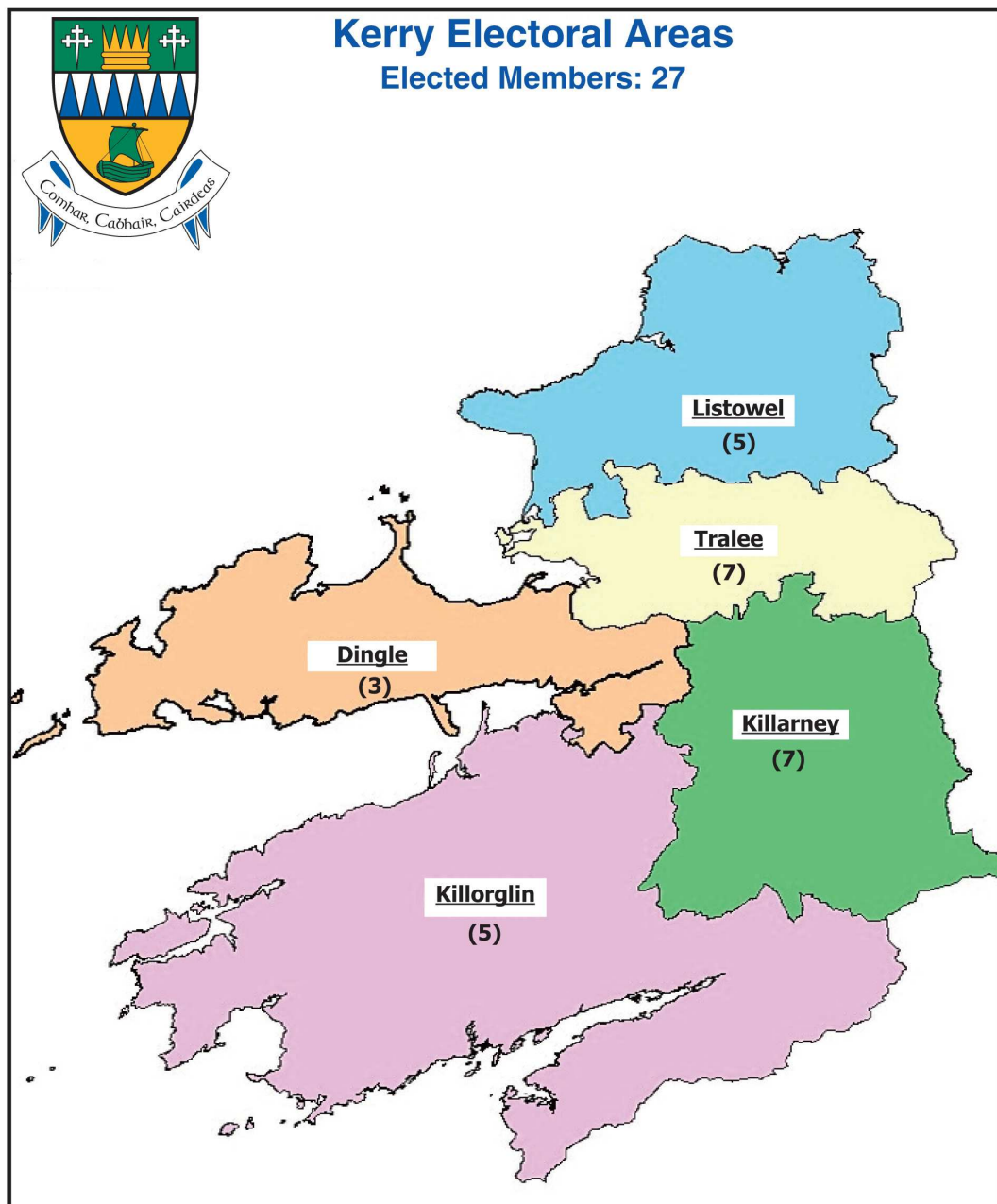
**Head of Finance**

Angela McAllen



# ACTIVITIES OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

## Membership of Kerry County Council 2013



### **Membership of Kerry County Council**

There are 27 Councillors representing five electoral areas – Dingle, Killarney, Killorglin, Listowel and Tralee.

**Mayor:** Cllr. Seamus Cosaí Fitzgerald

**Deputy Mayor:** Cllr. Jim Finucane



**Tralee Local Electoral Area:-**

Cllr Toiréasa Ferris, Cnocáin, Barrow, Ardfert (Sinn Féin)  
Cllr Jim Finucane, 6 Edward Street, Tralee (Fine Gael)  
Cllr Norma Foley, St. Joseph's Guest House, 2 Staughton's Row, Tralee (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Pat McCarthy, Maglass, Ballymacelligott, Tralee (Fine Gael)  
Cllr Anne McEllistrim, Ahane, Ballymacelligott, Tralee (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Terry O'Brien, Tonevane, Tralee (Labour)  
Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery, Rose Cottage, Ballyard, Tralee (Labour)

**Killarney Local Electoral Area:-**

Cllr Brendan Cronin, Rathcommene, Ballyhar, Killarney  
Cllr John Joe Culloty, Knocknaskeha, Killarney (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Michael Gleeson, Clasheen, Killarney (South Kerry Independent Alliance)  
Cllr Danny Healy-Rae, Main Street, Kilgarvan  
Cllr Breeda Moynihan Cronin, 10 Muckross Grove, Killarney (Labour)  
*"Following Cllr Breeda Moynihan Cronin's resignation from Kerry County Council, Cllr Sean Counihan was co-opted in her place on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013"*  
Cllr Bobby O'Connell, 15 Main Street, Castleisland (Fine Gael)  
Cllr John Sheahan, Coolgarraive, Tralee Road, Killarney (Fine Gael)

**Listowel Local Electoral Area:-**

Cllr Robert Beasley, 'Puicín', Doon Road, Ballybunion (Sinn Féin)  
Cllr John Brassil, The Pharmacy, Ballyheigue. (Fianna Fáil)  
Cllr Tim Buckley, Knockane, Listowel. (Fine Gael)  
Cllr Pat Leahy, Clounbrane, Moyvane. (Labour)  
Cllr Liam Purtill, Main Street, Ballylongford. (Fine Gael)

**Killorglin Local Electoral Area:-**

Cllr Michael Cahill, Rossbeigh, Glenbeigh  
Cllr Patrick Connor-Scarteen, 5 Main Street, Kenmare (Fine Gael)  
Cllr PJ Donovan, High Street, Cahirciveen. (Fine Gael)  
Cllr Johnny Healy-Rae, Main Street, Kilgarvan  
Cllr Paul O'Donoghue, Castlequin, Cahirciveen (Fianna Fáil)

**Dingle Local Electoral Area:-**

Cllr Séamus Cosáí Fitzgerald, Droichead Bán, Glens, Daingean Uí Chúis. (Fine Gael)  
Cllr Matt Griffin, Sleepy Hollows, Ardcanought, Keel, Castlemaine (Fine Gael)  
Cllr Michael O'Shea, Main Street, Milltown. (Fianna Fáil)

## **Report on Council Meetings**

Council Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month with the exception of September where it is held on the second Monday and August when no meeting takes place.

Meetings are held in the Council Chamber at Áras an Chontae, Rathass, Tralee.

During 2013 the Council met on 18 occasions.

One of the key responsibilities of the Council is to determine policies to ensure the effective delivery of services to the people of Kerry. During 2013 the following major decisions were made by the Council.

- Making of the Cahirciveen, Waterville and Sneem Functional Areas Local Area Plan 2013 - 2019 (January Meeting)
- Adoption of the 2013 Roadworks Programme (March Special Meeting)
- Making of the Kerry County Council Beach Bye-Laws 2013 (May Meeting)
- Approval of the Student Grant Scheme 2013 (June Meeting)
- Making of the Kerry County Council Litter Management Plan 2013-2016 (July Meeting)
- Making of the Listowel/Ballybunion Functional Areas Local Area Plan 2013-2019 (July Meeting)
- Making of the Tralee/Killarney Hub Functional Area Local Area Plan 2013-2019 (September Meeting)
- Glacadh le Scéim Gaeilge d'Údaráis Áitiúla Chiarraí (2014-2017) (Cruinniú Mí na Nollag)

## **Civic/Mayoral/Area Receptions 2013**

### **Civic Receptions 2013**

- Ms. Siobhan Fleming, member of the Irish Ladies Rugby Team who won the RBS 6 Nations Cup

### **Mayoral Receptions 2013**

- Kerry Junior Football Team on winning the All Ireland Junior Football Championship 2012
- Kerry Minor Hurling Team who won the 2012 All Ireland Minor B Hurling Championship
- Tim Corkery – In recognition of his ongoing work in the support of people suffering from cancer
- Kerry Motor Club & Killarney and District Motor Club – In recognition of their contribution to the County in hosting National/International rally events.
- Barbecue for the 2013 Rose Contestants, their families and centres

### **Electoral Area Receptions 2013**

- The Killorglin Golf Club Team on winning the Jimmy Bruen Munster 2013 Shield
- The Ballybunion Golf Team on winning the Irish Junior Cup 2013

### **Report on Electoral Area Meetings 2013**

<b>Electoral Area</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Area Manager</b>	<b>No. of Meetings</b>
Dingle	Cllr. Seamus Cosáí Fitzgerald	An tUasal Seán Ó Floinn	4
Killarney	Cllr. Michael Gleeson	Mr. John Breen	5
Killorglin	Cllr. Paul O'Donoghue	Mr. John Flynn	4
South & West Kerry	Cllr PJ Donovan	Mr John Flynn	1
Listowel	Cllr. Robert Beasley	Mr. Charlie O'Sullivan	5
Tralee	Cllr. Pat McCarthy	Mr. Michael McMahon	5

## **Report on Corporate Policy Group & Strategic Policy Committees**

### **Corporate Policy Group**

The Corporate Policy Group is a committee of the Council whose membership comprises the Mayor and Chairpersons of the five Strategic Policy Committees. The Committee co-ordinates the work of the different SPCs and provides a forum where policy positions prepared by the SPCs are discussed in advance of submission to the full Council. The full Council retains the decision making responsibility on all policies recommended by an SPC.

The Corporate Policy Group met on 11 occasions during 2013.

### **Transport SPC**

#### **Report by Cllr Patrick Connor Scarteen (Chair)**

During 2013 the committee considered the following:-

- Road Safety Strategy 2013-2020 – Key Measures
- Briefing on Public Lighting and Consumption
- Briefing on Tralee Transport Strategy
- Update on the Walkways / Cycleways in the County
- Issues for consideration in Casual Trading Bye-Laws for Kenmare
- Briefing by Kerry Airport on An Integrated Irish Aviation Policy
- Briefing by Kerry Flyer Ltd. on the accessible community transport service

#### **Membership 2013**

<b><i>Councillors</i></b>	<b><i>Sectors Represented</i></b>	<b><i>Representatives</i></b>
Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen (Chair)	<b>Community/Voluntary</b>	Carmel Walsh
Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae	<b>Trade Union</b>	John Boner
Cllr. Pat Leahy	<b>Agriculture/Farming</b>	Pat Flahive
Cllr. Anne McEllistrim	<b>Business/Commercial</b>	Michael O'Carroll
Cllr. Tim Buckley	<b>Environmental/Conservation</b>	Oonagh Comerford
Cllr. Jimmy Moloney (Listowel Town Council)		

## **Environment & Water SPC**

### **Report by Cllr Brendan Cronin (Chair)**

The Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee met on four occasions during 2013. The following items were considered at the meetings

- Long-term security of the water supply from Lough Guitane.
- Measures to insure Lakes remain free from Invasive Species such as the Zebra Mussel.
- Legal position in relation to Back Yard burning of Farm Waste such as Potato Stalks, Briars and Weeds.
- Future role of the Transfer Stations.
- Requirement for bye-laws to restrict breeds of dogs in public areas and erect public safety notices.
- Beach Bye Laws – Proposed Revision
- Briefing on EPA Drinking Water Metering Programme
- Briefing on: Transition Kerry, Energy Audit for County Kerry
- Briefing on Food Independence
- Debate on developing a Sustainability policy/ strategy for Kerry
- Briefing on Irish Water
- Domestic Water Metering
- Japanese Knotweed – an Environmental Hazard
- Boating on Killarney lakes with regard to making a submission to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government on how boating should be managed.
- Think Tank specifically focused on environmental /sustainable issues and potential projects in the county
- Briefing on Energy use and the cost of energy in Kerry in the future.
- Update on Think Tank with the IT Tralee regarding suitable projects.
- Matters relating to Septic Tanks, Sewerage Schemes & Group Schemes.
- Update on the reed Bed development at Muingnaminnane.
- Preparation of the New Regional Waste Management Plan.

### **Membership 2013**

<b><i>Councillors</i></b>	<b><i>Sectors Represented</i></b>	<b><i>Representatives</i></b>
Cllr. Brendan Cronin (Chair)	<b>Community/Voluntary</b>	Seamus Roche
Cllr. Michael Gleeson	<b>Environmental/Conservation</b>	Susan Vickers
Cllr. Paul O'Donoghue	<b>Development/Construction</b>	Sean Clifford
Cllr. Jim Finucane	<b>Agriculture/Farming</b>	Conor Creedon
Cllr. Matt Griffin		
Cllr. Denis Stack (Listowel Town Council)		

## **Planning & Economic Development SPC**

### **Report by Cllr Pat McCarthy (Chair)**

The Committee met on three occasions during 2013 and the following issues were considered:-

- The Review of the current Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015 (***which commenced on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013***) and preparation of a new Draft Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021
- Circular Letter PL 7/13 in relation to Ministerial Directions issued under Section 31 of the Planning & Development Amendment Act 2010
- Circular Letter in relation to Planning & Development (Planning Enforcement) Policy Directive 2013
- Housing Estates Unit – various issues involved to ensure the satisfactory completion of unfinished estates in the county

### **Membership 2013**

<b><i>Councillors</i></b>	<b><i>Sectors Represented</i></b>	<b><i>Representatives</i></b>
Cllr. Pat McCarthy (Chair)	<b>Environment/Conservation</b>	Catherine McMullin
Cllr. John Brassil	<b>Trade Union</b>	Patrick Hanafin
Cllr. Séamus Fitzgerald	<b>Agriculture/Farming</b>	James McCarthy
Cllr. Michael O'Shea	<b>Business/Commercial</b>	Bláithin McElligott
Cllr. John Sheahan		
Cllr. Terry O'Brien		
Cllr. Cathal Walshe (Killarney Town Council)		

## **Community, Cultural & Tourism SPC**

### **Report by Cllr Michael Cahill (Chair)**

The Community, Culture & Tourism SPC met on four occasions in 2013 and a number of issues were considered as follows:-

- Presentation by Kerry Film Festival – review of work of the film festival and its development plans for 2013 in highlighting Kerry as a location for films
- Draft Kerry County Council Community Engagement Strategy
- Update on review process and public consultation for the Kerry County Development Plan
- Briefing on “Putting People First” – enhancement of KCC’s role
- Kerry Library – Draft National Strategy for Public Libraries 2013 – 2017, Kerry Library Development Plan Addendum 2013 - 2014
- 2012 Annual Report from the National Office for Suicide Prevention – details for County Kerry
- SPC took on to consider a process for planning/co-ordination events to mark the 2016 Commemoration of the 1916 Rising in Kerry
- Presentation on Kerry Culture Night 2013 and the Sliabh Luachra Music Trail
- SPC Submission to Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne re Language & Community Plan for West Kerry
- Kerry Integration Strategy 2010 – 2012 – Review of strategy and extension to cover 2013 - 2014
- Kerry Arts Plan - extension of plan to cover 2013-2014
- Updates from the Library Service, Kerry County Development Board, Community & Enterprise Dept, Arts Office and Oifig Gaeilge at each meeting

### **Membership 2013**

<b>Community, Cultural and Tourism SPC Members</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Sectors Represented</b>	<b>Representatives</b>
Cllr Johnny Healy-Rae ( <i>Chair</i> )	Trade Union	Mr. Andrew McCarthy
Cllr. Robert Beasley	Community/Voluntary	Ms. Maura Fitzgerald
Cllr. Bobby O’Connell	Community/Voluntary	Mr. Matt Mooney
Cllr. Liam Purtill	Business/Commercial (Tourism)	Ms. Mary Rose Stafford
Cllr. Michael Cahill)		
Cllr. Mairead Fernane	Tralee Town Council	



## **Housing & Social Support SPC**

### **Report by Cllr Sean Counihan (Chair)**

The Housing & Social Support SPC met four times in 2013. Among the main items considered were as follows:-

- Social Housing Leasing Initiative & Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Social Housing Assessments (Summary) 2013
- Capital Allocations for Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability
- Social Housing Investment Programme, 2013
- Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability
- Regional Action Plan for Homeless Services 2014-2016
- Child Protection Awareness – Issues for Housing Services
- Proposed Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018
- Protocol for the Provision of Housing Supports to People with Disabilities
- 2013 Energy Efficiency Programme
- Proposed disposal of obsolete single rural dwellings

### **Membership 2013**

<b><i>Councillors</i></b>	<b><i>Sectors Represented</i></b>	<b><i>Representatives</i></b>
Cllr. Sean Counihan (Chair) <i>Following Cllr Breeda Moynihan Cronin's resignation from Kerry County Council, Cllr Sean Counihan was co-opted in her place on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013)</i>	<b>Community/Voluntary</b>	John O'Sullivan,
Cllr. PJ Donovan	<b>Community/Voluntary</b>	Mary Grandfield,
Cllr. John Joe Culloty	<b>Community/Voluntary</b>	Eileen Mayse
Cllr. Norma Foley	<b>Development/Construction</b>	Sean Clifford
Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery		
Cllr. Toiréasa Ferris		
Cllr. Seán O'Grady (Killarney Town Council)		
Cllr. Pat Hussey (Tralee Town Council)		

## Membership of Boards/Committees 2013

Audit Committee	Chairs of SPCs
<p>Cllr. Liam Purtill</p> <p>Cllr. Terry O'Brien</p>	<p><b>Community, Culture &amp; Tourism</b> Cllr. Johnny Healy Rae</p> <p><b>Planning &amp; Economic Development</b> Cllr. Pat McCarthy</p> <p><b>Roads &amp; Transportation</b> Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen</p> <p><b>Housing &amp; Social Support</b> Cllr. Sean Counihan <i>Following Cllr Breeda Moynihan Cronin's resignation from Kerry County Council, Cllr Sean Counihan was co-opted in her place on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013)</i></p> <p><b>Environment &amp; Water Services</b> Cllr. Michael Gleeson</p>
Kerry County Rural Water Committee	Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
<p>Cllr. Michael O'Shea</p> <p>Cllr. John Sheahan</p> <p>Cllr. Matt Griffin</p> <p>Cllr. Gillian Wharton-Slattery</p> <p>Cllr. Sean Counihan</p> <p><i>Following Cllr Breeda Moynihan Cronin's resignation from Kerry County Council, Cllr Sean Counihan was co-opted in her place on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013)</i></p> <p>Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen</p>	<p>Cllr. John Joe Culloty</p> <p>Cllr. Jim Finucane</p> <p>Cllr. Sean Counihan</p> <p><i>Following Cllr Breeda Moynihan Cronin's resignation from Kerry County Council, Cllr Sean Counihan was co-opted in her place on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013)</i></p> <p>Cllr. Tim Buckley</p>

Association of County and City Councils	IRD Duhallow
<p>Cllr. Michael O'Shea</p> <p>Cllr. P.J. Donovan</p> <p>Cllr. John Sheahan</p>	<p>Cllr. John Sheahan</p> <p>Cllr. Sean Counihan <i>Following Cllr Breeda Moynihan Cronin's resignation from Kerry County Council, Cllr Sean Counihan was co-opted in her place on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013)</i></p>
Kerry County Enterprise Board Ltd.	Kerry Education Service
<p>Cllr. Anne McEllistrim</p> <p>Cllr. Jim Finucane</p> <p>Cllr. Gillian Wharton-Slattery</p> <p>Cllr. Terry O'Brien</p>	<p>Cllr. John Brassil</p> <p>Cllr. Anne McEllistrim</p> <p>Cllr. Norma Foley</p> <p>Cllr. Tim Buckley</p> <p>Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald</p> <p>Cllr. Jim Finucane</p> <p>Cllr. P.J. Donovan</p> <p>Cllr. Terry O'Brien</p> <p>Cllr. Sean Counihan <i>Following Cllr Breeda Moynihan Cronin's resignation from Kerry County Council, Cllr Sean Counihan was co-opted in her place on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013)</i></p>
Killarney National Park Liaison Committee	Local Authority Members Association
<p>Cllr. John Sheahan</p>	<p>Cllr. Pat Leahy</p>
	North and East Kerry Development Company
	<p>Cllr. John Joe Culloty</p> <p>Cllr. Tim Buckley</p> <p>Cllr. Gillian Wharton-Slattery</p>

<b>Regional Health Forum – South</b>	<b>South West Regional Authority</b>
Cllr. John Joe Culloty Cllr. Matt Griffin Cllr. Bobby O’Connell Cllr. Brendan Cronin Cllr. Gillian Wharton Slattery	Cllr. John Brassil Cllr. Michael O’Shea Cllr. Liam Purtill Cllr. Bobby O’Connell Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald Cllr. Pat Leahy Cllr. Gillian Wharton-Slattery
<b>South and Eastern Regional Assembly</b>	<b>South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd.</b>
Cllr. Liam Purtill Cllr. Bobby O’Connell	Cllr. Michael O’Shea Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae Cllr. Michael Cahill
<b>Southern Regional Drugs Task Force</b>	<b>Tralee Bay Oyster Fishery Society Ltd.</b>
Cllr. Pat Leahy	Cllr. Terry O’Brien
<b>Kerry Airport plc</b>	<b>Tralee Regional Sports and Leisure Company Ltd.</b>
Cllr. Terry O’Brien	Cllr. Terry O’Brien
<b>Governing Body of NUI Cork</b>	<b>Fáilte Ireland Kerry Tourism Board</b>
Cllr. Jim Finucane	Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald
<b>New Board of Údarás na Gaeltachta</b>	<b>Kerry Recreation &amp; Sports Partnership</b>
Cllr Seamus Fitzgerald	Cllr. Matt Griffin

<b>County Kerry Joint Policing Committee</b>		
<b>County Councillors</b>		
Dingle Electoral Area	1.	Cllr. Matt Griffin
	2.	Cllr. Seamus Cosaí Fitzgerald
Killorglin Electoral Area	3.	Cllr. Michael Cahill
	4.	Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen
	5.	Cllr. P.J. Donovan
Killarney Electoral Area	6.	Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
	7.	Cllr. Michael Gleeson
	8.	Cllr. John Joe Culloty
Listowel Electoral Area	9.	Cllr. Pat Leahy
	10.	Cllr. Robert Beasley
	11.	Cllr. Tim Buckley
Tralee Electoral Area	12.	Cllr. Norma Foley
	13.	Cllr. Jim Finucane
	14.	Cllr. Terry O'Brien
<b>Oireachtas Members</b>	1.	Deputy Tom Fleming
	2.	Deputy Brendan Griffin
	3.	Deputy Arthur J. Spring
	4.	Senator Mark Daly
	5.	Senator Marie Moloney
<b>Community and Voluntary Members</b>	1.	Mr. John O'Sullivan
	2.	Mr. Sean Quinlan
	3.	Mr. Bill Morrell
<b>Garda Síochána Members</b>	1.	Chief Superintendent Pat O'Sullivan
	2.	Sergeant James Foley
<b>Kerry County Council Executive Members</b>	1.	County Manager, Mr. Tom Curran
	2.	Director of Housing and Community & Enterprise, Mr. John Breen

## **Conferences Attended by Elected Members in 2013**

<b>Conference/Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number Attended</b>
Elected Member's Training Seminar	Carlton Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	8
Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement (ODCE)	Council Chamber, Kerry County Council	7
AMAI Spring Seminar 2013	Brandon House Hotel, New Ross, Co. Wexford	3
24th Colmcille Winter School	Gartan, Church Hill, Colmcille Heritage Centre, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	9
Training Seminar for Councillors	Cahir House Hotel, Cahir, Co. Tipperary	2
Mid-West Regional Authority 18th Annual Conference	The Horse and Jockey Hotel, Co. Tipperary	4
Kerrymans Association 61st Annual Dinner	Clyde Court Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin	3
ACCC	Tower Hotel, Waterford City	9
A New Future for Local Government in Ireland	The Westin Hotel, Dublin	1
Professional Development Conference for Councillors	The Thornton Suite, The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	6
Training Seminar for Councillors	Woodfield House Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick	6
LAMA	Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford	6
Cantillon 2013	Institute of Technology, Tralee, Co. Kerry	1
11th National Tourism Conference	The Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow	5
County and City Manager's Association	Local Government House, 35-39 Ushers Quay, Dublin	1
The Westport Conference	Westport Country Lodge Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo	5
Elected Member's Training Seminar	Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo	2
Training Seminar	Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	1
Elected Member's Training Seminar	The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	3
Con Houlihan Seminar 2013	River Island Hotel & Castleisland Rugby Club, Castleisland, Co. Kerry	14

Daniel O'Connell Commemoration 2013	Glasnevin Museum and Cemetery, Finglas Road, Dublin	1
Irish Public Bodies Annual General Meeting	Convention Centre, Spencer Dock, Dublin	1
Elected Member's Training Seminar	Manor West Hotel, Killarney Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry	1
Councillors Conference	Maldron Hotel, Junction 17, M7 Motorway, Portlaoise, Co. Laois	6
Kadenza Consultancies - Training Seminar	Cahir House Hotel, Cahir, Co. Tipperary	3
Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas	National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	1
Regional Assemblies Joint Annual Conference 2013	Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin	3
Byrne Looby Partners Consulting Engineers	Royal College of Physicians, 6 Kildare Street, Dublin	1
Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	1
Eolas Magazine-BMF Business Services	Chartered Accountants House, Dublin	2
Master of Public Management - Training for Councillors	Talbot Hotel, The Quay, Wexford	2
Celtic Conferences	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	1
MacGill Summer School	Glenties, Co. Donegal	6
Esperanza - Training Seminar	The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	4
AMAI	Inchydoney Lodge and Spa, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	3
Kadenza	Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	3
Rattoo Heritage Society	Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry	1
TGR Seminars	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare	1
Esperanza	The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway	2
LAMA	The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare	9
The Role of Universities in Regional Development	Room G17 - Health Science Building, Waterford Institute of Technology, Waterford	1
Electoral-Local Government and Planning and Development Act 2013	Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo	1

2013 Conference Working Together to Increase Geothermal Energy Resource Utilisation in Ireland	Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny	1
Chambers Ireland	Burlington Hotel, Dublin	1
The Effects of Budget 2014 on the Irish Economy	The Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	4
2013 SEAI Sustainable Energy Awards	Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin	1
Debt Solutions - The New Personal Insolvency Legislation	Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork	1
Rebuilding our Rural Communities - a Platform for Recovery Vision Inclusion Solidarity Resilience	Ballygarry House Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry	1
Local Government Bill 2013	The Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford	1
Councillors Conferences - City County and Town Councillors	Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Road, Dublin	1
Contemporary Overview of Immigration into Ireland	Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare	1



### Conferences/Seminars attended by Councillors outside of Ireland in 2013

Conference/Event	Location	Number Attended
Attendance of Mayor Terry O'Brien at the London Rose of Tralee	London, United Kingdom	1
Attendance by Deputy Mayor Cllr. PJ Donovan at Nottingham and Derby for St. Patrick's Day	Nottingham and Derby, United Kingdom	1
Visit to New York by Mayor Terry O'Brien for St. Patrick's Day	New York, USA	1

The total payments to Councillors by Kerry County Council in respect of attendance, authorised by the authority, at a meeting of a prescribed association of local authorities of which the authority is a member, and attendance, authorised by the authority, at a Conference, Seminar or other meeting or event was € 69,772 in 2013. The breakdown of this figure is as follows:

Travel and Subsistence expenses within the State	Travel and Subsistence outside the State
€ 68,408	€ 1,364

The amount of registration fees which was paid to organizers of conferences for the authorised attendance of elected members at conferences, seminars or other meetings, in 2013, was €20,321

# Director's Report on Housing & Social Support

**Director of Services: John Breen**

**Senior Staff:**

***Senior Executive Officer: Liam Quinlan***

***Senior Executive Architect: Deirdre Sullivan***

*"The Housing & Social Support Directorate is responsible for the provision of social housing supports in the County. Due to significant reductions in resources for the direct provision of social housing, our focus in the last year to help meet social housing need in the county has been to expand the social housing leasing scheme, continue to add eligible clients to the Rental Accommodation Scheme and return vacant stock to use, in as short a time as possible."*

Kerry County Council also focused on the retrofitting of insulation and other energy efficiency measures to older local authority stock using available Department of Environment, Community & Local Government funding. The main beneficiaries of these retro-fitting works are our tenants who will have warmer and more energy efficient homes. Significant work was also undertaken in the second quarter of 2013 in the preparation of the 2013 Summary of Social Housing Assessments required under national regulations. Also the draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014—2018 was prepared in the third quarter of the year in accordance with the requirements of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 and was made available for public consultation within the required timescales.

The Council continues to maintain a very sizeable housing stock of just under 2,350 units which is a small reduction on the previous year due to sales concluded under the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme. National regulations were made to give legal effect to the decision by the DoECLG to terminate this Scheme. No new applications can be accepted after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 and the deadline for completion of sales under the 1995 Scheme has been extended to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Social housing need is now increasingly met through various leasing arrangements between Kerry County Council and private landlords due to the significant curtailment in exchequer capital funding. These options have become the main housing delivery mechanism for households who are unable to meet their housing needs from their own resources. At the end of 2013 a total of 814 clients had their housing need met through the Rental Accommodation Scheme and social leasing in the county.

We also continue to assist in the housing needs of homeless persons through our Homeless Information Centre, enforcement of private rented standards and other regulations and legislation dealing with housing policy and social supports.

The Housing Section also provides community and development supports and tenancy management services to help tenants within their communities. In the last year significant contact was also made with local authority borrowers to whom the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process is applicable.

While we experienced a significant reduction in the allocation under the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme for Older People and People with a Disability in 2013, we continued to target grant assistance on a priority basis to private households in the county in most need. In 2013,

the total allocation of €1.698m allowed us to make payments to 300 successful applicants under the various schemes.

## **Capital Programme**

€400,000 was allocated by the DoECLG under the Social Housing Investment Programme for the completion of four Single Rural Dwellings. In addition €0.59m approx was received towards energy efficiency upgrades to the local authority social housing stock county wide and €0.18m approx was received towards adaptations & extensions to our social housing stock countywide. A Call for Proposals was received from the DoECLG in the middle of the year for a limited number of acquisitions by the local authority and we were successful in securing €0.94m approx to fund the purchase of six dwellings to meet existing Part V commitments.

## **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)**

This Scheme continued to operate successfully in 2013 and targets qualified applicants who are in long term-receipt of rent supplement

- 180 new RAS agreements entered into during 2013
- 777 households in RAS accommodation at the end of 2013

## **2013 Energy Efficiency Plan – Improving Energy Efficiency in Local Authority stock**

The DECLG continued to fund an energy efficiency programme and an amount of €0.59m approx between the 4 housing authorities was provided in 2013 for qualifying works which facilitated the upgrade of 600 houses on older estates throughout the county. Previously this funding was primarily used to upgrade dwellings which were undergoing pre-letting repairs but existing tenanted dwellings can now benefit from the funding which was used for the retrofitting of insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

## **Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older Persons & People with a Disability**

- DoECLG Allocation for 2013 was € 1.698m
- Housing Department allocated grants totaling € 1.744m to 275 applicants approx.
- Housing Department made payments totaling € 1.778m to 300 applicants approx.
- 411 grant applications were received in 2013

While 80% of grant payments are recoupable from the DoECLG, staffing and associated costs remain a challenge for Kerry County Council. However there are immense benefits obtained from these schemes as living conditions are improved, elderly and disabled persons are enabled to continue to reside in their home environment and the local economy is stimulated by the injection of funds and work which results.

## **Tenant Purchase Sales**

- 35 sales completed in 2013
- Proceeds of €1.39m approx were ring-fenced for social housing improvements works to our housing stock.
- National regulations awaited from the DoECLG on a replacement tenant purchase scheme.

## **Social Housing Need and Provision**

- 306 new applications for social housing support received in 2013
- 1,292 assessed as qualified for social housing supports by Kerry County Council under the 2013 Summary of Social Housing Assessments.
- 84 new Council tenancies started in 2013
- A further 37 leased properties secured under the social housing leasing initiative allocated in 2013 to qualified applicants.
- Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy continues to be enforced with significant benefits to be gained on the ground.

## **Voluntary Housing**

Clúid Housing Association completed the purchase of 15 units of accommodation at Oakwood Village, Killarney. This project received €2.2m grant aid from the DECLG under the Voluntary Housing Capital Assistance Scheme which is operated by Kerry County Council. At 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013, 14 of these units of accommodation were occupied by Council nominated tenants.

Towards the end of the year Novas Initiatives was granted €60,000 CAS funding for the purchase and refurbishment of a property in Tralee Town to provide a permanent housing solution for a long stay homeless client with tenancy sustainment supports.

## Derelict Sites/Dangerous Structures

In 2013, dereliction in towns and villages along the main tourist routes and some of the larger towns was the focus of attention. In general, site owners were co-operative and completed required works when requested thereby avoiding the serving of statutory notices and entry on the Derelict Sites register. 10 sites were removed from the Derelict Sites register and 2 new sites were added.

The table below details the statutory measures utilised in 2013 under the derelict Sites Legislation.

2013 Action	Total
Section 8 notices issued	19
Section 11 notices issued	3
Levies demanded	25
Derelict Sites removed from Register	20
Sites removed following Section 8	10
No. of sites on register at end of 2013	67

### **Footnote**

**Section 8 Notice** – advises owner that property will be entered on register if dereliction is not addressed

**Section 11 notice** – informs owner that property is being entered on register unless certain specified minimum works are carried out within a specified timescale

**Levies** – imposed on owners of derelict sites in “urban areas” who fail to comply with requirements of Section 11 notice.

# Director's Report on Roads, Transportation & Safety

Director of Services: Charlie O'Sullivan

Senior Staff:-

**Senior Engineer - Transport Network Operations: Ger MacNamara**

**Senior Engineer - Kerry National Road Design Office: Paul Curry**

***"It is our aim to have a modern, safe and sustainable road network which benefits the people, both local and visitor, the economy and the environment and which actively contributes to social inclusion and quality of life"***

In 2013 €54.75m was invested in the planning, design, development and maintenance of our 4,881 km road network, with €42.7m being provided in state grant aid. This figure includes an expenditure of €13.86m on Tralee By-Pass.

The delivery of the Roadworks Programme during 2013, while being particularly challenging, did result in the following three official openings:-

The 13.5 km length of the Tralee By-Pass was completed by BAM Civil Ltd. and was officially opened to traffic by Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

The realigned section of the N86 Annascaul to Gortbreagogue Scheme was officially opened by Mr. Leo Varadkar, TD, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Phase 2 of the Dingle Relief Road completed by direct labour was officially opened by Mr. Phil Hogan, TD, Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

The greatest disappointment of 2013 was the decision of An Bord Pleanála to refuse to approve the EIS and to annul the CPO for the N86 Dingle to Annascaul and Gortbreagogue to Camp Scheme. A judicial review of the process was sought by Kerry County Council.

Over 8km of National Secondary Overlays were completed on the Ring of Kerry and 198km of surfacing and strengthening of the regional and local roads was completed during the year.

A total of two pedestrian crossings were installed during the year and safety improvement works were carried out at seven other locations. A new pavement was laid through Heffernan's Bends at Milltown.

An additional allocation of €1.96m was received from Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for the Restoration Improvement Programme which allowed an additional 14km of regional road to be constructed.

## **Walkways and Cycleways**

The appointment of a Walkways and Cycleways Officer has allowed the progression of the following schemes:-

- Tralee-Fenit
- Glenbeigh–Cahirciveen
- Cahirciveen–Renard
- Listowel–Limerick County Bounds.

This culminated in the application for funding to further develop these proposals. The Council recognises the huge potential that exists for the County across numerous strands with the development of these dedicated walkways and cycleways.

### **Smarter Travel**

A joint submission from Tralee Town Council and Kerry County Council was made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for funding to carry out numerous improvements to the road infrastructure to the capital town in the County including traffic management, to modernise and revitalise the town in line with the objectives of Smarter Travel.

### **Wild Atlantic Way**

The programme to erect directional signage on both national and regional and local roads for the section of the Wild Atlantic Way within the County was commenced. A submission for the upgrading of 23 Discovery Points within the County was submitted to Fáilte Ireland for funding.

## **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2013**

### **National Primary & Secondary**

- Completion of Tralee By-Pass
- Completion of the N86 Annascaul to Gortbreagogue
- Part 8 planning process completed for the Kilderry Bends on the N70
- Pavement improvement works at Caherdaniel, Heffernan's Bends, Milleens, Killabunane and Eirk
- Safety works at Liebherr Cranes and Golf Course Junction
- Pedestrian crossing on the N70 at Milltown and N69 at Listowel

### **Improvement under Specific Improvement Grant Allocation**

- Land purchase on the R556 Dale Road
- Widening works on the R561 Castlemaine to Annascaul completed
- Construction continued on the Kenmare Relief Road

### **Non-National Roads**

- €26.7m spent on maintenance, improvement and administration of the non-national roads programme
- Safety improvement works carried out at 7 locations
- 222 km of regional and local roads improved under the Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Programme

- €1m spent on public lighting countywide

### **Road Enforcement and Road Safety**

- Roads Enforcement Officer investigated 430 complaints e.g. overloaded vehicles, drainage, road openings, road damage, obstruction signs
- 257 health and safety audits carried out on both local authority and contractor works
- 980 material tests carried out
- Launch of the Road Safety Calendar Competition undertaken in national schools countywide

### **Piers and Harbours**

- 17 Liebherr container cranes handled through Fenit Port
- Strengthening works carried out on the main pier and protection works on the marina supports at Fenit
- Improvement works carried out at Knightstown, Brandon and Dooks
- Mooring pontoons for tourist trips to the Skelligs were installed at Portmagee



# Director's Report on Environmental Services

Director: Oliver Ring

Senior Staff:

<b>Senior Engineer:</b>	<b>Tom Sheehy</b>
<b>Senior Executive Engineer:</b>	<b>Mick Boyce</b>

***The Environment Section of Kerry County Council is responsible for the protection of the environment of the County through implementation and enforcement of the many Regulations, Directives and Legislation dealing with Waste Management and Pollution.***

In addition, the Section provides infrastructure for the recovery, recycling and disposal of waste. The provision of veterinary services, energy management and the operation of the laboratory also come within the remit of this Section.

## Waste Management

### Waste Recycling

Kerry County Council operates recycling facilities at the North Kerry Landfill, at four Transfer Stations in Killarney, Milltown, Kenmare and Cahirciveen, the civic amenity site at Ionad Athchúrsála agus Dramhaíola Chorca Dhuibhne in Lispole as well as extensive bring bank locations for glass, steel and aluminum cans throughout the county. In 2013:

- 5,394.14 tonnes of recyclables were accepted at these locations;
- There were 93 Bring Banks locations throughout the county. These were maintained by Kerry County Council staff and also 31 Community Groups involved in Adopt a bring Bank Scheme

## **North Kerry Landfill**

In 2013:

- 55,276 tonnes of residual waste was landfilled at North Kerry Landfill.
- This represents a 23.4% decrease on 2012 figure;
- 49,811 tonnes was deposited directly to North Kerry Landfill by private waste collectors and the public;
- While 5,465 tonnes was deposited at the five Transfer Stations/ Civic Amenity Site and transported to North Kerry Landfill for disposal.

The decrease in tonnage deposited is due competitive pricing for exportation of waste for energy recovery by waste brokers.

## **Capital Works: North Kerry Landfill**

### **Phase 9 Development of North Kerry Landfill**

The permanent capping of cells 19 and 18 commenced in Dec 2013.

### **Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW)**

The Integrated Constructed Wetland pilot project was commissioned in April 2013. Kerry County Council monitored its performance during the year.

## **Environmental Regulation**

### **Waste Regulations, Monitoring and Enforcement**

Under the Waste Management Acts, and associated statutory instruments, Kerry County Council has responsibility for the enforcement and regulation of a broad range of waste-related activities in the county.

The waste enforcement team responded to over 181 reports from members of the public and state agencies regarding unauthorised waste activity such as illegal dumping and fly-tipping in 2013.

In addition, the team also has responsibility for the regulation and monitoring of a range of authorized waste facilities in the County: there were a total of 38 permitted facilities and 11 certified facilities operating in County Kerry at year end (2013).

### **Water Quality, Air and Noise Pollution**

Kerry County Council carries out a broad range of activities in this area, including the following:-

- Monitoring of water quality throughout the county in accordance with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive;
- Responding to reports of water pollution received from members of public and state agencies;
- Enforcement and implementation of a broad range of water quality legislation, including the implementation of elements of both the Shannon and South Western River Basin Management Plans (adopted in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive);
- Provision of oil pollution response and maintenance of the Council's oil pollution response capacity.
- Enforcement and implementation of the Air Pollution Act.

Implementation of the River Basin Management Plans continued in 2013. Inspection activities were primarily targeted on a number of drinking water source catchments and designated shellfish catchments within the county.

The inspection/investigation team also responded to over 139 reports of water pollution received from members of public and state agencies.

Type of Complaint	Number of Complaints
Litter Pollution Acts	422
Noise Pollutions Regulations	17
Waste Managements Acts/Protection of the Environment Acts	181
Water Pollution Acts	139
Air Pollution	44
Total Number of complaints received	803

In addition to reacting to complaints received from the public the section carried out approx. 650 scheduled inspections giving a total of 1453 environmental inspections carried out during 2013.

### **Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems National Inspection Plan**

Kerry County Council is responsible for carrying out inspections of Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems in County Kerry under the EPA's National Inspection Plan. The plan which was published by the EPA in 2013, sets out the means by which the relevant national legislation (Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012) is to be implemented. The purpose of the inspection regime is to protect ground and surface water quality from the risk posed by malfunctioning systems. Kerry County Council commenced inspections in December of 2013.

## **Environmental Awareness**

### **Green Schools**

The Green schools programme aims to promote whole school activity to develop environmental awareness in both the school itself and the wider community. There is an emphasis on litter in the early stages of the five module programme.

Almost 89% of primary schools and 88% of secondary schools in Kerry are registered for the Green flag Project. Schools are encouraged to participate in the National Spring Clean as part of their Green Schools programme which involves a day of action, generally a clean up of a local area. Currently there are 96 Primary schools and nine Secondary successful schools in Kerry flying the Green Flag for environmental excellence.

### **Local and Social Media**

The Environmental Awareness officer through a weekly column in The Kerryman newspaper promotes awareness of litter and waste management issues. He promotes various anti-litter campaigns that are run through out the year such as Dog fouling awareness, National Spring Clean and the National Gum Campaign. He also gives regular interviews on Radio Kerry and Radio na Gaeltachta to promote the anti-litter message. In 2013 social media such as Facebook and Twitter was used to promote environmental issues.

## **Litter Prevention and Control**

### **Adopt a Road Scheme**

This scheme, introduced in 2010, involves the local community participating in regular clean-ups of the roads in their local area. During 2013 a total of 12 Community groups were involved in the scheme, Listowel, Tarbert, Kilmoyley, Cromane, Ballyheigue, Castleisland, Glenflesk, Gneeveguilla, Rathmore and Valentia Island, Keel and Killarney. This has resulted in 90kms of roadway in the county being maintained with a litter-free status.

Kerry County Council allocates a grant of €500 to each community group, funded from the Anti-Litter Initiative Grant Scheme. The Council also provides support materials and permits access to the Transfer Station for the disposal of the litter collected. Grants totaling €6,000 were paid to twelve community groups during the year.

### **Litter Management**

The litter control initiatives implemented during 2013 incorporated awareness programmes such as National Spring Clean, Dog Fouling Campaigns etc. which were promoted through the local media, schools, Tidy Town Committees and community groups. Surveillance cameras were used during the year to monitor dumping at Bring Banks and remote locations around the county which have previously been used for illegal dumping.

## **Beaches**

### **Blue Flag Beaches**

The 2013 season proved a successful one with the retention of 12 Blue Flags.

The following beaches retained their Blue flag status:

- Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs)
- Fenit
- Ballybunion South
- Inch
- Kells
- Ballyheigue
- Maharabeg
- Banna
- Rossbeigh
- Doire Fhionáin (Derrynane)
- Ceann Trá
- White Strand (Cahirciveen)

Water quality testing continued throughout the bathing water season and indicative results indicate that Ballybunion North will regain its Blue Flag status for 2014.

### **Green Coast Award**

Green Coast Awards are awarded to beaches for their clean environment, excellent water quality and natural beauty. Kerry was awarded its first Green Coast Award at Béal Bán (Smerwick Harbour), near Ballyferriter in 2010 and retained this status in 2013.

## Energy Office

In conjunction with Individual sections the Energy Office promotes energy conservation, monitors energy consumption, ensures value for money where energy consuming equipment is installed (e.g. pumps, electric motors, lighting and heating systems) and progresses the utilization of renewable energy technologies. The Energy Office is also responsible for tendering for the supply of electricity to the Local Authority (LA) and reporting annual LA energy consumption data to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.

### Overview of Energy Use in 2013

The total expenditure on energy in Kerry County Council in 2013 was €4,522,972. Grid supplied electricity represents 77% of this expenditure. Electricity is also generated by the LA at the 230kW Council operated hydro electric plant at Lough Guitane. In 2013, a total of 866,558 kWh was generated at Lough Guitane and this was consumed at the water treatment plant at that site. Other renewable energy sources utilized by the Council in 2013 include solar energy, wood pellet and wood chip. Heat pump and CHP technology is also utilized at Council properties to minimize primary energy consumption.

### Actions undertaken in 2013

Using financial assistance from the SEAI Better Energy Communities Scheme Kerry County Council undertook a range of initiatives to improve energy performance in 2013. Projects completed in 2013 included:

- Installation of triple glazing to replace single glazing at Dromin water treatment plant
- Pump efficiency upgrades at three Water Services treatment and pumping facilities
- Retrofitting of high efficiency fine bubble diffused aeration at two waste water treatment plants
- Lighting upgrade at one waste water treatment plant

In addition to energy efficiency upgrades in the area of Water Services, funding was also obtained through the scheme for upgrading of Local Authority buildings. Corporate Services completed works at Tralee, Killarney, Kenmare and Listowel Libraries and also the Kenmare Area Office. Works included roof and wall insulation, door and glazing replacement and heating system upgrades.

In total, €374,111 was received from SEAI through the Better Energy Community 2013 scheme for the works outlined above.

Other energy related initiatives undertaken in 2013 by Kerry County Council Energy Office include:

- Generation of electricity from Landfill gas; 1,655,555kWh of electricity was generated from land fill gas at North Kerry Landfill in 2013. Royalties of €47,116.44 were received by Kerry County Council. Tendering for supply of electricity to medium voltage and low voltage maximum demand electricity connections. Competitive tendering was completed for the smaller consuming sites through the National Procurement Service mini competition for Local Authorities
- Tendering was completed in December 2013 for the supply of unmetered electricity to Kerry Local Authorities in 2014

## Laboratory

The role of this laboratory is to monitor the environment of the county and the activities which impact on it in accordance with relevant national and EU environmental and sanitary legislation.

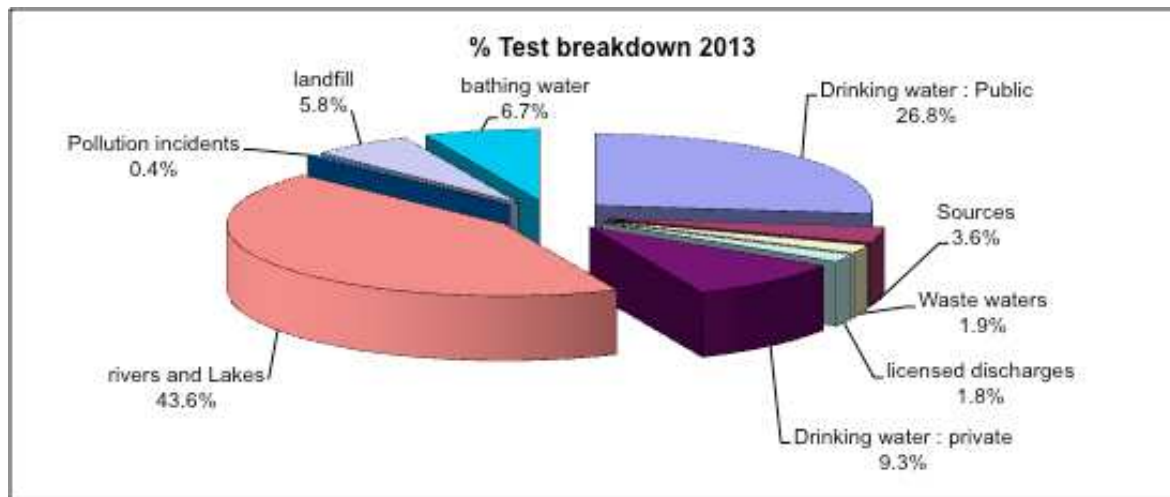
Environmental legislation embraces drinking water, rivers, lakes and bathing waters, wastewater discharges and industrial licensed discharges. Impacts include agriculture, industrial, municipal, domestic and waste management activities.

Extensive sampling is undertaken in the field by the laboratory staff. Analyses for specific parameters are then conducted in the field or in the laboratory in Áras an Chontae for a range of Biological, physical, chemical and microbiological parameters.

This laboratory is responsible for analysis of up to 95% of all mandatory parameters resulting in significant cost savings to Kerry Co Council.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a laboratory proficiency scheme, which lays out a set of various parameters which all of the 104 laboratories in Ireland are assessed on. Kerry County Council's laboratory is one of only nine laboratories out of the 104 which is registered to test for all 26 parameters.

The overriding priority for the Laboratory is that all laboratories supplying data to EPA and EU will have to be formally accredited to **ISO 17025** standard by 2015. Formal application for accreditation to this standard was submitted in 2013.



## Veterinary Service

The veterinary services administered by Kerry County Council include the management and administration of the Service Contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, dog and horse control, control of animal diseases and other miscellaneous matters.

Veterinary Services was identified as suitable for the shared services initiative under the Croke Park 1 Agreement. This process was progressed in 2013 with the identification of three lead agencies. Following an invitation for expressions of interest Cork County Council was selected as the lead agency in the Southern Region. It is anticipated that a service level agreement will be agreed with Cork County Council in the near future and that Kerry County Council will no longer have a service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

Despite the local abattoirs having had a difficult year they have succeeded in maintaining their throughput as follows:

	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Cattle</b>
<b>2012</b>	26,800	5,762
<b>2013</b>	23,650	5,996

Kerry County Council recognises the importance of local abattoirs to the county from a social and economic perspective and we will continue to regulate and support the food business operators in their endeavours during these challenging trading times.

### **Dog Control**

The dog warden service has consistently been one of the most efficiently run services in the country. Kerry having maintained the number one position on the national league table in terms of licences per capita over the past 10 years.

The dog control service continues to record high levels of compliance in terms of the Control of Dogs Act 1986.

We are happy to report that the number of dogs euthanized has reduced from 295 to 201 while the number of dogs re-homed has reduced from 389 to 344. These figures may reflect a greater awareness of dog welfare amongst the public and a more mature attitude to neutering and spaying.

Kerry County Council maintains a proactive approach, through the council's website and in cooperation with a local animal welfare organisation, to re-homing unwanted or stray dogs.

## **Director's Report on Water Services & Emergency Services**

**Director of Services: Oliver Ring**

**Senior Staff:**

***Senior Engineer (Operations): John Kennelly  
Chief Fire Officer: Michael Hession***

### **Water Services Operations**

***The primary functions of the Water Services (Operations) Department are:***

- (a) To provide safe and secure Drinking Water for all consumers***
- (b) To manage the treatment of Wastewater in an environmentally friendly way***
- (c) To provide and maintain Public Convenience facilities in key locations***



**(d) *To provide sufficient grave spaces to meet current and future demands of the county***

**Public Water Supply**

In 2013, Kerry County Council produced approximately 29.45 million cubic metres (29.45 billion litres) of drinking water for 130,000 consumers served by some 60,000 water connections. The water is produced from 59 public water schemes, which are supplied from more than 90 separate water sources throughout the county.

There were 108 new water connections and 17 new waste water connections completed in 2013.

Some key improvements to the water supply network were carried out during 2013. These were funded both from Kerry County Council's own resources and grants from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG).

The works in 2013 included

- Reconstruction of the River Intake Works at Mid-Kerry Gearha following flood damage.
- Provision of new SCADA System to Lyreacrompane Water Treatment Plant.
- The provision of new air blowers for backwashing of rapid gravity filters at Dromin Water Treatment Plant.
- The replacement of approximately 1km of defective mains linking Portmagee to Valentia Island under the Portmagee Channel.
- The reinforcement of the existing raw water impoundment at Lough Eirk which serves the Kenmare Water Supply Scheme.
- Upgrade works to 12 Reservoirs around the county leading to significant reduction in water losses.
- Installation of bulk meters on the Central Regional Water Supply Scheme.
- Safe removal and disposal of asbestos cement mains in Water services depots around the county.
- Replacement of Lime Control Dosing Panel at Lough Guitane Water Treatment Plant.
- Upgrade of chemical dosing equipment at Breanlee Water Treatment Plant.
- Replacement of approximately 1.5km of watermains in An Chráig Cloichear / Tír Abháin.
- Upgrade of power factor correction at Lough Guitane.
- Replacement of approximately 1.5km of watermains in Ceann Trá.
- Upgrade to flow monitoring and controls at Owgarraff Intake on the Central Regional WSS.
- Installation of Chlorine Monitors and Alarms at Madam's Height Killarney and Cloonafineela, Kilflynn.
- Installation of larger capacity chlorine dosing tank at Sheheree Reservoir.
- Upgrade of Fluoridation Works at Dromin and Lyreacrompane Water Treatment Plants.
- The replacement of water mains at Castlecove, Sussa & Teeranearagh in Baile An Sceilg, Cordal, Baile Na bhFionnurch, Baile Na nÁth, Cathair Deargáin & Cill a Ruith.
- Extensions to the watermains network at Leitrim Middle, Churchill, Kilcummin Stradbally and Curraduff in Camp.
- The upgrade of the existing SCADA system to include secondary chlorination at Carhan Reservoir on the Cahirciveen WSS.
- The installation of a new booster pump station at Dromin, Fossa.
- The replacement of pumps at Kilbaha and Rathoran in Moyvane.
- The installation of pressure reducing valves on the water mains at Bushmount in Furies, Rathcommene in Ballyhar, Ballybunion and Coulagh in Cahirciveen.

- The replacement of an in-line reservoir of 25 c.u. meters at Áth a'Charbaill, Lios Poil.
- The drilling of a new test well source at the Water Treatment Plant at An Fheothanach.
- The provision of a new inlet screen at Stradbally for Castlegregory WSS and at Coumna'horna for the Caherdaniel WSS.
- Landscaping works at the water treatment plant in Annascaul.

### **Remedial Action List (R.A.L.)**

In 2008, The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government made funds available for a Remedial Action List for Public Drinking Water Supplies. Kerry County Council received €9.863 million in RAL funding in 2008, followed by a further €5.716 million in 2010.

Major upgrade works involving the provision of disinfection, alarms and monitoring equipment has now been completed for all public water supply schemes in the county.

At the beginning of 2013, a total of 20 new Water Treatment Plants were commissioned under the RAL Programme. A further 12 "RAL" Water Treatment Plants were completed during 2013 at Baile Breac, Tieraclea, Gleann Fan, Baile an Lochaigh, An Cheapaigh Iarthair, An Clochan, Dun Chaoin, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh (Black Cat), Baile an Fheirtéaraigh (Leath Thaoibh), Cill Mhaoilcheadair, Cé Bhréanainn and Milltown/Poulgorm.

During 2013, 8 schemes were removed by the EPA from the RAL List at Glenderry, An Cheapaigh Iarthair, Cé Bhréanainn, An Feothanach, Minard (No. 3), Breanlee, Emlaghpeasta and Glenbeigh.

Waterville Water Treatment Plant was commissioned in 2013 as part of a Design Build and Operate contract.

### **Public Waste Water**

A total of 16 public full waste water treatment plants and 32 public primary treatment facilities are maintained throughout the county.

Waterville Waste Water Treatment Plant was commissioned in September 2013 as part of a Design Build and Operate contract.

Key upgrades made to the waste water infrastructure in 2013 included:

- Installation of SCADA System to Ballybunion WWTP.
- Installation of new WWTP at Knightstown.
- Replacement of sewer manhole covers in Cahirciveen.
- Upgrade to pumping station on Lixnaw Sewerage Scheme.
- The completion of extensive network improvements on the sewers at Baile An Fheirtéaraigh and Cé Bhréanainn.
- The replacement of sewage pumps at Rinn Bui Ballybunion.
- Installation of a new flow meter at the Glenbeigh road pump station, Killorglin.
- The installation of two new variable-speed drives in the Killorglin Bridge pump station.
- The installation of new variable speed drives in the sludge return pumps at Dingle wastewater treatment plant.

- The upgrading to the existing SCADA system to include Reenrusheen pump station on the Cahirciveen Sewerage Scheme.
- The extension of the public sewer through the new Tralee Bypass at Forge Cross.
- The provision of new inlet screens at Tralee WWTP

## **Rural Water**

Kerry County Council administers the Rural Water Programme, which is funded by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government. The Water Services Department provides administrative and engineering assistance to Group Schemes. A total of 507 Group Water Schemes have been developed in Kerry and 234 have been taken over and are now maintained by Kerry County Council.

In 2013, 38 group water schemes were taken-over by Kerry County Council:-

Anablaha/Tooreemamult, Ballahantourig, Ballinahulla No.5, Ballintarmon, Ballyduhig – Clár, Ballyline, Bawnard No.2 - Clár, Beaufort, Bedford Upper, Boolteens, Carhan, Coolcorcoran, Coolick, Dooncaha Ext, Dooneen (Castleisland), Glashannonnen – Clár, Glenlarhan, Gortgloss, Gortshannavalla, Goulane No.1, Inch, Kinard, Knockburrane, Leamydoody, Leath East No.2, Leith, Lower Coom, Lyranes, Maugha, Meanus Gortnascarry, Muingarvanig, Rathbeg, Rathbeg No.4, Renasup – Clár, Shrone East, Shrone No.2, Tonreigh & Toormore No.3 – Clár

This amounts to over 170km of watermains and 1,745 house/land connections being taken-over by Kerry County Council. The schemes varied in size from 0.22km to 22kms.

Upgrade Works Prior to Takeover by the Council were carried out on nine Group Water Supply Schemes in 2013. 5 of these schemes were actually taken-over in 2013.

### **Key developments in 2013**

- Kerry County Council spent €883,000 in the advancing of Group Water Supply Schemes within the county.
- Upgrade Works Prior to Takeover resulted in over 4.6km of replacement pipework being laid on the Clanmaurice GWSS, at two locations on the scheme.
- A total of 26 applications for Well Grants were received.
- A total of 62 Group Schemes received subsidy payments.
- No new Group Water Supply Scheme, connecting to the public mains, was funded in 2013.
- A further €371,000 was spent on additional works, principally aimed at improving drinking water quality on small public water schemes.

## **Water Conservation**

The national Water Conservation Programme, which was initiated in 2005, has evolved in Kerry County Council into the Water Conservation Unit which now operates as a core Business Unit within the Water Services (Operations) Department.

Water Conservation continues to be a focus for proactive management, with emphasis on leakage control and reduction of water wastage, which reduces water demand and leads directly to cost savings on water production. Water Conservation also protects the capital investment that has taken place in Water Services.

In 2006, the average quantity of water produced per day was 99,980 cubic metres, while in 2013 it has been reduced by 17% to 82,617 cubic meters per day. This represents an annual reduction of 6.3 million cubic meters of water.

Dedicated leak detection crews who specialise in leakage management procedures are actively working on the ground. Since mid 2006 approximately 5,200 leaks have been located / repaired in the County.

### **Mains Rehabilitation Programme**

As part of Stage Three of the Water Conservation Programme, the Water Conservation Unit prepared a Mains Rehabilitation Programme and submitted 9 Mains Rehabilitation Works packages between July 2011 and July 2012 with further supporting documentation sent in 2013 to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government under the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) 2010 – 2013.

These submissions involved the replacement of 67 No. existing watermains at an estimated cost of **€12,742,907**.

To date the Department has approved a total budget of **€11,113,248** to replace 61 of the aforementioned watermains in the county.

### **Burial Grounds**

Kerry County Council operates and maintains 141 cemeteries, 92 of which are classified as archaeologically protected sites under the National Monuments Acts. Any works in these 'listed' graveyards require specific archaeological approval and supervision and must be carried out in a particularly sensitive manner.

The Council currently works with more than 50 community groups and provides funding to many of them for the upkeep and maintenance of the cemeteries. The provision of this funding is based on the submission by the community groups of Programmes of work which are subject to the approval of the Water Services department. This co-operation has contributed to substantial improvements in many cemeteries across the county.

The Council is highly appreciative of this assistance and continues to obtain outstanding value for money when working closely with such groups.

### **Key Achievements in 2013**

- In 2013, through its County Archaeological Office and in conjunction with LEADER, the Council embarked on a Graveyard Signage Scheme for the erection of signs in historic graveyards that have been surveyed over the past 5 years. This will be the final piece of work to link the surveys of graveyards to the Local Authority Burial Register website.
- The Council has carried out significant works at a number of cemeteries as part of an ongoing Improvement Programme. This includes the provision of paths and headstone plinths, and improvements to entrances, gates, walls, drainage etc. Capital improvements

were carried out this year at New Cemetery Killarney, St. John's Castleisland, Abbeydorney, and Aughavallin.

- A contractor has commenced work on the development of a new cemetery in Cromane.
- A new graveyard has been developed and is now available for burials in Ballylongford.
- An extension to the cemetery in Scartaglin has been developed.
- The transfer of a site for a new graveyard (near the existing) from the OPW to the Council was finally completed and the development of the new cemetery is planned for 2014.
- The public 'Part 8' Planning processes have been completed for the proposed developments of extensions to Inch and Fionntrá cemeteries. It is planned to commence work on these jobs in 2014, when the land transfers have been legally completed.
- Provisional Agreements for Land Acquisitions for extensions to the graveyards in Kilcummin and Causeway have been signed in 2013.

### **Public Conveniences**

Kerry County Council owns and operates Public Conveniences at 26 locations - An Daingean, Ballybunion (2 No.), Ballyheigue, Baile An Sceilg, Banna, Cahirciveen, Cromane, , Castleisland, Castlegregory, Fenit, Fionntrá, Gap Of Dunloe, Inch, Kells, Kenmare, Killorglin, Knightstown, Maharees( Béal Geal beach), Portmagee, Rossbeigh, Scraggane pier (Maharees), Sneem, Staigue Fort, Tarbert, Waterville and White Strand Cahirciveen.

The operational arrangements of these facilities are varied. Most are operated on a part-time basis by caretakers but seven of the facilities, located at Ballybunion, Portmagee, Sneem, Waterville, Cromane, Kells and Knightstown, are operated by local community groups on behalf of the Council.

The Council is most appreciative of the outstanding works of these local groups. This partnership represents good value for money as the service is provided to a high standard and at a relatively low cost.

Significant upgrade works were carried out to the important Dingle facility in 2013. In other cases relatively minor improvements works such as re-tiling and painting were undertaken.

As finances have decreased in recent years, the growing influence of community groups on the upkeep and maintenance of cemeteries has become more important. The Council currently works with over 50 community groups and is continuing to expand this number. This co-operation has contributed to obvious improvement in many cemeteries across the County. The Council is highly appreciative of this assistance and continues to obtain outstanding value for money when working closely with such groups.

### **Value For Money Initiatives**

In 2013, Water Services (Operations) made significant savings in expenditure through procurement of goods and services and changes to work practices. Further savings were made through active participation in energy saving initiatives, in particular participation in the Better Energy Workplace Scheme, which is part-funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

Significant expenditure savings in 2013 through procurement and work practices included:

- Central Contract for the transport and disposal of sewage sludge from three WWTP'S resulted in an estimated saving of €39,000.
- Use of Framework Contracts for trades such as electricians, fitters and instrument technicians has led to savings of €26,000 in 2013.
- Use of NPS tender for the purchase of 6 fleet vehicles resulted in savings of €20,900
- The LAQuotes Plant Hire Tendering System continues to yield substantial savings and amounted to approximately €70,000 for 2013.

Energy saving initiatives carried out in 2013, including those part-funded by the SEAI Better Energy Communities Scheme, included the following:

- replacement of vertical surface aerators at Killarney WWTP with Fine Bubble Diffused Aeration (FBDA)
- retrofit of existing aeration at Ballybunion WWTP with FBDA
- replacement of pumps and motors at Mid Kerry WTP with high efficiency units
- installation of high efficiency pumps and motors at Coolcorcoran pump station
- replacement of all external windows and doors with triple glazed units at Dromin WTP
- lighting efficiency improvement at Tralee WWTP control building
- replaced three foul pumps with high efficiency pumps and motors on variable speed control at Crowe Road pump station

Based on 2012 and 2013 consumption profiles, the approximated annual energy savings from these upgrades is 360,000kWh corresponding to €50,000.

As part of the Water Services Energy Performance Indicator (EPI) programme, reduced energy efficiencies were noted at Kilsarkan pump house. Repair works were subsequently completed generating annual savings of 29,460kWh corresponding to €4,125.

To avail of competitive fuel costs for Water Services vehicles, 11 Topaz Fuel Cards were obtained in 2013. Utilization of the Topaz Fuel Cards also enables EPI monitoring for vehicles. Topaz was also successful in their tender to the Office of Government Procurement for supply of fuel charge card services in 2014. Cards set up in 2013 will therefore continue to be used in 2014.

Kerry County Council Water Services also participated in the Eirgrid Winter Peak Demand Reduction Scheme in January and February 2013 and received payments of €27,270 for this participation.

## Water Services Capital

Up to the end of 2013 the Water Services Capital Project Office was responsible for the provision of water and wastewater infrastructure for the county, including the design of new schemes and the management of these schemes through the construction stage. The two main external sources of funding for work carried out by the Water Services Capital Unit were:

- Water Services Investment Programme administered by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
- Rural Water Programme administered by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government

All of the schemes progressed also required a substantial local contribution from Kerry County Council, varying from 10% to 36% of the final cost.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 the responsibility for Water Services nationally was transferred to a new body called Irish Water and the Kerry Water Services Capital Project Office is now contracted to Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement to provide the above services to them. All future project needs assessments will be carried out by Irish Water based on various ongoing submissions by Kerry and the technical and regulatory requirements involved. All implementation and funding for schemes is now controlled directly by Irish Water.

In this context the Project Office now operates in a whole new arena and whilst various Business Case Submissions were made to Irish Water in October 2013 the ongoing prioritization, approval and funding of these future schemes will be carried out by Irish Water.

The transition to a new working environment under Irish Water involved a major amount of work for the section during the latter half of 2013. This included the closing out of all existing project accounts and systems with the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government as well as the adoption and implementation of new systems and procedures under Irish Water.

2013 was also a busy year for the section on the construction side with the ongoing development of RAL water treatment plants along with mains rehabilitation in various areas in the county. All of the design and project management for this work was carried out in house. 2013 also saw the completion of construction of Waterville Water Treatment & Wastewater Treatment Plants (€8.7m), Scart Reservoir (€3.5m) and an Advance Pipelines Contract for Tarbert SS (€0.33m).

In December 2013 the official opening of Waterville Water Supply and Waste Water Scheme was performed by Mr Phil Hogan T.D., Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government. In the same month the Mayor of Kerry, Cllr. Seamus Cosai Fitzgerald officially opened An Mhuiríoch – Baile Breac Water Supply scheme which had been upgraded under the Rural Water Programme (RAL).

### **Water Services Capital Unit Progress 2013**

2013 Progress	Projects	Cost Estimate
Completed	RAL –Water Improvements – An Cheapaigh Thiar, An Clochán, An	€4.68m

<b>Construction</b>	Fheothanach, An Mhin Aird Baile an tSagairt, Baile na bhFionnurach, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh (2 sources), Camp, Castlegregory, Ceann Trá, Cill Mhaoilcheadair, Dun Chaoín, Glenderry, Lios Cearnaigh, MK Knockavota and Tieraclea (Tarbert).	
	Waterville WSS & SS – Design Build & Operate Contract	€8.70m
	Central Regional Water Supply Scheme – Scart Reservoir	€3.50m
<b>Commenced and Completed Construction</b>	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation – Proposal No1– County Direct Labour- Road Reinstatement completed	€1.84m
	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation – Tralee Town Lead Mains	€0.06m
	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation- Roger Casement Avenue. Pipelaying completed by contract.	€0.78m
	Tarbert SS- Advance Pipelines Contract	€0.33m
<b>Construction Commenced and Ongoing</b>	RAL –Water Improvements – An Daingean, An Ghleann, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh (2 sources), Baile an Sceilg, Caherdaniel, Caragh Lake, Castle Cove, Inch Public, Maulin, An Mhin Aird Puc and Portmagee.	€4.40m
	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation – Proposal No 7 – County Direct Labour-	€1.95m
	Ballylongford & Tarbert SS- WWTP Upgrades – Construction contract awarded	€2.70m
<b>Design Progressed</b>	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation – Tralee Town Mains Rehabilitation. Tender advertised Dec 2013.	€2.64m
	Water Conservation – Mains Rehabilitation – Derry, Listowel Site Investigation commenced Dec 2103	€1.16m
	Ardfert Sewerage Scheme – SI Completed/ Land Acquisition Completed/ Contract Documents Complete	€3.05m
	Central Regional Water Supply Scheme – Treatment- DBO Design Review & Contract documents advanced	€25.40m



## **Kerry Fire Service**

The Kerry Fire Service Fleet continued to be upgraded during 2013.

Four Ford Ranger 4x4 Jeeps were purchased to provide on/off road capabilities during severe weather conditions and over harsh mountainous terrain, which is of particular use when tackling hillside and gorse fires. They went into active service during 2013. A Ford Ranger was provided to Tralee, Listowel, Killorglin and Cahirciveen Fire Stations.

A new Scania Class B Fire Appliance was delivered to Tralee Fire Station by Sidheán Teo in December. The Appliance, funded under the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government (DoECLG) Capital Allocation 2011, was procured on our behalf by Cork County Fire Service under a joint procurement venture with Cork and Clare Fire Authorities.

### **Community Fire Safety Programme**

The Fire Service Change Programme continued to be rolled out in 2013.

Under the Smoke Alarm Scheme 2013, a total of 1,000 conventional smoke alarms funded by the DoECLG were procured for distribution to vulnerable members of the community in association with the Community & Enterprise Section.

An additional 150 specialised alarms sets for people with hearing disabilities were procured for distribution, funded by the DoECLG

The primary schools programme is also ongoing with basic Fire Safety instruction and Fire Safety packs being provided by Fire Service personnel to third class primary school students.

### **Key Operational Activity 2013**

The Brigades were mobilised on 1,250 occasions during 2013 which represents a 58% increase over 2012.

Gorse fires, Chimney fires, Road Traffic Collisions were again the most frequent incident types requiring Brigade mobilisation.

While during 2013 there was an increase in the number of Gorse fires when compared to 2012, the number of Gorse fires at 217 is still down on Gorse fires for 2010 and 2011.

It is acknowledged that 2012 was an exceptionally wet year and in 2013 the conditions were much drier hence the return to incident levels similar to 2011. The public awareness campaign continues to assist in our efforts at keeping the number of Gorse fires at manageable levels. This is also enabled through interagency co-operation and regular engagement with the relevant stakeholders such as Teagasc, IFA, Department of Agriculture, Coillte and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

### **Building Control Activity 2013**

- 355 Commencement Notices/7 Day Notices received in 2013 comprising of 371 building notifications

- Officers inspected 199 or 53.64% of the buildings notified.
- 111 Fire Safety Certificates granted
- 64 Disability Access Certificates granted

The Building Control Section continues to promote greater awareness of the Building Regulations in the County by:

- Ensuring a visible presence on Building sites, with a good geographical spread.
- Inspection of Buildings for compliance with the Building Regulations
- Providing advice on compliance with the Building Regulations
- Monitoring the provision of access for people with disabilities
- Furthering the conservation of fuel and energy in relation to buildings by requiring the submission of Building Energy Rating Certificates (BER's)

## **Civil Defence**

*“To promote, develop and maintain Civil Defence as an effective volunteer based professional organisation providing emergency response and community support services”.*

Civil Defence volunteers work under the direction of the relevant local authority Civil Defence Officer and are trained in various skills such as first aid, rescue, emergency feeding, evacuee care, communications, land / water search and radiation monitoring.

There are 310 volunteers registered in the volunteer database for County Kerry. Kerry Civil Defence has 23 qualified Instructors to teach various disciplines across the organisation.

### **Highlights of 2013**

- Kerry Civil Defence participated in the Bishop of Kerry's Ordination in Killarney on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, providing Medical cover, catering for the Emergency Services and supporting the Garda in Traffic Management.
- Kerry Civil Defence co-ordinated the Medical Plan for the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle Event for 2013. Almost 9,000 cyclists participated in this event.
- The Ring of Kerry Cycle Committee donated Four Bicycles to Kerry Civil Defence Casualty Service for Community events in the provision of Medical cover.
- Civil Defence provided Medical Cover for two weeks for the Cycle Against Suicide with an Ambulance and crew.
- Kerry Civil Defence were involved with the Emergency Services Gathering in Tralee by supporting Tralee Town Council.

### **Activity Levels in 2013.**

- First Aid and Ambulance activity at major sporting functions, including Listowel Races, Dingle Marathon, Rallies, Puck Fair, the Festival of Kerry and the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle Event.
- Covered 98 different Events in the County in 2013.
- Trained and qualified two Search Managers in the Rescue Service.
- Trained four members from the Auxiliary Fire Service in a full Fire Fighters Course in Killarney for two weeks.



# **Director's Report on Economic Planning & Development**

**Director of Services: Michael McMahon**

**Senior Staff:**

***Senior Engineer, Paul Stack***

***Senior Executive Officer, Joan McCarthy***

***'To encourage, promote and facilitate measures that will contribute to a well managed physical and economic environment within the County of Kerry'.***

## **Forward Planning**

The key role of the Forward Planning Unit is in the formulation of economic, social and infrastructural policies/objectives which give effect to the delivery of sustainable and planned development in County Kerry. These policies/objectives are contained within the County Development Plan/Functional Area Local Area Plans.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013 the review of the current County Development Plan 2009-2015 commenced. An Issues Document was prepared and 7 public information sessions were held throughout the County. Following this, a Draft Plan was prepared and presented to the Elected Members on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013. The Draft Plan will go on public display in 2014.

During 2013 the following Functional Area Local Area Plans were also adopted:-

- Cahirciveen Waterville Sneem FA Local Area Plan 2013-2019
- Listowel/Ballybunion FA Local Area Plan 2013-2019
- Tralee/Killarney Hub FA Local Area Plan 2013-2019.

## **Housing Estates Unit**

Considerable progress has been made with regard to inspecting housing estates in the county since the establishment of the Housing Estates Unit in 2009. Significant resources have been allocated to the Unit. To date, 877 inspections have been carried out which have identified unfinished estates and estates where works need to be carried out. The Estates Unit is endeavoring to liaise with developers to ensure that estates are completed to a satisfactory standard.

It is important that appropriate insurance/financial bonds are received in these cases to better safeguard against non-compliance of planning conditions. In such circumstances, this bond can be drawn down and the Estates Unit can arrange for the necessary works to be carried out. During the period 2009 to 2013, bonds have been drawn down by the Council and outstanding works in a number of estates completed.

Inspections are also carried out on new estates prior to and during construction. To date, 25 such estates have been identified and the Unit is liaising with the developers and monitoring each phase of construction. The Council continues to examine and evaluate applications to have estates taken in charge.

	<b>No. of applications received</b>	<b>No. of estates taken in Charge</b>
<b>2009</b>	45	6
<b>2010</b>	8	5
<b>2011</b>	12	8
<b>2012</b>	5	8
<b>2013</b>	8	15

### **The following estates were taken in charge in 2013**

- “Sundays Well”, Lisloose, Tralee.
- “Cois Ard”, Duagh
- “Cill Mhuire”, Kilmurry, Kenmare.
- “Quarryvale”, Ballynahoulort, Tralee.
- “Hazel Grove”, Ardfert, Tralee.
- “Old Forge Iron Mills”, Iron Mills, Killarney.
- “Pairc An Gluinín”, Commons East, Ardfert, Tralee
- ‘Castlecove’, Knocklyne, Killorglin
- ‘Baile an Tooreen’, Farrantoreen, Killorglin.
- ‘Gransha Lower’, Castlemaine.
- ‘Church Close’, Gortagullane, Muckcross, Killarney.
- ‘Beech Grove’. Cahirdown, Listowel.
- ‘Shannow Banks’, Aulaneduff, Abbeydorney.
- ‘Cois Clydagh’, Brosna West, Brosna.
- ‘Radharc Na hEaglaise’, North Commons, Ardfert.

## **Planning Control**

The ongoing economic climate is reflected in the continued decline in activity levels in planning control with a total of 833 planning applications received during 2013. This major change in activity is in line with other local authorities around the country and reflects the continued downturn in construction activity experienced in recent years.

Changes introduced by Section 28 of the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010, has resulted in a significant increase in the numbers of applications for extensions of duration of planning permissions. 190 such applications were processed in 2013.

## **Planning Enforcement**

The workload in this area has not witnessed any significant decrease in activity. Some people continue to show a total disregard for planning laws and a total disrespect for their neighbours.

	<b>Jan – Dec 2013</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	194	All written complaints received by the Planning Authority as well as the number of reports received from Kerry County Council staff
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	123	Number of complaints investigated that did not warrant the issue of a Warning Letter and/or Enforcement Notice
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	152	Number of files resolved through either the granting of Retention Permission or the developer undertaking the necessary works to comply with Planning & Development Regulations
Number of enforcement procedures taken through Warning Letters	174	Warning Letters served under Section 152 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 to 2007
Number of enforcement procedures taken through Enforcement Notices	125	This figure represents all the Enforcement Notices served under Section 154/155 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 to 2007
Number of Prosecutions	5	Cases heard in Court for the first time – additional files were referred to the County Solicitor during this period.

## **Quarries**

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 Act introduced significant changes relating to quarry developments, particularly in relation to applications for retention permission and planning enforcement. Sections 74 & 75 of the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010 were commenced on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Under this Act, Kerry County Council had to examine each quarry in the county and make a determination as to its planning status, by 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012. 179 quarry sites were identified.

Following the examination of all sites, notices were issued as follows:

- 21 Notices were served requiring applications for Substitute Consent to be made to An Bord Pleanála
- Enforcement Notices were served requiring closure and reinstatement of 10 quarries.
- No further action was required in respect of the remaining quarries, provided that they operated in compliance with their section 261 conditions, or planning conditions, whichever applied.

The current position is as follows:

Substitute Consent applications have now been made to An Bord Pleanála in respect of eight out of the 21 identified quarries. Kerry County Council is required to submit a report on each of these applications.

No decision has issued from An Bord Pleanála in respect of any of these Substitute Consent applications as of 01 April 2014.

The period for making a Substitute Consent application has been extended by An Bord Pleanála in respect of a further five quarries.

A number of quarry sites are the subject of Enforcement action arising from (a) the enforcement notices served following the initial assessment

(b) The failure of a number of quarry owners to apply for Substitute Consent

(c) Failure to operate within the conditions of 261 registration/ planning permission. Enforcement action is at various stages with 2 files having been referred to the law department seeking an injunction in the Circuit court under S160 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2013.

## **Heritage Office**

### **Structures at Risk Fund 2013**

The purpose of the Structures at Risk Fund is to assist with works to safeguard structures included in the Record of Protected Structures and to safeguard structures within Architectural Conservation Areas, where, in the opinion of the Department of Arts Heritage & Gaeltacht (DAHG), an urgent need for such works has arisen and has been demonstrated. Only structures in immediate danger of significant deterioration qualified for consideration for funding. Due to the limited funding available (a total fund of €475,000) each Local Authority is limited to submitting two projects for approval by the DAHG. Both applications submitted by Kerry County Council were considered eligible for funding and a sum of €32,360 was allocated for the two projects in Cahirciveen and Blennerville. The two projects were successfully completed on schedule.

**Section 57 Declarations:** (relating to Protected Structures) Four Declarations were requested and completed during 2013.

**Additions to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS):** Seventy two additional structures were proposed as part of the 2015-2021 County Development Plan

**Vernacular Architecture:** Kerry County Council in conjunction with NEKD provided funding for a survey of vernacular architecture in North and East Kerry, which was completed late 2013. It is hoped that when additional funding becomes available, that an exhibition highlighting the findings of the survey will be held and it is also proposed to publish an abridged version of the survey.

## **County Archaeologist**

The County Archaeology Department has responsibilities in the following areas:

Archaeological Impact Assessment/Monitoring/Test Excavation  
Graveyards  
Planning & Policy  
Recording and preservation of the archaeology of the county

### **Key Achievements 2013**

- Archaeological Impact Assessment completed for three projects
- Archaeological monitoring undertaken in relation to two projects
- Archaeological Testing carried out for three Projects
- Recommendations made in relation to 244 planning applications
- Detailed graveyard plans and listings of surnames in lectern units erected at 29 South Kerry graveyards in association with SKDP
- Detailed submission to the County Development Plan
- Graveyards Project short listed for Excellence in Local Government Awards

- Tomb sealing and trimming back/cutting overgrowth on church ruins continued in conjunction with Water Services.

### **Value for Money Initiatives**

A number of value for money initiatives progressed during 2013 as follows:

- All printing associated with Plans are carried out in-house and all Local Area Plans etc. are now burnt onto CD's for distribution to all prescribed bodies etc. in the interest of value for money savings. This initiative will continue to yield significant savings over the coming years.
- Significant Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment support is now provided by the Forward Planning Unit to all sections of the Local Authority in relation to Plans and Projects requiring AA (Appropriate Assessment) Screening and subsequent Stage 2 reports where relevant.
- All Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA's) and Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA's) required in relation to Plans, Strategies and Variations etc. are carried out in-house by existing staff.



# Director's Report on Community, Culture, Heritage & Recreation

**Director of Services: John Breen**

**Senior Staff:**

***County Librarian: Tommy O'Connor***

***Community & Voluntary Forum Co-Ordinator: Siobhan Griffin***

## **Community & Enterprise**

The Community & Enterprise Department contributes to the achievement of the corporate objectives of Kerry County Council in the areas of economic and tourism development, community development, social inclusion, the arts and cultural development.

Since the establishment of County Development Boards in 2000, the department has provided technical and administrative support to the Kerry County Development Board (KCDB) and works with external agencies, the Community and Voluntary sector and Government Departments in the development of its work programmes.

*"Putting People First: Action Programme for Effective Local Government"* outlined the disbandment of the CDBs and the establishment of Socio-Economic Committees (SECs); later to be named as the Local Community Development Committees. (LCDCs) This programme envisages local government as the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level – leading economic, social and community development, delivering efficient and good value services, and representing citizens and local communities effectively and accountably.

Ten front runner/pilot SECs (later LCDCs) were established around the country. In Kerry, during 2013 the Executive of the CDB continued to meet until the establishment of the Kerry LCDC which is expected in early 2014. Preparatory work began in the department in anticipation for the establishment of the new LCDC (formerly SECs) and the enhanced role for local authorities in economic development as well as in local and community development planning.

### **Key Achievements 2013**

The emphasis in 2013 continued to be on the integrated approach to delivering services in an efficient manner and within the constraints of a very difficult economic climate.

### **Key achievements Economic planning and Tourism**

#### **Economic**

- Collaboration; the full Kerry County Development Board was wound down in preparation for forthcoming new structures. However Kerry Economic Development Unit, the former economic sub structure of the KCDB agreed to continue to work on priority collaborative actions.

- Market research on newly launched (2012) [www.countykerry.ie](http://www.countykerry.ie) was completed in conjunction with Institute of Technology Tralee (ITT). The objective of this research was to facilitate feedback to strengthen our digital marketing campaign
- Market research in conjunction with the ITT continued in 2013, this time, the agriculture sector featured or more specifically the area of primary production. The objective was to profile enablers and barriers in the egg, lamb and potato production in the County.
- Labour activation measures – a Job Bridge Programme participant was engaged in November 2013 as an Economic Statistical Analyst to assist the Economic planning and Tourism officer, to work on the following projects – Kerry's Agricultural Profile, and Kerry's Statistical Economic Profile.
- Innovate Kerry completed market research on measuring innovation in the food and agriculture sectors in conjunction with ITT
- Innovate Kerry (subgroup of Kerry Enterprise Development Unit (KEDU) researched the possibility of a pilot advisory programme. The priority focus of the Innovation programme is to provide a single point of contact to individuals along the various stages of the business cycle from idea generation to business growth and development. In doing so providing a supportive architecture where advice can be gleaned on relevant topics including the following

#### Tourism

- Kerry Tourism Economic Strategy initiated with the objective of developing a vision for tourism in the Kerry with a primary focus on the economic sustainability of this major industry. The Tourism Strategy group began to develop an overarching tourism strategy for the county. We succeeded in formulating an agreement with Go Kerry and Fáilte Ireland for the development of a single tourism strategy. Intensive stakeholder discussions took place involving over 15 different sectors and up to 10 individual workshops.
- Shared learning from Tourism stakeholder discussions with Kerry county Council staff via presentation and discussion
- Made a submission on behalf of Kerry County Council on the Tourism Policy review 2013/2014

#### Social & Community

- Kerry County Council nominated five groups to the All-Ireland Pride of Place competition. Valentia won the overall prize in the "Islands" category and both Kilcummin and Caherdaniel were runners up in their respective categories. Killorglin Archive Society and Tarbert were praised for the standard of entry. The ceremony was held in Derry in November 2013.
- The SIM (Social Inclusion Measures) Committee facilitated the coordinating of the CDB endorsement of Local & Community Development Annual Plans of both NEKD and SKDP and subsequent final approval by Kerry CDB.
- The 10th Kerry Community Awards saw the overall prize for 2013 awarded to the Recovery Haven Support project for those affected by cancer.
- Implementation of the Community & Voluntary Forum Work Programme. 865 groups were registered with the Kerry Community & Voluntary Forum register in 2013.
- Review of the interagency Kerry Integration (Immigrant) Strategy 2010 – 2012
- Development and implementation of the Kerry Integration Strategy Extension 2013 - 2014
- The Kerry Joint Policing Committee met 3 times during 2013 at which the Gardaí gave a comprehensive report on crime figures for the County.

- **Comhairle na nÓg** is a forum for structured input into decision-making by children and young people in the development of local services and policies to be supported and resourced appropriately by relevant statutory and voluntary organisations in the county.
- During 2013, young people sat on the Comhairle Steering Committee and the Kerry Children's Services Committee. Members were involved in national consultations including;
- "The development of the Health Behaviour of School Aged Children", and 'Supporting a better transition from Second Level to Higher Education'.
- They produced a 'Kerry Comhairle na nÓg Youth Survival App'.
- They secured funding from O<sub>2</sub> Think Big to make a one minute viral film to promote 'Be an Upstander not a Bystander' – anti bullying tool.
- In November the Comhairle made a presentation at SHAW – Sexual Health Awareness Week in the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin.
- The group also presented at the launch of 'Picture My World Calendar 2014' Positive Youth Mental Health event in Listowel in December. 120 young people attended the 2013 AGM held at ITT.
- The Kerry Community & Voluntary Forum continued to promote the **Building Preparedness and Resilience** project during 2013. The project achieved a Chambers Ireland Best practice in Local Government Award in November.
- Over 500 **Smoke Alarms** were given to local development companies/communities for installation in 2013.

### **Value For Money**

The Community and Enterprise Department continues to strive for increased efficiency and the delivery of value for money in all of its activities.

- Ongoing review of department structures and processes to ensure more efficient and effective use of staff resources.
- Continuing to seek efficiencies through funding/progressing common actions by sharing of financial/human resources with other agencies.
- Meetings/events are held in free/low cost venues
- Correspondence/documentation issued electronically (a few exceptions where broadband coverage very poor).
- Endeavouring to share administration of meetings/projects with other agencies where feasible.

### **Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership**

Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership (KRSP) was established in 2001 in response to the Irish Sports Council Local Sports Partnership initiative and formally recognized in 2003. The source and availability of income on an annual basis is primarily provided by the Irish Sports Council.

The overall aim of KRSP is to increase participation levels in sport and physical activity in the county and to ensure that local resources are used to best effect. Increasing participation levels correlates with creating opportunities for people to be physically active through the delivery of targeted physical activity/sport based programmes.

At a time of high unemployment, high obesity levels, high suicide rates, and mental health issues reported at a local level now, investment in sport/physical activity is needed more than ever before based on the positive benefits provided.

2013 experienced a significant reduction in the number of programmes delivered due to a shortfall in resources. As a result of the reduction in staff, the impact on the work of the Partnership has seen a significant reduction in its work programme and outputs. This shortfall has impacted on the ability to deliver sports development programmes essential to delivering sporting opportunities to all, and in providing much needed support to grassroots clubs and volunteers.

KRSP operates wholly and fully within Kerry County Council and similar to the rest of the Council, budgetary and staffing constraints have impacted on the delivery of programmes. Within these constraints though, KRSP will continue to build on participation levels in sport and physical activity and promoting a culture of active living in the county.

## **Arts Office**

In 2013 the Arts Office awarded Grants countywide under the Arts Act towards the purpose of;

- (1) Stimulating public interest in the arts
- (2) Promoting knowledge and appreciation of the arts
- (3) Improving standards in the arts

A total of five Artist in Schools schemes were awarded and four individual artist bursaries were awarded

The 2013 work program included the following:

- Short term Writer in Residence Program, Film maker in Residence Program and Dancer in Residence Program. These included the roll out of Master Classes and Workshops focusing on the art forms of literature, film and dance in schools & libraries for children and adult groups.
- Art for the Young at Heart: Bealtaine Workshops and Screenings targeting older people were held in libraries around the county during the month of May. This program offered professional artists the opportunity to work with older age people interested in the arts.

- Kerry Film Festival - Kerry County Council contributed towards the Youth Education Programme, and worked in partnership with the Kerry Film Festival and an Arts Intern to revamp the [www.kerryfilm.ie](http://www.kerryfilm.ie) website.
- Culture Night 2013 – The Arts Office, with the able assistance of an Arts Intern coordinated almost 50 events countywide on the night.
- The Arts Office worked with the Roads, Transportation & Safety on the percent for Art Commission for the Rose of Tralee sculpture.

The Arts Office continues to provide support and guidance for the arts sector and wider community with regard to arts activities. The Arts Office remains a central contact point for a number of incoming choirs and orchestras seeking contact details for venues etc.

Work on the Kerry Screen Commission is on going with support from many sections in house and guidance from the Irish Film Board.

Partnership development for Kerry Music Generation remains on going with lead partner, Kerry Education Services and support partners Tralee Institute of Technology, KDYS and Ealaíon na Gaeltachta.

## Kerry Libraries

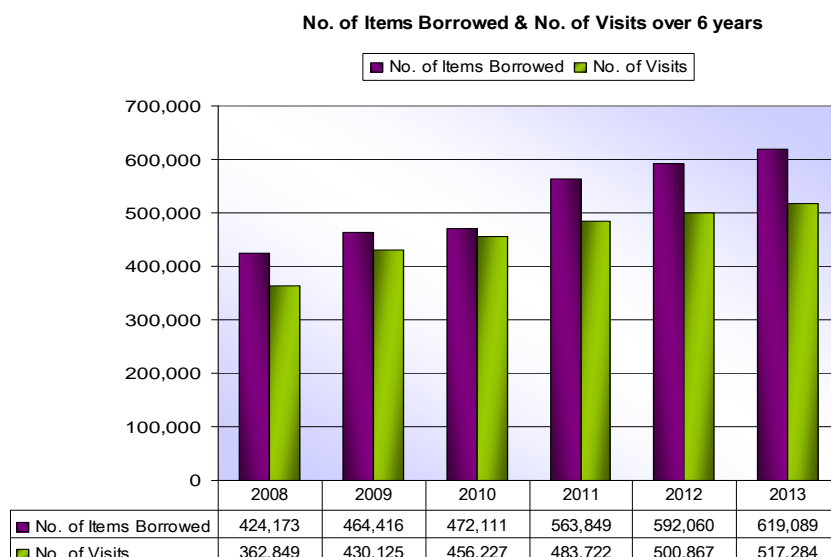
Kerry Library operates nine full time branch libraries at Ballybunion, Cahirciveen, Castleisland, An Daingean, Kenmare, Killarney, Listowel and Tralee.

In addition, 2 Mobile Libraries and a Local History and Archives section operate from Library Headquarters in Tralee. Services include adult and children's book lending, exhibitions, internet and Wi-Fi, online services including national and international newspapers, classroom novels and block loans to schools and day care centres, literacy support, class visits, daily newspapers and general magazine provision.

The library works with literacy groups, book clubs, support organisations and official bodies to provide what is quite a diverse level of service.

### **Key achievements:**

- In 2013, a record number of 619,089 items were borrowed, an increase of 4% on the 2012 figure.
- A total of 517,272 individual visits were made to Kerry libraries in 2013, a 3% increase.
- Kerry libraries were open for a combined total of 20,550 hours throughout 2013, achieving a 6% increase.
- The number of public internet sessions provided went up to 58,272, with free Wi-Fi, now available at each library, accounting for 20% of this.

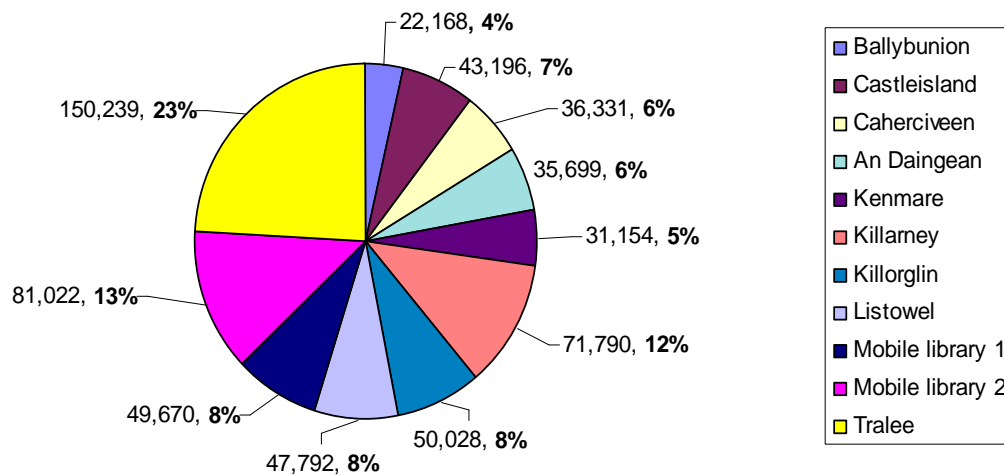


- New services available through the website [www.kerrylibrary.ie](http://www.kerrylibrary.ie) include an online book request service, online language courses and the World

Book & Junior World Book online encyclopedias.

- The Mobile Libraries serve 93 different locations county wide and engage with community centres, family resource centres, schools, crèches and members of the general public at a range of both urban and rural locations.
- Over 200 events, including workshops, exhibitions and lectures were provided free of charge during 2013 while national initiatives such as Engineers Week, Library Ireland Week, Heritage Week, Children's Book Festival, Seachtain na Gaeilge and the Bealtaine Festival for older people were also supported.

**Items Borrowed: Jan - Dec 2013**



# Director's Report on Corporate Services

**Director of Services: Mr. John D. Flynn**

**Senior Staff:**

***Senior Executive Officer Corporate Affairs: Gerard O'Brien***

***Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources: Martin O'Donoghue***

***Head of ICT: Brian Looney***

The Corporate Services Department of Kerry County Council consists of the Corporate Affairs, Human Resources and Information Technology Departments.

## **Corporate Affairs**

The Corporate Affairs Department is divided into four business units, each with their own distinct areas of responsibility as follows:

- Council Services
- Communications/Customer Care/Oifig na Gaeilge/Freedom of Information
- Franchise/Higher Education Grants
- Facilities Management and Development

### **Key Achievements in 2013**

- 18 Meetings of the Full Council organised and serviced
- 24 Electoral Area Meetings held and serviced
- A total of 29 requests were dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act along with 11 complaints received from the Office of the Ombudsman
- By utilising the NPS contacts and Frameworks, the Facilities Management Unit continues to achieve additional savings in the purchasing of stationery, paper, office supplies and janitorial supplies
- We continued to identify areas where the running and operational costs of Corporate Facilities can be reduced, examples in 2013 include:
  - Window replacement/attic insulation at Kenmare Area Services Centre
  - Boiler upgrade/window replacement/cavity wall insulation/roof insulation at Killarney Library
  - Window upgrade/roof insulation installation at Library HQ, Tralee
  - Insulation and air tightness works at Listowel Library
  - Public Service Data Centre at County Buildings
  - Renegotiation of rental agreements to our internal and external customers with reduced staffing and financial resources
- Maintained existing levels of service to our internal and external customers with reduced staffing and financial resources

## **Human Resources**



## Key Achievements:

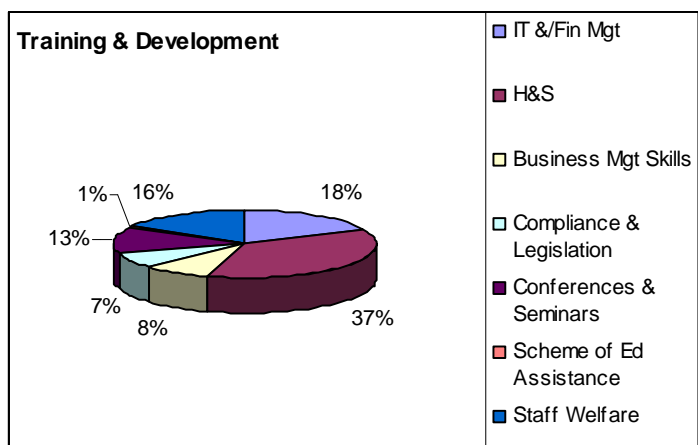
- Continued development of the **Absence Management Programme** to ensure efficiencies in relation to staff attendance at work.
- Continued development and implementation of the **Organisational Support Programme** to enhance the welfare of our staff and to comply with statutory legislation.
- Continued development of the staff **Performance Management and Development Systems (PMDS)**, both locally and as one of the lead authorities nationally.
- Development of **Child Protection Policies and Procedures** to ensure compliance with forthcoming Child Protection Legislation and Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children.
- Continued participation in Government led work experience schemes including **Redundancy Apprentice Placements**, and **Job Bridge Internships**.

## Training & Development

Due to the requirements placed on employers and employees by Health and Safety Legislation, training in this area was a priority in 2013. It accounted for 37% of all training delivered during the year.

The delivery of Child Protection Awareness training accounted for 16% of the training delivered in 2013. The programme is being delivered in order to comply with the forthcoming Child Protection Legislation and 'Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children'. Training in this area will continue to be delivered in 2014 also.

The remaining Training programmes were delivered to ensure that employees receive the necessary business and I.T skills to carry out their duties in an effective manner. Performance Management was a priority for the organisation during the year and the relevant Senior Staff received training on competency development. The programme will continue to be rolled out to staff during 2014.



Contained below is a sample of the different categories of training delivered during the year:-

- Agresso Training
- E-Tenders Training
- E-Travel
- Customer Care
- Waste Management
- EPA Impact Assessment
- Company Law
- Payroll System Training
- Safe Pass
- Signing Lighting & Guarding at Roadworks
- Cardiac First Responder
- First Aid Awareness
- PMDS
- Irish courses
- Child Protection
- Home Bond Training
- Nutrient removal in Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Water Programme

### **Number of Employees at 31 December 2013**

Managerial/Administrative	386
Engineering/Technical	176
Operational/Outdoor	640
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1202</b>

### **Gender Breakdown of employees at 31 December 2013**

	Male	Female	Total
Managerial/Administrative	83	303	386
Engineering/Technical	143	33	176
Operational/Outdoor	572	68	640
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>1202</b>

### **Competition Statistics 2013**

No. Competitions Held	29
No. Applications received	<b>Male</b> 356

	<b>Female</b>	31
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Total no. of applications received		387
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### **Placement Schemes and Work Shadowing**

The Council continued its association with third-level placement programmes and Government led labour activation initiatives.

Work Experience	13
Redundant Apprentice Placement Scheme	1
JobBridge Internships Placements Advertised	14

### **JobBridge Internships**

No. Competitions Held	11
No. Applications received	126
Male	81
Female	45

## Information Technology & Information Systems

### App development: Destination Dingle Peninsula Tourism App

Tourism is an area where ICT will have a key role in supporting tourism development and enriching the visitor experience.

Using smartphone and tablets, visitors to the Dingle Peninsula can learn about all the area has to offer and plan their visit based on information and multimedia generated by a consortium which includes the local authority and business interests.

The Dingle App has been architected in a way that allows for its re-use in other towns or visitor areas in Kerry



### System Implementations:

IT staff were heavily involved in a number of system implementations in Council business areas: Major implementations advanced in 2013 were as follows:

- Irish Water - Various tasks across IS, GIS and other IT functions associated with the establishment of and transfer to Irish Water
- Fire Operations – an information system was implemented in the Fire Service to aid Incident assignment, management and payroll in the fire service
- Environmental Complaints System – implemented for the Environment section in Maine St.

- Extensions of Weighbridge and Waste Management Systems in our Landfill and Transfer Stations
- GIS – Implementation of a Pavement Mgt System in the Roads functions of the Kerry LA's
- eTravel – a system to efficiently manage travel and subsistence for staff, previously a manual paper intensive process
- Procurement phase of a major Laboratory Information Management System – to be implemented in 2014
- Significant further savings in the costs of telephony were achieved through VoIP projects and consolidations and a new mobile phone services framework competition

### **ICT Support:**

ICT support is provided to over 900 desktop, laptop, tablet and smartphone users in over 100 locations Countywide. Over 8,000 support calls were dealt with in 2013.

### **Websites / Content Management**

New websites – such as the Kerry Screen Commission portal <http://www.kerryfilm.ie/> were developed with the aid of our online services team. Work on cataloguing and publishing aerial video footage of our county also took place with the Community & Enterprise department. Social media integration into existing Council sites was also advanced and more content provided via Twitter, Facebook and YouTube with colleagues in the Communications office. Web work was also done in support of Kerry County Council's **Gathering Office**, during 2013

# Financial Statement

**Director of Service: Angela McAllen, Head of Finance**

**Senior Staff:**

***Kathleen Moriarty, Acting Senior Executive Officer***

***Pat O'Shea, Acting Senior Executive Officer***

During 2013 Kerry County Council continued to maintain delivery of the Council's core services that are essential to the functioning of this County. This has played an essential role in Kerry managing to maintain these services as best as possible in the face of the difficulties presented by the current economic climate. In 2013 the Council sought to balance the continuation of its core services to the greatest extent possible with the available resources.

The overall economic and National Exchequer positions continued to remain challenging in 2013. This was reflected in the Eurozone and the global economy which impacted on economic growth and the availability of income to the Council. In addition the programme of works and adjustments as set out as part of the EU/IMF Programme of Support for Ireland has directly impacted on the Council's finances and will continue to do so.

The impact of financial and operational uncertainties, the risks inherent in changes with the introduction of Irish Water, the unification of Town Councils, the introduction of the property tax and its effect on the local government funding model all have implications for the way we do our business into the future and on the finances of the Council.

These factors affected funding available for Budget 2013, which in turn, restricted our works programmes during the year. In managing the Revenue Budget during the year, the Council aimed to:

- Maintain our core services at satisfactory levels, in so far as possible
- Deliver our services cost effectively and to the best quality practicable
- Maximise all revenue income sources and maintain effective budgetary control of expenditure
- Maintain strict debtor controls
- Minimise the need for any increase in the commercial rates multiplier or user charges wherever possible, and
- Maintain a balanced Budget.

Our reliance on locally sourced income continues to grow. Significant attention was paid during 2013 to the collection of the debtor streams including government departments, state agencies and Council paying customers. The percentage collections across many of our major income streams have been broadly maintained compared to 2012.

Kerry County Council continues to work on a case-by-case basis with businesses and debtors who are experiencing difficulties, but unfortunately there are those who are unwilling to pay and choose not to engage with the Council's Revenue Department.

In these cases they will be pursued for outstanding debts, often down legal avenues, in order to collect outstanding debts. A total of 76 cases were brought before court in 2013 for non-payment of debts, with additional cases prepared for the coming year. As stated before, genuine cases will be dealt with sympathetically in terms of payment plans, but those who choose not to engage in a meaningful manner will be pursued

The charge on Non-Principal Private Residences has seen a total of €3.183m brought into the Council finances in 2013. The NPPR has proven to be a significant addition to the Council's revenue stream and has offset decreases in income from other areas, both local and national. Some €838,840 was collected in late fees for Kerry County Council in 2013 and legal proceedings are pending in a number of cases. The Local Government Reform Act 2014 has now repealed this charge for 2014. From 1/3/2014 no additional late payment fees will apply to any outstanding arrears if amounts owing are paid by 31/8/2014, thereafter considerable extra penalties will apply. Arrears will continue to be pursued by the Council in 2014.

Better value in our procurement practices remains a key senior management imperative across all our services during the year and will continue to be further targeted in 2014. Cost savings have been achieved in a range of purchases/contracts such as plant hire, trade services, civil works, road making materials, telecommunications, advertising, energy, general goods/services. Procurement Initiatives such as the use of LA Quotes and Framework Agreements continued to be maximised in order to achieve further savings and efficiencies.

Commitments to the successful implementation of the EU/IMF/ECB Memorandum of Understanding in the Programme of Financial Support for Ireland, The National Recovery Plan 2011-2014, the implementation of the recommendations from the Local Government Efficiency Review Group and Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government continued to impact on our funding streams and our operating environment. All our revenue works and capital investment programmes are likely to continue to incur further significant reductions over the coming years. In that context, prioritising our key services and securing best value for the available funds must be over-riding considerations across all our operations.

The achievement of the objectives of the Public Sector Savings Agreements (Croke Park and Haddington Road) will also contribute to further cost-effectiveness and efficiency and the Council continues to report savings achieved as required to the National Implementation Body. The skill and flexibility of our staff are distinct advantages in that regard

Over the coming year and far beyond, the Council must continue to relentlessly implement strict budgetary and debtor control so as to sustain our financial capacity to deliver the core essential statutory services to the residents of and visitors to the county.

The accompanying tables and pie charts give an overview of the financial position of the Council and analysis of expenditure and income for the year. The current overall financial standing of the Council may be described as continuing to be generally satisfactory as at 31 December, 2013. The Council took actions during 2013 and continue into 2014 to adjust and match both operational day-to-day spend and the long term capital investment programme with available funding and resources.

The Council continues to invest in the infrastructure of the county although at a much reduced level than in recent years. The Council Programme is prepared on a 3 year basis in accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 and this is considered as part of the Annual Budgetary Process. The Capital Programme must have regard to available resources. The sources of capital funding, government grants, borrowing capacity and development contributions are significantly reduced in recent years. Very restrictive limitations continue to apply to borrowing approvals from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

In summary, service demand remained high in 2013 notwithstanding economic pressures, and this remains the case into 2014. Optimising outcomes in service delivery from the available resources will be a key requirement in the continuing drive to achieve the highest quality combined with maximum extent of service practicable.

## Financial Statement

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2013

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure. It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year.

	<b>Gross Expenditure 2013 €</b>	<b>Income 2013 €</b>	<b>Net Expenditure 2013 €</b>	<b>Net Expenditure 2012 €</b>
<b>Expenditure by Division</b>				
Housing and Building	15,077,882	14,846,730	231,152	597,884
Road Transport & Safety	32,033,912	20,287,122	11,746,790	12,266,208
Water Services	21,126,847	11,105,565	10,021,282	9,888,381
Development Management	6,956,017	1,373,287	5,582,730	5,656,383
Environmental Services	16,014,504	7,635,294	8,379,210	7,809,915
Recreation and Amenity	4,383,316	322,777	4,060,539	4,032,458
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	6,069,408	5,566,204	503,204	494,910
Miscellaneous Services	9,054,668	4,858,241	4,196,427	4,607,856
Central Management Charges	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>110,716,554</b>	<b>65,995,220</b>		
Net Cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates and Local Government Fund			44,721,334	45,353,993
Rates			21,859,618	21,917,800
Local Government Fund – General Purpose Grant			18,374,432	18,689,208
Pension Related Deduction			2,408,620	2,404,428
County Charge			6,348,887	6,415,752
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>			<b>4,270,223</b>	<b>4,073,195</b>
<b>Transfers from/(to) Reserves</b>			<b>(4,187,690)</b>	<b>(3,933,680)</b>
<b>Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>82,533</b>	<b>139,515</b>
<b>General Reserve at 1st January 2013</b>			<b>2,952,728</b>	<b>2,813,213</b>
<b>General Reserve at 31st December 2013</b>			<b>3,035,261</b>	<b>2,952,728</b>

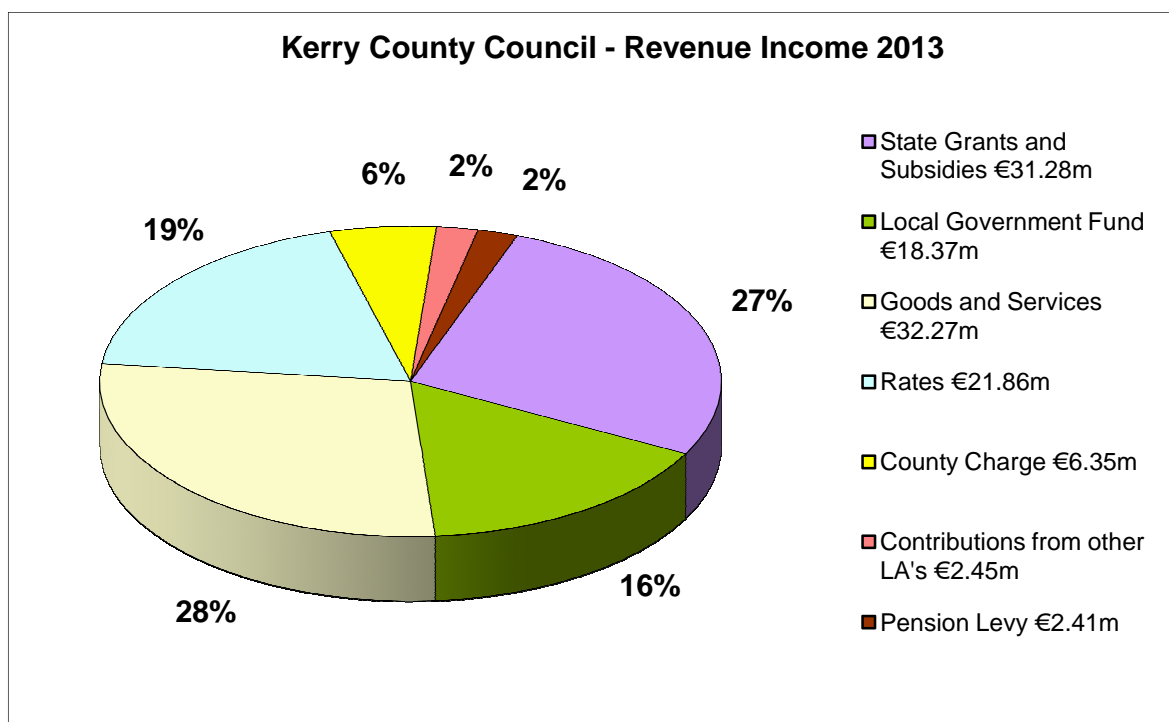
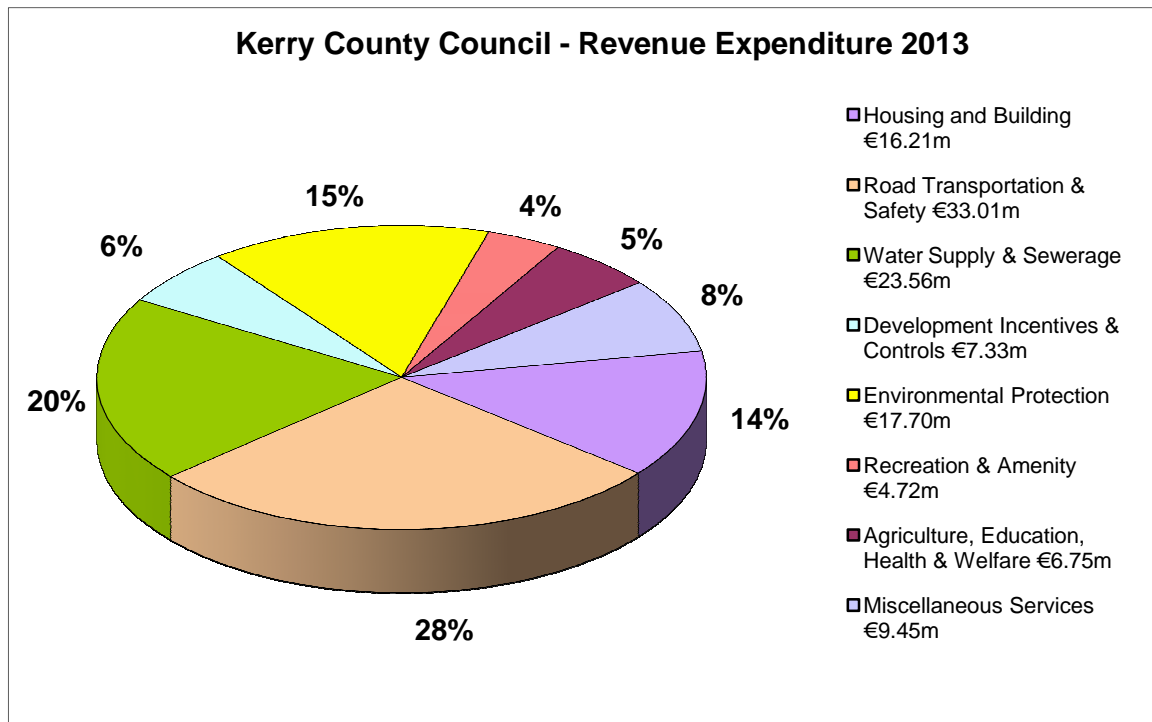


# Financial Statement

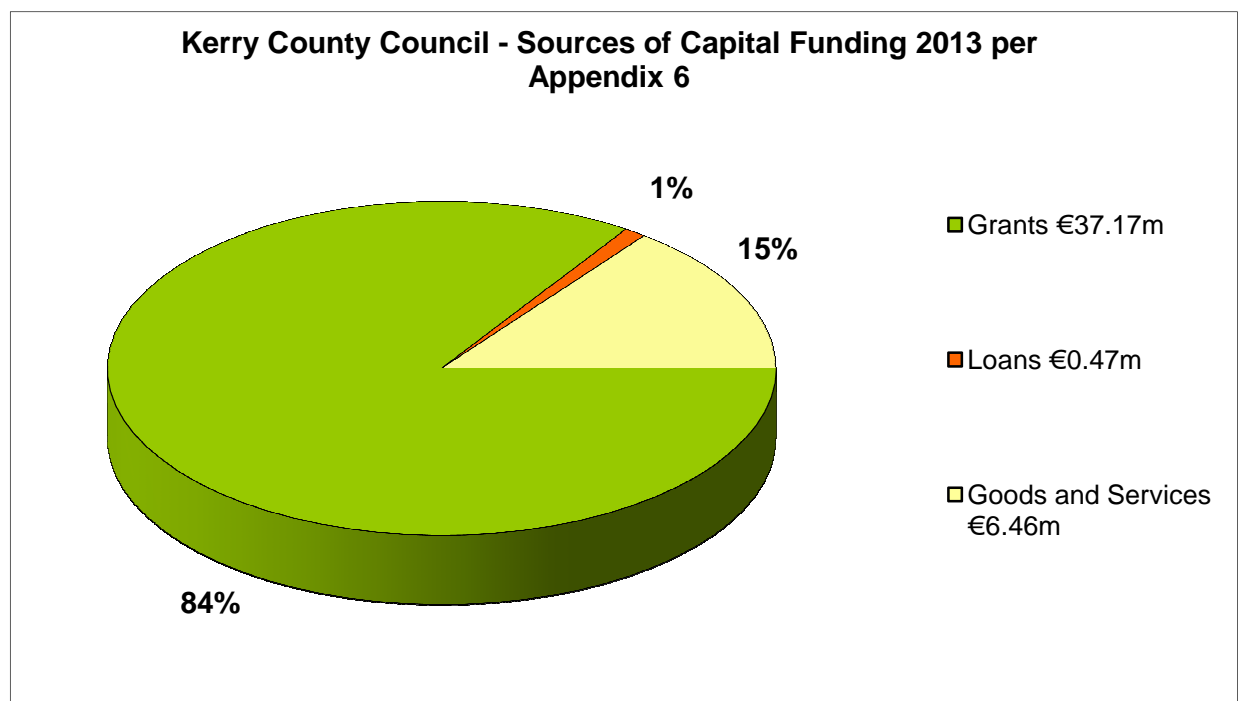
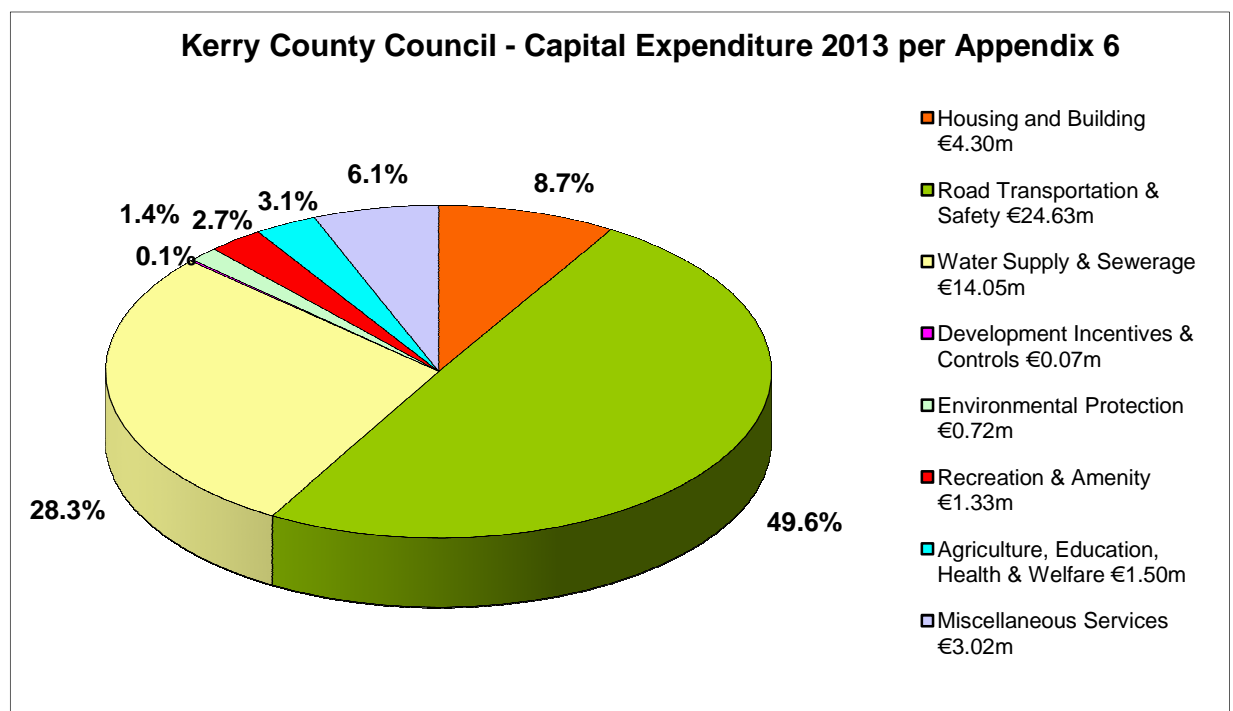
## Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2013

	2013 €	2012 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Operational	405,205,712	404,293,523
Infrastructural	3,104,149,818	3,056,744,483
Community	938,333	899,168
Non-Operational	2,662,021	
	<b>3,512,955,884</b>	<b>3,464,445,912</b>
<b>Work-in-Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	<b>24,679,965</b>	<b>97,078,819</b>
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	<b>34,446,410</b>	<b>36,228,028</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock	974,208	940,972
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	10,277,535	15,343,181
Bank Investments	51,434,207	55,485,744
Cash in Transit	461,213	530,908
	<b>63,147,163</b>	<b>72,300,805</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Bank Overdraft	1,704,655	2,048,133
Creditors & Accruals	21,671,076	25,930,639
Urban Account	87,052	308,835
Finance Leases	28,259	26,988
	<b>23,491,042</b>	<b>28,314,595</b>
<b>Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>39,656,121</b>	<b>43,986,210</b>
<b>Creditors (Amounts greater than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	89,308,476	94,033,598
Finance Leases	79,114	108,644
Refundable Deposits	2,171,140	2,147,328
Other	119,620	211,856
	<b>91,678,350</b>	<b>96,501,426</b>
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>3,520,060,030</b>	<b>3,545,237,543</b>
<b>Represented By</b>		
Capitalisation Account	3,512,955,884	3,464,445,912
Income WIP	23,463,465	95,367,062
Specific Revenue Reserve	5,476,624	5,476,624
General Revenue Reserve	3,035,261	2,952,728
Other Balances	(24,871,204)	(23,004,783)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>3,520,060,030</b>	<b>3,545,237,543</b>

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## Late Payments 2013

In accordance with the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997, and European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions Regulations, 2012) the details of late payments to Creditors is set out below. The European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) (S.I. No 580 of 2012) came into effect on 16 March 2013.

In March 2011, under the Government's commitments to the National Recovery Plan 2011-2014 and the EU/IMF Programme of Support for Ireland, the payment period in relation to valid invoices was reduced from 30 to 15 calendar days with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2011. Compliance reports are compiled quarterly for submission to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government and these reports are also published on Kerry County Council's website.

Late payment penalty interest only arises in the context of delayed payments beyond 30 days in accordance with legislation. No penalty interest is payable in cases where payments are made outside the 15 day administrative period but within the 30 day period.

<b>Late Payments 2013</b>	
Late Payments	2013
No of late payments in excess of €317.44	NIL
Value of late payments in excess of €317.44	NIL
Value of late payments as a proportion of the value of total payment made to suppliers 0%	NIL
Total Payments	€110,457,024
Penalty	NIL

## Development Contributions 2013

Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 enables Kerry County Council when granting a planning permission under Section 34 of the Act to include conditions requiring the payment of a contribution. This contribution is in respect of public infrastructure and facilities benefitting development in the area of the planning authority and that is provided, or that is intended will be provided by or on behalf of a Local Authority (regardless of other sources of funding for the infrastructure and facilities).

The Development contribution Scheme in operation for 2013 came into operation on the 21/3/2011. The table below sets out the values for Development Contributions – to be applied to either specific or general developments, reflected in the Annual Financial Statement for 2013 (Note 11) and may be summarised as follows:-

	€
Net opening position 1/1/2013 surplus/(deficit)	14,531,772

Income	1,400,877
Expenditure	(1,603,027)
Net Closing Position 31/12/2013 surplus/(deficit)	14,329,622

Amounts owed by Debtors (short term) €1,968,224 and Debtors (long term) €119,620 per annual Financial Statement 2013 Note 5 and Note 3.

# County Enterprise Board

## Chief Executive: Tomás Hayes

### Introduction

Board activity in the year to 31st December 2013 saw increases in grant aid paid and the number of client engagements compared to 2012.

Grant aid in the sum of €492,881 was approved in respect of 37 micro enterprises with the potential to create 83 full time and 36 part time/seasonal jobs.

A total of €449,379 was actually paid in grant assistance to businesses and the Board had a further €288,073 in commitments waiting to be drawn down by 31/12/2013.

The Board spent a sum of €272,624 on the provision of a range of other business supports to 1003 individuals. In addition over 240 people availed of mentoring supports. Aside from mentoring, the main areas of support included Start Your Own Business courses, a Business Growth Programme, Digital Marketing training and support for a business network and a Women in Business Network.

### Student Enterprise Awards

Our student Enterprise Awards programme has grown to involve 20 secondary schools in the County, with each school being represented by a number of different student projects. The competition encourages students to start real life micro-businesses and they gain experience in areas such as product innovation, sales and marketing, finance, and the presentation of a formal business plan. The winners of the 2013 Kerry Student Enterprise Awards, 'Social Gamers' finished runners-up in the National finals.

### Sectoral Initiatives

The Board has continued its strong targeted focus on the food and craft sectors. These sectors are being marketed under the brands Taste Kerry ([www.tastekerry.com](http://www.tastekerry.com)) and Original Kerry ([www.originalkerry.com](http://www.originalkerry.com)) respectively. In addition a dedicated food programme was run that helped 10 small food producers scale up their businesses and gain access to store listings with the Musgrave Group. A number of craft and food businesses were supported to attend the SHOP and Showcase exhibitions aimed at securing national and overseas trade customers.

## **2013 County Enterprise Awards**

The 2013 County Enterprise Awards was won by Tolerance Technologies in Tralee. This business has quickly grown to 14 employees with plans for further expansion. The company was shortlisted at the National Enterprise Awards final held in Dublin Castle.

## **Reform of the Board/ Establishment of Local Enterprise Offices**

Legislation (the County Enterprise Boards (Dissolution) Act 2014) has now been passed by the Oireachtas. Enterprise Boards will be dissolved with effect from the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2014. Operations will become the responsibility of new Local Enterprise Offices (LEO's) managed by the Local Authorities but funded through Enterprise Ireland. Staff of Kerry CEB will transfer to the Local Authority from that date. A service level agreement will be put in place between Enterprise Ireland and the Local Authority with agreed performance targets.

Work is ongoing to prepare for the launch of the new LEO's. Main areas include:

- development of financial and reporting systems in Agresso
- development of a new website for the LEO
- Development of branding and promotional materials

A new evaluations committee is to be put in place to review grant applications, and nominations were sought by public advertisement for suitably qualified candidates. The names of the proposed nominees will be brought before the Council for ratification. New reporting structures will also be put in place to update the Council members on LEO activities.

# REPORTS FROM THE TOWN COUNCILS

## Tralee Town Council

### Foreword by the Mayor

As Mayor of Tralee, it is with great pride and sadness that I contribute to this final Annual Report for Tralee Town Council. I wish to pay tribute to the work not only of this Council but to all of the previous Councils that served this town so well. I wish to particularly highlight the absence of party politics from the decisions of successive Councils over many years. I am confident that when history examines the contribution of our Council, that it will be acknowledged, that Members acted in the best interests of Tralee at all times.

In the provision of housing Tralee Town Council was unrivalled in its achievements over many generations, providing accommodation of the highest quality, utilising the most advanced building methods available. The Council's wonderful legacy in the development of parks, walkways, and natural open spaces will be enjoyed by the people of Tralee, Kerry and our very many visitors for years to come.

Tralee Town Council is renowned for its contribution to the tourism product in our town, being either the catalyst or provider of the entire major tourism infrastructure that has brought many visitors to our town and contributed in a meaningful way to economic development. I am particularly pleased that the present Council continued this legacy with the provision of the Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre. Similarly, our support of festivals and events in Tralee has significantly added to their success, and contributed to Tralee being a popular destination.

The Council were not found wanting in developing modern infrastructure for our town, a comprehensive road network, an improving public water supply, modern treatment facilities and a flood relief scheme that continues to serve our town well. In recent years we also have had significant success in Tidy Towns and IBAL competitions, helping to present Tralee in the best possible light, for our own enjoyment and for our visitors.

I am also proud of the relationship that the Council built with the people of Tralee. I am extremely grateful to our ratepayers who have provided much of the funding to maintain our services to a high standard in town. Without their support our achievements would not have been possible. The communities within Tralee have contributed in a huge way in improving our town and in making it such a great place to reside. The voluntary groups in all sectors of the community add merit and worth to our town that could not be achieved through any government grants or economic riches. I hope that the support of the Council helped in some small way in their achievements. There is no doubt but they helped the Council.



I wish to thank the present Council for their support, all Councillors who have served Tralee down through the years. I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Management and staff and their obvious love and pride in the town.

To the people of Tralee who continue to have pride in your town, you have made it a special place. I am sure that this pride will be seen in the coming months in our preparations for the Entente Florale and Tidy Town competitions. Finally I wish every success to the new Municipal District and the entire County Council for the next five years.

**Cllr Pat Hussey**  
**Mayor of Tralee**

## **Tralee Town Manager's Report**

The Mayor in his foreword outlined the significant contribution made by successive Town Councils to the betterment of Tralee and I wholeheartedly wish to be associated with those remarks. Successive Councils enjoyed good working relationships within the elected Council and between Members, Management and Staff. The legacy of Tralee Town Council will benefit Tralee for many years to come.

2013 was a positive year for Tralee, with the town centre having an upturn in activity with a number of retail outlets opening on the Mall and in Castle Street. The return of vacant units to economic use adds vibrancy to the town that benefits all. Tralee was fortunate to have a number of major projects come to fruition during the year and others advance considerably for completion in 2014. The major capital investment in infrastructure is welcome as the trading conditions for our local businesses continue to be challenging in the current environment.

I must again acknowledge the collection from local income sources, including commercial rates, parking and housing rents which all stabilised or showed slight improvement in 2013. This performance allowed the Council to reduce its commercial rate for the first time in preparing the 2014 estimates. As Manager I acknowledge the work of Council staff in securing this revenue and also acknowledge the efforts of ratepayers, and our housing tenants in meeting their commitments in these challenging times.

The programme of upgrading roads within Tralee town continued during 2013, with the town's main routes greatly enhanced. Work has also continued in the provision of better footpaths around the town, with particular attention being given to making pathways fully accessible. The ongoing lighting improvement programme continued in 2013 with a major upgrade of lighting at Lohercannon.

The Mitchels Boherbee Community Regeneration Project progressed well in 2013. The continuing support of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government is acknowledged and appreciated. The Mitchels Integrated Services Centre progressed during the year, and this significant building will substantially change both the appearance and functionality of the area. The building is due for completion in April 2014. A major improvement in the Council's housing stock was possible in 2013 with 360 units being upgraded under the grant aided energy efficiency programme. The Council will pursue a further phase of this work in 2014. In addition a roof refurbishment programme benefited 24 units during the year.

Environmental improvements continued in the town in 2013, including the provision of access to the town park from Dan Spring road, phase 1 of a new park on the Castlemaine Road and a boardwalk through the Tralee Bay Wetlands. The Council was also delighted to be involved in the development of the walkway from Rock Street along the old rail line. The unveiling of the Rose Wall of Honour in the Town Park was an important statement of the importance the Rose of Tralee to our town and a fitting thank you to all who have taken part in the event over the years.

Tralee continued its advancement in the Tidy Towns competition retaining its Gold Medal status and improving its overall performance. The town also retained a status of “cleaner than European norms” throughout the year in the IBAL report. Our improvement in environmental matters has resulted in Tralee being invited to one of Ireland’s two representatives in the European Entente Florale competition in 2014.

I would like to pay tribute to the elected members who have worked well with the Council executive for the good of the town.

**Michael McMahon**  
**Tralee Town Manager**

## **Membership of Tralee Town Council**

- Cllr Patrick Daly
- Cllr Mairéad Fernane
- Cllr Ted Fitzgerald
- Cllr Cathal Foley
- Cllr Norma Foley
- Cllr Dan Galvin
- Cllr Pat Hussey
- Cllr Sam Locke
- Cllr Terry O'Brien
- Cllr Grace O'Donnell
- Cllr Dan Galvin
- Cllr Johnnie Wall
- Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery

## Membership of Boards/Committees 2013

<b>Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee</b>	<b>Kerry Recreation &amp; Sports Partnership</b>
Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery	Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery
<b>Kerry Life Education Service</b>	<b>Kerry Education Service</b>
Cllr Grace O'Donnell	Cllr Mairéad Fernane Cllr Ted Fitzgerald
<b>Kerry County Development Board</b>	<b>Kerry County Council Strategic Policy Committees</b>
Cllr Terry O'Brien	Cllr Máiread Fernane Cllr Pat Hussey
<b>Joint Policing Committee</b>	<b>Tidy Tralee</b>
Cllr Mairéad Fernane Cllr Ted Fitzgerald Cllr Cathal Foley Cllr Norma Foley Cllr Dan Galvin Cllr Pat Hussey Cllr Sam Locke Cllr Pat Daly Cllr Terry O'Brien Cllr Grace O'Donnell Cllr Johnnie Wall Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery	Cllr Mairéad Fernane Cllr Ted Fitzgerald Cllr Cathal Foley Cllr Norma Foley Cllr Dan Galvin Cllr Pat Hussey Cllr Sam Locke Cllr Pat Daly Cllr Terry O'Brien Cllr Grace O'Donnell Cllr Johnnie Wall Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery
<b>Famous Sons &amp; Daughters Heritage Committee</b>	<b>Blennerville Windmill Company</b>
Cllr Johnnie Wall Cllr Máiread Fernane Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery Cllr Cathal Foley	Cllr Dan Galvin
<b>Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland</b>	
Cllr Ted Fitzgerald Cllr Dan Galvin	
<b>RAPID</b>	<b>North &amp; East Kerry Development Company Ltd</b>
Cllr Sam Locke	Cllr Johnnie Wall
<b>Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd</b>	<b>South Western Regional Authority</b>
Cllr Grace O'Donnell	Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery

<b>Tralee &amp; Fenit Harbour Commissioners</b>	<b>Towards a Better Tralee</b>
Cllr Mairéad Fernane Cllr Dan Galvin	Cllr Johnnie Wall
<b>Tralee Regional Sports &amp; Leisure Company Ltd</b>	<b>Tralee Farmers' Market</b>
Cllr Mairéad Fernane Cllr Gillian Wharton-Slattery	Cllr Grace O'Donnell Cllr Dan Galvin

## **Members Expenses 2013**

### **Annual Allowances**

Mayor	10,112.18
Deputy Mayor	2,464.76
Members Allowances	36,648.00
Representational Payments	74,729.43

The total payment made by Tralee Town Council in respect of attendance authorised by the authority at a meeting of a prescribed association of local authorities of which the authority is a member, and, attendance authorised by the authority at a conference seminar or other meeting or event, was €8,029.38 in 2013, all of which related to travel and subsistence expenses within the State.

## Conferences/Seminars attended by Members in 2013

Conference/Event	Location	Number Attended
AMAI Spring Seminar	Brandon House Hotel, New Ross, Co. Wexford.	6
LAMA Spring Seminar	Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford	3
Westlake Rose Selection	Westlake, Ohio, U.S.A.	1
Con Houlihan Seminar	River Island Hotel, Castleisland	1
AGM of IPB Mutual Insurances Ltd.	Wicklow Hall 1, The Convention Centre, Spencer Dock, North Wall Quay, Dublin 1	1
Museum Standards Programme for Ireland Accreditation Ceremony	Irish Architectural Archive, 45 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.	1
National Tidy Towns Awards (Announcement)	Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, Dublin	2
National Tidy Towns Awards (Presentation)	The Helix, Dublin	2
AMAI 101 <sup>st</sup> Annual Conference	Inchydoney Lodge & Spa, Clonakilty, Cork	5
Chamber Ireland's Excellence in Local Government Awards	Burlington Hotel, Upper Leeson Street, Dublin	1

## Civic Receptions

The following Civic Receptions were held in 2013:

- International Taekwon-Do Federation
- Easter Sunday Commemoration
- Tidy Towns Gold Medal
- Mayoral Awards
- Comenius Projects
- Carlow Town Council
- Chernobyl Children
- Official Unveiling of the Rose Wall
- Roses of Tralee
- Rose Centres
- Soroptimists
- Tralee Pipe Band

- Ancient Order of Hibernians
- Na Gaeil Ladies Football Team

### **Mayoral Awards**

The following received Mayoral Awards in 2013:

- Anthony O'Gara
- Mary O'Brien
- Teddy Moynihan
- Tom McCormack
- Siamsa Tire
- Tim McSwiney/Willie Moynihan



# **Report on the Activities of Tralee Town Council 2013**

## **Housing & Social Support**

The core objective of the Housing & Social Support Department is “To maximise the provision of suitable accommodation for those who are unable to provide their own, utilising the various social housing options. To manage and maintain our housing stock and to facilitate the development of sustainable communities”.

### **Key Indicators:**

Council Tenancy Dwellings	1,187
Total No. of approved Housing Applicants April 2013 assessment)	2,075
Housing applicants housed through casual vacancies in 2013	26
Average Weekly Rent	€45.50
Repair Requests completed	788
Pre-letting repairs	26
Units improved with energy efficiency measures	360

### **Assessment of Housing Need**

The Council was required (under Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009), to prepare, by May 2013, a summary in the prescribed format, of the social housing assessment carried out in its administrative area. This extensive work entailed the following:-

- (a) Examining all applications on hands to ensure they were properly assessed in accordance with the 2011 Social Housing Assessment Regulations
- (b) Making contact with all applicants qualified prior to April 2012 seeking an update on their circumstances to determine if they continued to have a housing need.
- (c) Examining all deferred applications.

In all 2,306 applications were assessed and a total of 2,075 households were considered to be qualified for social housing support at the end of April 2013.

### **Social Housing Needs Assessment (Summary) – April 2013**

		<b>Number of Households</b>
1	Households assessed for the purposes of determining their qualification for social housing support	2,306
2	Households that applied for social housing support but where an assessment has not yet been completed	98
3	Households that did not qualify for social housing support	109
4	Households that are qualified for social housing support	2,075

5	Households suspended from the list of qualified households for refusing 2 offers of accommodation within a 12 month period	5
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In addition to the figures shown for the above assessment, a total of 311 new applications were received in 2013.

### **Tenant Purchase Scheme**

#### **Termination of the 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme**

All sales under the scheme must be completed by the extended date of 30 June 2014 as per Department Circular of 19/12/2013 and no new applications can be accepted under the scheme. The present lack of credit facilities continues to impact on the number of tenants deciding to purchase.

The sale of three houses was completed during the year and a fourth sale remains to be finalized. The resulting proceeds from the sale of these 4 units will be €243,026.

All income from tenant purchase sales is ring fenced for housing improvements works subject to DoECLG approval. The DoECLG have advised that work is proceeding on the preparation of the General Scheme of a Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill. It is expected that the Bill will underpin a new tenant purchase scheme for existing local authority houses. Further details are awaited.

### **Capital Programme:**

#### **Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)**

Under the Social Housing Investment Programme, the works undertaken by Tralee Town Council in 2013 are summarised as follows:

#### **Energy Efficiency Programme 2013:**

The DoECLG continued to fund an energy efficiency programme in 2013 with an amount of €585,872 allocated between the 4 housing authorities. Previously, this funding was primarily used to upgrade dwellings which were undergoing pre-letting repairs but existing tenanted dwellings can now benefit from the funding.

The Department of Energy also invited applications under an Energy Efficiency Programme. The grant money availed of under this scheme was supplemented by specific Council resources set aside for this purpose. In total 360 units of our housing stock were improved in 2013 with grant assistance made available under both programmes. The works undertaken include roof and wall insulation; window replacement; external door replacement. These works will guarantee a sustainable improvement in the homes' energy efficiency rating and result in long term fuel savings for our tenants.

**St. Brendan's Park In-fill Development:** (Part funded under SHIP & part funded under Regeneration). This development involved the construction of 5 single storey units specifically designed to meet the needs of the elderly on 0.1 ha of vacant land, within Saint Brendan's Park Housing Estate. The units

were allocated to approved elderly applicants on the Town Council's one-bedroom housing list in September, 2013.

**Roof Refurbishment Programme** – (24 no. units located at Mitchel's Avenue; Mitchel's Road and Kevin Barry Villas). These houses are 1930's housing stock with original roofing. There had been a number of recurring maintenance complaints in relation to water ingress through the roofs. The need for roof refurbishment was established during installation of attic insulation as part of energy conservation measures recently completed on the houses.

### **Mitchels/Boherbee Community Regeneration Programme**

The Mitchel's Regeneration Project is a significant capital programme being undertaken by Tralee Town Council in the Mitchel's Crescent area.

The following projects were initiated/ underway during 2013:

#### **Mitchel's Integrated Services Centre:**

From the initial stages of the Regeneration Programme the need for a significant centre of local service delivery was identified as a key element in bringing a new dynamic to the regeneration area. The support for the project at local level has been consistent from the main service providers including HSE, Kerry Education Services, Kerry Travelers Development Project, KCC, TCC, North & East Kerry Development and other smaller agencies under the umbrella of the HSE & NEKD. The Centre is a multi tenanted building which consists mainly of office space. Construction was nearing completion at years end and negotiations with the proposed tenants nearing completion. It is anticipated that tenancies will commence in April, 2014. The benefits of this Project are summarized as follows:

- Enhanced local service delivery
- An integration of service delivery at local level
- An iconic symbol of change within the community
- A focal point for attracting visitors to the area and integrating the area into the wider Tralee and surrounding community.

#### **Design of Traveller Accommodation:**

The Council has been consulting with the remaining Traveller families in the Mitchel's Crescent /Mitchel's Road area to develop consensus around the most appropriate proposals for meeting the accommodation needs of the remaining families and its impact on the redevelopment of the regeneration area. Although the consultations have taken a significant amount of time, the main purpose of the consultation has been to ensure that the decision-making process is inclusive, where the views and experience of the Traveller families living in the area are fully considered. Every effort has been made to ensure that the final design promotes workable family relations. At year's end, the requirements of all the families had been expressed and considered by the Interagency Group and the Council. Subject to approval from the DoECLG, it is intended to implement the planning and procurement process during the first half of 2014 in order that construction may commence during the second half of the year.

### **Extension and New Build at Urban Terrace.**

This project involves the renovation of No. 28 Urban Terrace and the development of the adjacent infill site, both of which are currently derelict and visually detract from the area. The scheme has been designed in house by the Town Council. The planning process was implemented and approved at the October, 2013 Town Council meeting and the procurement process initiated at year's end. It is proposed to commence construction early in the New Year.

### **Community Social Projects**

These projects are implemented by the local community under a small grants scheme supported by the DoECLG. Projects undertaken in 2013 included support for the Historical & Heritage Working Group; the Gathering Re-union; Tralee Boxing Club; KDYS; community Horse Project, Tobar Naofa Residents Association & Outdoor Equipment; computer Training. These projects made a significant contribution towards improving facilities and promoting the positive impact of the regeneration area.

## **Roads & Transportation**

In 2013 Tralee Town Council continued its programme of road surfacing and footpath improvement works utilising the following funding:

**Block Grants:** €410,000

**Own Resources:** €65,000

Projects undertaken in 2013 included road surfacing works at:

Windmill Lane, Church Road (Blennerville), Strand St., Deans Lane, Killeen Road and footpath renewal works at:

- Church Lawn (Blennerville),
- Manor Village,
- Michael O'Flynn Terrace (Spa Road),
- Derrylea,
- Rahoone,
- Shanakill,
- Fountain Court,
- Ashgrove,
- St. Brendan's Park,
- Clash Road,
- O'Rahilly Villas.

Traffic Calming Schemes (Provision of Ramps) were undertaken at J.J. Sheehy Road (3No.), Cuil Fuine (2No.), Ballinorig Road (1No.) and Rae Street (1No.).

From Development Levies:

- The ongoing Lighting Programme continued with replacement of 48No. pole-top lanterns and provision of new lights at Lohercannon, Ashgrove, Cloonbeg Terrace.
- Surface Improvements were undertaken at Barrack Lane and Milk Market Lane
- Redevelopment of Garvey's Car Park was undertaken

**Taking in Charge**

The following roads were taken in charge in 2013:

- Carriglea,
- Castlemaine Bridge,
- Clonmore Grove,
- Ard na Sidhe,
- Gort na Sidhe,
- Cloch an Oigair,
- Sunday's Well,
- Cuil Fuine.
- 

All roads taken-in-charge result in a greater burden on the Council's Maintenance budgets.

## **Environmental Protection & Enhancement**

### **Tralee Retains Gold**

In 2013 Tralee received 'Gold Medal' status, for the second time ever in the Tidy Towns' Competition.

This was due to the integrated efforts of Towards a Better Tralee, Tidy Tralee and the Local Authority. The town won bronze medals in 2005 and 2006 and silver medals from 2008 -2011 and achieved its first gold in 2012.

### **Tralee Town Council Amenity Projects:**

Tralee Town Council continued its amenity works in the Tralee Bay wetlands constructing a Wetlands Boardwalk, universal access to the tower area. We also commenced a major grassland project and undertook targeted planting areas.

Other works included the commencement of Phase I of the Castlemaine Road Parkland, which will serve as an entrance point to the Ballyseedy Walkway.

Big River regeneration works were undertaken, including the construction of a number of weirs which will enhance the re- generation of the river and also serve as a flood protection mechanism.

A walkway, from the Dan Spring Road to the Town Park, flanking the western side of the Tralee Harriers Athletic Grounds, was constructed providing a much needed pedestrian linkage from the River Lee Walkway to the Park.

Other works undertaken included the reconstruction of surface and sub surface facilities in Milk Market Lane and the resurfacing of Barrack Lane, amenity and environmental works to the open area in Cahermoneen and the Rock Street-Mounthawk Walkway.

### **Residents' Associations & Environmental Work Groups:**

Tralee Town Council provided assistance by way of materials, equipment and works to the following groups in 2013, Rathoraig, Ogham Rian, Spa Road, Hare Street, Castle Morris Tce., Kevin Barry Villas, Manor Village, Lohercannon, Ballinorig, Bruach na hAbhann, Tobar Naofa, Community Garden Project, Reidy's Terrace, Connolly Park, Rahoonane & Shanakill.

In particular we strive to assist those communities who are active within their own areas.

### **Trees:**

In 2013 Tralee Town Council planted in excess of a thousand trees and we also undertook an extensive maintenance programme to manage our tree stock.

Unfortunately it became necessary to remove a number of 'landmark' mature trees in the town park which had succumbed to the fungus *Meripilus Giganteus*.

### **Litter Management:**

During 2013 Litter abatement personnel, during pro active patrolling, dealt with 488 items of indiscriminate dumping plus 7 abandoned vehicles. They responded to 158 'Respond Requests', issued 23 cautions and issued 8 fines.

The CCTV system, with recording facilities installed at the 'Bring Centre' at Matt Talbot Road Car Park has been a great success and has reduced indiscriminate dumping at this location to negligible proportions.

**Town Park:**

Since 2005 Tralee Town Park has been the focus for the Annual Féile na mBláth Festival. The Féile is a community based Festival celebrating the *'People of Kerry'* and focused on the promotion of Tralee Town and the amenities which the Town Park has to offer.

The festival, which is a Local Authority driven event, has grown incrementally each year, with great input from individuals, groups and communities all coming together on a voluntary basis to provide a mid Summer boost for Tralee.

In August, Tralee Town Council Mayor, Pat Hussey, unveiled a 'Glass Wall of Honour' to the 'Rose of Tralee' with the names of each finalist in the competition etched on the wall.

The wall was part of the 'Gathering of Roses' tribute being hosted by Tralee Town Council to salute former rose contestants.

Some 1,701 Roses from 70 Centres throughout the world participated in the event from 1959 to 2012, and a special commemorative booklet was also being published to mark the occasion.

The opening ceremony was performed by Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Leo Varadkar.

## **Water Services**

The following projects were undertaken in 2013:

- Cloonbeg Terrace – replacement of lead mains with new PVC mains
- Church Road, Blennerville – provision of new main and hydrants from N86 to GAA field
- Stacks Villas (58-74) – replacement of lead pipes with new PVC main
- Provision of Pressure Reducing Valves in six estates

## **Planning & Development**

### **Planning Applications**

Tralee Town Council received a total of 71 planning applications during 2013, of which there was a total of 3 (4.22%) invalid. This compared to 81 applications in 2012, 5 (6.17%) of which were invalid.

The following is a breakdown by category of the valid planning applications received in 2013.

Domestic Dwellings including extensions:	19
Commercial	23
Retention	12
Change of use	5
Other	9

The total number of permissions granted in 2013 was 56 and there were 6 Refusals.

### **Appeals**

The applicant or any member of the public (who has made a valid submission on a planning application) has a right to lodge an appeal with An Bord Pleanála against the decision of the planning authority. No planning decisions were appealed to An Bord Pleanála in 2013. An Bord Pleanála upheld the Council's decision in the one case decided.

### **Planning Enforcement**

The role of planning enforcement is to ensure that all identified unauthorized developments are eliminated or regularized, as quickly as possible through appropriate enforcement procedures. During 2013, 31 new complaints were received, and Tralee Town Council issued 30 warning letters and 6 enforcement notices for breach of Planning.

### **Development Contributions**

In 2013, a total of €535,665.14 was collected in development contributions as compared to €316,329 in 2012.

### **Derelict Sites**

Progress continued to be achieved in 2013 in relation to Derelict sites in Tralee Town area. A total of 13 properties have completed works during the year. 36 Notices in all were issued under the Derelict Sites Act during 2013 and levies were imposed on 3 properties.

Ongoing survey has shown however that further work is required in this area.



### Taking in Charge

6 private housing estates were taken in charge by Tralee Town Council in 2013.

3 other applications are currently being processed with a view to Taking in Charge in 2014.

## Finance Report

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2013 €</b>	<b>2012 €</b>
Revenue Expenditure	20,957,223	20,691,340
Capital Expenditure	6,797,533	6,389,776

Annual Rate on Valuation	81.18	81.18
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### Main Sources of Revenue Income      2013 €

Rates	9.8 m
Exchequer Grants/Recoupments	2.4 m
Housing Rents	2.8 m
Parking Charges	1.5 m
Water/Waste Water	1.1 m
NPPR	0.7 m
Museum	0.2 m

## **Killarney Town Council**

### **Introduction by Mayor of Killarney**

As the last Mayor of Killarney Town Council I am delighted to have been asked to make a submission to the 2013 Annual Report. This has been a very sad year for Town Councils with the news of their abolition following the Local Elections in May 2014. This Town Council, formerly the Urban District Council, has, in no small part, been a major contributor in the development of the town over the years.

Killarney Town Council took an active role in the year of the Gathering with the organisation of two events which brought visitors from near and far. The Global Gathering of Kerry Associations was held in May, 2013. In September, 2013, we held a Gathering of our Twinned Towns and Sister Cities which saw delegations from Pleinfeld, St. Avertin and Myrtle Beach travel to Killarney

The Killarney Tidy Towns Committee has had another busy and successful year. They were instrumental in organising the County Clean up which took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and resulted in 900 volunteers collecting over 6,500 bags of litter in the County. In the National Tidy Towns Award the town won its 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive Gold Medal, the county award, the regional award and was named Irelands Tidiest Large Town, being just one point off the overall winners.

Every town in the country has a Major Emergency Plan. It is always hoped that there will not be a need to activate such a plan but unfortunately in July 2013 Killarney had to activate their plan. A major gas explosion occurred in the town centre and resulted in the very sad death of a local businessman. The staff of Killarney Town Council worked closely with the emergency services to ensure the area was made safe and helped with the clean-up operation.

It was my great pleasure to unveil the Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty sculpture in October of this year during the Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty weekend. The sculpture, which is located on Mission Road, was designed and built by Alan Hall Ryan and is a permanent and fitting tribute to the Monsignor in his home town.

There are many hardworking and dedicated committees working largely behind the scenes for the betterment of Killarney as a community i.e. Killarney Arts, Killarney Access, Killarney Twinning and Marketing, Killarney Drugs Liaison, Killarney Sports and Leisure and Killarney Honours. I would hope that, despite the abolition of the Town Council, these committee would continue to grow and work towards the advancement of Killarney as a vibrant and progressive community.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors, the staff of Killarney Town Council and the various groups that co-operated with the Town Council in promoting the town.

**Cllr Paddy Courtney**  
**Mayor of Killarney**

## **Killarney Town Manager's Report**

As Killarney Town Manager, I am delighted to be able to report on the many projects and schemes carried out by Killarney Town Council during 2013, which all led to a better, improved Killarney.

As a Town Council, we work closely with the residents and businesses of Killarney to improve our town for locals and visitors alike. I may be biased, but I am confident that the collaborative way that all sectors work together ensures that Killarney is one of the best towns in Ireland.

I would like to pay tribute to all involved that help to make it so. Those who live in Killarney town are rightly proud of their community, and work tirelessly to keep it in great shape.

And they are joined by the businesses, tourist interests and the staff and officials of Killarney Town Council, to create a team that is hard to beat. I take my hat off to all of these groups who go far above and beyond to keep Killarney looking great.

As has been mentioned elsewhere, the upcoming abolition of the Town Councils in 2014 is a sad day. In my time as Town Manager in Killarney and working elsewhere in local authorities, both in Kerry and outside the county, the value of a strong, hard-working Town Council is immense.

It is fair to say that Killarney has benefitted from a strong Town Council over the years. Our successes in the Tidy Towns Competition and the Entente Florale are testament to this and Killarney's continued high visitor number are also aided by the work carried out by the Town Council, in conjunction with the many other bodies.

I will be working with Kerry County Council to ensure that Killarney continues to be a leading light in terms of tourism product and as a shining example of community and Council co-operation.

**John Breen**

**Killarney Town Manager**

## Membership of Killarney Town Council 2013

Cllr. P. Courtney (Mayor 2013-2014)	Cllr. T. Doherty
Cllr. M. Gleeson (Deputy Mayor 2013-2014)	Cllr. N. O'Callaghan
Cllr. S. Counihan	Cllr. J. O'Donoghue
Cllr D. Grady	Cllr. C. Walshe
Cllr. S. O'Grady	

## Membership of other bodies 2013

Group	Representatives
<b>Kerry Vocational Education Committee (County Kerry Vocational Education Committee)</b>	Cllr. Sean O'Grady Fr. Kieran O'Brien
<b>Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland</b>	Cllr. Sean Counihan Cllr. Sean O'Grady
<b>Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances</b>	Cllr. Sean O'Grady
<b>Killarney Working Group</b>	Cllr. Paddy Courtney Cllr. Tom Doherty Cllr. Donal Grady Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan
<b>Honours Committee</b>	Cllr. Sean Counihan Cllr. Paddy Courtney Cllr. Tom Doherty Cllr. Cathal Walshe
<b>Town Twinning Committee</b>	Cllr. Sean Counihan Cllr. Paddy Courtney Cllr. Tom Doherty Cllr. Donal Grady Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan Cllr. John O'Donoghue Ms. Sheila Casey Ms. Sheila Dickson Mr. Tony Kenny Mr. Brian O'Leary
<b>Sub-Committee for Disability Issues</b>	Cllr. Sean O'Grady Cllr. Tom Doherty

<b>Director South Kerry Development Partnership Limited</b>	Cllr. Donal Grady
<b>Liaison Committee for Killarney National Park</b>	Brian O'Leary
<b>Director of Killarney Technology Innovation</b>	Cllr. Sean Counihan
<b>Lough Leane Working Group</b>	Cllr. Sean O'Grady
<b>Killarney Drugs Liaison Committee</b>	Cllr. Sean O'Grady Cllr. Donal Grady Cllr. Tom Doherty Cllr. Cathal Walshe
<b>Arts Committee</b>	Cllr. Sean O'Grady Cllr. John O'Donoghue
<b>Strategic Policy Committee</b>	Cllr. C. Walshe (Economic, Planning & Development SPC) Cllr. S. O'Grady Housing Strategic Policy Committee
<b>Kerry Recreation &amp; Sports Partnership</b>	Cllr. S. Counihan
<b>Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee</b>	Cllr. D. Grady
<b>Joint Policing Committee</b>	Cllr. S. Counihan Cllr. P. Courtney Cllr. T. Doherty Cllr. M. Gleeson Cllr. D. Grady Cllr. N. O'Callaghan Cllr. J. O'Donoghue Cllr. S. O'Grady Cllr. C. Walshe Senator T. Sheahan Senator P. Coghlan Senator M. Daly
<b>Industrial sub-Committee</b>	Cllr. Sean Counihan Cllr. Tom Doherty Cllr. Donal Grady Cllr. Sean O'Grady Cllr. John O'Donoghue Mr. Brian O'Leary

## Civic Receptions

Date	Recipient	Venue
01/02/2013	Killarney Soroptomists Club in celebration of the Club's 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Council Chamber
11/02/2013	Choir of St. Mary's Cathedral, Killarney in recognition of winning the National Choir of the Year Competition.	Council Chamber
18/02/2013	Jimmy & Kay Fleming in recognition of their involvement for over 25 years in the organisation of the M.S. Concerts at the Market Cross	Council Chamber
17/05/2013	South Kerry Parkinson's Group in recognition of their wonderful work over the past 10 years.	Council Chamber
27/07/2013	Oxford & Cambridge Boat Club to welcome them to Killarney to participate in the Killarney Rowing Festival.	Lake Hotel, Killarney
08/11/2013	Ballyspillane Community in recognition of winning Pride of Place 2012	Council Chamber

## Civic Welcome

Date	Recipient	Venue
01/07/2013	Maureen Ficken-Shank in recognition of the contribution she has made to tourism in Killarney	Council Chamber

## Mayoral Awards

The Mayoral Awards were held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in the Killarney Plaza Hotel.

Eileen Switzer	for her many years involvement in a variety of sports and her dedication to the young adults in the Kerry Parents and Friends.
Tomas Kelliher	who donated a kidney to his brother
Siobhan Lenihan	for her part in introducing the defibrillator scheme to Killarney
Sean Moynihan	for his role as Manager of the All Ireland winning Junior Team 2012.
Mary Murphy	for her contribution to promoting Arts in Killarney
Donal Hickey	for his contribution to journalism over three decades
Aoife Cooper	for winning a silver medal in Rowing in the European Championships
Kevin Griffin	for volunteering in Africa to build houses
Kay O'Donoghue	for a lifetime of dedication to caring for her son
Mary Lyne	for her involvement with the youth through Killarney Celtic
Ann Casey	for caring for Philip and Robin Guiton following the death of their parents.
Jemma Walsh	for her courageous actions which helped save the life of her grandmother.
Eddie Sheedy	for his work in Kenya over the past ten years
Brendan Heffernan	for his work with Workmans Rowing Club over the years and his charitable work in helping various individuals and charities throughout the years

Killarney Martial Arts Academy	in recognition of the promotion of Martial Arts in Killarney and achieving 420 championship medals since opening in 2010. Award is being accepted by Pádraig O'Sullivan Darcy
Michael O'Shea	for his work with Bothar
Anne Nagle	for her involvement with the betterment of young people and in particular her involvement with the No Name Club as Chairperson
Cormac Foley	for his commitment and dedication to Tidy Towns over the years
Kathleen Foley	for her commitment and dedication to Tidy Towns over the years
Donal Mangan	for his commitment and dedication to Tidy Towns over the years
Gerard O'Sullivan	for his commitment and dedication to Tidy Towns over the years
Pat Lenihan	for his commitment and dedication to Tidy Towns over the years
John Kiely	for his years promoting sport and sporting organisations in Killarney and volunteerism generally
Nancy Hegarty	for her selfless work and dedication to Killarney's older population at National and Local Level
The Killarney Committee of Pieta House	for their work and support of Pieta House and especially for organising the very successful Darkness into Light <b>Nathans Walk</b> .
Dr Alan Mee	for being instrumental in re-introducing the White Tailed Eagle back into Killarney and the very necessary work involved to ensure the operation was successful over the last number of years.

### Conferences/Seminars attended by members in 2013

Conference/Seminar	Location	No.
<b>Clare Tourism Conference</b>	The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare	<b>2</b>
<b>AMAI Spring Seminar 2013</b>	Brandon House Hotel, New Ross, Co. Wexford	<b>3</b>
<b>LAMA Spring Seminar 2013</b>	Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford	<b>1</b>
<b>AMAI 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference 2013</b>	Inchydoney Lodge & Spa, Clonakilty	<b>2</b>



## **Achievements of Killarney Town Council 2013**

### **Housing & Social Support**

On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013, Killarney Town Council had 1099 qualified applicants for Housing. 43 Applications were in the process of being assessed.

- Housing Stock at 31/12/13 315
- Housing Allocations 2013 3

#### **Tenant Purchase Applications :**

- 0 Applications received.

#### **Energy Efficiency / Insulation Works :**

Energy Efficiency / Insulation works were completed on 59 Properties

Ballyspillane Estate 44 Properties  
Ballydribeen Estate 15 Properties

Insulation works were also carried out on 31 properties, in various estates, under the SEAI Area Based Programme 2013.

#### **House acquisition - Nil**

#### **Emergency Accommodation**

The Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government provides funding for 10 emergency beds in Killarney 45 people were accommodated in 2013.

Clúid Housing Association has purchased a property in Killarney to develop a purpose built emergency hostel but the necessary funding to develop the facility has not yet been provided.

## **Roads, Transportation & Safety**

Killarney Town Council has 50.67 km of urban roads in its administrative area. These roads include streets, housing estate roads, distribution roads and laneways. During 2013 Killarney Town Council resurfaced roadways and footpaths including the following:-

- Woodlands Link Road – Resurfacing works
- Ross Road at Wishing Well – resurfacing works
- New Road – Road resurfacing works together with the conversion of New Road to a one way system at school times.
- Woodlawn Road at Ballycasheen – Road Resurfacing together with provision of a Storm Drain
- New Road & Rock Road Junction
- Re-alignment of Rookery road / Ballycasheen road junction.
- East Avenue Road – enhancements to footpaths along East Avenue Road

### **Specific Projects**

- Monument commemorating Irish World War II hero, Monsignor Hugh O’Flaherty, the ‘Scarlet Pimpernel of the Vatican’ with seating and landscaping at junction of Beech Road and Mission Road (in conjunction with the Monsignor O’Flaherty Memorial Committee).
- Provision of Public Toilets at Knockreer Playground
- Energy upgrade to Local Authority houses at Ballyspillane and Ballydribeen, in conjunction with SEAI and Kerry County Council

## **Water Services**

Provision of a storm pipeline and Water main at Ballycasheen

### **Planning**

No. of valid planning applications received – 92

No. of planning decisions issued – 89

No. of permissions granted – 87

No. of permissions refused – 2

### **Enforcement**

A total of 17 new enforcement complaints (16 written/internal & 1 Verbal) were received, processed and investigated in 2013 with a number of other ongoing files still receiving attention.

In 2013 the Planning Authority issued 7 No. Warning Letter and 8 No. Enforcement Notices.

## **Environment**

### **Tidy Towns 2013**

Killarney scored very highly in the Annual Tidy Towns Competition again this year. At an Award Ceremony in The Helix, Dublin, Killarney received its thirteenth consecutive Gold Medal. The Town was also awarded the County Award, the Regional Award and the Tidiest Large Town Category. Killarney was just one point off the overall winners.

### **Killarney Looking Good 2013**

The Killarney Looking Good Competition got underway this year in January with a huge emphasis once again being put on volunteering. There were approximately 20 categories to choose from catering for everyone from large commercial premises to private houses. The competition has grown from strength to strength each year and we had a huge number of entries in this years Competition.

### **Refuse Service**

Killarney Town Council continued its refuse collection service with the provision of a segregated collection service involving three separate collections during 2014. We recycled 45 % of the waste collected from our 1929 domestic customers, and 95 commercial customers.

## **Recreation, Amenity & Tourist Development**

### **Killarney Arts**

The Killarney Arts Committee continued its work throughout 2013 to help promote Arts in Killarney. During the summer months the Committee were involved in organising 'Spraoi Ciarraí' which took place in both the Deenagh Lodge and St Mary's Church of Ireland. The Eamon Kelly Memorial Bursary for Further Education in Arts attracted a lot of applicants and it was agreed that this years Bursary would be awarded to Ray O'Sullivan and Sean Daly. This year the group organised a number of very successful storytelling cafes in a local café. These proved to be very successful and enjoyable to all those who attended.

### **The Gathering**

The Global Gathering of Kerry Associations was held in May, 2013. We had a week long festival of events beginning with the Mayor's Ball. There was a seminar on one of the days which was themed around "Connectivity". There was street music with Walking on Cars, a golf classic and the May Festival of the Killarney Races. The whole event was a huge success.

## **Twinning & Marketing Committee**

The Killarney Town Council Twinning and Marketing Committee continued their work in promoting Killarney all over the world. Delegations from Killarney travelled to Sweden and Alcorcon.

In September, 2013, we held a Gathering of our Twinned Towns and Sister Cities. Delegations from Pleinfeld, St. Avertin and Myrtle Beach travelled to this event. We had a fantastic week and our Twinned Towns and Sister Cities thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

It was a week of getting each of our twinned towns and sister cities to communicate with each other and discuss the history and cultures of their own countries. It is hoped that each city will remain in touch for the future, with a view to remaining connected with each other.

## Killarney Town Council - Financial Report

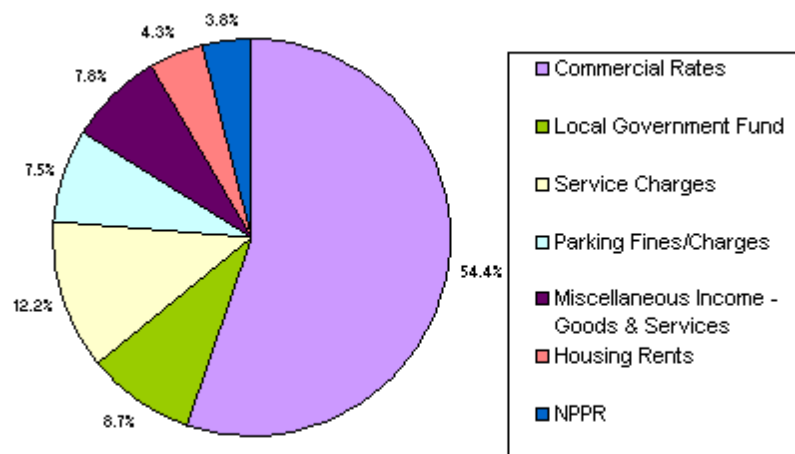
		2012	2013
<b>Expenditure</b>	Revenue	13,840,360	14,305,252
	Capital	753,484	3,657,290

<b>Income</b>	Revenue	14,015,360	14,402,455
	Capital	1,016,393	4,327,067

<b>Annual Rate on Valuation</b>	€70.37	€70.37
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### Main Sources of Revenue Income 2013

	%	€
Commercial Rates	54.4%	7,833,809
Local Government Fund	8.7%	1,251,767
Service Charges	12.2%	1,759,912
Parking Fines/Charges	7.5%	1,086,521
Miscellaneous Income - Goods & Services	7.8%	1,122,161
Housing Rents	4.3%	624,190
NPPR	3.8%	548,720
State Grants & Subsidies	1.2%	175,375



## Killarney Sports & Leisure Centre

2013 was a mixed year for us. The start of the year saw us growing in Memberships, school use and Birthday Parties. The beautiful summer weather however, saw the public outdoors more and use of the Centre during the day, especially Children's Camps, fell. The evening use remained popular though and the knock on effect of summer swimming tragedies caused a massive upsurge in swimming lesson enrolment.

Among the events we ran were:

- Heels on Wheels and Blokes on Spokes in conjunction with Kerry Recreational Sports Partnership – getting new participants to take part in Cycling
- Biggest Loser Comp and 2 x 6 week drop a dress size challenges.
- Indoor triathlon for all ages
- Strongman comp in various disciplines
- Ride a stage of the Tour de France, a month long challenge
- August health check day for all
- Birthday Party packages

Outside hirers of our facilities have increased In the last year and we have hosted the Munster Badminton Competitions, Schools Basketball Competitions, Area Basketball Competitions, Wrestling Competition, Kingdom Rebel Soccer competition, Zorbing Soccer, Floorball Competitions, KDYS Area Competitions, Special Olympics Competitions, Taekwondo Grading and Competitions, Aikido Classes and Competitions, GAA training, Kerry Team GAA testing, Swim for All Classes, Zumba classes, Ballet Classes, TRX Fitness Classes, Monkeynastix, Yoga, Hot Yoga, Irish Dancing, Pregnancy Pilates, Unislim, Kettlebells, Water Babies, Masters Triathlon training, Lifesaving Courses and Pilates. All of which have provided us with good Hall, Pool and Studio income.

We have had some small changes to the Centre in the last year. The Sauna and Steam Room were repaired with new benches and tiles replaced and regouted. The Automatic front door had the electronics replaced. The Air Conditioning in the Studio needed repairs. The boilers had a major overhaul. The intercom system had to be repaired and the Pool and Hall lights replaced for the first time since opening. We also had one large change with the CHP here being switched off in August and 1 of our Hot Water storage tanks decommissioned. This was necessary because the CHP was no longer performing efficiently and saving our energy bills. In the coming months we will be investigating other means of cutting our energy costs.

Financially the main items to note are:

- Jan to Dec 2013 Killarney brought in €842,377.29 in Sales ( Ex VAT)
- Jan to Dec 2013 Killarney spent €408,133.70 on Wages and Salaries that's approximately 48% of our income.
- Jan to Dec 2013 Killarney spent €220,467.82 on Heating and Lighting (Inc VAT) that's an approx 26% of our income.

## **Killarney Area Services Centre**

The Area Services Centre continues to provide services for both Kerry County Council and Killarney Town Council.

Payments are receipted for both Councils, including payments for all the major revenue streams, such as Housing Rents and Loans, Rates, Water Services Charges, Refuse Charges and Traffic Fines.

In 2013 also, applications continued to be processed for Household Charge and Septic Tank Registrations for the first half of the year.

The Centre processes Motor Taxation applications; The Motor Taxation Online Service requires applicants to have a Tax Renewal Form with a valid P.I.N. From November 2011 this was extended to include goods vehicles that have a current Certificate of Road Worthiness. Cash payments are accepted and a receipt issued; the application is then processed through [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie) and the disc is issued within a couple of days.

The Self Service Kiosk for customers using the Online Tax facility with their own credit/debit cards has seen increased usage in recent times.

## **Listowel Town Council**

### **Foreword by the Mayor**

As Mayor of Listowel, I am very pleased to present the 2013 Annual Report. A review of 2013 shows continued improvement in the infrastructure of the town and the appearance of Listowel.

In 2013 Listowel Town Council continued the upgrading & resurfacing works in Greenville as well as works on O'Connell's Avenue and footpath improvements in Greenville and Ballygologue Park.

I would like to compliment the Town Council for footpath improvement works and low level lighting in the Town Park. This is a welcome addition to an excellent amenity and will encourage greater recreational use of the Town Park.

I would like to congratulate the Tidy Towns Committee on having retained a gold medal in the Tidy Towns Competition in 2013 for the sixth year in a row. This result has been achieved as a result of many people in our community who give tirelessly of their time promoting a cleaner and tidier environment. It was pleasing to see the involvement of the local traders in support of the Tidy Towns. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Town Council in supporting the Tidy Towns, by engaging in litter picks, flower planting and other supports given in 2013.

Listowel was selected as one of three towns to pilot the Historic Towns Initiative in 2012 with a view to promote heritage-led regeneration of Ireland's historic towns. In 2013 funding from this initiative was used to enhance the façade of 13 buildings in the town along with signage for the heritage trail.

The many festivals, such as Writer's Week, Listowel Races, Listowel Food Fair, provided a welcome boost to the economic wellbeing of the town and also promoted and fostered a sense of civic pride in the local community.

April saw the untimely passing of our esteemed colleague, Cllr. Anthony Curtin, who was first elected in 1999 and served as Mayor on 2 occasions, as well as being the Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee. Cllr. Curtin served the town with distinction and will be missed by his family and many supporters. May he rest in peace.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Elected Members, the Town Manager and all the staff of the Town Council for their dedication and commitment to the Town in 2013 and also for their assistance to me in my role as Mayor.

**Cllr Jimmy Moloney**  
**Mayor of Listowel**



## Listowel Town Manager's Report

I am pleased to be associated with the Listowel Town Council Report for 2013.

The past year continued to be a challenge for the town council. Faced with a further 5% reduction in the Local Government Funding, the impact of the fiscal downturn on the local economy, and increased regulatory controls, it was necessary to consolidate services, further focus on our core services and ensure the provision of the best public service possible to the people of Listowel, within the financial constraints we operate under.

Following the decision by Government on the effective reform of local government as set out in the Government Policy document "Putting People First", considerable preparatory work was initiated for the amalgamation of our services with Kerry County Council and to ensure a smooth transition in service delivery for our customers. Whilst acknowledging the excellent service provided by Listowel Town Council to the community, since its foundation under the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898, local government has witnessed extensive reforms, particularly in recent years with the entry of private operators to the waste collection service and the transfer of water services to a new state body "Uisce Eireann" post 2013, and in this context, reform of the sector is inevitable, particularly given the changing roles in public service provision.

I am confident that with the continued strong commitment from our staff to serving the local community, directed by strong leadership from its elected council, the new structures to be established will enhance the provision of services. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the staff for their commitment on an excellent delivery of services and embracing the challenges ahead.

Despite the continuing financial constraints, Listowel Town Council continued to carry out significant improvement works in 2013, particularly on the drainage network, footpaths and road pavement in O'Connell's Avenue, Greenville and Ballygologue Park. Given the increased usage of public amenities witnessed in recent years, the footpath improvement works and low level lighting provided in the Town Park, in 2013, further enhances its attractiveness for locals and visitors alike. This facility benefits the wider environs of Listowel and underpins the town's importance in servicing the proposed Municipal District.

As a Council we are aware that the difficult economic environment that impacts on the Town Council, is also affecting our customers, particularly those who pay rates and water charges. Where customers have experienced difficulties, the Council has been supportive and provided flexible payment options, which underpins the importance of local service provision. It has also continued to support the business community in promoting local festivals, including Writers Week, Listowel Race Week, and Christmas trading.

The pursuit of excellence in all sectors of our activities including service delivery to our customers will continue to underpin all our actions going forward.

I would like to express my appreciation of the dedication and commitment of the staff of the Town Council and the hard work of the Elected Members. In particular I wish to pay tribute to the contribution of the Mayor, Cllr. Jimmy Moloney and his predecessor Cllr. Tom Barry for their commitment and dedication to the development of the town.

**Charlie O'Sullivan**  
**Town Manager**

## **Membership of Listowel Town Council 2013**

- Cllr. Jacqueline Barrett
- Cllr Tom Barry (Mayor 2012/2013)
- Cllr. Anthony Curtin
  - ***Following the passing of Cllr Curtin, Cllr. Dianne Nolan was co-opted in his place on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013***
- Cllr. Maria Gorman
- Cllr Mike Kennelly
- Cllr Jimmy Moloney (Mayor 2013/2014)
- Cllr. Tim O'Leary
- Cllr. Denis Stack
- Cllr. Tom Walsh

## **Membership of Other Bodies 2013**

<b>Kerry Education Service</b>	<b>Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland</b>
Cllr. Jimmy Moloney Cllr. Maria Gorman	Cllr Tom Walsh Cllr Maria Gorman
<b>Local Authorities Members Association</b>	<b>Listowel Community Centre Ltd</b>
Cllr. Maria Gorman	Cllr. Tom Barry
<b>St. John's Arts &amp; Heritage Centre</b>	<b>Kerry Literary &amp; Cultural Centre</b>
Cllr. Jimmy Moloney	Cllr Dianne Nolan
<b>SPC Representatives</b>	<b>North &amp; East Kerry Development</b>
Cllr Denis Stack Cllr Jimmy Moloney	Cllr Maria Gorman
<b>Irish Public Bodies Ltd</b>	
Cllr Tom Walsh	

### **Conferences/Seminars attended by Members in 2013**

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No. Attended</b>
AMAI Annual Spring Seminar	February	Cavan	2
LAMA Spring Conference	April	Wexford	12
AMAI Annual Conference	September	Ballinasloe	2
LAMA Annual Autumn Seminar	September	Letterkenny	1
A decade of commemorations 1913-1923-the role of Local Authorities	September	Listowel	9
SIPO for Councillors	November	Dublin	1

### **Civic Receptions 2013**

- Reception for An Post RAS & Listowel Cycling Club May
- Reception for Sean Slemon June
- Reception for Listowel Celtic November

### **Members Expenses 2013**

#### **Annual Allowances**

Mayor	€ 3,000
Deputy Mayor	€ 750
Members Expenses	€18,089
Representational Payments to Members	€36,916
Conferences/Seminars	€10,371

## **Achievements of Listowel Town Council 2013**

### **Housing & Social Support**

At the end of year the Council had 170 qualified applicants for housing in the town and 11 houses were allocated to new tenants during the year. The Council carried out a Needs Assessment of all current applications in accordance with revised guidelines from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, in 2011, to ensure the housing needs of our customers are appropriately addressed.

The sale of only two houses under the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2013 was indicative of the contraction in the economy, reduced incomes, increased levels of unemployment, borrowing constraints and future uncertainty by homeowners.

### **Roads & Transportation**

The Council received a block grant of €161,300 from the Department of Transport, which was used to fund improvement works on Greenville, including the upgrading of the drainage network, resurfacing works and a new footpath. Road improvement works were also carried out in O'Connell's Avenue. Footpath improvement works also took place in Ballygologue Park.

### **Water Services**

A pressure management survey was carried out in 2008 on the water network. Over the past year, the Council completed works on the network to reduce water pressure and repair old sections of watermains, which resulted in substantial savings in water usage. In accordance with the National Water Pricing Framework, the Council commenced charging for Waste Water discharges to the public network based on the concept of 'water in water out' in 2011. The investment in the water network in 2009 and 2010 and increased usage of the Leak Detection Unit, meant that the Council was in a position to substantially maintain a supply of water in the town during the severe weather, experienced during the past winter, although some rationing was necessary due to the irresponsible actions of a limited number of consumers.

### **Town Improvement Programme**

The Town Improvement Programme is financed by on-street parking charges. The Programme allows the Council to provide the many facilities required of a Heritage/ Historic Town and promote the economic development and tourism potential of the town, in conjunction with local business, festival organisers, the voluntary sector and tourism promoters. The Council has continued to maintain services, such as the Town Park, recycling facilities, public lighting

and a public convenience as well as supporting important events in the town, which attract tourists. Upgrading works on the footpaths in the Town Park were undertaken during the year.

### **Tidy Towns 2013**

In the 2013 Tidy Towns Competition, Listowel received a gold medal for the sixth year in a row. The high ranking in Tidy Towns is largely due to the combined efforts of the hard working T.A.B.L.E. (Towards A Better Listowel Everybody) committee and our outdoor staff.

A campaign to highlight and tackle the issue of dog fouling was initiated and this involved signage, pooper scooper dispensers and bins being put in place along the John B. Keane. This has proved to be highly successful as the amount of dog fouling has reduced significantly and it was rolled out in the Town Park in 2013.

### **Planning & Development**

The low level of planning activity continued in 2013 with 20 applications received, which was an increase of 10 compared to 2012.

### **Finances**

**Annual Rate of Valuation 2013** **€77.07**

#### **Expenditure**

**Revenue** **€3,713,721**  
**Capital** **€ 624,129**

#### **Main Sources of Revenue Income**

	€
Commercial Rates	1,499,965
Local Government Fund	533,911
Road Grants	161,300
Water & Sewerage	160,675
Rent	358,174
Planning Fees & Charges for Services	4,573
Contribution from Kerry County Council	38,007
Staff Pension Contributions	47,809
Parking Fines/Fees	115,172

# Service Indicators

	2013 Full Year
<b>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION &amp; COOPERATION</b>	
% of Local Schools & Youth Groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg Scheme	31.52%
Total Number of local schools & youth groups	92
No of local schools & youth groups involved in the Local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	29
No of groups registered with the Community & Voluntary Forum	844
<b>CORPORATE ISSUES</b>	
% of working days lost to sickness absence through Certified leave	4.16%
% of working days lost to sickness absence through UNCERTIFIED leave	0.36%
No of working days lost to sickness absence through CERTIFIED leave	10301.60
No of working days lost to sickness absence through UNCERTIFIED leave	903.19
Total number of staff (whole time equivalent) at the end of Dec (as per DECLG staffing return for end of year)	1091.22
Exp on Training & Dev. as a % of total payroll costs	4.50%
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>	
Unaccounted Water (UFW) as a % of the total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the Local Authority is responsible for	53.33%

Total volume of water supplied (m3 per day) under the water supply schemes that the Local Authority is responsible for	82,617
Volume of unaccounted for water (m3 per day) under the water supply schemes that the Local Authority is responsible for	44,061
<b>Drinking Water Analysis</b>	
% of Drinking Water Analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to:	data supplied by EPA
(a) Public Schemes	
(b) Private Schemes (where appropriate)	
<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>Waste Segregation</b>	
% of households provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables	100%
% of households provided with segregated waste collection for Organics	29.20%
Total number of households provided with a waste collection service	30,750
Total number of households provided with a segregated Waste Collection Service for Dry recyclables	30,750
Total number of households provided with a segregated Waste Collection Service for Organics	8,979
<b>Housing waste sent for Recycling</b>	
% of household waste collected from Kerbside which is sent for recycling	33.35%
Tonnage of Household Waste collected from Kerbside which is sent for recycling	8526.91
Tonnage of Household Waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity sites, transfer stations & other recycling facilities)	5861.61
Tonnage of Household Waste collected from Kerbside	25,564.80
<b>Household waste sent for landfill</b>	
Total tonnage of household waste collected	25,564.80



Tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to Landfill	17,037.60
% of household waste collected which is sent to Landfill	66.64%
<b>Recycling Facilities</b>	
Total number of Bring sites in the Local Authority Area	93
Total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the Local Authority Area	6
<b>GLASS</b>	
(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	93
(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
(c) total no of facilities for recycling	99
The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.40
<b>CANS</b>	
(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	93
(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
(c) total no of facilities	99
The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	3.40
<b>TEXTILES</b>	
(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	0
(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
(c) total no of facilities for recycling	6
The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.21
<b>BATTERIES</b>	
(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	0
(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
(c) total no of facilities	6
The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.21
<b>OILS</b>	
(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	0
(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
(c) total no of facilities for recycling	6
The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.21
<b>OTHERS</b>	
(a) No of Bring Sites for recycling	0
(b) No of Civic Amenity Sites for recycling	6
(c) total no of facilities	6

The no of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.21
<b>LITTER PREVENTION &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT</b>	
<b>No of Litter Wardens</b>	
(a) Total no of Full time Litter Wardens	3
(b) total no of Part time Litter Wardens	12
(c) total no of Litter Wardens (both full & part Time	15
No of Litter Wardens (both full and part time) per 5,000 population	0.52
<b>On the Spot Fines</b>	
(a) No of on the Spot Fines issued	82
No of on the Spot Fines paid	44
(b) No of prosecution cases taken because of non payment of on the spot fines	8
(c) No of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non payment of on the spot fines	0
No of notices issued (Under Sections 9, 15, 16, 17 & 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997	1
Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	9
Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	0
<b>% of Areas within the Local Authority that are (TES Consulting will submit info (a) to (e)</b>	
(a) Unpolluted (i.e. litter free)	
(b) slightly polluted with litter	
(c) moderately polluted with litter	
(d) Significantly polluted with litter	
(e) Grossly polluted with litter	
<b>Environmental Complaints &amp; Enforcement</b>	
Total no of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	1047
No of complaints investigated	1059
Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	970
No of enforcement procedures taken	107
<b>% of Schools participating in environmental campaigns</b>	

(a) Primary Schools	95.52%
(b) Secondary Schools	100%
Total No of primary schools	134
No of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	128
Total number of secondary schools	26
No of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	26
<b>Fire Service</b>	
Average time, in minutes to mobilise fire brigades in Part time stations In respect of Fires	6.03
Average time taken in minutes to mobilise Fire Brigades in Part Time Stations(retained Fire Service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	6.02
<b>% of attendance as scenes where</b>	
(a)% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	34.15%
(b)% of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	47.92%
(c) % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	17.93%
(d) % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 min	26.05%
(e) % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 min but within 20 min	60.08%
(f) % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 min	13.87%
Total Number of incidents in respect of Fire	697
No of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 min	238
No of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 min but within 20 min	334
No of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 min	125

Total no of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (not including fire)	238
No of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 min	62
No of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 min but within 20 min	143
No of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 min	33
<b>Fire Prevention - Total no of Fire Safety Certificate applications</b>	
(a) received	126
(b) processed	130
(c) Total no of applications deemed invalid	18
<b>HOUSING</b>	
<b>Housing vacancies</b>	
Total no of dwellings in local authority stock	4034
Total number of dwellings excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	4034
Overall % of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment)	2.63%
% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	70.75%
% of empty dwellings available for letting	29.25%
The average no of dwellings in local authority stock	4052
The average no of dwellings excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	4052
The average no of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	110.25
The average no of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	77.75
The average no of empty dwellings available for letting	32.5
<b>Average time taken to relet dwellings available for letting (in weeks)</b>	

Average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	20.71
The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above ) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	13.93
<b>No of repairs completed as a % of the no of valid repair requests received</b>	
No of repairs completed as a % of the no of valid repair requests received	97.32%
The no of repairs completed	2908
The no of valid repair requests received	2988
<b>Traveller Accommodation -</b>	
Total no of traveller families accommodated as a % of the targets set in the local travellers accommodation programme	39.29%
No of Traveler families accommodated	11
Target no of Traveller Families to be accommodated in the year, as set out in the Local Traveller accommodation Programme	28
<b>Enforcement of Standards in Private Rented Sector</b>	
Total number of Registered tenancies	6850
No of Dwelling Units Inspected	1096
No of Inspections carried out	1118
No of dwellings inspected as % of registered tenancies	16%
<b>Grants to adapt Housing for the needs of people with a Disability</b>	
Average time taken (in weeks)to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s) from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application	26.54
Average time take (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s) from the date of receipt of a valid application, to the date of decision on the application.	44.25

<b>Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses</b>	
Total Number of new Local Authority Tenants	126
No of new Local Authority Tenants who have been offered pre tenancy familiarisation courses	126
% of new Local Authority tenants who have been offered pre tenancy familiarisation courses	100%
<b>LIBRARY SERVICES</b>	
<b>Public Opening Hours</b>	
(a) Average no of opening hours per week for full time libraries	38.17
(b) Average no of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	18.76
% of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	87%
% of full time libraries that have evening openings	62%
% of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100%
No of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	8
No of full time libraries that have evening openings	5
No of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	8
<b>Library Visits</b>	
No of visits of full time libraries per 1,000 population	3445.31
Total no of visits to full time libraries	501,300
<b>Library Stock</b>	
Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	€1.86
No of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	4.15
No of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.11
Annual expenditure on stock	€270,000.00
Total no of books issued	603,691
Total no of other items issued	15,398
<b>Internet Access through Libraries</b>	
Total number of Internet sessions provided	46,948
Total no of internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	322.66
<b>MOTOR TAXATION</b>	

<b>No of Motor Tax transactions which are (<i>Vehicle Registration Unit will supply data in respect of M1, M2 &amp; M3</i>)</b>	
(a) Dealt with over the counter	
(b) Dealt with by post	
(c) Dealt with in other ways	
<b>% of Motor Tax transactions which are</b>	
(a) Dealt with over the counter	
(b) Dealt with by post	
(c) Dealt with in other ways	
<b>No of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application</b>	
(a) on the same day	
(b) on the third day or less	
(c) on the fifth day or less	
(d) over 5 days	
<b>% of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application</b>	
(a) on the same day	
(b) on the third day or less	
(c) on the fifth day or less	
(d) over 5 days	
<b>Time taken to process Driving Licence Applications - Number of Driver Licence applications</b> which are dealt with from receipt of the application	
(a) on the same day	
(b) on the third day or less	
(c) on the fifth day or less	
(d) over 5 days	
<b>Time taken to process Driving Licence Applications - Percentage of Driver Licence applications</b> which are dealt with from receipt of the application (	
(a) on the same day	
(b) on the third day or less	
(c) on the fifth day or less	
(d) over 5 days	
<b>Public Opening Hours</b>	
Average no of opening hours per week	28.62
<b>PLANNING &amp; BUILDING CONTROL</b>	
<b>Planning Applications -Decision Making Individual Houses</b>	
No of Applications decided	171

No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	97
No of decisions which required the submission of further information	74
No of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	79.31
% of grants	78.36%
% of refusals	21.64%
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An bord Pleanála	50%
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	50%
No of applications granted	134
No of applications refused	37
No of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by an Bord Pleanála	7
No of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	7
<b>New Housing Developments</b>	
No of Applications decided	19
No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	11
No of decisions which required the submission of further information	7
No of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	1
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	77.57
% of grants	84.21%
% of refusals	15.79%
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An bord Pleanála	0%
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	0%
No of Applications granted	16
No of applications refused	3
No of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by an Bord Pleanála	0
No of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	0
<b>Other: Not Requiring EIA</b>	
No of Applications decided	591



No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	393
No of decisions which required the submission of further information	197
No of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	1
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	77.46
% of grants	91.03%
% of refusals	8.97%
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An bord Pleanála	61.54%
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	38.46%
No of applications granted	538
No of applications refused	53
No of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by an Bord Pleanála	24
No of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	15
<b>Others Requiring an EIA</b>	
No of Applications decided	10
No of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	3
No of decisions which required the submission of further information	7
No of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide a case where further information was sought	89.29
% of grants	90%
% of refusals	10%
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An bord Pleanála	100%
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	0%
No of applications granted	9
No of applications refused	1
No of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by an Bord Pleanála	4
No of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	0
<b>Planning Enforcement</b>	

Total no of cases subject to complaints that are investigated	244
Total no of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed	135
Total no of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	178
No of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	206
No of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	138
No of prosecutions	5
<b>Public Opening Hours</b>	
Average no of opening hours per week	38.15
<b>Consultations</b>	
No of pre planning consultations meetings held	511
Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre planning consultation	3.82
<b>New Buildings Inspected</b>	
Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	53.64%
Total no of new buildings notified to the Local Authority	371
No of buildings notified to the Local Authority that were inspected	199
<b>Taking Estates in Charge</b>	
(a)The no of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers) were on hands at the beginning of the year	36
(b) No of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	24
(c) No of dwellings in these estates	683
(d) % of estates in column A not completed to the satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission -	66.67%
(e) No of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	2
(f) No of estates in Column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the Authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	0

No of estates in Column A not completed to satisfaction of the Planning Authority in line with Planning permission	24
<b>RECREATIONAL SERVICES</b>	
<b>No of Children's playgrounds</b>	
No of children's playgrounds per 1000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.04
No of children's playgrounds per 1000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.12
Directly provided by the Local Authority	6
Facilitated by the Local Authority	18
No of visitors to local authority facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	2262.56
No of visitors to local authority facilitated swimming facilities	329,207
<b>REVENUE COLLECTION</b>	
<b>House Rent</b>	
(a) the Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	94.35%
(b) Percentage of Arrears	
(i) up to 4 weeks old	9.66%
(ii) 4-6 weeks old	7.33%
(iii) 6-12 weeks old	10.26%
(iv) more than 12 weeks old	72.75%
Amount due at year end from house rents	10,987,459.00
Amount collected at year end from house rents	10,366,816.00
Amount of arrears at year end from House Rents	620,643.00
Amount of arrears on Housing Rents that are up to 4 weeks old	87,110.00
Amount of arrears on Housing Rents that are 4-6 weeks old	66,033.00
No of arrears on Housing Rents that are 6-12 weeks old	93,434.00
No of arrears on Housing Rent that are more that 12 weeks old	655,757.00
<b>Housing Loans</b>	
(a) Amount Collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	86.63%
(b) Percentage of Arrears	
(i) 1 month old	3.16%
(ii) 1-2 months old	4.28%
(ii) 2-3 months old	5.23%
(iii) more than 3 months old	87.33%

Amount due at year end from housing Loans	€1,474,535.00
Amount collected at year end from house Loans	€1,277,324.00
Amount of arrears at year end from Housing Loans	€197,211.00
Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1 month old	€9,302.00
Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	€12,595.00
Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	€15,376.00
Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 3 months old	€256,964.00
<b>Commercial Rates</b>	
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	75.35%
<b>Refuse Charges</b>	
Percentage of households paying refuse (including waivers) charges at year end	99.66%
<b>Non Domestic Water Charges</b>	
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	72.35%
<b>Road Restoration Programme</b>	
No of Kilometers of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	222.455
No of Kilometers of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvements grants scheme per annum	1

# Corporate Plan Review

A new Corporate Plan for Kerry County Council covering the period 2009 - 2014 was adopted in November 2009.

Our aim, as the democratically elected body of the County, is to enhance the quality of life of our people and visitors by building sustainable communities and delivering quality services.

To deliver on this aim, the Corporate Plan contains six Strategic Objectives and also sets out the Implementation and Monitoring Framework to ensure progress is achieved on each of the objectives. The Strategic Objectives are as follows:

1. We will lead the planning and development of the economic, social, physical and cultural infrastructure of the County
2. We will promote and support active citizenship for the development of socially inclusive sustainable communities
3. We will deliver quality services to our people and visitors in an efficient, friendly and helpful manner
4. We will deliver a best value for money ethos through all our operations
5. We will protect the environment of our County through high quality regulation and enforcement
6. We will facilitate the ongoing development of HR best practice to ensure that we have a skilled, motivated and committed workforce to deliver optimum standards of service

Under the Implementation Framework, each Director, along with their staff, prepares an Annual Operational Plan for the delivery of the services of the Directorate. The Director's Operational Reports contained in this Annual Report outline the achievements in 2013 in accordance with the Department's Operational Plan having regard to the Corporate Priorities.

# Chairpersons of Kerry County Council

Year	Name
1899 – 1900	St. J.H. Donovan
1900 – 1901	St. J.H. Donovan
1901 – 1902	D.M. Moriarty
1902 – 1903	D.M. Moriarty
1903 – 1904	D.M. Moriarty
1904 – 1905	D.M. Moriarty
1905 – 1906	D.M. Moriarty
1906 – 1907	D.M. Moriarty
1907 – 1908	D.M. Moriarty
1908 – 1909	D.M. Moriarty
1909 – 1910	D.M. Moriarty
1910 – 1911	D.M. Moriarty
1911 – 1912	D.M. Moriarty
1912 – 1913	D.M. Moriarty
1913 – 1914	D.M. Moriarty
1914 – 1915	M.J. Nolan
1915 – 1916	J.T. O'Connor
1916 – 1917	J.T. O'Connor
1917 – 1918	John McKenna
1918 – 1919	John McKenna
1919 – 1920	John McKenna
1920 – 1921	Pádraig Ó Siochfhradha
1921 – 1922	Pádraig Ó Siochfhradha
1922 – 1923	Pádraig Ó Siochfhradha
The County Council was dissolved by order of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health on 9 May, 1923 and during its dissolution, Commissioner Philip Monaghan was appointed to discharge the functions of the Council for the period 29 May, 1923 to 21 October, 1924 and Commissioner O'Farrell from 7 November, 1924 to 4 May, 1926.	
1926 – 1927	Jeremiah McSweeney
1927 – 1928	Jeremiah McSweeney

1928 – 1929	Jeremiah McSweeney
1929 – 1930	Jeremiah McSweeney

Year	Name
The County Council was dissolved by order of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health in 1930 and during its dissolution, Commissioner N. O'Dwyer was appointed to discharge the functions of the Council for the period 25 September, 1930 to 25 June, 1931 and Commissioner Enrie Seosamh McGuigan from 17 July, 1931 to 21 April, 1932.	
1932 – 1933	Jeremiah McSweeney
1933 – 1934	Jeremiah McSweeney
1934 – 1935	Jeremiah McSweeney
1935 – 1936	Jeremiah McSweeney
1936 – 1937	Jeremiah McSweeney
1937 – 1938	Jeremiah McSweeney
1938 – 1939	Jeremiah McSweeney
1939 – 1940	Jeremiah McSweeney
1940 – 1941	Jeremiah McSweeney
1941 – 1942	Jeremiah McSweeney
1942 – 1943	Thomas Brosnan
1943 – 1944	Thomas Brosnan
1944 – 1945	Thomas Brosnan
The County Council was dissolved by order of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health in 1945 and during its dissolution, Commissioner David O'Keeffe was appointed to discharge the functions of the Council for the period 1 May, 1945 to 25 June, 1945 and Commissioner H.S. Moylan from 9 November, 1945 to 19 October, 1948.	
1948 – 1949	John O'Connor
1949 – 1950	John Aherne
1950 – 1951	William Dennehy
1951 – 1952	John O'Connor
1952 – 1953	Henry Downing
1953 – 1954	William Dennehy
1954 – 1955	M.L. O'Connell
1955 – 1956	P.W. Palmer
1956 – 1957	J.J. O'Leary
1957 – 1958	P.J. McElligott
1958 – 1959	John M. Kearney



<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>
1959 – 1960	William Dennehy
1960 – 1961	Maurice Lawlor
1961 – 1962	Maurice Lawlor
1962 – 1963	Maurice Lawlor
1963 – 1964	Maurice Lawlor
1964 – 1965	Maurice Lawlor
1965 – 1966	Maurice Lawlor
1966 – 1967	Maurice Lawlor
1967 – 1968	Michael Begley
1968 – 1969	Dan Spring
1969 – 1970	Jack Larkin
1970 – 1971	Redmond O'Sullivan
1971 – 1972	Ed Hayes
1972 – 1973	John Joe O'Sullivan
1973 – 1974	William Dennehy
1974 – 1975	Timothy O'Connor
1975 – 1976	Michael Long
1976 – 1977	Thomas Fleming
1977 – 1978	Kit Ahern
1978 – 1979	Thomas Cahill
1979 – 1980	Thomas Fitzgerald
1980 – 1981	Jackie Healy-Rae
1981 – 1982	Eamon Walsh
1982 – 1983	Mary O'Donoghue
1983 – 1984	Denis Foley
1984 – 1985	P.J. Cronin
1985 – 1986	Noel Brassil
1986 – 1987	Thomas Cahill
1987 – 1988	Eamon Barry
1988 – 1989	P.J. Cronin
1989 – 1990	Danny Kissane

<b>Year</b>	<b>Name</b>
1990 – 1991	John O'Donoghue
1991 – 1992	Thomas McEllistrim
1992 – 1993	Dan Kiely
1993 – 1994	Denis Foley
1994 – 1995	Tommy Foley
1995 – 1996	Jackie Healy-Rae
1996 – 1997	Michael Cahill
1997 – 1998	P.J. Cronin
1998 – 1999	Noel Brassil
1999 – 2000	Ted Fitzgerald
2000 – 2001	Tom Fleming
2001 – 2002	Paul O'Donoghue
2002 – 2003	Michael Healy-Rae
2003 – 2004	Breandán MacGearailt
2004 – 2005	Ned O'Sullivan
2005 – 2006	Toiréasa Ferris
2006 – 2007	Ted Fitzgerald
2007 – 2008	Michael Healy-Rae
2008 – 2009	Tom Fleming
2009 – 2010	Bobby O'Connell
2010 – 2011	Pat Leahy
2011 - 2012	Tim Buckley
2012 - 2013	Terry O'Brien
2013 - 2014	Seamus Cosáí Fitzgerald