

**This document has been edited for Data Protection purposes because
in effect putting it on the Internet is publishing it.
An unedited paper copy is available on request.**

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CRUINIÚ DE COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ
A THIONÓLADH I LISTOWEL ARMS HOTEL AGUS AR-LÍNE/FÍORÚIL AR AN
LUAN, 13 NOLLAIG 2021**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN
THE LISTOWEL ARMS HOTEL AND ONLINE ON MONDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2021**

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

Tom Barry	Robert Beasley	Michael Cahill
Patrick Connor-Scarteen	Brendan Cronin	Charlie Farrelly
Deirdre Ferris	Jim Finucane	Breandán Fitzgerald
Fionnán Fitzgerald	Seamus Fitzgerald	John Francis Flynn
Cathal Foley	Michael Foley	Donal Grady
Jackie Healy-Rae	Johnny Healy-Rae	Maura Healy-Rae
Niall Kelleher	Michael Kennelly	Sam Locke
Dan McCarthy	Jimmy Moloney	Marie Moloney
Norma Moriarty	Terry O'Brien	Niall O'Callaghan
Bobby O'Connell	John O'Donoghue	Michael O'Shea
Mikey Sheehy	Aoife Thornton	Johnnie Wall

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive	Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. Rds, Trspn & Marine
Mr. M. Scannell, Dir. Job Cr/Sust. ED	Mr. J. Breen, Director Water Services
Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director Housing	Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance
Mr. C. O'Connor, Director Corp. Servs.	Mr. P. Corkery, Meetings Administrator
Mr. O. O'Shea, Press Officer	Ms. D. Griffin, SO Corporate
Ms. B. Fitzgerald, Ec. Dev. Officer	

The meeting commenced at 10.35 a.m.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney, Cathaoirleach, took the Chair and welcomed everyone to Listowel for the December 2021 Ordinary meeting of Kerry County Council. It is tradition that the December meeting is held in the hometown of the Cathaoirleach and he thanked management for facilitating today's meeting in Listowel.

Storm Barra

Cathaoirleach Moloney referred to Storm Barra and complimented the Crisis Management Team, the Local Co-Ordination Team and all staff for the preparatory work done and the clean-up work done after the storm. While a lot of damage was done across the county, thankfully nobody was seriously injured.

Centenary of Breaking of truce following Anglo-Irish Treaty

Cllr. Robert Beasley called for support for Mr. Tom Kennedy, a descendant of Mr. Eddie Carmody, who is marking the centenary of the breaking of the truce following the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty by retracing the steps taken by the volunteers from Ballylongford to Ballybunion.

Cllr. Deirdre Ferris supported Cllr. Robert Beasley's call.

Vote of Sympathy

Cllr. Marie Moloney proposed a vote of sympathy on the passing of former TD, Mr. Toddy O'Sullivan.

Vote of Congratulations

Cllr. Terry O'Brien proposed a vote of congratulations to Austin Stacks on winning the Kerry Senior Football Championship and wished the team well in the Munster Club Senior Football Championship.

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy supported this vote of congratulations.

Mr. P. Corkery, Meetings Administrator, said a roll call would now be taken to ensure members can hear and see proceedings.

Present when Roll Call was taken:

Cllrs. Tom Barry, Robert Beasley, Brendan Cronin, Deirdre Ferris, Jim Finucane, Breandán Fitzgerald, Fionnán Fitzgerald, Seamus Fitzgerald, Cathal Foley, Michael Foley, Donal Grady, Jackie Healy-Rae, Maura Healy-Rae, Niall Kelleher, Mike Kennelly, Sam Locke, Dan McCarthy, Marie Moloney, Norma Moriarty, Terry O'Brien, Niall O'Callaghan, Bobby O'Connell, John O'Donoghue, Michael O'Shea, Mikey Sheehy, Aoife Thornton, Johnnie Wall, Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney **(28)**

Absent when Roll Call was taken:

Cllrs. Michael Cahill, Patrick Connor-Scarteen, Charlie Farrelly, John Francis Flynn, Johnny Healy-Rae, **(5)**

13.12.2021.01 Protocols/Induction

Mr. P. Corkery, Meeting Administrator, referred Elected Members to the Protocols for Remote Meetings of Kerry County Council. He gave an overview of the protocols, highlighting that attendees are to have their speakers muted until the Cathaoirleach invites them to speak, to use the 'raise hand' function to indicate that they wish to speak. As per Standing Orders recording/photographing the meeting is prohibited. Roll Calls are taken to ensure Members can see and hear proceedings. If the Cathaoirleach indicates an Elected Member is to speak they are to turn on their camera. He welcomed members of the press to today's meeting. He highlighted the routes to Fire Exits should they be required. He reminded all attending in person that public health guidelines relating to hand sanitisation, social distancing, mask-wearing and non-congregation of attendees must be strictly adhered to.

13.12.2021.02 Cathaoirleach's Report on CPG Meeting

The Cathaoirleach's report on the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 7 December 2021, which had been circulated, was noted by the Members.

13.12.2021.03 Confirmation of Minutes

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Mike Kennelly, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Michael O'Shea, it was resolved that the minutes of the November Ordinary Meeting of Kerry County Council held on 15 November 2021 be confirmed.

13.12.2021.04 Chief Executive's Report to Council

The Chief Executive outlined the Chief Executive's Report to Council for the month of December 2021, which had been circulated.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea commended the Press Officer and the Emergency Team for the work done during Storm Barra.

Cllr. Donal Grady commended the emergency services for the work done during Storm Barra.

Cllr. Tom Barry expressed concern regarding safety issues at the John B. Keane Roads and requested an on-site visit with the Engineer regarding plans for the area. He wished to be associated with the remarks regarding the work done by the roads crew during Storm Barra. In relation to Kerry Gift Cards, he suggested that some of the major employers in the county could use them for their employees.

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy wished to be associated with remarks regarding the role played by Kerry County Council during the red weather alert of Storm Barra. The storm left its mark, e.g., street lighting and pedestrian crossings are not working.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae expressed appreciation for all the work done during Storm Barra by road staff, Engineers and the Press Officer. He said during the last number of years each Municipal District had sandbags available in public areas. The same number of sandbags did not appear to be available during Storm Barra.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae wished to be associated with remarks regarding work done by Kerry County Council during Storm Barra. He also acknowledged the work of the ESB and other emergency services. He noted the advertising done in relation to the public consultation on the Draft County Development Plan and asked that further advertising be done after the Christmas period.

Cllr. Mike Kennelly thanked the Emergency Co-ordination Team: Kerry County Council, HSE and An Garda Síochána that worked together so well to protect the county during Storm Barra and re-opened the county so quickly. It would now be useful to assess trees on roadsides. He welcomed the awarding of the €61.83m contract for the N69 Listowel By-Pass. It is hoped that all negotiations with landowners are finalised and that concerns regarding Ballygologue Cross will be addressed.

Dúirt Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald: Rud ana mhaith Príomh-Oifigeach, tusa agus na Príomh-Oifigí ó na contaetha le Gaeltachtaí ag caint le Chomhchoiste an Oireachtas ar an ábhar 'Tithíocht agus Cúrsaí Pleanála Fisiciúla sa Ghaeltacht'. Táim ag siúl leis na moltaí agus na smaointe a fheiceáil ag ár gcéad chruinniú SPC eile.

Tá fhios agam níl sé ar an tuairisc ach an scéal an seachtain seo caite mar gheall ar Mary Uí Bheaglaíoch, Bean de 96 a raibh ag maireachtáil ar feadh a saoil sa Ghaeltacht agus bhí uirthi An Ghaeltacht a fágáil mar ní raibh leaba i hOspidéal Pobail Chorca Dhuibhne. Bhí uirthi hOspidéal Pobail Chorca Dhuibhne a fhágáil mar níl aon leaba fadtéarmach acu san ospidéal mar gheall ar ghanntanas banaltraí. Tá go leor cúiseanna ann nach bhfuil go leor banaltraí ann ach muna féidir le haltraí teach a cheannach nó muna féidir léi pleanáil a fháil, beidh sé an-deacair banaltraí a fháil chun postanna a líonadh i gceantar bardasach Chorca Dhuibhne nó sa tuaithe. Tá sé tábhachtach dúinn gach rud a dhéanamh chun na fadhbanna seo a réiteach.

Cllr. Deirdre Ferris welcomed Enterprise Ireland Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme (RETS) Feasibility Funding for the county; this is hugely important for the regrowth of towns and villages. In 2022 there must be focus on the opening of the Greenways, the Safe Streets campaigns and more pedestrianisation to provide safer routes around towns and villages. She thanked the Press Officer for the updates provided to Elected Members during Storm Barra, and also thanked the emergency services for the great work they did.

Cllr. Robert Beasley thanked Kerry County Council and all emergency services for their work done during Storm Barra. People took notice of the red alert which was important. The Cliff Walk in Ballybunion was damaged and he asked that the fencing be restored. He called for the opening of the Rathscannell road.

Cllr. Norma Moriarty wished to be associated with the compliments to Kerry County Council staff and emergency services regarding work done during Storm Barra. The red alert system worked very well and there was clear communication from the Press Officer throughout the day. She welcomed the Bridge Rehabilitation funding and asked if it will be possible to secure extra funding for regional routes. She also welcomed the meeting the Chief Executive attended with Chomhcoiste an Oireachtas. The reintroduction of a funding scheme specifically in Gaeltacht areas to bring homes back into a liveable standard should form part of that conversation. The Festival Mentoring Workshops were very useful.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton concurred with concerns around safety issues from the Listowel Bypass at the John B. Keane road. It is critical that a meeting is held with the Contractors as soon as possible to understand the timeframes that they are working to, schedule of works, starting point, etc. She welcomed the update on the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021 and it is encouraging to hear of a move to structured engagement. She commended the work of Kerry County Council and emergency services during Storm Barra.

Cllr. Michael Cahill wished to be associated with compliments to staff on their work during Storm Barra. In relation to the Outdoor Dining Grants, some projects did not qualify because planning permission was required. Businesses are relying on this funding. He asked if all Kerry County Council's public buildings are accessible to people with disabilities.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin expressed gratitude and thanks to the Kerry County Council staff, the Communications Officer and the crews on the road for their work during Storm Barra. In relation to COVID, there is confusion regarding the HSE message that the over 60s and over 50s would get the booster vaccine, yet there are no walk-in clinics at present. Credit is due to Pharmacies and GPs who are trying to facilitate vaccinations. However, to address this properly there should be a Vaccination Centre in Killarney. He asked if Listry Bridge is included in the Bridge Rehabilitation programme.

Cllr. Sam Locke complimented the work done by outdoor crews during Storm Barra. The Tree Planting Programme for the county needs to be at the fore, but when planting in future, not to plant too near the roadside as falling trees damage electricity cables. An examination of problematic trees on secondary routes should be undertaken. He congratulated Cllr. Mikey Sheehy on his appointment as Chair of the Regional Health Forum South.

Cllr. Jim Finucane said it is hugely important to shop local as every business is depending on an increase in local spend at Christmas time. He asked that a meeting be arranged with Kerry Airport in January regarding airline routes and in particular to Schiphol Airport to develop connectivity between Kerry and the rest of Europe.

Cllr. Marie Moloney acknowledged the work done during Storm Barra; Kerry County Council was exceptional, in particular the Emergency Services and the Press Officer. The Christmas in Killarney parade floats suffered damage during the storm and she queried if funding would be available to assist with repairs. She welcomed the Sub-Committee to review and make recommendations in relation to the Human Rights Duty in Kerry County Council. It must be impressed on people to shop local and support businesses that have suffered during the pandemic.

Cllr. Terry O'Brien supported the call to shop local, which is very important for businesses. He commended the work done during Storm Barra, in particular by the local Tralee crew. Radio Kerry was also a great support as well as Kerry County Council's Press Officer. He welcomed that an application has been made for funding for training under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund (DPAF) 2021.

Cllr. Dan McCarthy concurred with Cllr. Sam Locke's request regarding an examination of problematic trees on roadsides. He moved notice of motion No. 34.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Dan McCarthy PROPOSED:

Could Kerry County Council organise an advertising programme to shop local for Christmas.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council and Kerry Chambers have joined forces to appeal to everyone in Kerry to support local shops and businesses this Christmas. The campaign will use local media and social media platforms to promote the 'Shop in Kerry/An Siopa Áitiúil' message. The aim is to encourage consumers in the county to support the local economic recovery by spending locally while observing all of the public health advice and restrictions.

Cllr. Dan McCarthy complimented Kerry County Council and all involved in this campaign to support local businesses.

Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald gave particular thanks to Kerry County Council's Press Officer for communications during Storm Barra. In relation to hedgecutting, while these works are being done, trees are left overhanging roads and this must be addressed. He encouraged people to shop local over the next while to support local businesses.

The Chief Executive said there is a body of cleanup works to be undertaken after Storm Barra, e.g. public lighting and the coastal cliff walk. Substantial damage was done and the costs must be quantified for recoupment.

In relation to the provision of sandbags, thousands were available, but the weather modelling showed it was not a flood event, rather a wind event. Areas were targeted and adequately dealt with in respect of the storm.

The meeting with the Joint Oireachtas Committee provided an opportunity to highlight some of the positive work done with the Gaeltacht communities in the County, as well as set out planned work and to get advised in the area of policy in the Gaeltacht. A three-person Independent Expert Panel has been established to

advise in specific Irish areas. The Draft County Development Plan was outlined at the meeting in relation to dealing with issues in Gaeltacht areas. The meeting also reviewed services being provided across the Council, there is a huge amount of work being done and there is further work to do.

In relation to planning on the Dingle Peninsula, it is peninsular area, a fragile area with a very high number of environmental designations. The Once-off Rural Housing Policy applies. In the area 80% of planning applications were granted, with a high proportion translating into homes. Kerry County Council is conscious of housing people in the Gaeltacht areas.

As Kerry County Council buildings are being upgraded, accessibility is being accommodated. A €20m Development Grant has been secured and the Caherciveen office is included in the works programme.

In relation to Testing Centres, while it will be raised in discussions with the HSE, it would be helpful for a letter to issue from Council also.

Listry Bridge is important for the county and a request has been included in the Specific Grants with a view to advancing works in 2022.

It is a matter for Kerry Airport to make a submission to the County Development Plan regarding their proposals and objectives in relation to expansion. She suggested that a letter issue from the Elected Members seeking an update from Kerry Airport.

In relation to hedgecutting, trees will be assessed when hedges are being cut, however, it should be noted that this is a matter for the landowner.

13.12.2021.05 Polling Scheme for County Kerry

Mr. C. O'Connor, Director of Services, referred Elected Members to the report on the new Polling Scheme for County Kerry, dated 8 December 2021, which had been circulated to Elected Members. He outlined that the draft scheme was prepared following consultation with the County Registrar and is in line with the existing arrangements in place for the last election, having taken account of the various amendments to legislation covering changes to the Municipal Districts, etc., since the previous scheme was adopted in 2011.

The Draft Scheme was circulated to all Councillors and Oireachtas members and was put on display for a public consultation process for a period of 5 weeks from Friday, 1 October to Friday, 5 November, 2021 at various locations across the county and was also available on the Council website.

No submissions have been received following the public consultation process. The adoption of the new Polling Scheme in accordance with the Electoral Act 1992, Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001, and the Electoral (Polling Scheme) Regulations 2005 is recommended. In accordance with the new Polling Scheme, the commencement date will be 1 January 2022.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Johnnie Wall, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Michael O'Shea, it was agreed to adopt the new Polling Scheme for County Kerry in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act 1992, Electoral (Amendment Act) 2001 and the Electoral (Polling Scheme) Regulations 2005.

13.12.2021.06 Change in the Chair of the Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht SPC

Mr. C. O'Connor, Director of Services, referred Elected Members to the report dated 8 December 2021 which had been circulated to Elected Members. He outlined that following the Local Elections in 2019 it was agreed that Cllr. Robert Beasley and Cllr. Brendan Cronin would share the Chair of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Strategic Policy Committee, with Cllr. Robert Beasley taking the Chair for the first 2½ years.

To give effect to the above, from 1 January 2022, Cllr. Brendan Cronin will take over as Chair of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht SPC from Cllr. Robert Beasley.

This change will also see Cllr. Cronin replace Cllr. Beasley as a member of the Corporate Policy Group.

S.133(1)(c) of the Local Government Act outlines that where for any period of time, a policy group does not contain a member from a Municipal District, that Municipal District shall select either one of their Elected Members, or the Municipal District Cathaoirleach to represent them on the CPG.

In line with this, Cllr Niall Kelleher had been selected by the Members of Killarney Municipal District to represent Killarney MD on the CPG on 8 July 2020.

Following Cllr. Cronin taking over as Chair of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht SPC, there is now representation from the Killarney Municipal District on the CPG and consequently Cllr. Kelleher will no longer be required to represent the Municipal District on the CPG.

The report on the change in the Chair of the Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht SPC dated 8 December 2021, which had been circulated, was noted by the Members.

13.12.2021.07 Nomination to the Kerry ETB Music Generation Kerry

Mr. P. Corkery, Meetings Administrator, outlined that correspondence had been received from Kerry Education and Training Board seeking a nomination from Kerry County Council to Kerry ETB Music Generation Kerry.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, SECONDED by Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald, Cllr. Johnnie Wall was nominated to the Kerry ETB Music Generation Kerry.

13.12.2021.08 Change of Nominee to the Regional Health Forum South

Mr. Pádraig Corkery, Meetings Administrator, outlined that following the Local Elections in 2019 it was agreed that Cllr. Mike Kennelly and Cllr. Michael Foley would share a nomination to the Regional Health Forum South, with Cllr. Mike Kennelly taking the position for the first 2½ years.

Elected Members noted that to give effect to the above Cllr. Michael Foley will take over the position on the Regional Health Forum South with effect from 13 December 2021.

13.12.2021.09 Presentation on the Promotion of the County

Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney welcomed Ms. B. Fitzgerald, Economic Development Officer, to the meeting and invited Ms. Fitzgerald to make a presentation to the members.

Ms. B. Fitzgerald, Economic Development Officer, made a presentation to the members which included the following:

- Kerry Economic Stakeholders Forum
- Economic Recovery Plan
- Marketing and Promotion of County Kerry. Website: www.discoverkerry.com
- Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC)
- Supporting Economic Infrastructure

Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney welcomed the presentation and thanked Ms. Fitzgerald and the staff of the Economic Development Unit for their work and acknowledged their extensive programme.

Cllr. Jim Finucane said a clear marketing campaign that people can buy into is crucial. Kerry is at the periphery and businesses want links to European hub airports. In order to attract corporate entities, that access is critical. A ferry service to the county could also be considered; opportunities for businesses to export from the county must be maximised.

Cllr. Sam Locke said every opportunity is needed to promote the county. He thanked the Economic Development Unit for their work.

Cllr. Michael Cahill acknowledged the volume of work being carried out by the Economic Development Unit. Hubs are vital to the future economic development of the county. Marketing cannot be emphasised strongly enough, and the Greenways will also need to be marketed going forward.

Cllr. Bobby O'Connell asked what engagement has taken place with the agri-food sector of the county. This is a hugely important sector that was not mentioned in the presentation. He also asked if there has been engagement with the Department of Agriculture.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea said businesses hold the Local Enterprise Office in high esteem for the support provided during the COVID pandemic. To shop local is very important to ensure the survival of local businesses. There is no plan in place for businesses in Kerry that want to expand their business and remain in their current location. Kerry County Council must assist such developing businesses to stay in a location of their choice. Access to the county is also hugely important.

Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan called for more promotion of Kerry by Enterprise Ireland. COVID has shown people can work remotely. It is very important for the county to be promoted in order to get investment.

Cllr. Johnnie Wall said the development portal, discoverkerry.com, is very important as it is where any prospective employer will review the county before investment. More hubs should be created across the county. He expressed concern regarding the promotion of the county by the IDA and said to create employment we must look for investors ourselves.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton asked that the Wild Atlantic Way form part of the marketing strategy for the Greenways. It is vital that work on the North Kerry Greenway progresses and is completed as soon as possible. Remote working and Broadband form part of any economic strategy. A Strategy Group must be put together regarding broadband service providers. Broadband service is affecting business in Listowel. Broadband and connectivity issues must form part of the work of the Strategy Group.

Cllr. Norma Moriarty said it is sensible to have a cohesive marketing brand. The discoverkerry.com website is a great tool. There should be a link between this website and the workshops for festivals. She supported the call for a meeting with Broadband service providers. Broadband connectivity is impacting on small traders and how they do business.

Cllr. Mike Kennelly commended the work being done by the Economic Development Unit and the support provided to businesses and projects, e.g. Listowel Food Hub. The discoverkerry.com portal is of great use for prospective employers. The Draft County Development Plan is being drawn up and there are obstacles for development in the county. It is vital that people will be able to work in rural Kerry, e.g. in parts of Listowel there is no broadband service. He supported the call for Government to roll out the National Broadband Plan as fast as possible. Up to 25,000 people could lose their jobs when the Wage Subsidy Scheme ends in 2022. Whatever Kerry County Council can do to help businesses is essential, e.g. rates waivers.

Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald thanked the Economic Development Officer and the team for the help provided to businesses and asked that work on promotion of the county continue.

The Chief Executive echoed and thanked the Elected Members for acknowledging the work of the Economic Development Unit. It is a relatively new role for the Local Authority and enormous strides have been made. It is important that the presentation set out that it is very much a co-ordinated approach with Kerry County Council leading out with private public partners in the Economic Recovery Plan.

With regard to the IDA and Enterprise Ireland, they have been integrated into the Economic Recovery Plan. More visits to the county would be welcome. When there are visits to the county there is strong local co-ordination.

A very important role in the Local Area Plans is designating land for industrial development. Companies that invest in Kerry tend to stay and thrive. Some companies, even during the pandemic, have expanded and grown. This was acknowledged by the Minister for Enterprise on his visit to the county.

With regard to Broadband, there is a lot of coverage in the county. It is accepted there are areas that have difficulties. Kerry County Council will be engaging with the service providers with the Broadband Officer.

In relation to the agricultural sector, there is a lot of engagement with that sector. There has been an enormous amount of work done on local foods development, e.g. Firies and Listowel Food Hubs. There is also engagement with LEADER groups. Kerry County Council is very much involved in supporting the agri-tourism and food promotion sector. It is not the remit of Kerry County Council to be involved directly in agriculture.

Mr. M. Scannell, Director of Services, said an overall branding and marketing project for the county which involves all sectors is currently being developed. There will be a portal that will allow a destination for that marketing to take place. Any business/person wishing to live in Kerry will have this platform to access information. The Discover Kerry website has been very successful, but even the tourism sector recognised they must do more work on that platform to interact with the customer and be broadly based around the world. It is the big names, Wild Atlantic Way and County Kerry, that attract people in the first instance. Kerry County Council has contributed to the agri-food and agri-tech centres. Through direct contribution Kerry County Council has supported development of two food hubs in the county and with supermarkets have developed artisan foods.

Ms. B. Fitzgerald, Economic Development Officer, outlined that there is regular engagement with the Department of Agriculture. There are RDI hubs in Dingle and Sneem, which involves strong engagement with the Department. Enterprise Ireland was a strong supporter of projects. At a national level, policies strongly state that collaboration is key to getting projects up and running. These are tangible projects on the ground supporting employment in Kerry.

13.12.2021.10 Report from Chairs of SPCs

- (a) Report from Cllr. Robert Beasley, SPC Chair, on the meeting of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht SPC held on 15 October 2021 was noted.
- (b) Report from Cllr. Johnnie Wall, SPC Chair, on the meeting of the Housing SPC held on 25 November 2021 was noted.

13.12.2021.11 Approval for the Opening of Tenders

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Johnnie Wall, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Eirspan Bridge Management System Framework Agreement Call-Off Lot 2 Request for Tender Task Order No. 326 - Kerry and Cork City Bridges VRS and Expansion Joints Contract 2022 – Closing Date: 1 December 2021.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Mike Kennelly, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Donal Grady, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for N69 Upper Church Street, Listowel Pavement Improvement Scheme - Closing Date: 8 December 2021.
- (c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Niall O’Callaghan, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Mikey Sheehy, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Project Assistant for Creative Ireland Kerry County Council – Closing Date: 10 December 2021.
- (d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O’Shea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Bobby O’Connell, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Supply & Delivery of 1 No. Self-Propelled Chipping Spreader for Kerry County Council – Closing Date: 12 January 2022.

Break

Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney said it was 12.40 p.m. and the meeting would now adjourn for a break and resume at 1.00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12.40 p.m. The meeting resumed at 1.00 p.m.

Emergency Motion

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Charlie Farrelly, Cllr. Michael Foley, Cllr. Niall Kelleher and Cllr. Norma Moriarty (the four Kerry County Council Members of the Kerry LCDC and LAG) PROPOSED:

That this authority call on the Minister for Agriculture Food & Marine, Mr. Charlie McConalogue and Minister for Rural & Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, to revisit the allocations under CAP to ensure that the LEADER Budget is increased to €389 million over the 2023-2027 period. The increase can be achieved if the maximum permissible exchequer co-funding rate of 80% is applied.

Cllr. Norma Moriarty said this fund has been savagely cut from previous programmes. The LCDC has done good work on the ground and on good quality projects. Efforts will be stymied without further funding.

Cllr. Michael Foley **SECONDED** this motion and said LEADER funding is vital for rural areas. Community and Voluntary Groups rely on this funding for projects that improve the aesthetics of an area.

13.12.2021.12 Notices of Motion

Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney asked that Members attending online use the 'raise hand' icon when they wish to second a motion.

1. Provision of 1-Bed Properties

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Aoife Thornton PROPOSED:

Can Kerry County Council provide their plan for one bed properties in our towns and villages in Kerry.

The following reply issued:

The Housing Department continues to actively pursue all options to secure accommodation for persons qualified for one bedrooms units of accommodation. The Housing for All plan requires all Local authorities to prepare a Housing Delivery Action plan by December 2021. The Action Plan was considered at the Special Meeting held on 3rd December.

Ongoing updates and progress reports will form part of Housing Reports to MD Meetings going forward.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton acknowledged the information provided to Elected Members at the Special Meeting on the Housing for All Plan. She also acknowledged that at this time the Action Plan regarding 1-Bed units cannot be set out formally. There are particular observations regarding 1-Bed units. 52% of housing need in Listowel is 1-Bed; nearly 80% is 1-Bed and 2-Bed. It is not acceptable that people are being offered 3-Bed properties within a couple of years, while people are waiting 11 plus years for a 1-Bed property. The Department must review the way houses are allocated. Particularly vulnerable people and older people cannot be left wait for such a long time on the housing list. It is acknowledged that there is a lot of work ongoing within the Housing Department. However, an update on the programme and a more definitive timeline is required in relation to the delivery of 1-Bed and 2-Bed properties.

Cllr. Norma Moriarty **SECONDED** this motion.

2. Meeting with Minister for Health regarding UHK

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Robert Beasley PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council invite Minister of Health, Stephen Donnelly to address the Council in relation to the situation at University Hospital Kerry.

Mr. P. Corkery stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. Robert Beasley said there are ongoing problems in University Hospital Kerry and numerous calls have been made on the Minister to address this situation. UHK serves Kerry, West Limerick and North Cork. There has been a subtle trend to downgrade UHK. There is a need for a review of management at UHK and the Minister must come to Kerry to meet with nurses, consultants and staff. The people of Kerry are dependent on this hospital and deserve a quality service.

Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney said there is agreement with the sentiment of this motion.

3. Kenmare Inner Relief Road

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council proceed to design and with a view to a funding mechanism to complete the Kenmare Inner Relief Road as places like Kanturk were finished lately which has similar status.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council has made a submission to the Department of Transport for funding under the "Specific Improvement Grant Scheme" to allow for the design of a number of strategic road projects in the county, including the Kenmare Relief Road Phase 2. Subject to securing funding the Council will prepare and submit a preliminary appraisal report, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Spending Code, and commence the design of the scheme

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae said the first half of the relief road is welcome and useful to a point, in that it is diverting traffic to a narrow road. It has limited use until the second half of the relief road is in place. It appears that it will be a slow process. He asked that everything be done to progress this project along with the Kenmare Sewerage Scheme, as both projects would make a great difference to the town.

Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen SECONDED this motion.

4. South Kerry Greenway

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Cahill PROPOSED:

I propose that, as soon as we receive the final go ahead for the South Kerry Greenway, that Kerry County Council first and foremost work to resolve the planning issues in respect of the 2 sections that were refused by An Bord Pleanála i.e. Over the Water and from Caherciveen town down to Renard Point, and plan that all of Kerry's Walkways, Cycleways and Greenways be connected up as one, so that this County can be explored and enjoyed safely in the open air in an environmentally friendly manner.

The following reply issued:

Leave to appeal the decision of An Bord Pleanála in relation to the South Kerry Greenway is currently listed for consideration by the Supreme Court. The Council will consider the further development of the scheme, having regard to the decision of the Court.

Cllr. Michael Cahill proposed that all cycleways be linked to Killarney, including the Ring of Kerry. All Kerry's Greenways should be connected as one so people can explore the county safely and it would be of great benefit to the county.

Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen SECONDED this motion.

5. Planning Permission on National Routes

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Mike Kennelly PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council calls on the Department of Transport and the National Roads Authority to address and change the National Guidelines in relation to planning permission guidelines preventing families from building on lands currently with an existing access onto our National Routes.

Mr. P. Corkery stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. Mike Kennelly said families are affected by these guidelines and unable to build on their own land, even with an existing access laneway in place. These guidelines must be changed.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae SECONDED this motion.

6. Book of Parking Tickets

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Jim Finucane PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council introduce a County based book of parking tickets that could be utilised in any carpark or any street parking throughout the County. These books are also popular as incentives for businesses to give to their customers and in particular to elderly people who often have difficulty, particularly when street based parking machines are out of order.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council has received tenders for the upgrade of Parking Meters across the county and will be in a position to award the contract early in 2022. Allied to this, the Council is examining the feasibility of a Parking App that will allow for the payment of parking across the county and will enable participating businesses to purchase tickets to provide to their customers.

Cllr. Jim Finucane said books of parking tickets that are available are not very well publicised and asked that a campaign be undertaken to advertise outlets that sell these books of tickets. Parking meter machines are often out of order and these tickets provide a simple way of making parking easier.

Cllr. Mike Kennelly SECONDED this motion.

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy moved notice of motion no. 32.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Mikey Sheehy PROPOSED:

What is the up-to-date position on the roll out of Smart/Contactless Parking Meters throughout the County in each Municipal District.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council has a programme in place for the for the upgrading of parking meters throughout the county, which will provide for cashless / contactless payments and are solar powered.

The first phase of the project was rolled out in Killarney in 2019 and the second phase for the remainder of the county is now being implemented. Tenders for the provision

of new parking meters in Tralee, Dingle, Listowel and Ballybunion have been received and are currently being assessed. The contract will be awarded early in 2022.

Allied to this, the Council is examining the feasibility of a Parking App that will allow for the payment of parking across the county.

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy supported Cllr. Jim Finucane's motion and said a lot of people like to have the book of tickets in their car. It also means that it is easier for people to park in the town centre and businesses benefit. There must also be a move towards smart parking meters; it's about accessibility and easier parking.

Cllr. Johnnie Wall **SECONDED** this motion.

7. Housing Retrofit Programme

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Johnnie Wall PROPOSED:

I propose that, for 2022, Kerry County Council designate a 'single point of contact' technical staff member with responsibility to deliver our ongoing Retrofit Programme. It seems to me incomprehensible that Kerry County Council did not avail of its allotted grant of €1,380,000 for 2021, money which could have easily been used to bring some of our old housing stock up to modern standards and for the most part it is elderly people who are living in our housing stock which does not meet modern thermal and heating standards. This money could have also helped re-commission some of our voids, thus helping to alleviate some pressure on our Housing List, and give families in need some proper accommodation, with the added benefit of ending the blight of 'barricaded-up' houses which is a feature of some estates in our care.

The following reply issued:

The Council has a designated Technical Contact person. This programme is currently managed under Frank Hartnett Senior Engineer.

In 2021, the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) launched the **2021 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme** designed around the Programme for Government (PfG) commitment that calls for the 'retrofit' of 500,000 homes to a B2/Cost Optimal Equivalent (BER) standard by 2030, of which, approximately 36,500 homes are expected to be local authority owned homes. It is intended that this is a 10 year rolling programme.

This revision requires local authorities to move to a 'deeper retrofit' programme. The programme provides for a significant upscaling in the level of energy works that can potentially be addressed and focuses on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded, and an energy efficient heating system is provided.

Kerry County Council are obliged under this government 10-year program to begin upgrading their Social Houses to be more energy efficient. This programme represents a significant opportunity for Council tenants to benefit from these upgrades, to improve the quality of life and reduce heating costs. The works required to individual dwellings would vary, will be designed by external specialists, and can include variations of the following:

- Heating systems upgrade.
- Heating Controls upgrade.
- Wall and attic insulation.
- External wall insulation.

- Removal of fireplaces/stoves/ranges and blocking of chimneys.
- Internal dry lining.
- Installation of underfloor heating.

Unfortunately, this programme has become delayed due to issues surrounding the process of completing these works as laid out by the DHLGH.

The process is complex involving multiple considerations. It was generally accepted that across the sector the process for 2021 was new, likely to encounter issues and delays but that the initial experiences would lead to a more streamlined programme into future years.

A number of primary areas of delay were encountered.

One of the conditions required by the Department was that Local Authorities were required to invite Obligated Parties to participate in and assist with the execution of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme. Obligated Parties are generally companies who sell large amounts of energy, and they have targets under the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS). Obligated parties offer supports to make homes or businesses more energy efficient. For every unit of energy saved through these projects, they achieve energy credits towards their targets. This will help Ireland to reach national and European energy saving targets. If one completes energy efficiency upgrades to their property, this automatically generates certain Carbon Credits. Obligated Parties will purchase these Carbon Credits from you at a market price or provide technical services of which the DHLGH recommended a minimum selection thereof. The process involved in the procurement of the required external Obligated Parties resulted in considerable delays. The successful initial tender eventually did not proceed, and the matter had to proceed to the next available tenderer. The necessary work had commenced in September, but the programme has been delayed due to this.

In addition, the level of funding available provides for KCC an average spend of €27,000 per dwelling. This was difficult to achieve when most older dwellings would require energy upgrade works in the region of €45-50,000 to achieve the required uplift in energy performance as laid out by the department in order to be eligible for the programme. Accordingly, matching properties had to be found that required minimal works to match up to properties that required full suites of work to qualify. This balancing means that the programme does not provide fully for a thorough programme without significant local funding requirements which are not currently in place. Properties that required the full suite of works could not be tenanted due to the amount and nature of the works required. These requirements also mean that it makes sense that this programme would be closely aligned with the Voids programme. However, this introduces additional risks on delivery.

The delays and difficulties encountered with the commencement of this programme are common across all Local Authorities. The programme is however underway and a number of units completed and the programme will continue into 2022.

Cllr. Johnnie Wall said €1.38m was allocated for 2021 and it has been lost because houses were not retrofitted. He called for retrofitting work to commence in 2022 and a programme to be in place for these houses. Many old housing estates across the county need to be retrofitted. He asked if monies that were unused can be brought forward to 2022.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Services, said this programme only commenced in 2021 and it is a complex system. It is not just a grant system, there are conditions that apply. A full retrofit can cost up to €60,000 and this is not a user-friendly system. There are significant risks around loans that Local Authorities have to invest in to get the work done. There are also issues regarding doing the work with a tenant in situ. 2021 was the first year of a 10-year programme. A number of properties have been completed in 2021 and a number are ongoing. The programme has commenced and will continue.

Cllr. Johnnie Wall said he appreciates that this is a new initiative, however, he would still like to see Kerry County Council's programme for the coming year.

8. COVID Testing Centres

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. John O'Donoghue PROPOSED:

Given the recent surge in COVID-19 cases and the delays being experienced by so many in getting a PCR test, that this Council would call on the HSE to reopen testing centres in all major towns in the County.

Mr. P. Corkery stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. John O'Donoghue said we are constantly being reminded by the HSE of the importance of maintaining COVID protocols and of what to do should we experience any symptoms. As well as isolating, the next most important step is to book a PCR test. The current delays being experienced by people waiting for a test are far from ideal. He called on the HSE to consider reopening testing centres in all major towns within the county, at the very least until the end of January. People are currently living in fear of contracting COVID-19 and a quicker turnaround time when booking tests would greatly help alleviate these fears. A huge surge in numbers seeking a test around the festive period is expected and reopening these test centres would be a hugely proactive step in the fight against this Pandemic.

Cllr. Dan McCarthy moved notice of motion No. 20.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Dan McCarthy PROPOSED:

Could Kerry County Council apply to the relevant authorities for more COVID Testing Centres in the County.

Mr. P. Corkery stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. Dan McCarthy echoed Cllr. John O'Donoghue's sentiments and said more COVID Testing Centres should be opened as people across the county are required to travel far distances to get tests.

Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald moved notice of motion no. 27.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council continue to provide leadership in the fight against COVID-19 and encourage all our communities to continue to do the simple things that stop the spread of the coronavirus - Wash, Cover, Avoid, Clean, Stop, Distance.

The following reply issued:

The Public Health message on measures to control the risk of spread of COVID in the south west region is co-ordinated by the Inter Agency Emergency Management Office, which has representatives from the emergency response agencies in the region (the 3 local authorities, An Garda Síochána and the HSE). Regular messaging is issued through local media, social media and the PPN networks.

Kerry County Council has implemented significant measures in our workplace to promote a safe environment for staff, members and customers, which are regularly reviewed and amended having regard to the current public health advice and direction from the Government.

The Council has also provided support to communities organizing events and festivals, in advising of safety measures required, particularly in relation to the control of the spread of COVID.

The Council will continue to promote the public health guidance on controlling the risk of spread of COVID.

Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald agreed with sentiments expressed and said the message to continue doing the simple things - Wash, Cover, Avoid, Clean, Stop, Distance – remains as important as ever.

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy SECONDED this motion.

9. 'See Something Say Something' Campaign

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Tom Barry PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council will contact An Garda Síochána and ask them to expand the roll out of the 'See Something Say Something' campaign to areas outside of our major towns.

Mr. P. Corkery stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. Tom Barry welcomed that this scheme is being rolled out in Listowel. This gives communities an opportunity to get involved in policing their own area. Kerry County Council should buy in to the 'See Something Say Something' campaign as it could be used by to combat fly-tipping.

Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney SECONDED this motion.

10. Town & Village Renewal Officer

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council appoint a dedicated Town & Village Renewal Officer to deal with issues such as dereliction, to liaise with Town Renewal Groups, capitalise upon the Town Centre First Strategy, etc.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council fully supports the implementation of the Town Centre First Strategy and relevant policies are included in both the Economic Recovery plan and the recently published Draft County Development Plan to strengthen the role of town and village centres as destinations, centres of commerce and community and service activity. The detailed roll-out of the Town Centre First has yet to be confirmed, but there is expected to be resources allocated to local authorities to implement the strategy and to continue and strengthen the engagement already taking place at municipal district level with the various chamber alliances and community groups throughout the County.

Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen said Kerry County Council has been very good in sourcing funding. Vacant and derelict sites need to be addressed and to encourage people to live in towns again. A designated officer with appropriate supports is needed; Kerry County Council has plenty staff with expertise, knowledge and

experience and someone should be appointed to this role. He asked if there is a list of derelict/vacant sites in each Municipal District with targets set per year.

The Chief Executive said details of the Town Centre First Strategy are awaited and it is expected resources will be allocated to the Local Authority. When details become available, we will revert to Elected Members. Some work has been done across the county on derelict sites.

11. Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Foley PROPOSED:

Has Kerry County Council carried out a comprehensive survey of their overall housing stock on foot of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme.

The following reply issued:

A full stock survey has not been completed for all Council stock. Limited surveys have been carried out for some older stock. There is a significant cost associated with a full stock survey and a formal review is ongoing nationally on how this critical work will be addressed within the ongoing review of the Voids/ Maintenance programmes and how this work will be funded.

Kerry County Council continuously carries out surveys of their housing stock in relation to Energy Efficiency under the BER (Building Energy Rating) survey processes. Most dwellings in Kerry County Councils housing stock have BER ratings and these ratings along with local management knowledge is used in the pre-selection of dwellings to be assessed further for eligibility to be included in the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme.

Cllr. Michael Foley said it is vital that the Council carry out a full assessment of their housing stock to ensure that application is made for the appropriate funding to increase the BER of Council properties. He said he understands the Council drew down €1.38 million under the scheme this year but no social houses in the county have been retrofitted to date. He expressed disappointment at the explanation around retrofitting given by Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Housing, to Cllr. Wall's motion. When these schemes are announced there is huge fanfare and then to hear they are bogged down in bureaucracy is very disappointing.

He recognised that the majority of Kerry County Council's social housing stock is energy efficient, but there are a number that lack efficiency. Tenants who are living in those properties are in contact on a daily basis requesting issues to be resolved from poor ventilation, inadequate heating and replacement of windows and doors.

The one issue it is hoped the retrofitting programme will resolve is that of the replacement of handles and hinges on PVC windows. Unfortunately to date any request for these works have been referred to the tenant's handbook which states this is the tenant's responsibility. To make council housing stock more energy efficient the issue with PVC windows and doors which are in most properties over 20 years must be addressed in the retrofitting programme.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae moved notice of motion no. 16.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae PROPOSED:

To ask Kerry County Council are vacant properties being retrofitted before they are reallocated. If yes, how much funding is available for such works and how long will that process take to retrofit all vacant properties.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council comply with all building regulations and codes of practice including S.R. 54:2014 & A1:2019 Code of Practice for the energy retrofit of dwellings and Building Regulations Part L 2019 (Conservation of Fuel and Energy – Dwellings)

which requires Kerry County Council to renovate dwellings to a certain upgraded energy efficiency when the renovation of a dwelling entails more than 25% of the surface of the dwelling envelope to undergo renovation. In general, where a large renovation takes place, that dwelling would be expected to achieve a B2 BER or Cost Optimal Energy Rating. The funding that is available for such works changes on a year-to-year basis and is contingent on the current or proposed scheme available from the Department in any given year. Any works to do with energy efficiency including heating systems, windows and doors and insulation must currently be funded separately from normal void works. The method of department funding is complex as can be seen from the issues KCC are currently having with the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (EERP) which is only part of the funding required to retrofit our vacant properties. It is the Government's intention to upgrade 36,500 Local Authority homes over the lifetime of the 10-year Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae welcomed the detailed response. She asked if where a property is below the surface area of 25% does it mean that no retrofitting will be done before the property is reallocated. She asked what data is submitted to the Department before an allocation is made to the Local Authority. She said she would consider issues relating to heating, windows, doors and insulation as part of retrofitting, but that expenditure is taken out of the voids budget. She asked why the funding is being divided between the voids and the energy retrofitting programme.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Services, there are two separate schemes: voids and energy retrofitting, and the co-ordination of both schemes will maximise funding that is available. When funding is available the fundamental fabric of the building is addressed, but there are funding caps and each unit must be individually costed.

12. Electric Car Charging Points

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Brendan Cronin PROPOSED:

To clarify how many electric car charging points are available on public owned property in Kerry and to identify the locations.

The following reply issued:

The table below sets out the locations of EV Charging points on Kerry County Council lands and Irish Rail stations in Kerry.

Location	Address	Chargers at each location	Rate	Operator	Site
Listowel	The Square	2	22kW	e-Cars	KCC
Listowel	Public Carpark, Courthouse Lawn, Off Charles Street	2	22kW	e-Cars	KCC
Castleisland	Station House Carpark, off Killarney Road	2	22kW	e-Cars	KCC
Tralee	Brandon Carpark	2	22kW	e-Cars	KCC
Tralee	Mary Street	2	22kW	e-Cars	KCC
Tralee	Garvey's Carpark, Matt Talbot Road	2	50Kw	e-Cars	KCC
Tralee	Tralee Bay Wetlands Centre	2	22kW	e-Cars	KCC
Tralee	Train Station carpark	2	22kW	e-Cars	Irish Rail
Dingle	Marina Carpark	2	50kW	e-Cars	KCC
Killorglin	Public Carpark, off Market Road	2	22kW	e-Cars	KCC
Killarney	Tesco Carpark	2	22kW	e-Cars	KCC
Killarney	Glebe Carpark, Plunkett Street	2	22kW	e-Cars	KCC
Caherciveen	Public Carpark, off O'Connell Street	2	22kW	e-Cars	KCC
Sneem	Sportsfield Road	2	22kW	e-Cars	KCC

There are also a number of publicly accessible charging points on private lands throughout the county, including in garages, a post office, and at commercial facilities, details of which are available on <https://esb.ie/ecars/charge-point-map>

A number of hotels also provide charging facilities for its customers, details of which are also available on the ESB website.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin said given the huge promotion of electric vehicles there is a requirement for adequate and sufficient charging points. Kerry is one of the major tourism destinations. On the Ring of Kerry the number of public accessible charging points is very low. If it is to be successful and to instil confidence facilities have to be provided. The Minister for Transport must give adequate funding to Local Authorities to provide an adequate level of charging points, to give confidence to the general public to change over to electric vehicles.

Cllr. Marie Moloney **SECONDED** this motion.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Services, said it is a significant issue and challenge that has been identified and a submission was made previously to the Department. The Local Government sector did some pilots on this, there are significant costs and energy suppliers must also be involved. Kerry County Council is proactive on this, but cannot carry the costs for installation/standing charges for equipment. Regarding provisions to be made for new tourism infrastructure that would provide charging points, that is incorporated into the Draft County Development Plan.

13. Greenways Plan for County Kerry

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald PROPOSED:

What plans have Kerry County Council for Greenways which will link and connect Greenways to the other Greenways within the County.

The following reply issued:

The Department of Transport advised in September 2021 that Transport Infrastructure Ireland, (TII) is the "Approving Authority" for greenway projects, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Spending Code. TII will administer the annual funding to Local Authorities to advance the Greenway programme and review/approve proposed Greenway projects.

The TII have been tasked by the Department to lead the development of a strategic National Cycle Network, including future linkages between Greenways and other cycle networks, which are existing or under development. Kerry County Council will work closely with TII in the preparation of the strategy to maximise the interconnectivity of the Greenway network within the County and also their connection to adjacent counties. The Council will develop a County Strategy, which will have regard to the provisions of this National Strategy.

Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald welcomed the development of a County Strategy for Greenways and the linkage of the Greenways. This strategy is of vital importance going forward; linkage of Greenways will allow the county to reach its full potential. He asked when the strategy will be put in place and if Elected Members will have an input to the strategy.

The Chief Executive said the strategy will be brought to Elected Members during the course of 2022. Transport Infrastructure Ireland has broad strategic areas and they will have to be kept abreast of the strategy. Feasibility funding will be available during 2022 which will allow consideration of a strategy.

14. Housing Grants Qualification Criteria

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Cathal Foley PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council update and improve housing grants qualification criteria, to take account of modern heating and energy standards.

The following reply issued:

The qualifying criteria and the scope of works allowable under various grant schemes are determined by the Department of Housing nationally.

The replacement/upgrade of heating systems are only grant aided under the Housing Aid for Older People scheme. The criteria for qualification for this grant scheme is set out in “Administrative Guidance for Local Authorities” issued in January 2021. Under Section 7 – Qualifying Works it states “In assessing applications for the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme, essential works, which will make the property habitable for the person(s) should be prioritised. Other works such as those in the examples listed below should be considered on a case by case basis”. One of the works listed is “provision of central heating, water or sanitary services”. The document also gives further clarification “Upgrade of an existing central heating system – a report from a heating contractor will be required stating that the existing heating system is beyond economic repair.”

Therefore, in the case of any application for provision of central heating or upgrade of existing heating system a report from a heating contractor is required stating that the existing heating system is beyond economic repair.

It is advised that any grant allocation is made bearing in mind that a cost minimal approach is taken whilst incorporating energy efficient improvements. With this in mind Kerry County Council does not fund the replacement of any oil, gas or solid fuel boilers.

The SEAI offer free energy upgrades to homeowners who receive certain welfare payments as well as grant aid to other homeowners. Further information is available on <https://www.seai.ie/grants/homeenergy-grants>.

Cllr. Cathal Foley said an Air to Water system was being installed in a property and a person was told they needed to install an electric shower. He asked if this is correct. Different systems apply in different counties and clarity is needed.

Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney SECONDED this motion.

15. Rebuilding Ireland Scheme.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Niall O’Callaghan PROPOSED:

That the Council write to the Minister for Housing and call for a review of the Rebuilding Ireland Scheme as it is outdated and slow.

Mr. P. Corkery stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. Niall O’Callaghan said people are not getting loan approvals. This scheme is out of date and must be modernised. He acknowledged that new schemes are coming on board. This, however, means that people have to re-apply for a loan. The schemes must have flexibility given house prices in different locations.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae SECONDED this motion.

17. Setback Distance for Wind Turbines

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to set as a minimum a set-back for wind turbines of Eight Times the turbine height, between a wind turbine and the nearest residential property.

Mr. P. Corkery stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald said many Elected Members have raised this matter previously and acknowledged the provisions made in the Draft County Development Plan in relation to wind turbines. People are extremely worried about their communities in the areas designated for wind turbine development. While this request may attract the attention of the Planning Regulator, it is not right to stay quiet on this issue.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae **SECONDED** this motion.

18. Council Housing Supports for Separated Individuals

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Mikey Sheehy PROPOSED:

What is this Council's official policy regarding individuals involved in the process of a legal separation who wish to be added to the Council Housing List or who are looking for Council Housing supports.

The following reply issued:

All applications from households seeking social housing supports are assessed in accordance with Sections 20 and 21 of the Housing Act 2009 and the Social Housing Regulations 2011-2021. In order to be eligible for social housing supports an applicant household must meet the qualification criteria as set out i.e. Residency status (applicant(s) must have permission to reside in the state), Household net income under the threshold, no rent arrears owed from a previous local authority tenancy, availability of alternative accommodation and previous social housing support provided to the applicant household.

In the case of applicants who are involved in legal separation, similar to all other applicants, once they comply with these qualifying criteria they are eligible for inclusion on the social housing waiting lists and may avail of the Housing Assistance Payment scheme to assist in the provision of suitable accommodation while waiting for an allocation of a social house. The only difference arises when the applicant is a joint owner of a property with their estranged partner/wife and in these cases the applicant is not eligible for consideration for a social house until such time as their name has been removed from the former family home.

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy said it takes a long period of time for legal separation proceedings to be finalised. Until such time, it is understood that both parties are precluded from going on the housing list as they have an attachment to a property/mortgage. Nor can they get access to other supports. He asked that a letter issue to the Minister for Housing asking for this matter to be reviewed/addressed in some way.

Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald **SECONDED** this motion.

19. Communication Boards at Playgrounds

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Marie Moloney PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council would provide Communication Boards, such as "Finding Charlie's Voice" or the likes, for non-verbal children, in all Local Authority playgrounds.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council were awarded funding from the Healthy Ireland Fund supported by the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth' to install Communication Boards across the playgrounds in Kerry to help promote inclusion and better communication between

the children and families who use these amenities and have varying communication abilities, either pre-verbal stages or may have issues with capacity. The Playground Unit have been working very closely with Finding Charlies Voice, a charity organisation who develops non-verbal Communication Board. The final Communication Board design has been completed and the signs are currently being manufactured with roll out to all 41 no. public playground in Kerry by the end of the year.

Cllr. Marie Moloney welcomed the reply and funding from Healthy Ireland. She said this is vital for children with disabilities and is one way in which Kerry County Council can help.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly **SECONDED** this motion.

21. Homeless Shelters

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Deirdre Ferris PROPOSED:

I propose that Kerry County Council establish local homeless shelters in small towns throughout the County.

The following reply issued:

It is not intended at this point to provide emergency hostel accommodation across all the MDs.

The substantial need at this point is in the 3 main towns. In addition, these are the areas that the vast majority of households who find themselves in need of emergency accommodation wish to remain in. In addition, the services including support services many of the households require are provided in the main towns. Any other localised need will be examined on a case by case basis.

Cllr. Deirdre Ferris said it is wholly unfair, particularly on the residents in the Tralee area where there is a denser population of homelessness. She said she cannot understand why Kerry County Council cannot facilitate this on a Municipal District basis and support people in their own area, close to their supports, e.g. GP, families, friends, schools and work. There is a significant number of Notices to Quit at present, particularly in tourist areas of the county. All these people can be offered is a shelter in Tralee town. Transitional accommodation is a temporary solution that is not working and must be reviewed. She acknowledged that there is a no rough sleepers rule and that is something Kerry County Council should be proud of.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton **SECONDED** this motion.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Services, said the vast majority of people want to be in the main towns; the vast majority being single individuals. It is complex because the Local Authority's ability to provide in other areas of the county is limited. Kerry County Council can no longer lease properties. There are a number of Approved Housing Bodies which are looking at properties only in the main towns. He acknowledged that short-term interventions may be required and Kerry County Council continues to monitor that.

22. Affordable Housing Fund

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Cahill PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council would apply to the Government's Affordable Housing Fund which is assisting Local Authorities, where affordability constraints are most acute, to deliver affordable homes to purchase and rent.

Builders would be asked to consider offering homes with planning permission, where construction has not yet commenced, to Local Authorities under an advance

purchase turnkey arrangement. A number of Local Authorities are already availing of this Scheme which is targeted at advance purchase opportunities for a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 150 dwellings in any one Scheme.

The following reply issued:

This matter was previously dealt with at the October Meeting and at the recent Housing Meeting.

The scheme is provided for under the Affordable Housing Act, 2021 which sets out the legislative provisions to govern the sale or cost rental of supported affordable homes. Regulations to further underpin the schemes are currently being finalised by the Department and we have been advised that they will be available shortly.

The Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) will provide Exchequer funding support to local authorities to assist in meeting the cost of delivery of affordable housing. A local authority contribution to the subsidy cost provided under the AHF will still be required and this will be at 5%.

The AHF must focus funding support on projects where it has been clearly identified that an affordability challenge exists.

A HNDA for a whole local authority (or a focused HNDA in relation to a large town) must form the basis for

- (a) determining the scale of need with affordability constraint,
- (b) identifying affordably constrained need as a proportion of total housing need arising and, accordingly,
- (c) whether the proportion of affordably constrained demand is at least 5% of total demand arising in the next 5 years.

The scheme and the associated award criteria envisage application and access to the fund from

- (i) CSO settlement boundaries of the 5 cities (Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford)
- (ii) Proposals outside the 5 cities must be located within local authority areas with a minimum average 5% HNDA Affordability Constraint for new housing demand over the period 2021 to 2026 calculated for the entire local authority area.
- (iii) Proposals located in towns with a population of more than 10,000 people located in local authority areas which do not qualify on the basis of minimum average 5% HNDA may be eligible if the proposing local authority can demonstrate a localised Affordability Constraint of at least 5% over the period 2021 to 2026 using methodology based on the HNDA.

Based on the HNDA model in use by the Department County Kerry as a whole does not meet the required 5% Affordability criteria. The scheme does provide for sub-County analysis but only in respect of settlements with a population exceeding 10,000. We have commenced the HNDA analysis in respect of Killarney and Tralee to determine whether they would meet the required affordability constraint to access the fund. This work is ongoing.

Cllr. Michael Cahill said this seems to be directed at cities and main population centres. Rural Kerry seems to be discriminated against. Kerry has an affordability crisis and must be acknowledged in this context. A special case must be made to the Department on the crisis situation people in Kerry find themselves in. People who cannot obtain a mortgage must be assisted. A deputation must be sought with

the Minister regarding this most urgent issue. We are in the midst of the most serious housing crisis of the state.

Cllr. Deirdre Ferris moved notice of motion No. 35.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Deirdre Ferris PROPOSED:

I propose that Kerry County Council express to the Department of Housing and to the Minister for Housing Darragh O' Brien, the importance of having Affordable Housing Programmes made available in small towns and villages. The current planned programme discriminates against rural counties that are comprised mainly of small towns and villages that cannot meet the criteria.

Mr. P. Corkery stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. Deirdre Ferris said rural Ireland is very much being discriminated against. This is a city policy that is failing miserably in protecting rural Ireland. The Rebuilding Home Loan doesn't help many people as they do not fit the criteria. Something must be done to facilitate these people and affordable housing is the only option. There is also an issue in that to develop affordable housing in smaller towns and villages would highlight that those towns and villages do not have the adequate infrastructure for water/wastewater services.

23. Planting of Indigenous Trees

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Johnnie Wall PROPOSED:

That we would encourage and induce 'hill-side' and lower range 'mountain' farmers to plant fallow land with indigenous trees and by doing so, take a major step to lower the 'carbon footprint' of County Kerry.

The following reply issued:

There are an extensive range of grant supports available to landowners through the countryside Environmental programmes and otherwise from the Department of Agriculture to assist with the planting of trees. In the context of the development of a localised Climate Action Plan following from the recent publication of the National Climate Action Plan an increase in tree planting to assist with absorbing carbon dioxide. Kerry County Council itself aims to utilise the available grant funding for planting on suitable public lands through the Department of Agriculture , Woodland Creation on Public Lands , grant scheme and to examine all of our land assets to assess where opportunities for planting through availing of this scheme may be available.

Cllr. Johnnie Wall asked that a Tree Planting Plan for 2022 be brought before the Elected Members.

24. Public Lighting

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. John O'Donoghue PROPOSED:

In 'light' of the number of complaints received by me, and I'm sure by other Councillors in relation to the poor standard of lighting in many locations in our County, that we ask the Council to examine the overall effect of the new LED lighting being put in place.

The following reply issued:

The Council is engaged in a national project for the upgrading of the public lighting to LED and a report on same was considered by Council at its meeting of the 18th February 2019 and following which the members approved the raising of a loan of €7.7m to fund the project.

The majority of the existing lanterns are SOX and SON lanterns, which have high energy usage and replacement lanterns are no longer available. To date approximately 10% of the public lighting in Kerry has been upgraded to LED lanterns, under minor works programmes, primarily in the Dark Sky Reserve and on the national road network. Currently where there is a failure of a lantern it is replaced with an LED lantern.

Cork County Council, as the lead authority for the national project in the south west region, is in the process of appointing a contractor to carry out the works, which are scheduled to commence shortly. This timeframe for delivery in the region is 3 years and the roll out of the programme in Kerry, is scheduled to commence in Q4 next year and for completion in late 2023.

The upgrade to LED lighting, will provide for increased efficiencies in energy usage, with substantially lower maintenance costs, and significant financial benefits to the Council when loan repayments are finalised. The colour rendition of LED lights is significantly increased in comparison to the SOX / SON lanterns, resulting in increased safety for drivers and pedestrians.

It is a design and build contract, the design of which will be independently assessed by specialist lighting consultants, as part of the design approval process.

The national contract will provide for the replacement of 8,821 lanterns in Kerry. There are a further 1,619 lanterns to be replaced, which are outside the scope of the national contract, due to statutory requirement for a specialist design and environmental assessment having regard to the potential impact on the protected Lesser Horseshoe Bat, within the Killarney Park SAC. It is the Council's intention to have the design and environmental assessment completed for these lights in 2022, which subject to the required Ministerial approval, will allow for their replacement also in 2023.

Cllr. John O'Donoghue said new LED lights are a great initiative and one he is firmly in favour of as they provide great energy savings and are a vital step in terms of reducing environmental impact. They emit light in a different manner to the older bulbs and the old spacings between the light poles may not be suitable for the new bulbs. He asked that the Council examine this each time they replace the old bulbs with the new LED bulbs.

Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney SECONDED this motion.

25. Ban on Pair Trawling

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council again call upon the Department of Agriculture and the Marine to ban Pair Trawling of boats over 18 meters within six nautical miles of the coast.

Mr. P. Corkery stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen said Pair Trawling of boats over 18 meters continues within six nautical miles of the coast which is causing huge destruction to the environment. He called on the Minister for Agriculture to ensure this practice is banned.

Cllr. Mike Kennelly SECONDED this motion.

26. Housing Development Bonds

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Brendan Cronin PROPOSED:

To request the full details and the amounts of housing development bonds that Kerry County Council currently have access to.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council has recouped €4,903,206 from 124 bonds. These bonds were claimed for the non-completion of necessary infrastructure, serving the development, primarily on roads, footpaths, public lighting, and water services. In some estates, the level of bond provided is insufficient to complete all of the outstanding works and the works have to be prioritized having regard to the level of funding available.

Following the transfer of water services to Irish Water, prior to carrying out any works on water services infrastructure it is necessary to agree the repairs with Irish Water. These are developed in Site Resolution Plans, prepared in accordance with the National Memorandum of Understanding between the Utility and the Local Government Sector. The repairs to water services infrastructure accounts for approximately 50% of the total estimated cost of the works, and these have to be completed in advance of any repairs to roads and footpaths. There have been significant delays in securing agreement with Irish Water, particularly where the level of bond available is not sufficient to address the repairs identified.

The Council has prioritized the repairs of any defects in public lighting, having regard to representations from members in the past and for the safety and security of local residents.

As of 1st December 2021, there is a remaining balance of €3,926,331 on these bonds. A programme of works, totalling €300,000 is currently being progressed, with contractors appointed and works scheduled to commence early in 2022. The Council is working through the remaining estates, which includes on-going negotiations with Irish Water in the development of the Site Resolution Plans.

The Council is also pro-actively continuing to pursue the non-payment or resolution of bond claims still outstanding and, in this regard, has lodged 34 claims with financial Institutions and insurance companies. Good progress is being made in resolving outstanding bond claims with the larger Bond Holders.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin said recoupment amount gives Members an idea of the scale of this programme and what is involved. The bond is the insurance policy for the Local Authority and the people that buy a house in good faith. There are still some instances of poor workmanship. He recognised difficulties in particular with Irish Water issues and Site Resolution Plans prior to taking an estate in charge. He acknowledged the work being done by the Estates Unit. There are instances where estates have been left without a bond in place. He asked in particular that estates without public lighting continue to be monitored and Kerry County Council to step in where necessary as this is a safety issue. He asked what monetary value is involved in the 34 claims with financial institutions and insurance companies. The bonds applied should reflect the size of the development.

The Chief Executive outlined that the 34 claims with financial institutions and insurance companies have a monetary value of €3.5m.

28. Water Quality Issues in the Mid-Kerry Area

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council meet with Irish Water in relation to the ongoing water quality issues in the Mid-Kerry area and report back to the Council.

The following reply issued:

There have been a number of breaks to the Water Main in this area. When water is restored after these breaks, air can be trapped in the water giving a temporary milky appearance. This does not affect the quality of the water. This problematic water main is currently being replaced which will greatly reduce the number of breaks in this area. In the interim additional sampling will be carried out.

Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan said since submitting this notice of motion work is being done and it is hoped it will result in improvements.

29. Development Bonds

Cllr. Deirdre Ferris moved Notice of Motion No. 29 on behalf of Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae.

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae PROPOSED:

To ask Kerry County Council how much monies they have in development bonds for unfinished estates. Of these estates how many have submitted a Taking in Charge application and how many have not.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council has recouped €4,903,206 from 124 bonds. These bonds were claimed for the non-completion of necessary infrastructure, serving the development, primarily on roads, footpaths, public lighting, and water services. In some estates, the level of bond provided is insufficient to complete all of the outstanding works and the works have to be prioritized having regard to the level of funding available.

Following the transfer of water services to Irish Water, prior to carrying out any works on water services infrastructure it is necessary to agree the repairs with Irish Water. These are developed in Site Resolution Plans, prepared in accordance with the National Memorandum of Understanding between the Utility and the Local Government Sector. The repairs to water services infrastructure accounts for approximately 50% of the total estimated cost of the works, and these have to be completed in advance of any repairs to roads and footpaths. There have been significant delays in securing agreement with Irish Water, particularly where the level of bond available is not sufficient to address the repairs identified.

The Council has prioritized the repairs of any defects in public lighting, having regard to representations from members in the past and for the safety and security of local residents.

As of 1st December 2021, there is a remaining balance of €3,926,331 on these bonds. A programme of works, totalling €300,000 is currently being progressed, with contractors appointed and works scheduled to commence early in 2022. The Council is working through the remaining estates, which includes on-going negotiations with Irish Water in the development of the Site Resolution Plans.

The Council is also pro-actively continuing to pursue the non-payment or resolution of bond claims still outstanding and, in this regard, has lodged 34 claims with financial Institutions and insurance companies. Good progress is being made in resolving outstanding bond claims with the larger Bond Holders.

The number of taking in charge applications that the Council has on hand currently stands at 58 and, of these, a bond was received in respect of 14 applications. Substantial works have been done to 3 of these estates, with works to be completed from the bonds in respect of the other 11 estates. The following are the details of the 11 estates for which a bond was received, and works are to be completed:

- Steeple Meadows, Milltown
- An Maimin, Ballyferriter
- The Orchard, Beaufort
- An t-Oileán, Valentia Islan
- Scruthán Beag, Dingle
- The Crescent, Rathmore
- Moylist, Bunagarha, Listowel
- Riverdale, Fenit, Tralee
- Dun Alainn, Clieveragh, Listowel
- Beenoskee, Clahane, Tralee
- Riverside Villas, Kenmare

Cllr. Niall O’Callaghan SECONDED this motion.

30. Junctions on the N69

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Aoife Thornton PROPOSED:

Can Kerry County Council carry out improvement works around junctions onto the N69 in North Kerry.

The following reply issued:

Kerry County Council is reviewing the priority junctions along the N69 from Tralee to the County Bounds at Tarbert and will identify any measures required to improve the safety performance at these locations. Applications for funding to address any issues identified will thereafter be made to the TII.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton welcomed the reply and asked that Pope’s Cross on the Abbeydorney stretch be included. She asked that when further information is available on where the works will be done that it is brought to the MD meetings.

Cllr. Mike Kennelly SECONDED this motion.

31. Bus Shelters

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council contact Bus Éireann calling on them to ensure that all bus stops in Kerry are properly highlighted with poles and bus shelters where possible, have access for those with disabilities and have up to date timetables.

The following reply issued:

The provision of bus shelters, including for the provision of access for those with disabilities, is funded by the National Transport Authority, who are collaborating with local authorities nationally and have issued guidance on the provision of same. The NTA require a minimum threshold / criterion of 5 services per day (for 1 or more routes) Monday to Friday serving a bus stop, before an individual stop qualifies for a shelter. Furthermore, where a bus stop meets this criterion, there is a requirement for an existing footpath to be in place and a minimum footpath width of 3.3m is required.

The Council assessed potential locations for bus stops having regard to these guidelines. There are only a limited number of bus services provided by Bus Eireann, that meet the criteria and, in the locations where bus shelters are not provided on these routes, there are challenges in providing adequate footpath widths.

Having regard to the recent announcement by the NTA on the public consultation process for the “Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan”, the Council will review the

bus routes and engage with the NTA on potential locations for the provision of bus shelters.

The issues in relation to the provision of up to date timetables is a matter for the bus operators and if there are issues with particular locations, the Council can advise the bus operators.

Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald welcomed that the NTA will be working with Kerry County Council on the Connecting Rural Ireland Plan. There are safety concerns at a number of areas, irrespective of the time of year, e.g. accessibility issues.

Cllr. Mike Kennelly **SECONDED** this motion.

33. Parent and Child Parking spaces

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Marie Moloney PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council would provide a number of Parent and Child Parking spaces in all our Local Authority car parks.

The following reply issued:

The legal framework for traffic signage and road markings is contained in a number of Acts and Regulations. These include the Road Traffic Acts, the Road Traffic (Signs) Regulations and the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations.

These statutory instruments provide for the designation of parking spaces for special categories of vehicles, including for persons with a disability, taxis and buses, and which allow for the imposition of fixed penalties to regulate and control the use of these parking spaces.

In recent times, national guidelines have been developed for the designation of “Age Friendly” parking spaces, which are primarily to facilitate easy access by older persons to critical and essential services, such as post offices and medical facilities. However, these are not governed by any statutory provisions and operate on the basis of the user’s honesty.

There are no such guidelines or statutory provisions for the designation or operation of “Parent & Child” parking spaces.

Cllr. Marie Moloney said she has also requested the provision of “Parent & Child” parking spaces at Municipal District level and it seems it will not be implemented by Kerry County Council. She stated that it had been discussed earlier in the morning about Kerry County Council being a lead authority; Kerry County Council could take the lead on this proposal, e.g. run a pilot scheme on it. These parking spaces work great in private car parks.

Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald **SECONDED** this motion.

13.12.2021.13 Correspondence General

It was agreed to note the following items of correspondence which were circulated:

Date	From	Description
19/11/2021	Minister for Rural and Community Development	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to Local Improvement Scheme Funding 2021.

Date	From	Description
26/11/2021	Minister for Defence & Minister for Foreign Affairs	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to Jadotville.
29/11/2021	Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the income eligibility criteria for social housing support.
16/11/2021	Sligo County Council	Resolution adopted in relation to calling on Sligo County Council in conjunction with TUSLA, Department of Children and Equality and Garda to establish an appropriate and safe Refuge Centre for victims and survivors (mainly women) of domestic violence in Sligo and surrounding area.
29/11/2021	Galway County Council	Resolution adopted in relation to calling on Irish and international supermarkets operating in Ireland to join the boycott on goods from occupied territories.

13.12.2021.14 Any Other Business

Replies to All Notices of Motion Moved

Cllr. Mike Kennelly asked that the replies to all Notices of Motion that were moved at today's meeting would be circulated to all Elected Members.

Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney said the replies would be circulated to all Elected Members and asked that this practice would continue going forward.

Texting Service in Kerry for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Cllr. Johnnie Wall referred to a notice of motion he tabled at the October Council meeting and asked that a reminder letter issue to South Doc requesting that a texting service be set up in Kerry for the Deaf/Hard of hearing. He also asked that a text system be put in place during severe weather events.

Mr. P. Corkery, Meetings Administrator, said a text system will be put in place before the next severe weather event.

Tribute to Ms. Ciara Griffin

Cllr. John O'Donoghue paid tribute to Ms. Ciara Griffin from (*address withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of the unedited document is available on request*), former Captain of the Irish Women's Rugby team on her retirement from Ireland duty. He commended her immense contribution to Irish rugby, adding that she was a shining light for young girls in our county and country.

Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald supported the tributes paid to Ms. Griffin.

See Something Say Something Campaign

Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald sought clarification regarding the towns and villages that are to have the 'See Something Say Something' campaign available and called for it to be available in Castleisland.

Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney asked that this be tabled as a notice of motion for the January meeting.

Isolation Hospital

Cllr. Sam Locke referred to the omicron variant of the coronavirus and its transmissibility. He referred to his call for the establishment of an Isolation Hospital in Kerry and said a reply has not been received in relation to same.

Outside Dining Grant

Cllr. Michael Cahill said in the context of COVID-19 and the Outside Dining Grant, he is concerned regarding the number of businesses that require planning retention. Securing this grant would be the difference between many businesses surviving and closing.

Retirement of Mr. Colm Mangan

Cllr. Aoife Thornton paid tribute to Mr. Colm Mangan, Water Services Engineer, who is retiring shortly. Colm's depth of knowledge is vast and he will be sorely missed.

All Members wished to be associated with this tribute.

Vote of Congratulations

Cllr. Tom Barry congratulated Ms. Savannah McCarthy, Kerry soccer player, on being called to play for the Republic of Ireland Women's soccer team.

Cathaoirleach Jimmy Moloney thanked staff and Elected Members for their help over the year and their support in running Council meetings during this uncertain time. He wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

The meeting concluded at 2.30 p.m.

Pádraig Corkery
Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council