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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF  
TRALEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON  
MONDAY 07<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020.**

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH THRÁ LÍ A  
THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN  
LUAIN 07<sup>TH</sup> MEÁN FÓMHAIR, 2020.**

**PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR**

**Councillors/Comhairleoirí**

**Cllr. D. Ferris  
Cllr. J. Finucane  
Cllr. C. Foley  
Cllr. S. Locke  
Cllr. M. Sheehy  
Cllr. J. Wall  
Cllr. T. O' Brien (Mayor)**

**APOLOGIES/LEATH SCÉAL**

**Ms. J. Foley                      Municipal District Officer of Tralee**

**In attendance/i láthair**

<b>Mr. M. Scannell</b>	<b>Executive for the Municipal District of Tralee</b>
<b>Mr. P. Corkery</b>	<b>S.E.O. Corporate Services</b>
<b>Mr. C. Mangan</b>	<b>S.E.E. Water Services</b>
<b>Mr. C. Nagle</b>	<b>Acting S.E.E Municipal District of Tralee</b>
<b>Mr. N. Kissane</b>	<b>E.E. Municipal District of Tralee</b>
<b>Mr. G. O' Brien</b>	<b>Acting S.E.O. Environment</b>
<b>Mr. J. McEniry</b>	<b>Executive Engineer – Water Services</b>
<b>Ms. B. O' Riordan</b>	<b>A.O. Housing</b>
<b>Ms. M. C. Sweeney</b>	<b>A.S.O. Corporate Support</b>

The meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor T. O' Brien took the Chair.

**20.09.07.01 (a) – Mayoral Statement – Cllr. T. O' Brien**

**Cllr. T. O' Brien** wished the following to be noted by the members.

- Cllrs are aware of Debenhams & BorgWarner issues and they asked that both companies treat their staff with respect for their loyalty over the years.
- Festival of Kerry/Rose of Tralee – There is to be a tree planting ceremony held, where current Rose of Tralee, Sinéad Flanagan will plant a tree in Tralee Town Park. This is a hugely important Festival for Kerry in general and Tralee in particular. We are all hopeful that it will be back in 2021.

**20.09.07.01 (b) - Confirmation of the Minutes of the following Meeting.**

1. Minutes of the Meeting of the members of the Municipal District of Tralee held on 06<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

On the PROPOSAL of **Cllr. J. Wall** SECONDED by **Cllr. M. Sheehy** it was agreed that the minutes of the Meeting of the members of the Municipal District of Tralee held on 06<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be confirmed.

At the outset of the meeting Mr. P. Corkery advised members of their duties under Ethics Legislation.

I wish to remind members of their requirements under Part 15 (Ethics Framework) of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Code of Conduct for Councillors. Councillors should be aware that the onus for complying with the requirement of the Act and the Code of Conduct lies with each individual Councillor. Under the beneficial interest provision and should that provision apply, a Councillor must:

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

**Mr. C. Nagle** then read the report as previously circulated to the members into the record of the meeting.

**20.09.07.01 (c) Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Municipal District Members for transaction at such meeting.**

1. To consider the report, following public consultation, on the introduction of traffic calming measures at the junction of the L-6706 Connolly Park and R-

556 Upper Rock Street, and a Pedestrian Crossing of the R-556 at the Tralee-Fenit Greenway, pursuant to Section 38 (3) of the Road Traffic Act 1994, as amended by the Public Transportation Regulation Act, 2009 (Section 46).

Dáta/Date: **26<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

Chuig/To: **Mayor Terry O'Brien and each Member of the  
Tralee Municipal District  
Gach ball de Cheantar Bardasach Trá Lí**

Ábhar/Subject: **Section 38 Traffic Calming Measures**

**Introduction of traffic calming measures at the junction of the L-6706 Connolly Park and R-556 Upper Rock Street, and a Pedestrian Crossing of the R-556 at the Tralee-Fenit Greenway.**

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Kerry County Council proposes to introduce traffic calming measures at the junction of the L-6706 Connolly Park and R-556 Upper Rock Street, and a Pedestrian Crossing of the R-556 at the Tralee-Fenit Greenway.

The proposal includes the following:

The realignment of the Junction of the L-6706 Connolly Park and R-556 Upper Rock St, the provision of a Pedestrian Crossing to the L-6076 Connolly Park Road and a Pedestrian Crossing of the R-556 at the Tralee-Fenit Greenway.

A notice was published in the Kerryman on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and the enclosed drawings of the proposed works were put on display. The closing date for receipt of observations or representations was Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

11 observations/representations were received, and these have been considered within the attached report.

I am recommending the adoption of this scheme, with amendments, in accordance with Section 38(4) of the Road Traffic Act, 1994:

Is mise le meas,

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**Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí, Director of Services**  
**Roinn na mBóithre, Iompair & Mara**

**Section 38 Traffic Calming Measures**

**Introduction of traffic calming measures at the junction of the L-6706 Connolly Park and R-556 Upper Rock Street, and a Pedestrian Crossing of the R-556 at the Tralee-Fenit Greenway.**

**Issues Raised By Persons Who Made Observations / Representations Within The Prescribed Period And Response And Recommendations To Same**

**Observations / Representations Raised**

**Summary of Observations: Mr. Jimmy Laide**

The proposed works “will lead to increased congestion in upper rock street as delivery vehicles and shoppers at Barry’s shop who currently use the wide bend for parking will be forced (inclined) to use the area directly outside the shop.

**Response:**

The junction mouth of the R556 and L-6706 (Connolly Park Junction) presently excludes parking by way of double yellow lines. There is a loading-bay located approximately 25m from the junction itself along the L-6706 Connolly Park road.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the proposal not be amended.

**Summary of Observations: HSE**

Proposal acknowledged and no concerns raised.

**Response:**

No response required

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the proposal not be amended.

**Summary of Observations: An Garda Síochána**

Proposal acknowledged and no concerns raised.

**Response:**

No response required

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the proposal not be amended.

**Observations / Representations Raised****Summary of Observations: Mac Domhnaill Dental**

The corner should not be amended as it will make it more difficult for their patients to access the car park.

**Response:**

The relocation of the access to this carpark will not result in it becoming more difficult to access.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the proposal not be amended.

**Summary of Observations: Ms. Lillian Barry**

1. Objection to change in location of access point to car park.
2. Access point to the car park is too small and beside a pedestrian crossing.
3. Entrance from the R556 Upper Rock St. to the L-6706 is too narrow.

**Response:**

1. The relocation of the access to this carpark will not result in it becoming more difficult to access. Traffic entering and exiting the car park will have clear sight of the pedestrian crossing.
2. Access point is of a suitable size for access to the car park.
3. The junction of the R556 and L-6706 (Connolly Park Junction) has been designed meeting the design requirements of DMURS (Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets).

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the proposal not be amended.

**Summary of Observations: Mr. Kevin Barry**

1. Objection to proposed change to the access of the car park which is used by delivery vehicles and customers.
2. Objection to any realignment or narrowing of the junction "as it would force delivery vehicles to park on the busier Rock Street area outside the shop". This will result in a loss of customer parking.
3. Proposed plan is a "stepping stone" to implementing traffic lights at the junction which will result in traffic congestion.

**Response:**

1. The relocation of the access to this carpark will not result in it becoming more difficult to access. The use of the car park has not been altered.

2. The junction mouth excludes parking at present by way of double yellow lines and there is a loading bay located approximately 25m from the junction itself along the L-6706 Connolly Park road.
3. The provision of traffic lights at this location is a Reserved Function and would require a separate period of public consultation.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the proposal not be amended.

**Summary of Observations: Mr. Anluan Dunne, Kerry Cycling Campaign**

1. No provision has been made for cyclists exiting Connolly Park. The left turning vehicle lane should be removed and an Advanced Stopping Box should be provided for cyclists thus providing safe access to the Greenway for residents.
2. Bollards should be installed on the new kerb line to ensure vehicles do not illegally park on the new, large footpath area.
3. Observation as to appropriate landscaping submitted.
4. An advisory cycle lane should be provided for on approach and on entering Connolly park.
5. The crossing point of the R556 Upper Rock St should be appropriate for both pedestrians and cyclists including bike detection and cyclist specific push button controls.
6. The Crossing point of the R556 Upper Rock St. should follow NTA National Cycling Manual section 4.7.2.3 guidelines for installation of a controlled toucan crossing.
  - a) Crossing shared by cyclists and pedestrians – pedestrians retain priority over cyclists
  - b) Push button units located for pedestrians as standard
  - c) Additional push buttons located for cyclist's convenience including bicycle detection (loops, passive IR etc.)
  - d) Clear signage required on cycle track of approaching crossing
  - e) Shared pedestrian priority area should be minimum of 5m wide from end of cycle track to edge of road, with sufficient sight triangles, to give time for traffic and cyclists to see each other
7. Remove existing chicane on Dunnes side of Greenway.
8. Recommends the placement of bollards to prevent illegal parking on the footpath near the crossing.
9. No provision has been made to ensure ease of access east or west on the greenway when accessing from Rock St. Sufficient measures such as dropped kerb with significant space to allow bicycles to efficiently enter without impeding pedestrians should be installed.
10. On approach to the crossing, large bicycle road stencilling should be installed to warn motorists of the presence of bicycles

**Response:**

- 1 There is no designated cycling line marking locally and its introduction at the junction only, is not desirable. Advanced Stopping Boxes are only provided at Controlled Signalised junctions as per Section 4.4.2 of the National Cycling Manual. The is direct access to the Greenway from within Connolly Park that facilitates safe access onto the amenity for residents of the estate.
- 2 The proposed geometry of the junction does not lend itself to vehicles partially parking on the footpath. A number of sockets shall be provided during construction allowing the seamless addition of bollards in the future should the need arise.
- 3 Landscaping details are not a requirement of a Section 38, however, these views have been noted and shall be considered further in advance of completing landscaping works.
- 4 There is no designated cycling line marking locally and the addition of an isolated section of Advisory Cycleway is not deemed to be appropriate in this instance having consideration Section 4.3.2 of the National Cycling Manual.
- 5 The final detailed design of the crossing point will be appropriate for both pedestrians and cyclists and will include bike detection and cyclist specific push button controls. The width of the crossing point to the R556 shall be maximised in the context of the surrounding road geometry.
- 6 The proposed crossing of the R556 will be consistent with the requirements for a Toucan Crossing per the National Cycling Manual in the context of items (a) to (e) raised above.
- 7 The chicane referred does not form a part of this Section 38, however, the concerns raised shall be considered while on site.
- 8 A bollard shall be erected on the southern end of the western approach to the crossing of the R556.
- 9 In the absence of a designated cycle lane on the R556, a designated entry way, other than the crossing point itself, is not appropriate.
- 10 Such road markings are not appropriate in the absence of designated cycling infrastructure along the R556. Sign W143 per the Traffic Signs Manual shall be erected in advance of the crossing point to warn motorists of the likely presence of cyclists along the R556.

**Recommendation:**

Bike detection loops to be installed to complement cyclist specific push button controls.

Bollard to be erected on the southern end of the western approach to the crossing of the R556.

Sign W143 per the Traffic Signs Manual to be erected in advance of the crossing point to ward motorists of the likely presence of cyclists.

**Summary of Observations: Ms. Sarah Barry**

1. Objection to the realignment of the junction at the entrance of Connolly Park as it will affect their parking and will not enhance or improve the entrance way.

**Response:**

1. The relocation of the access to this carpark will not result in it becoming more difficult to access. The junction mouth of the R556 and L-6706 (Connolly Park Junction) presently excludes parking by way of double yellow lines.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the proposal not be amended.

**Summary of Observations: Mr. James Moore**

Objection on the grounds that the proposal will have an adverse effect on his access to the car park at Connolly Park junction.

**Response:**

The relocation of the access to this carpark will not result in it becoming more difficult to access.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the proposal not be amended.

**Summary of Observations: Mr. Anluan Dunne**

1. The crossing of the R556 Upper Rock St. should be 4m in width, bike detection equipment should be installed, and the junction should be protected from illegal parking.

**Response:**

1. The final detailed design of the crossing point will be appropriate for both pedestrians and cyclists and will include bike detection and cyclist specific push button controls. The width of the crossing point will be maximized in the context of the road geometry locally. A bollard shall be erected on the southern end of the western approach to the crossing of the R556.

**Recommendation:**

Bike detection loops to be installed to complement cyclist specific push button controls.

Bollard to be erected on the southern end of the western approach to the crossing of the R556.

**Summary of Observations: KK Hydraulics, Cremur, Nedar Heat, John Young Mechanics**

1. Concerns raised with regard to the loss of car parking and the impact on existing Loading Bay facilities.
2. Concerns raised that the pedestrian crossing of the L-6706 is not in an appropriate location.

**Response:**

1. The design of the controlled Pedestrian Crossing of the L-6706 has been reviewed to limit its impact on on-street parking while ensuring a safe crossing.



As a result of this, the introduction of a buildout is proposed on the northern side of the L-6706. This reduces the impact on the existing Loading Bay area on the north while also reducing the need to remove a car parking space on the south.

2. The controlled pedestrian crossing is located 20m back from the junction of the L-6706 with the R556. This is consistent with Section 8.2 of TII Design Standard TII-DN-GEO-03084 which supplements the information provided in the Dept. of Transport Tourism and Sport, Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS).

**Recommendation:**

Amend proposed layout of Controlled Pedestrian Crossing to include a buildout on the northern side of the road thereby minimizing the impact on Loading Bay and car parking facilities locally.

**Mr. M. Scannell stated that this Section 38 related back to the previous Part VIII for Connolly Park, a condition of that was to review traffic calming measures at the junction of the L-6706 Connolly Park and R556 Upper Rock Street, and a Pedestrian crossing on the R-556 at the Tralee-Fenit Greenway and there has been a significant amount of technical assessment to minimise traffic movement in this area, and ensure the health & safety of pedestrians.**

**Cllr. J. Wall suggested that there was the potential to make the car park bigger and feared that if the car park was left the same it could potentially close.**

**Cllr. S. Locke stated that the Section 38 would give an added safety factor. The car park is remaining as it is and seems to have added safety features.**

**Cllr. D. Ferris stated that it cuts across the main footpath coming into Connolly Park and that the businesses of Connolly Park had asked for consultation as the business community needed reassurance that this Section 38 will not impact on their businesses. Businesses from down town park there and take up existing customer car parking spaces so that customers cannot park.**

**Cllr. J. Finucane stated that if the issues for businesses in the area can be diminished then Kerry County Council should consider them.**

**Cllr. C. Foley stated that the pedestrian crossing was very welcome and would be very useful for the elderly population particularly.**

**Cllr. M. Sheehy stated that Kerry County Council needed to support the businesses while remaining mindful of traffic issues and school access. If the entrance to Balloonagh is cut across then it may cause problems.**

**Cllr. J. Wall asked if the parking could be reviewed.**

**In response Mr. C. Nagle stated that there had been consultation with businesses and there was no further contact from any business in this regard. Fundamentally this is a safety scheme. We can get that area checked more regularly in regard to illegal car parking.**

**Mr. M. Scannell advised that this was a tricky junction to get right and it was a significant task to bring it to this position. The car parking is short term car parking, not all-day parking and we need to encourage the public & businesses seeking long term car parking to use dedicated car parks that are suitable for long-term carparking. The revised junction would not provide extra parking.**

On the PROPOSAL of **Cllr. S. Locke** and SECONDED by **Cllr. T. O' Brien** it was agreed to consider the report, following public consultation, on the introduction of traffic calming measures at the junction of the L-6706 Connolly Park and R-556 Upper Rock Street, and a Pedestrian Crossing of the R-556 at the Tralee-Fenit Greenway, pursuant to Section 38 (3) of the Road Traffic Act 1994, as amended by the Public Transportation Regulation Act, 2009 (Section 46).

**For:** Cllr. J. Finucane, Cllr. C. Foley, Cllr. S. Locke, Cllr. M. Sheehy, Cllr. T. O' Brien (5)  
**Against:** Cllr. D. Ferris, Cllr. J. Wall (2)  
**Absent:** (0)

It was agreed to accept the resolution. Mr. P. Corkery declared the resolution to be carried.

## **20.09.07.02 Economic and Community Development Directorate.**

### **(a) Job Creation**

**Cllr. J. Finucane stated that due to the recent BorgWarner & Debenhams closures the I.D.A. should establish a full time official in the town of Tralee which is currently seeing jobs. This must be rectified.**

**Cllr. J. Wall stated that unless the government decide to change the mindset of the I.D.A. then he felt that they would not get anywhere.**

**Cllr. M. Sheehy stated that someone needed to fight for the Tralee – North Kerry area and particularly fight the jobs retention corner. It is a huge issue, and no one is talking about it.**

**Cllr. S. Locke stated that some of the sites in Clash and Monavalley had now become derelict sites and no one was driving this issue.**

**Cllr. D. Ferris stated that there needed to be some form of support as the workers of Debenhams have been waiting 150 days for proper closure and BorgWarner has 210 staff.**

**Cllr. C. Foley stated that the construction industry has nobody applying for apprenticeships with them and suggested that this needed to be brought back by Kerry County Council to upskill people.**

**Mayor T. O' Brien stated that Tralee was accessible by air and train, the town is successful and has loads of potential. We are also to have "University" status in Tralee which is massive.**

**Mr. M. Scannell stated that loss of jobs in the last few months was hugely disappointing but advised Cllrs. that the Chief Executive & Deputy Chief Executive had met with the I.D.A as had Mr. Scannell. They are agreeable to a meeting in September and will continue to meet with a view to bringing investment into the county. The Local Enterprise Office and Enterprise Ireland is also a huge support to the local area. We will continue to engage with all agencies.**

**Mr. T. Hayes, Assistant County Enterprise Officer, stated that there continues to be strong demand for support from the Local Enterprise Office from businesses trading through the current restrictions and read the Business Support Unit (LEO) section of the Economic and Community Development Directorate Report into the record of the meeting.**

**The Economic Officer, Ms. B. Fitzgerald gave an overview of the Economic Infrastructure in the County which supports enterprise and remote working including the Kerry Hub network, Kerry SciTech Industry, and the Marketing Kerry project. She also confirmed that the third level education bodies are represented on the Kerry Economic Stakeholder forum.**

**(b) It was agreed to note the following report from the Economic & Community Directorate, which was circulated:**

## **Economic and Community Development Report**

**TRALEE Municipal District**

**DATE 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

## **Director of Service: Michael Scannell**

### **BUSINESS SUPPORT UNIT (LEO)**

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There continues to be strong demand for support from the Local Enterprise Office from businesses trading through current restrictions.

#### **Covid Response Actions**

##### **Business Continuity Voucher Scheme**

The Business Continuity Voucher scheme allowed businesses with up to 50 employees to access consultancy supports worth up to €2,500. All 275 applications have been processed. Support sought was typically in the area of financial planning and cashflow management, remote working advice, supply chain and HR advice. Consultancy with the businesses is ongoing.

##### **Trading Online Voucher Scheme**

The lockdown emphasised the importance of having an online presence for smaller firms. Demand for the Trading Online Voucher Scheme is strong in recent months. June, July, August saw the LEO run 5 informational webinars with 502 participants. A further webinar is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> September with 93 participants registered (maximum capacity is 100). Kerry LEO has received an updated allocation of 300 vouchers (original allocation was 44 for the year). The scheme is due to revert to its original 50% funding capacity at the end of September (increased to 90% in recent months as a direct response to COVID).

305 completed applications have been received in 2020.

##### **Microfinance Ireland Loan Scheme**

A new reduced interest rate of 4.5% was introduced by Microfinance Ireland and the maximum loan amount was increased to €50,000 as part of the initiatives to ensure that businesses had access to sufficient cashflow during lockdown. The new interest rate is much more competitive than previous offerings. 34 applications have been processed through the LEO in the year to date.

##### **Mentoring**

Mentoring services continue particularly in the areas of health and safety, financial planning and online marketing. 65 individuals have availed of specific COVID 1-hour mentoring sessions. Current volumes of individual mentoring applications stand at 153.

##### **Training**

The pandemic necessitated the move to an online model for all training courses. All course fees have been suspended for the duration of the pandemic. Number of participants engaged in training webinars from 16<sup>th</sup> March to 19<sup>th</sup> August is 1,418. Training courses for September are already booked up.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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### **Restart Grant and Restart Plus Grant**

This scheme has been underway over the past number of months. The Restart Plus Scheme was launched on the 10<sup>th</sup> August with the cessation of the Restart Scheme. Over 1,900 applications have been processed under the Restart Grant Scheme. The Restart Plus Scheme has been launched and applications are presently being assessed and processed. Eligibility criteria under Restart Plus have been widened. Over 1,500 application have been received as of 27/08/20. Processing has now commenced.

## **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

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### **Kerry Tourism Day**

Kerry County Council in association with the Kerry Tourism Industry Federation proposed Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 as 'Kerry Tourism Day'. This initiative aimed to strengthen the referral economy amongst residents and communities by offering a countywide 'open house' of selected visitor attractions and tourist experiences. A number of tourism attractions and activity and experience providers in the Tralee area participated in the initiative which encouraged locals to explore Kerry and is part of the 'Explore the Kingdom and its Greatness' marketing campaign.

### **OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME 2020**

The Department of Rural & Community Development in partnership with Fáilte Ireland recently launched the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020. The objective of the Scheme is to provide funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and for the necessary repair, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in countryside areas across Ireland. The Scheme invests in the physical infrastructure that underpins sporting and recreational activities based on the use of the resources of the countryside which will contribute to healthy active lifestyles while building on the economic and tourism potential of the area and benefitting both local communities and tourist visitors alike. The 2020 Scheme will in particular, support recreational infrastructure that not only provides an outlet for the communities in which they are situated but that also delivers added value from a tourism perspective, positioning rural areas to respond to the post-Covid 19 economic environment. An indicative budget of €10 million is available Country-wide for successful projects. Funding is provided under three different categories of projects

(Measures) based on the size of the investment requirement with a limited number of applications under each Measure to be submitted by Local Authorities and Local Development Companies (Measure 1 only). An element of own-resource match funding is required for all projects. Closing date for applications for Measure 1 (projects up to €20,000) is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and closing date for Measure 2 (projects up to €200,000) and Measure 3 (projects up to €500,000) is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## **COMMUNITY**

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### **LEADER Programme**

In total 359 projects in Kerry with a monetary value of €7,411,912 has been approved for funding under the LEADER 2014-2020 programme to date.

### **LCDC**

#### **Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

In light of the current circumstances surrounding Covid 19, the DRCD outlined that the 2020 SICAP Mid-Year Review process is replaced by a Mid-Year Check, which is desk based and requires less reporting than processes completed in the past. Reports from each of the Programme Implementers for the 3 Kerry lots along with the SICAP Mid-Year Performance check findings will be brought to the LCDC for approval at their meeting scheduled to take place via conference call on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Regarding reprioritising SICAP work consequent on COVID, a Local Response Plan for the 3 Kerry Lots has been prepared. All of the plans demonstrate responsiveness to the COVID crisis and the prevailing local need. They also show flexibility in how the Programme Implementers propose to carry out their support work in light of restrictions.

#### **Community Enhancement Programme 2020 – Round 1 Funding**

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP), which is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, has provided €62,534 for projects in Kerry in 2020. In Kerry it was agreed that the funding under this Programme be targeted at Covid-19 related capital expenditure as well as supporting Age Friendly initiatives under Kerry's Age Friendly Programme.

A total of 93 applications were received. The range of proposed projects includes COVID 19 Capital Related Expenditure, Hand Hygiene and Safety Measures at public amenities and Accessibility projects.

Decisions will issue to applicants in early September.

#### **Community Enhancement Programme 2020 – Round 2 Funding for Community Centres & Community Facilities**

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) Round 2, which is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, has provided an additional €155,358 for projects in Kerry in 2020.

The new fund seeks to stimulate local economies by providing capital grants towards the improvement and upkeep of community centres, and community buildings.

A portion of this fund will be ring-fenced to provide small capital grants of €1,000 or less. This is aimed at assisting small grassroots community projects to get off the ground. The programme can also fund or partially fund larger scale capital projects to address disadvantage.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020.**

## **Healthy Ireland Update**

### **Healthy Kerry Plan (2020-2026)**

The Healthy Kerry Plan is currently being reviewed and finalised by the Healthy Kerry committee. The vision of this plan is that everyone in the county can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

Three strategy pillars are proposed in the draft Healthy Kerry Plan which have the potential to positively impact on the health and wellbeing of people in Kerry:

1. Healthy communities
2. Workplace wellness
3. Policy frameworks

The draft plan, once finalised, will be presented to full Council for adoption.

### **Kerry Age Friendly**

The daily newsletter compiled by Age Friendly Ireland was distributed locally to the Community Advisory Group, the Kerry Older People's Council and to the list of Age Friendly Contacts, over the past number of months. Since the beginning of August, the newsletter is produced once a week.

Kerry County Council has assigned a Housing Technical Specialist to the Age Friendly Programme. The role involves providing technical advice to local authority staff and members and private sector developers who have an interest in providing age-friendly housing and also to approved Housing Bodies who have an interest in providing housing for older people, Individuals from the public who may need advice on right sizing or adapting their own dwellings with age friendly universal design principles. A national survey on older people's attitude to rightsizing (appropriate size housing) has recently been completed and Kerry contributed to this through AF Contacts and the Older Person's Council.

Nationally, Age Friendly Ireland is developing a website and each Local Authority's Age Friendly Programme is contributing to its development. Training has been provided. The Kerry Age Friendly Programme in partnership with the Kerry PPN successfully applied for funding under the Community Foundation for Ireland: Older Person's Fund. €5,500 has been allocated. The grant is to cover the set-up of an Older People's

Forum. This will act as a consultative community structure, providing an opportunity for older people to voice their opinions and needs and to input formally into policy making. The development of the Forum will allow for a more representative Older People's Council which will be elected from the Forum membership. This membership will be drawn from older people's networks/groups and from groups that provide services to older people.

## **Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership**

### **Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership Covid-19 Club Small Grant Scheme**

Covid 19 Club Small Grant Scheme is designed and intended to support return to sporting activities only, such as Covid 19 related costs associated with reopening sports clubs e.g. hand sanitiser, soap, face masks, screens, dispensers, signage etc.

Sports clubs in Kerry can now apply online for COVID-19 Club Small Grants of up to €1,500 through the Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership.

The deadline for applications is **Tuesday, 1st September 2020**.

### **Accessible Orienteering**

5 week 'Accessible Orienteering' Programme: 29th August - 17th October 2020

Partners: Kerry Orienteers, Kingdom Wheelblasters, Tralee Bay Wetlands, Capanalea NOETC

As part of this programme aimed at children with physical disabilities, training will be provided in advance for the Kerry Orienteers Club & Kingdom Wheelblaster's Adult Volunteers on how to adapt and make orienteering accessible for all. This will be delivered by Capanalea NOETC. An 'Eco Experience' will also be delivered by Tralee Bay Wetlands. This will educate and inform participants of the local flora and fauna that they will be exposed to throughout the rest of the programme.

4 orienteering sessions will follow in the weeks after and they will visit locations such as Killarney National Park and Ballyseedy.

The programme will finish with a Family Orienteering Event on the 17th of October in line with Covid 19 restrictions at the time.

### **Sport Inclusion & Disability Awareness Webinar**

KRSP in collaboration with Cork Sports Partnership co-hosted free online workshops to up-skill coaches and volunteers on how to include people with disabilities in their sport or activities. This was the first time any partnerships joined forces for such an initiative, and it has been very well received, with both dates being fully booked with participants. Dates of workshops so far are Wednesday 15th of July 2020 and Wednesday 26th of August 2020

### **Kerry's Explore Our Waterways - Women on the Water**

It is aimed to introduce women to water/paddle sport activities, i.e. kayaking, through "Kerry's Explore our Waterways - Women on the Water" initiative. A pathway is created to introduce women to the outdoors and to promote our abundance of waterways for sport and recreational purposes. An element of fun and social engagement will be



implemented into the programme and should participants choose there is a progression pathway created into the club.

The programme will run for 5 weeks every Friday evening from 7-9pm, beginning on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of August. There will be 12 participants taking part on the course (course is fully booked) and the course is targeted at women aged 18+ to improve the participation of women in sport. The programme is planned to finish with a club event during European Week of Sport on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, but this will depend on guidelines with regards Covid-19 restrictions.

## **Kerry PPN**

### **The Kerry PPN Community Wellbeing Vision Statements**

The Kerry PPN (Public Participation Network) is a collective of all the community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups in County Kerry of which there are now over 780 registered groups. **The Department of Rural and Community Development**, charged each PPN with developing a “Wellbeing Statement” at both Municipal District and County / city level.

A series of consultations were held at the beginning of 2020 and facilitated under the six pillars of the wellbeing vision illustrated on the next page:



The Kerry PPN is now at the next stage of development in the drafting of the Kerry PPN Wellbeing Vision Statements for County Kerry. This will then be circulated for feedback & amendment.

### **Kerry PPN Proactive initiative in response to Covid-19**

In response to COVID-19, the Kerry PPN engaged a sign language interpreter to ensure all information was accessible to everyone and consulted through the various media outlets. This service is being provided on a voluntary capacity.

## **PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

## Conservation

Heritage Council €200,00 grant under the Historic Towns Initiative Update: conservation works have commenced on Denny Street (Number 12 and Number 17) and at Day Place for conservation works to windows, stone and railings. Works on schedule.

National Heritage Week -five videos showcasing traditional skills in Kerry uploaded as part of the Heritage Council & Department grant schemes

## STRATEGIC SITES

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### Island of Geese

At the July meeting of Tralee MD Part 8 Planning was approved for both the Public Realm aspects and the development of office accommodation on the Island of Geese site. Detailed design and tender documents are currently being finalised for the public realm development with a view to having a tender advertised by mid-September with construction on the linear park to begin before the year end.

### (c) Notices of Motion

1. **Cllr. J. Finucane:** That this Council draws up a plan for alternative uses of the existing courthouse such as GAA museum, arts centre, amateur drama and other potential uses.

**Reply:** The Courthouse is vested in the Courts Service and not in the ownership of Kerry County Council. Kerry County Council are not aware of any definitive plans by the Court Services in relation to the future proposals.

**Cllr. J. Finucane stated that his understanding was that there is nothing happening with this building and suggested that Kerry County Council should meet with Court Services as Tralee doesn't want a situation where they lose their service and will have to travel to Limerick or Cork.**

**Cllr. C. Foley stated that he couldn't support this motion as it is encouraging the Court Services to move and suggested that Ashe Hall should be upgraded to incorporate the GAA Museum. Cllr. Foley stated that contact needed to be made with the Minister.**

**Mayor T. O' Brien stated that straight answers were needed from the Minister or the Court Services and they needed to state what their intention is publicly.**

2. **Cllr. D. Ferris:** Over 2 and half years ago, a local businessman, put forward a submission to KCC to establish a 'Blue Way' from Tralee Bay to Fenit. His idea was to tie the project in with the Tralee to Fenit Greenway. He was assured it

would be looked into by KCC, however, nothing has been done to move the project along. Can KCC clarify their position on this and what has been done to establish this source of revenue for the local water adventure businesses and more especially to the local economy we have in the Tralee MD?

**Reply:** The development of the canal as part of the Tralee – Fenit Blueway would open up the town centre to Tralee Bay via the proposed Canal Blueway and would enable the town to develop a new range of opportunities in relation to world class adventure tourism and leisure provision.

Kerry County Council have recently sought funding approval through the Urban Regeneration Development Fund to begin this process by undertaking an extensive engineering survey of the entire circa 2.5km length of the Canal and prepare designs and a plan to enable its use as a safe and healthy Blueway that achieves blue flag status and provides a dynamic link to Tralee Bay.

**Cllr. D. Ferris stated that this is a great example of how adventure tourism can be brought to Tralee and North Kerry.**

**Mayor T. O' Brien seconded the motion.**

**Mr. M. Scannell advised that the canal was dredged and has silted over. Significant investment would be required.**

**Cllr. D. Ferris stated that a feasibility survey was carried out up to Tarbert.**

- 3. Cllr. M. Sheehy:** That this Council engage with the Kerry GAA regarding possibly adding murals of distinct Kerry GAA memories to the entrance walls of Austin Stack Park. It would provide a great entrance to both football fans and tourists alike entering Tralee through a main thoroughfare.

**Reply:** Kerry County Council recently applied through the Urban Regeneration Development Fund for funding to develop a masterplan for the John Joe Sheehy Road area. The Council would propose to redesign the entire area including the road layout to create a 'landmark' entry point to the town centre, celebrating the towns rich sporting history. If funding is secured, this proposal can be considered further when developing this masterplan.

**Cllr. M. Sheehy stated that this is a main thoroughfare into Tralee and should be considered.**

**Cllr. D. Ferris stated that the small structure across from the stadium is where the first athletics ground in Kerry was formed in 1800's**

4. **Cllr. M. Sheehy:** What are budget implications for Tralee MD due to loss of revenue from Covid-19, what services will suffer if any and what are/will be the effects on road maintenance budget.

**Reply:** The impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Council's Finances for 2020 are significant as discussed with Elected members. Expected Income from local sources including Commercial Rates, car parking, planning fees, leisure/tourism facilities, waste etc continue to be severely impacted. Due to our reliance on the Tourism and Hospitality Industry, the County is more disproportionately negatively affected. Discussions are on-going with Central Government regarding the financial vulnerability of the Local Government Sector. The 2021 Budget process has commenced across the Authority, part of which will include an examination of the full extent of the financial implications of the pandemic.

5. **Cllr. M. Sheehy:** What is the update on signage for Tralee town Centre through the Destination Towns initiative?

**Reply:** Under Fáilte Ireland's Destination Towns initiative, Tralee was allocated funding of €500,000. The funding agreement for Tralee was signed last month and the next stage consisting of requests for quotations and engagement of consultants for the way finding, interpretation and signage, will commence shortly.

**Cllr. M. Sheehy suggested speaking with businesses in Tralee regarding how to channel people not familiar with Tralee into the Town Centre.**

6. **Cllr. J. Wall:** That Kerry County Council would purchase a strip of land bordering the northern and eastern flank of the 'Swan Pond' situated at Hare Street, Tralee. Such a purchase, appropriately landscaped, would greatly enhance the biodiversity and amenity value of one of our well known and loved facilities.

**Reply:** The area surrounding "Swan Pond" is designated as pNHA (Proposed Natural Heritage Area) and SAC (Special Area of Conservation) and it is also located within 50m of a SPA (Special Protection Area). Such designations significantly restrict the nature and extent of works that can be considered and any proposal would require environmental assessment at the concept stage. The opinion of our Biodiversity Officer shall be sought with regard to what nature of works may be possible following which the purchase of lands can be further considered

### **20.09.07.03 Water, Environment, Fire & Library Services Directorate.**

- (a) It was agreed to note the following report from Water, Environment, Fire and Library Services Directorate which was circulated:**

**Water, Environment, Fire & Library Services Report**

**Tralee Municipal District**

**DATE: September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Director of Service: John Breen**

**Environmental Protection**

**Business Unit Manager: Gerard O'Brien SEO**

**Environmental Services Activity Report 2020**  
Civic Amenity Site Transactions

**Period July 2020**

**Accumulative Waste Transactions for All Waste Stations**

Year	Weighbridge Transactions	% of weigh bridge transactions as % of Total transactions	No. of bags transactions	% of bag tickets sold as % of total transaction	Total no. of Transactions
<b>2020</b>	<b>8206</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>50434</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>58640</b>

**Recycling – Accumulative Sales for All Stations**

2020 Eco sense bags sales = **17905**

**Accumulative Waste and Recycling Tonnage for All Stations**

Year	Weighbridge Waste Tonnage (Incl Tkt Weight)	Recycling Tonnage for Eco Sense Bags
<b>2020</b>	<b>2492.80</b>	<b>296.30</b>

**Dogs Statistics January 2020**

<b>Number of Dog Licences Issued</b>	<b>8026</b>
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<b>Number of Dogs Fines issued</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Number of dogs Rehomed</b>	<b>73</b>

<b>Environmental Enforcement</b>	
<b>Period: January 2020 – July 2020</b>	
<b>Litter</b>	<b>2020</b>
No. Litter Complaints	650
No. Fines Issued	59
No. Fines Paid To-date	21
No. Court Prosecutions	5
Total Amount Awarded	€0
<b>Air - No. Complaints Investigated</b>	50
Air - No. Court Prosecutions	0
Air - Total Amount Awarded	€0.00
<b>Waste - No. Complaints Investigated</b>	217
Waste - No. Court Prosecutions	4
Waste -Total Amount Awarded	€875

<b>Water - No. Complaints Investigated</b>	96
Water - No. Court Prosecutions	1
Water - Total Amount Awarded	€0

**Fire Services and Building Control Section  
Monthly Report for July 2020**

**Operation of the Fire Brigade Service:**

- There were 703 mobilisations up to the end of July 2020 compared to 886 mobilisations for the same period in 2019. This represents a 20.6% decrease in mobilisations.
- Gorse fires at 170 were *down* from 240 for the same period last year. This represents a 29.1% decrease.
- Chimney fires were at 46 which is down from 51 for the same period last year. This represents a 9.8% decrease.
- Road Traffic Collisions were at 58 which is down from 82 for the same period last year. This represents approximately 29.3% decrease.

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Jan-July</b>	<b>Jan-July</b>
<b><i>FIRE OPERATIONS - DETAILS OF OPERATIONAL WORK</i></b>		
<b><i>Fires Number</i></b>		
<b><i>Chimney Fires</i></b>	<b>51</b>	<b>46</b>
<b><i>Gorse Fires</i></b>	<b>240</b>	<b>170</b>
<b><i>Other Fires</i></b>	<b>128</b>	<b>114</b>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>419</b>	<b>330</b>
<b><i>Special Services Number</i></b>		
<b><i>Entrapment</i></b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>
<b><i>Gas/Chemicals</i></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><i>Hazardous substances in transit not involving fire</i></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><i>Hazardous Substances non Transit</i></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

<b><i>Machinery</i></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><i>Miscellaneous</i></b>	<b>65</b>	<b>71</b>
<b><i>Other rescue</i></b>	<b>28</b>	<b>46</b>
<b><i>Rescue/Removal of persons from water</i></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>
<b><i>Road traffic accident</i></b>	<b>82</b>	<b>58</b>
<b><i>Water pumping/flooding</i></b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>211</b>	<b>205</b>
<b><i>False Alarms Number</i></b>		
<b><i>Malicious</i></b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<b><i>Good Intent</i></b>	<b>94</b>	<b>85</b>
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>102</b>	<b>86</b>
<b><i>Total Number of Incidents</i></b>	<b>732</b>	<b>621</b>
<b><i>Total Number of Mobilisations</i></b>	<b>886</b>	<b>703</b>

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

- Due to restrictions caused by the COVID -19 emergency, inspections by Fire Officers were limited to those considered to be absolutely essential. An inspection protocol has been put in place and Fire Officers were provided with additional suitable PPE to enable essential inspections of premises to be carried out as safely as possible.

#### **Building Control:**

- The number of Commencement Notices/ 7 Day Notices received to the end of July 2020 was 249 valid Commencement Notices, which is a 12.9% decrease on the same period last year.
- The building control section continues to process Disability Access Certificate applications and also Fire Safety Certificate applications. Up to the end of July 2020 a total of 54 No. Disability Access Certificate applications had been received representing a 34.9% decrease on the same period last year. A total of 78 Fire Safety Certificate applications were received, which is a 28.4% decrease on the same period last year.

#### **Building Control Statistics.**

<b><i>BUILDING CONTROL- DETAILS OF OPERATIONAL WORK</i></b>		
<b><i>Fire Safety Certificate Applications Received</i></b>	<b>109</b>	<b>78</b>



<b><i>Disability Access Certificate Applications Received</i></b>	<b>83</b>	<b>54</b>
<b><i>Commencement Notices Received</i></b>	<b>286</b>	<b>249</b>

## Library Services

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

### Library service:

- **Re-opening of library services**

As outlined in the Government's Roadmap for re-opening society, public Libraries across the country continue to restore services to the public in a step-by-step manner in line with public health guidance. All Kerry branch libraries now offer a 'Browse & Borrow' lending model.

Provision of additional services will be considered in line with national policy over the coming weeks.

Strong usage of the free library online resources has continued. These include online newspapers and magazines, e-learning courses, e-books and e-audio and online comics for the teenagers accessible via the library website [www.kerrylibrary.ie](http://www.kerrylibrary.ie)

There were 300,817 usages of these services during the period January – July, a 328% increase on the same period in 2019.

After an initial surge, normal day to day usage of libraries has slowed down with the public not returning to normal library usage in the same numbers. The no. of books issued in July 2020 was 21,621, compared to 49,250 in July 2019 – a 56% decrease. It is expected that these figures will increase when schools return. The high level of visitor usage of Ballybunion & Dingle libraries is noted.

- **Summer Stars programme 2020**

The 2020 Summer Stars reading programme for children was delivered online for 2020 with the Kerry programme running from 1 July – 31 August. Together with normal book lending, children also had the option to access free downloadable e-books and e-audio books, participate in weekly competitions, online quizzes and a national short story competition. Summer reading tips and recommended books for children were also available. Details at [www.kerrylibrary.ie](http://www.kerrylibrary.ie) or at [www.summerstars.ie](http://www.summerstars.ie) Summers Stars is part of the national Right to Read programme.

There are currently 167 registered for the Summer Stars in Kerry. While registrations are continuing to grow each day, the figure is lower than previous years, 1,462 children completed the programme in Summer 2019. This is again a reflection of a slow-down in the return to normal library usage by families. In the absence of library events this year, the Summer Stars activities programme continues to be delivered online through the Kerry Library website and social media pages with weekly story time & competitions. To date there have been 3,104 views for Kerry Summer Stars videos posted online. The library website has had 2,506 unique visits since the beginning of the Summer Stars programme.

**TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL and IRISH WATER  
UPDATE ON WATER SERVICES  
Status Summary at 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

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**Funding Priorities for Major Capital Projects**

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

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

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

**IRISH WATER MAJOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

This information has been provided by Irish Water.

The Schemes in the Tralee Municipal District which are listed in Irish Water's national draft **Capital Investment Plan** (the CIP) **2020- 2024** are outlined in the following tables:

<b>MAJOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME WASTEWATER PROJECTS</b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Fenit WWTP Upgrade</b>	The necessary extra land contiguous to the site of the existing WWTP has been acquired and the Planning process has been satisfactorily completed. The €2.8M proposal is not included in IW's national draft <b>Capital Investment Plan 2020 – 2024</b> .
<b>Tralee Drainage Area Plan</b>	Consulting Engineer <b>Arup</b> has been appointed for the preparation of this <b>Drainage Area Plan</b> , and the Killarney, Listowel and Ballylongford DAPs. The actual survey of the Tralee network has been completed and the DAP is due for completion by August 2021.

**IRISH WATER CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

This is a rolling programme of **Improvement Works** which can be added to as the need arises.

<b>NETWORKS IMPROVEMENT AND MINOR CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMMES</b>			
<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>ESTIMATE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Tralee Waste-Water <b>Mulgrave's Bridge</b> pump station	Major upgrade (by contract) to the pump station	€500,000	Completed
Central Regional Water Supply Scheme <b>Listellick Cross to Lisloose</b> Tralee	Replace 1400M of old and deficient 3" PVC water main	€212,000	Completed
<b>CRWSS Tonevane</b>	Work on the water mains to decommission 900M of old and deficient 15" cast iron main between Blennerville and Tonevane Cross	€50,000	Completed
<b>CRWSS O'Rahilly's Villas</b> Tralee	Replacement of 430M of 100MM cast iron main with uPVC pipe in conjunction with road upgrade works	€70,000	<b>Underway</b>
<b>CRWSS Rae St</b> Tralee	Replace 280M of 100MM cast iron main with uPVC pipe in conjunction with road upgrade works	€70,000	<b>Underway</b>
<b>CRWSS Listellick to Tubrid Reservoir</b>	Lay 3Km of new 200MM water main, first part of 6Km project to enable connection of the Central Regional to <b>Ardfert Water Supply Scheme</b> thus allowing the decommissioning of the existing well source at Ardfert.	€500,000	2021
	<b><u>APPROVED</u> Minor Works <u>ON HAND</u></b>	<b>€570,000</b>	

### **NEW RESERVOIRS PROGRAMME**

This is a 5-year programme for the provision of ten new reservoirs where current storage is less than 6 hours, on Water Supply Schemes throughout the county. These new reservoirs will improve the security of supplies to customers.

**Camp** is included.

### **FIND and FIX PROGRAMME**

The **Find and Fix Programme** is a specially funded, countywide, capital project which was set up in 2018 to search for leaks in the public water pipes and repair them.

The project involves the deployment of **three new Kerry County Council van crews** comprising one 'Find' van crew and two 'Fix' van crews. There is also the deployment of 3 van crews from Coffey Northumbrian Limited, the Irish Water appointed contractor whose 'Find' van crews are helping in building a repository of potential leak locations for follow-on investigation and repair by the Fix van crews.

**Tralee Town was the initial focus area of the Programme in Kerry.** Following extensive works since 2018 **the daily outflow from the Farmer's Bridge reservoir which serves the greater Tralee area has dropped by 5,800M<sup>3</sup> (33%).**

Work, some at night, on this county-wide project has also been undertaken in Dingle, Listowel, Castleisland and the greater Knockaninane Killarney area.

### **FIRST FIX PROGRAMME**

Under this project, Irish Water, having electronically read the domestic meters, has written to each householder whose domestic meter is recording excessively high flow, to offer the free service of the appointed contractor, **Coffey Northumbrian Ltd**, to investigate the cause. The Contractor has also been 'knocking on doors' of houses, the meters for which indicate possible leaks. This is a nation-wide project.

### **THE RURAL WATER PROGRAMME**

The administration and development of the Group Scheme sector continues to be a function of the Local Authorities under the guidance and supervision of the **Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.**

**Irish Water has no authority, responsibility or involvement.**

The national **Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021** was published by the DoHP&LG in late 2019.

The **Alderwood Road proposed Group Sewerage Scheme** is provisionally included. There is also funding for the provision of a new / replacement reservoir for the existing **Tonevane GWSS** (30 houses), prior to its take-over by Irish Water.

**Mr. C. Mangan advised that Irish Water has given Kerry County Council notification that Urban Tce, Upper Rock Street will be taken onto the new system.**

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

- 1. Cllr. J. Finucane:** In light of the deteriorating situation in Oakfield Square, that emergency funding is sought to bring this scheme up to acceptable standards.

**Reply:** Irish Water have recently provided funding to connect the watermain in this estate to an alternative supply pipe and works on this are underway.

There are also issues with the sewerage system, which also serves a commercial premises and apartments between the housing estate and the main Oakpark road. The pumping station which serves the development is non-functional and appears to be located in one of the domestic sites.

The Council's Water Services department regularly desludges the pump sump, which is operating only as a holding tank. Funding of €150,000 is required to upgrade the pump station and we are in discussions at national level with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and Irish Water to seek a suitable funding stream to resolve the infrastructure deficit.

**Cllr. J. Finucane stated that bottled water was delivered to residents here by Irish Water. This issue has been going on for a number of years and he would like to see the €150,000 assigned and the works finished. A percentage of the property tax went to Irish Water. Cllr. Finucane suggested that the possibility of returning Irish Water Services to the Local Authorities should be considered.**

**Cllr. Finucane asked if Fenit having no Sewage Plant would mitigate against investment.**

- 2. Cllr. J. Finucane:** That Councillors allocation be utilised for the continued development and upkeep of Ballyseedy graveyard.

**Reply:** There are two burial grounds located in Ballyseedy, one in the charge of the Church of Ireland and the other in the charge of Kerry County Council, which is itself archaeologically protected. There is an annual maintenance budget available for the maintenance and upkeep of burial grounds in the charge of Kerry County Council, from which graveyard burial committees receive some funding, for maintenance. The use of a Councillors Allocations can be considered for improvement works on Council owned burial grounds.

All works proposed for this burial ground will have to be approved by the Burial Grounds Unit in advance of being considered for funding.

- 3. Cllr. M. Sheehy:** That the ongoing issues with sewage in Stacks Villas (*Details with Directorate*) be addressed as a matter of urgency. The pipes in the area are over 70 years old and issues with the system are ongoing.

**Reply:** There have been some issues here with blocked sewers which have been addressed as they arise by Kerry County Council operational crews. Kerry County Council has raised these issues with Irish Water. The Tralee Drainage Area Plan is currently being progressed, which is examining all issues associated with the foul sewer network of Tralee.

The surveying works associated with the Tralee DAP are substantially complete and the assigned consultants are currently modelling the network.

This DAP will inform Irish Water on the necessary upgrades and IW Capital Investment funding will be sought.

There are extensions built over the sewer in most of these properties. In the meantime, the WSS staff will continue to keep the sewer clear, by jetting, etc., in the event of any difficulties occurring.

**Cllr. M. Sheehy stated that while he accepted the response, this was an ongoing issue.**

- 4. Cllr. J. Wall:** Prior to the dissolution of Tralee Town Council, that local authority had undertaken an in-depth survey of Rath Burial Ground. The survey, which would be a fantastic resource for many, was never placed on-line. I propose that the results of this survey be made available immediately and be updated appropriately on a regular basis.

**Reply:** The findings of the survey are currently available from our Burial Grounds Unit and will also be available online in the coming weeks.

**Cllr. J. Wall suggested that the 18<sup>th</sup> Century tombs could be cleaned and they could become part of the tourist attractions in Tralee area.**

### **Emergency Motion - Cllr. S. Locke**

#### ***Notice of Motion***

That Kerry County Council address the rat infestation in The Mitchells area as this has come about from the development of the road and the knocking of the wall in Ballymullen Barracks.

**Reply:** The issue of the alleged rat infestation in the Mitchel's Area has been investigated by both officials from the HSE and Kerry County Council and no evidence of a rat infestation was found, the matter will be kept under review by both bodies. The issue relating to the knocking of the wall in Ballymullen Barracks has been investigated and is being followed up by the Council.

**Cllr. S. Locke stated that there was no comeback from the H.S.E. for over a week after the restructure of the wall and some homes in O' Connells Terrace & Hawley Park had to contact Rentokil.**

**Cllr. C. Foley stated that there has been a rat explosion all over the country.**

### **20.09.07.04 Housing & Corporate Services Directorate**

- (a) It was agreed to note the following report from the Housing Directorate, which was circulated:**

# **HOUSING DIRECTORATE REPORT**

## **TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT** **21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2020**

**Director of Service: Martin O' Donoghue**

### **Housing Report - TRALEE**

#### **Municipal District**

- **Housing Applications**

	<b><u>No</u></b>
<b>Current no. of approved applicants on the housing list who have selected an area within this MD as an area of choice</b>	2,231
<b>Net Need for Tralee MD (excluding transfers)</b>	1,098
<b>No. of applications received this year who have selected an area within this MD as an area of choice</b>	271
<b>No. of applications approved since the start of this year who have selected an area within this MD as an area of choice</b>	257

Breakdown by Bed No.

1-Bed	1,106
2-Bed	588
3-Bed	401
4-Bed	126
5-Bed	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,231</b>

- **Void Management**

<b>Municipal District breakdown</b>	<b><u>No</u></b>
<b>Current no. of dwellings under repair and unallocated</b>	2
<b>Current no. of dwellings under repair and allocated</b>	10

<b>Current no. of dwellings awaiting repairs</b>	4
<b>Current no. of repaired dwellings awaiting allocation</b>	2
<b>Current no. of repaired dwellings allocated awaiting occupation</b>	2
<b><u>Total No of Vacant dwellings in Municipal District</u></b>	19

- **Social Housing Options**

<b>Social Housing Options in MD</b>	<b>New tenancies since the start of the year</b>	<b>Current No of tenancies</b>
<b>LA Housing</b>	30	1,409
<b>RAS</b>	18	450
<b>Leasing</b>	6	218
<b>HAP</b>	197	772
<b><u>Total no of Tenancies</u></b>	251	2,849

#### 4 **Housing Construction Programme**

##### **Schemes/S.R. dwellings at planning/design stage in Municipal District**

<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>No of dwellings</u></b>	<b><u>Type of dwellings</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated start date</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated completion date</u></b>
<b>Cluain Láir Lohercannon, Tralee</b>	61	8no. 1 bed 37no. 3 bed 12no. 4 bed 4no. 5 bed	Sept 2020	Apr 2022
<b>Cruaghoint, (Croogorts) Tralee</b>	30	4no. 1 bed 20no. 2 bed 5no. 3 bed 1no. 4 bed	Sept 2020	Jan 2022
<b>Rahoonane</b>	8	4no. 3 bed 4no. 2 bed	Feb 2021	Mar 2022
<b>AHB – Cluid Chamfer's Place Mitchel's Regeneration Area</b>	18	10no.1 bed 8no. 2 bed	Oct 2020	Apr 2022
<b>AHB – Kingdom Voluntary, Clogheraesta, Hawley Park</b>	16	12no.1 bed 4no. 2 bed	Mar 2021	Sep 2022

##### **Schemes/ S.R. dwellings under construction in Municipal District**



<u>Location</u>	<u>No of dwellings</u>	<u>Type of dwellings</u>	<u>Start date</u>	<u>Estimated completion date</u>
Balloonagh, Tralee	28	4no. 1 bed 12no. 2 bed 12no. 3 bed	May 2019	Dec 2020
Farranwilliam, Ardferit	22	6no. 1 bed 6no. 2 bed 10no. 3 bed	Sep 2019	Feb 2021
Ballyrickard, Tralee	21	6no. 4 bed 15no. 3 bed	Aug 2020	Sep 2021

## **5 Maintenance/Improvement of Housing Stock**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, 1,066 requests for repairs have been received for the Tralee Municipal District.

## **6 Housing Adaptation /Housing Aid for Older People Grants**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, 107 grants have been allocated in the Tralee Municipal District.

## **7 Bedroom Extensions**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, no bedroom extensions have been allocated in the Tralee Municipal District.

Ms. B. Riordan stated that Grants are still being allocated, but that Kerry County Council has had to adapt to the new Covid-19 regulations.

Cllr. C. Foley queried how many Engineers were assessing?

Ms. B. Riordan replied that Kerry County Council has two assessors but that if there was an emergency case, they should contact the Housing Department directly.

Cllr. J. Finucane suggested that there should be apprenticeships considered by Kerry County Council and if they advertised for these positions it would improve turn around times.

Cllr. S. Locke extended his thanks to the Housing Department on the way they had been handling their workload during the pandemic.

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

**1. Cllr. C. Foley:** To ask whether minimum standards of housing in regard to HAP and RAS are being rigorously enforced, particularly in the town centre, and are follow up inspections being carried out once the initial inspection is made.

**Reply:** The current regulations setting out minimum standards for rented accommodation are set out in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 137/2019), which commenced on the 1st of May 2019. Kerry County Council are responsible for the inspection regime under these regulations.

Kerry County Council have an inspection regime in place to deal with the requirements of these schemes. In addition, the Council has an inspection regime in place in response to complaints received.

If a non-compliance or breach of the regulations is identified these are set out in an improvement letter which would issue to a landlord following an inspection. In the majority of cases minor works are dealt with by confirmation from the landlord that the issues have been addressed and any necessary supporting documentation provided.

As the requirements under the Minimum Standards Regulations and the quality of the property changes over time, the tenant is free to make a complaint at any point whereby they believe that the dwelling is in contravention of the Minimum Standards Regulations applicable at that time.

A serious breach of the regulations or on non-compliance is normally dealt with as a formal enforcement matter and may involve legal processes.

The current Covid-19 Pandemic had had a significant negative effect on inspections – with routine inspections suspended until quite recently. Inspections have recommenced with the Councils Health and Safety procedures and protocols surrounding the carrying out of inspections and Covid-19 will help with ensuring the safety of Employees, Tenants and Landlords. However, while inspections have resumed, we are still subject to public health requirements and it is not business as normal. We must exercise caution in this area to ensure that the risk of transmission of Covid19 is minimised. This will impact on the nature and number of inspections that will be completed. The overall approach to the enforcement of the regulations has been subject to review at central level in recent times.

## **20.09.07.05 Roads, Transportation & Marine Directorate**

(a) It was agreed to note the following update report from the Roads, Transportation & Marine Directorate which was circulated:

**Tralee Municipal District – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Update Report from the Director of Roads, Transportation & Marine**

<b><u>ROADS / TRANSPORTATION</u></b>
<b><u>Design and Construction works on the following projects over the next two months</u></b>
<b><u>National Roads</u></b>
<b><u>National Primary &amp; Secondary Pavement and Minor Works</u></b>

<b><u>Regional and Local Roads</u></b>					
<b><u>SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENT GRANT</u></b>					
<b>Road Number</b>	<b>Road Description</b>	<b>Est Cost €</b>	<b>STATUS</b>		
	Clash Cross to Ballymullen	€1,000,000	50% COMPLETE		
R558	Tralee to Fenit Realignment	€380,000	20% COMPLETE		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€ 1,380,000</b>			
<b><u>RESTORATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME</u></b>					
<b>Road Number</b>	<b>Road Description</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Total Area m2</b>	<b>Est Cost €</b>	<b>STATUS/ ANTICIPATED START DATE</b>
R875	Rathass-Moyderwell	375	5,063	€181,875	WORKS 90% COMPLETE
R556	Rock Street Lower	200	2,500	€95,000	WORKS COMPLETE
R551	Pembroke St	125	1,188	€40,625	WORKS COMPLETE
L-6716	O'Rahilly Villas	340	2,550	€111,500	WORKS 90% COMPLETE
R558	Mounthawk Rdt- Clogherbrien X	350	2,450	€83,500	OCTOBER 2020
L-6506	Clogherbrien X -Black Bridge	500	2,750	€93,750	WORKS COMPLETE
R875	Castle Street Upper - Boherbee	150	1,275	€48,250	WORKS COMPLETE
L-2010	Ballyard Rd	200	1,500	€55,000	WORKS COMPLETE

R874	Moyderwell	200	1,500	€64,031	WORKS 90% COMPLETE
L-6717	Rae St.	150	900	€47,000	WORKS 90% COMPLETE
L-2015	Clash Road	300	2,100	€88,000	WORKS 90% COMPLETE
R878	Lower Oakpark Rd	330	3,465	€131,950	WORKS 90% COMPLETE
R878	Upper Oakpark Road	254	2,284	€103,528	WORKS 90% COMPLETE
L10583	Castlecourtess	380	2375	€91,250	OCTOBER 2020
R558	Fenit Village X - Clogherbrien X.	530	3,445	€103,300	OCTOBER 2020
L-6501	Barrow Bridge X - Barrow GC	700	3,500	€85,500	WORKS COMPLETE
L-2004	Ardfert Village X - Listrim X	600	3,300	€99,000	WORKS COMPLETE
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,684</b>		<b>€ 1,699,354</b>	

### **RESTORATION MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

<b>Road Number</b>	<b>Road Description</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Total Area m2</b>	<b>Est Cost €</b>	<b>STATUS/ ANTICIPATED START DATE</b>
L6502	Listrim Lower X - Liscahane X	2051	10,256	€46,150	COMPLETE
L6094	Tubrid Station X - Tubrid East X	965	4,825	€21,713	COMPLETE
L10549	Larha X - Ardfert North Commons X	715	3,575	€16,088	COMPLETE
L2002	Ballylahive X - Kilgulbin Middle X	990	4,950	€22,275	BY END OCTOBER SUBJECT TO WEATHER
L10586	Leith X - Curravough X	700	3,500	€15,750	BY END OCTOBER SUBJECT TO WEATHER
L6548	Aherns Road	350	1,750	€7,875	25% COMPLETE
L1029	Lerrig X - Banna School X	765	3,825	€17,213	BY END OCTOBER SUBJECT TO WEATHER
L6093	Tubrid More X - Kilgulbin West X	711	3,557	€16,004	BY END OCTOBER SUBJECT TO WEATHER

R551	Ballinsaor X - Ardferf Village	2,200	14,300	€78,650	BY END OCTOBER SUBJECT TO WEATHER
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9,447</b>		<b>€241,717</b>	

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY RESTORATION MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME**

<b>Road Number</b>	<b>Road Description</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Total Area m2</b>	<b>Est Cost €</b>	<b>STATUS/COMPLETION DATE</b>
L10569	Barrow (CIS)	450	3.5	€25,000	COMPLETE
L10589	Ballybeggan (CIS)	800	5		25% COMPLETE
L10587	Alderwood Rd	1,360	6,802	€30,609	BY END OCTOBER SUBJECT TO WEATHER
L2009	Tubrid Station - Tubrid More X	1,545	9,270	€41,715	BY END OCTOBER SUBJECT TO WEATHER
L6515	Grenlaun X - Clahane X	1,285	5,140	€23,130	COMPLETE
L2004	Kockeanagh X - Commons West X	2,000	10,000	€45,000	COMPLETE
L2011	Ballyseedy	1,053	4,736	€21,313	BY END OCTOBER SUBJECT TO WEATHER
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Supplementary Maintenance Programme</b>	<b>7,243</b>		<b>€186,767</b>	

#### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEME**

<b>Road Number</b>	<b>Road Description</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Est Cost €</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
L10627	Ballyseedy	400	€34,720	COMPLETE
L2007	Curraheen	110	€12,320	NOVEMBER 2020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Drainage Programme</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>€47,040</b>	

#### **SAFETY IMPROVEMENT WORKS**

<b>Road Number</b>	<b>Road Description</b>	<b>Est Cost €</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
R556	Connolly Park Junction	€125,000	Section 38 Public Consultation Complete. Contractor to be appointed subject to adoption of scheme by Municipal District Members

R874	Tralee Pedestrian Crossing	€20,000	Contractor appointed. Works scheduled for October mid-term break.
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€ 145,000</b>	

#### **DRAINAGE PROGRAMME**

<b>Road Number</b>	<b>Road Description</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Est Cost €</b>	<b>STATUS/ ANTICIPATED START DATE</b>
L10577	Spa Village - Ballygarran	1,400	€5,600	NOVEMBER 2020
L2007	Listrim X - Churchill X	1,400	€5,600	NOVEMBER 2020
L2009	Tubridmore X - Rathkenny Cross	1,400	€5,600	NOVEMBER 2020
L10635	Ashill X	1,300	€5,200	NOVEMBER 2020
L6504	Doon - Ballyroe Br.	1,500	€6,000	NOVEMBER 2020
L2004	Spa Village - Ardfert	2,500	€10,000	NOVEMBER 2020
L6516	Clahane	1,500	€6,000	WORKS COMPLETE
L10586	Leith X - Curravough X	1,400	€5,600	SEPTEMBER 2020
L6503	Ballymakegoge X - Scrahan X	1,311	€5,245	50% COMPLETE
L2015	Ballinorig X - Ballyaukeen X	2,000	€8,000	NOVEMBER 2020
L6510	Dromthacker X - Knockawaddra X	1,800	€7,200	20% COMPLETE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Drainage Programme</b>	<b>17,511</b>	<b>€70,045</b>	

#### **HOUSING MAINTENANCE**

<b>Large Maintenance Works</b>	None
<b>Voids Works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 Tobar Naofa</li> <li>• 33 Tobar Naofa</li> </ul>
<b>Works to Acquisitions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 152 Lee Drive</li> </ul>
<b>Inspections to be carried out to Acquisitions, Part V</b>	None
<b>Extensions</b>	None
<b>Single Rural/Site Suitability Assessments</b>	None
<b>Planned Maintenance Programme</b>	Awaiting 2020 Programme

#### **PUBLIC LIGHTING (Generated on 24/8/2020)**

<b>No. of faults reported since last meeting</b>	67
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<b>No. of faults repaired within 12 working days</b>	59
<b>No. of faults repaired outside 12 working days</b>	1
<b>Outstanding Repairs not completed within 12 working days</b>	<i>See below the locations</i>

**OUTSTANDING REPAIRS**

*Report generated on 24/08/2020 by Public Lighting Section*

<b>Job Ticket ID</b>	<b>Defect Description</b>	<b>Unit Number</b>	<b>Postal Street Name</b>	<b>Date Reported</b>	<b>Reason</b>
17685	Knockdown	13525	St. Johns Park	27/04/2020	ESB Connection Issues
175842	Knockdown	9972	Manor Housing Estate	18/07/2020	Under investigation
17553	lamp out	11379	New road, rock street, monavalley	22/07/2020	Access Issues
17549	lamp out	10875	Bracker O'Reagan Road	20/08/2020	Specialist materials required

**COASTAL PROTECTION**

The Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Study for Tralee Bay (Ballyheigue to Brandon Pt.) is currently underway by Malachy Walsh and Partners. Coastal erosion measures on a 30m section of the Cliff Road, Ballyheigue were assessed as part of the Study and Part 8 planning is underway ahead of proposed stabilisation works in this 30m section.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Scotias Glen/Foleys Glen forestry site is being assessed through the Southern CARO office as to its suitability for replanting. A site visit has taken place with Teagasc and Forestry consultant advice is being considered.

**CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE UNIT**

## **Tralee Town Centre Phase 2**

Receipt of Tender closing date for these works was the 14<sup>th</sup> of August – evaluation currently underway with construction to begin late September.

## **Island of Geese / Tralee West Development**

Part 8 planning granted at the July Tralee MD meeting. Final detailed design works currently being completed. Public realm tender will be published in early September. Construction to begin before end of year.



Design work is also being completed for the development 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> of Office Space on one of the development sites with the Island of Geese. This Office development will also be submitted for planning permission during 2020.

## **Tralee To Fenit Line Greenway**

Construction works have commenced on the Tralee Fenit Greenway. The sod turn was carried out on the 29th November 2019. The site was closed for a period of 2 months due to the Covid 19 restrictions. It is anticipated that works will be complete in Q3/ early Q4 2021. Accommodation works with adjacent landowners are progressing. 63% of site clearance works is complete and 53% of a crushed stone capping layer has been laid to date on the project.

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



## Appendix A

### Specific Improvement Grant

Road Number	Road Description	Est Cost €	STATUS
	Clash Cross to Ballymullen	€1,000,000	50% COMPLETE
R558	Tralee to Fenit Realignment	€380,000	20% COMPLETE
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€ 1,380,000</b>	

**Cllr. C. Foley complimented the staff on works done so far.**

#### Lisardboula Road

**Cllr. C. Foley queried whether Lisardboula road had been taken in charge by Kerry County Council 35 years ago and stated that he had a letter to forward on to Mr. C. Nagle.**

**Mr. C. Nagle advised that it would be reviewed and stated that water mains had been re-laid some time back on Lisardboula road.**

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

- 1. Cllr. T. O' Brien:** That Kerry County Council would look at the possibility of getting a large segment of the Tralee-Fenit Walk done before the next summer season – allowing for us to advertise this important piece of infrastructure for the 2021 summer season.

**Reply:** It is anticipated that the Greenway will be completed in Q3 of 2021. Kerry County Council will investigate the possibility of expediting sections of the Greenway and will endeavour to open as much of the Greenway as is possible once these sections are complete and safe to use in advance of the 2021 summer season. We will continue to provide regular progress reports to the Members over the coming months.

- 2. Cllr. T. O' Brien:** That Kerry County Council would examine the speed ramps going through Mitchells/Garryruth as one or two of them were altered by the work that took place up there and were not replaced.

**Reply:** Irish Water are to reinstate two ramps following recent watermain restoration works undertaken along the L2072 Mitchel's Road. We await confirmation of a commencement date for these works and we will update the Cllr. in this regard once received.

- 3. Cllr. T. O' Brien:** That Kerry County Council would examine the roundabout/footpaths etc in front of the Ballymullen Post Office – realignment may need to be carried out at this junction.

**Reply:** This matter has been referred to our Road Design Office for consideration. At present, there is no funding within the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works Plan to undertake works at this location. However, subject to the recommendations of our Road Design Office, works may be considered as part of the Councils submission for Safety Improvement Works funding from the Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport for 2021.

4. **Cllr. J. Finucane:** That this Council as per past commitments provide extra car spaces for the residents of Hawley Park in the two cul de sacs. Also, that proper railings are utilised to protect the green space.

**Reply:** Additional car parking spaces were provided along the southern cul-de-sac in Hawley Park around 2014. Works at this time included the provision of a railing between the road and the green area. A section of this railing has been removed and KCC will arrange for its replacement. The provision of additional car parking and a railing at the northern cul-de-sac will be considered as a part of Environmental Works being undertaken in Hawley Park later this year.

5. **Cllr. D. Ferris:** Fenit Pier is currently without a crane as the existing one has been sent away for repairs. The original timeline was supposed to be 2 weeks however it is currently at 12 weeks since it was sent away. Local fishermen are currently paying €200 per lift to a private company. Can KCC clarify when the crane or a replacement is going to be put in place?

**Reply:** The crane had to be sent to the UK for specialist repairs in accordance with manufacturers requirements. On detailed inspection the supplier has identified additional repairs, which required additional time (6-8weeks) for delivery of parts. It is hoped to have the repairs complete and the crane returned by early October.

**Cllr. D. Ferris stated that Kerry County Council needed to be a little more forthcoming on helping the fishermen.**

6. **Cllr. D. Ferris:** Fenit Pier is constantly being blocked by parked cars and public traffic, particularly on days of hot weather. This is a health and safety issue and as a working dock emergency access is required at all times. Fenit Lifeboat and ambulance crews also require 24hr access. Can KCC look into closing the entrance of the pier to non-pier related traffic in the interest of Health and Safety?

**Reply:** This is a public road, providing access to the harbour and other facilities on Samphire Island, including for anglers and fishermen. The access to the harbour and the marina are controlled having regard to other statutory provisions under the Maritime Acts, particularly on port security.

Due to exceptional weather, and large number of tourists visiting the county, there were a limited number of occasions when there was traffic congestion on this road. Notwithstanding that there are no parking restrictions on this road, there is a statutory provision under the road traffic acts , prohibiting the parking of a vehicle “in a manner in which it will interfere with the normal flow of traffic or which obstructs or endangers other traffic”, for which An Garda Síochána have powers to enforce.

It would not be considered appropriate to close the road, given the use of the facilities by others. However, Kerry County Council is at present developing a masterplan for Fenit Village which may present additional opportunities for the provision of parking facilities within the village.

In the interim, the Council will consider providing some additional road markings to restrict some parking and allow for easier access to the harbour.

- 7. Cllr. D. Ferris:** Can KCC confirm the expected finish date of the Tralee Fenit Greenway?

**Reply:** It is anticipated that the Greenway will be completed in Q3 of 2021. Kerry County Council will investigate the possibility of expediting sections of the Greenway and will endeavour to open as much of the Greenway as is possible once these sections are complete and safe to use in advance of the 2021 summer season. We will continue to provide regular progress reports to the Members over the coming months.

- 8. Cllr. D. Ferris:** Can KCC confirm what efforts have been made to establish pop up cycle lanes in Tralee town which were discussed at previous meetings? We need to create safe passage through the town especially considering the resurgence of growing COVID cases.

**Reply:** The Council has invested significantly in the development of cycle facilities and smarter travel initiatives in Tralee in recent years, as identified in the Tralee Transportation Strategy. These include the provision of off-road cycle facilities, shared spaces and on-road facilities.

Currently construction is ongoing on the Tralee- Fenit Cycleway and the Council will shortly be commencing construction of the Mall Phase 2 and the Island of Geese Public Realm, which will further enhance facilities for vulnerable road users (pedestrians and cyclists). This represents an overall investment in excess of €12m.

Kerry County Council is committed to the continued development and enhancement of cycling facilities within Tralee town and its environs. As part of a comprehensive application made under the URDF Scheme in May 2020, the Council has sought funding to develop an integrated network of cycle lanes in Tralee with a view to linking the new Tralee to Fenit Greenway with the town centre and the Tralee Bay Wetlands, Eco and Activity Park.

The provision of cycle facilities is not limited to on road cycle lanes with priority being given to the development of off-road facilities, where possible, and the introduction of 20kph and 30 kph speed limits, to support integrated traffic movements in accordance with national cycling design guidelines.

The provision of on-road facilities in built up urban areas can be challenging, given existing road geometry, impact on parking, particularly for roadside properties, and must be developed in accordance with national design standards. These standards also provide for integrated traffic movements and reduced speed limits. The development of cycle facilities also requires significant public consultation.

Further consideration can be given to the reviewing on-street cycle lanes, where appropriate, but the priority at present is for the development of infrastructure where funding has been secured.

- 9. Cllr. M. Sheehy:** That this Council commit to completing the Tralee-Fenit Greenway in a timeframe that allows for its use in the summer 2021 tourist season, and if this is not possible that this Council commits to opening full sections of the route for this purpose.

**Reply:** It is anticipated that the Greenway will be completed in Q3 of 2021. Kerry County Council will investigate the possibility of expediting sections of the Greenway and will endeavour to open as much of the Greenway as is possible once these sections are complete and safe to use in advance of the 2021 summer season. We will continue to provide regular progress reports to the Members over the coming months.

- 10. Cllr. M. Sheehy:** Are plans in place to allow for facilities, both public and commercial to be added to the Tralee Fenit Greenway at both starting points and within the route itself?

**Reply:** The development of the greenway will serve as a catalyst to promote economic development in Tralee and Fenit and at entry points along the route, as is the experience from other greenway developments nationally. A masterplan for Fenit is being prepared which will address the terminus point of the Greenway in Fenit village.

The construction of the greenway also aligns with the development of Tralee as a Tourism Destination Town, which is supported by Failte Ireland and is an integral part of the Failte Ireland "Kerry Visitor Experience Development Plan". The County Development Plan and MD Local Area Plans support the development of public and commercial facilities on the proposed greenway network in the county.

- 11. Cllr. S. Locke:** In relation to the spreading of weed kill, has Kerry County Council reintroduced a programme of weed kill to kill off noxious weeds.

**Reply:** Over the past number of years extensive work has been undertaken along our National Road Network vis-à-vis the treatment of Invasive and Alien plant Species (IAPS). A new 4-year treatment programme will shortly be underway along the national route network in the County. Unlike TII, the Dept. of Transport, Tourism and Sport do not, at present, provide specific funding for the treatment of noxious weeds along the non-national road network, therefore these works need to be considered in the context of our annual Discretionary Funding allocation.

The Tralee MD maintains a database of the locations of noxious weeds and the treatment of these areas must be prioritised and managed having consideration to the resources available to the Municipal District.

If there are areas of particular concern with regard to the presence of noxious weeds, Tralee MD will review the site with a view to including on the database and prioritising for treatment as available resources allow.

**Cllr. C. Foley requested that Kerry County Council be complimentary towards the biodiversity of County Kerry when reviewing this.**

- 12. Cllr. J. Wall:** That Tralee Municipal District would trial a 'wildflower meadow' on the N21 approaches to Tralee town in 2021, from the roundabout at Ballygarry to that at the entrance to Manor Shopping Centre. I propose that this trial be undertaken with specialist input from a Horticulturalist. Should this trial be successful, it will alleviate the necessity of constant grass cutting from April to September each year.

**Reply:** Tralee MD have already identified this section of road as an area to be managed for Biodiversity. In the first instance, this has resulted in a reduced mowing regime where the grass is left uncut until late August/early September. With this management approach, the area will progressively become more flower-rich with local species that are adapted to the site's conditions.

- 13. Cllr. J. Wall:** One of the ways in which we can reduce our exposure to the effects of global warming is by planting trees and Tralee has a good record in this regard.

I propose that Tralee Municipal District bring forward a modest Tree Planting Programme for the Winter '20/Spring '21 season.

This programme should be brought before the November Municipal meeting for inspection.

**Reply:** The Tralee MD is in the process of finalising a Tree Management Plan for the district. Once finalised, areas appropriate for tree planting will be considered. Once identified, planting of appropriate tree species can be considered on a phased basis.

**(a) Questions:**

- 1. Cllr. M. Sheehy:** Can assurances be given that the sluice gates at Arkeragh are functioning properly for winter and that the channel will be kept clear and open at all times.

**Reply:** These sluice gates were replaced 5 years ago and are currently in very good working order. A track machine is also on site at all times to carry out any essential drainage works as may be required throughout the year. This infrastructure is regularly inspected, and any necessary maintenance shall be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

Tralee MD were successful in receiving funding for the repair of a sluice gate and structure in Currahane that was severely damaged during storms Ciara and Dennis in February 2020. Funding was received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, under the July Stimulus Plan and it is anticipated that these works will be completed by the end of November 2020.

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

**(a) To agree the following proposed date for the holding of Tralee Municipal District Meetings.**

- 1. 02<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

The members agreed the proposed date for the holding of the November Tralee Municipal District Meeting.

**(b) Matters arising from the Minutes as confirmed at 1 above**

**(c) Any Other Business**

**Mayor T. O' Brien queried if there was any update on "Smart Parking"**

**Mr. M. Scannell replied that he would review and come back to Mayor O' Brien.**

**(d) Correspondence**

**The meeting concluded at 11.45a.m.**

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**Meetings Administrator**

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**Mayor of the Municipal  
District of Tralee**