

**Minutes of the Budget 2014 Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Councillors J. Flynn, P. Murphy, S. Scanlan, P. Daly, T. Brennan, J. Breen, T. McNamara, B. Meaney, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, R. Nagle, M. Kelly, J. Arkins, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, P. Burke, P. Fitzgerald, M. Begley, C. Crowe, C. Curtin, O. Garry, P.J. Kelly, P. Keane, B. Chambers, G. Keating, J. Crowe, S. McLoughlin, P. McCarthy, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahan, G. Flynn.

- Tom Coughlan, County Manager.
- Michael McNamara, Meetings Administrator.
- Finbar Tuohy, Staff Officer.
- Ger Dollard, Director of Service.
- Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.
- Anne Haugh, Director of Service.
- Caroline O'Connor, Management Accountant.
- Mairéad Corbett, Administrative Officer.
- Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer.
- Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer.
- Paul Moroney, Senior Engineer.
- Sean Ward, Senior Engineer.
- Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer.
- Helen Walsh, County Librarian.
- Eddie Power, Senior Executive Officer.

The Mayor, Cllr. J. Arkins presided.

**Special Meeting.**

Before the budget meeting commenced the Mayor stated that a Special Meeting has been called for Friday next 10<sup>th</sup> January at 3:00 p.m. in relation to the recent flooding and storm damage and that a report is to be compiled by management for this meeting with the most up to date information possible and provisional cost of repairs. It was requested that members

make any submissions to Area Engineers in advance of this meeting in relation to areas which are in need of repair so that a comprehensive report may be compiled for the meeting.

At the outset, the Mayor called on the County Manager to give a brief overview of the budget. Mr. Coughlan advised the members that a series of meetings to consider the preparation of the Draft Budget had taken place with the Corporate Policy Group and the draft which had been presented for consideration had been the subject of intensive deliberation.

Mr. Coughlan highlighted the main aspects of Budget 2014 and concluded by thanking the Mayor, the Corporate Policy Group and all the Elected Members for their advice, assistance and constructive approach in reviewing the issues surrounding the budget. He also thanked the contribution of all staff in the Council in preparing this budget especially the staff in the Finance Department.

The Mayor thanked the County Manager for his overview and then opened the debate to the floor for initial observations/queries.

Queries were raised in relation to the actual figure of the Local Government Fund and how was the figure broken down, the cost of the Voluntary Redundancy Scheme, the amount of refunds of rates and irrecoverable rates and scale of collections?

The County Manager and Head of Finance responded to the queries outlined and the Mayor then invited Cllr. P. McCarthy, Chairperson of the Housing, Social and Cultural Services S.P.C., to brief the members on the relevant Divisions of the Budget, which were Division A, Housing and Building and Division F Recreation and Amenity. He outlined the relevant pages in the draft budget book and referenced Section 135 Reports in relation to capital projects as also contained in the Draft Budget Book 2014.

#### **Division A. Housing and Building.**

#### **Division F Recreation and Amenity**

Cllr. P. McCarthy addressed the meeting and outlined to the members the current level of activity and the major items of expenditure in these divisions. She referred in particular to the discontinuation of the Land Aggregation Scheme and the implications of same. She also outlined details in relation to proposals for the County Library Service and the Arts. In conclusion she paid tribute to all the members on the Housing, Social and Cultural Services S.P.C and the staff members for their contribution during the year and over the lifetime of the current Council as this is the last budget before the new Council will be formed in June.

A copy of the recent Circular from the Department under the heading “Review of the Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with Disability” dated 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013 was circulated to the members.

The Mayor thanked Cllr. P. McCarthy for her detailed presentation.

Queries were raised in relation to a number of issues including traveller accommodation, land aggregation scheme, local property tax on council houses, housing lists, library services were raised by the members and Helen Walsh and Mairead Corbett responded to the queries raised.

The members noted the provisions contained in Division A, Housing and Building and Division F, Recreation and Amenity and also the contents of the Section 135 Report for these Divisions.

The Mayor referred the members to the resolution received following the meeting of Shannon Town Council which had been circulated to the members at the commencement of this budget meeting. He referred to the implications on the budget if this resolution was to be acceded to and stated that it would be necessary to identify what expenditure would be omitted from the budget to cater for the proposals contained in the Shannon Town Council resolution.

### **Division B Road Transportation and Safety.**

### **Division D Development Management**

The Mayor stated that Division B – Road Transport and Safety, and Division D – Development Management were next on the agenda and he outlined the relevant pages in the draft budget book and referenced Section 135 Reports in relation to capital projects.

Cllr. J. Cooney, Chair of the Planning, Land Use and Transportation S.P.C., then proceeded to give a presentation outlining the work completed and progress to date and the constraints facing this area going into 2014.

Cllr. J. Cooney also outlined the work programme in the Planning Department for 2014.

He thanked all the staff members in the directorate for their work during 2013.

The Mayor thanked Cllr. J. Cooney for his presentation and opened the discussion to the members for any questions or comments.

Queries were raised in relation to a number of issues by the members including the taking over of estates, the Community Hedgecutting Scheme and proposed roadworks grant. Ger Dollard, Director of Services and Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer clarified the issues raised.

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer outlined that the Roadworks Programme for 2014 will be before the members in due course for discussion and consideration and that no allocation has been received from the Department to date.

The members noted the provisions contained in Division B, Road Transportation and Safety and Division D Development Management and also noted the contents of the Section 135 Report on these Divisions.

## **Division C Water Services**

## **Division E Environmental Services**

The Mayor stated that Division C – Water Services and Division E – Environmental Services were next on the agenda and he outlined the relevant pages in the draft budget book and referenced the Section 135 Report in relation to capital projects.

Cllr. J. Crowe, Chair of the Environment and Water Services S.P.C., outlined the completed and ongoing works in this area in the current year and the situation facing the Council in 2014 with particular reference to Irish Water and the changes that this will mean for the Council going forward.

The Mayor thanked Cllr. J. Crowe for his presentation and opened the discussion to the members for any questions or comments.

Queries were raised in relation to burial grounds, flooding and risk assessments of same, responsibility for Group Schemes, landfill operations and their ongoing costs, climate change and recycling centres. Ann Haugh, Director of Services and Paul Moroney, Senior Engineer clarified the issues raised.

The members noted the provisions contained in Division C, Water Services and Division E, Environmental Services and the contents of the Section 135 Report on these Divisions.

## **Division D Development Management**

## **Division E Environmental Services**

The Mayor invited Cllr. R. Nagle – Chairperson of the Strategic Policy Committee for Community and Enterprise, Tourism and Emergency Services to outline the main issues in the Draft Budget in this area. These were contained in Division D and Division E in the draft budget and he outlined the relevant pages in the draft budget book and referenced Section 135 Report in relation to capital projects.

Cllr. R. Nagle referred to the detailed summary of the activities in this Directorate which was contained in the Draft Budget report and commented on the main issues of same.

The Mayor thanked Cllr. R. Nagle for his presentation and opened the discussion to the members for any questions or comments.

Queries were raised by the members on issues including the figure for fire cover from Limerick City, the Wild Atlantic Way, Brian Ború programme of events, capital expenditure on Cliffs of Moher and profits from same, County Enterprise Boards. Ger Dollard, Director of Services and Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer responded to the queries raised.

The members noted the provisions contained in Division D, Development Management and Division E, Environmental Services and the contents of the Section 135 Report on these Divisions.

The Mayor stated that the remaining divisions would be taken together and he asked the members if they had issues that required clarification in Division G – Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare, Division H – Miscellaneous Services and Division J – Central Management Services and he outlined the relevant pages in the draft budget book and referenced Section 135 Report in relation to capital projects.

### **Division G – Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare**

### **Division H – Miscellaneous Services**

### **Division J – Central Management Services**

The members noted the provisions contained in Division G, Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare, Division H, Miscellaneous Services and Division J, Central Management Services and the contents of the Section 135 Report on these Divisions.

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. G. Keating:

"That pursuant to Section 103(7) of the Local Government Act 2001 the Draft Budget 2014 as presented by the County Manager is hereby adopted".

A number of members indicated their opposition to this proposal. The Mayor called a vote on this proposal which resulted as follows:

**In favour:** Cllrs. J. Flynn, P. Murphy, S. Scanlan, T. McNamara, B. Meaney, B. Slattery, R. Nagle, J. Arkins, J. Cooney, P. Burke, P. Fitzgerald, M. Begley, C. Curtin, O. Garry, P. Keane, G. Keating, J. Crowe, S. McLoughlin, P. McCarthy, P. McMahon. (20).

**Against:** Cllrs. T. Brennan, J. Breen, M. Hillery, P. Hayes, C. Crowe, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers. (7).

**Abstentions:** Nil.

The Mayor declared this resolution carried.

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. P. McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. S. McLoughlin:

"That the Council hereby determine in accordance with the Budget 2014, the rate set out in Table A (General Annual Rate on Valuation of €72.99) and as set out in Column 7 of Table C (Rate of €4.15 for Kilkee Town charges and rate of €2.06 for Shannon Town charges) to be the rates on valuation to be levied for the year 2014 for the purposes set out in Tables A to F."

The Mayor declared this resolution carried.

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. P. McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. G. Keating:

"Pursuant to the provisions of Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001, additional expenditure in the amounts set out below in respect of the Divisions listed is hereby approved:-

|             |                                     |          |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Division B: | Road transportation and Safety      | €71,919  |
| Division C: | Water Supply and Sewerage           | €3,408   |
| Division D: | Development incentives and Controls | €91,020  |
| Division E: | Environmental Protection            | €4,784   |
| Division H: | Miscellaneous Services              | €81,597" |

The Mayor declared this resolution carried.

The Mayor thanked the members, County Manager, Directors of Services and Head of Finance and their staff for their co-operation in the preparation and adoption of the budget for 2014. He also thanked members of the Corporate Policy Group for their input into the Budget process.

The meeting then concluded at 18:45 p.m.

**The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:**

- Correspondence dated 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 from Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services in relation to Conference Allocation 2014.
- Correspondence dated 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 from Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services in relation to Special Meeting of Clare County Council being convened to consider the storm damage to various parts of the county.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Méara

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Clare County Council to discuss Coastal Storms, held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Councillors J. Flynn, P. Murphy, S. Scanlan, P. Daly, J. Breen, T. McNamara, B. Meaney, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, R. Nagle, M. Kelly, J. Arkins, J. Cooney, C. Curtin, O. Garry, P.J. Kelly, P. Keane, B. Chambers, G. Keating, P. McCarthy, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Flynn.

**Apologies:**

Cllr. T. Brennan, T. Mulqueen, P. Hayes, P. Burke, P. Fitzgerald, M. Begley, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, S. McLoughlin.

- Mr. Tom Coughlan, County Manager.
- Mr. Kieran O'Donnell, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Helen Moloney, Assistant Staff Officer.
- Mr. Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.
- Mr. Ger Dollard, Director of Service.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service.
- Mr. Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer.
- Ms. Caroline O'Connor, Management Accountant.
- Mr. Sean Ward, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. Barry Keating, Senior Staff Officer.
- Mr. Paul Moroney, A./Senior Engineer.
- Mr. Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer.
- Mr. Denis O'Connell, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer.

The Mayor, Cllr. Joe Arkins presided.

At the outset Cllr. Joe Arkins welcomed Deputies Michael McNamara and Joe Carey, Senator Martin Conway and the media to the meeting.

Mr. Tom Coughlan, County Manager addressed the meeting and stated that County Clare had suffered significant damage as a consequence of the recent storms. Mr. Coughlan thanked Council staff, emergency services, the media and the communities for their co-operation, assistance and support during this difficult period. He informed the meeting that a preliminary report had been prepared to determine the level of damage inflicted and the

estimated cost of the remediation works would be €23,761,043. Mr. Coughlan recommended that the report be approved and submitted to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Cllr. J. Arkins, on behalf of the members, acknowledged the work of the emergency services, engineers and outdoor staff throughout the Christmas period. He then invited Mr. Paul Moroney, A./Senior Engineer to show the members some of the CCTV footage of the storm damage which had been captured.

Following this, Cllr. J. Arkins thanked Mr. Moroney for his presentation and requested Mr. Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer to outline details of the report as circulated. Mr. Tiernan informed those present that the County had been subjected to a number of storms between mid December 2013 and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2014. The three most prolific storms occurred on 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> December, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup> with the storms on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> January causing the most damage. He advised the members that the costs outlined in this report had been collated based on the information which was currently available but were subject to change. He also advised that in some cases the estimated cost includes for remediation works which were more extensive in nature than the damaged or destroyed elements of infrastructure which they were replacing, as reconstruction of existing infrastructure would not constitute an effective defence for future storms. The current situation was that certain sites remained under sea rubble and required further investigation while some roads still remained closed. Mr. Tiernan was pleased to advise that Lahinch Promenade was now open to the public and paid tribute to the staff in the Area Office.

Cllr. J. Arkins thanked Mr. Tiernan for his comprehensive report and acknowledged the work involved in compiling such a detailed report in such a short period of time. Cllr. Arkins invited comments/observations from the members.

Numerous members complimented Mr. Tiernan and his staff, Civil Defence, Fire Service and volunteers for their tremendous work. They requested clarification from Mr. Tiernan on the works which were proposed to be carried out at a number of sites and also raised the need to carry out interim emergency works at some of these locations. In addition to public infrastructure, members also raised concerns about damage done to private properties, land, embankments etc.).

Mr. Tom Tiernan addressed the queries raised by the members and also stated that at the moment the focus was on public infrastructure and invited members to submit details to him on other identified issues.

Mr. Tom Coughlan, County Manager informed the members that damage to private properties was included in the report and that the Council would put whatever resources it could towards assisting private entities. He advised that the Council will make contact with the Office of Public Works on issues raised. He also acknowledged the work of volunteers who came out in force.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 64, Cllr. J. Arkins advised that R.T.E. sought permission to use recording equipment for the remainder of the meeting. This was proposed by Cllr. P. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. G. Flynn and agreed.



Cllr. J. Arkins read out the following motion which was proposed by Cllrs. O. Garry, C. Curtin, G. Flynn, B. Chambers, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly and G. Keating:-

“That Clare County Council include the damage to embankments on the Fergus Estuary/Carnacalla, Kilrush and Clonderlaw Bay in their estimate of storm damage to Government and also Doonbeg Golf Club”.

Mr. T. Coughlan, County Manager accepted that significant damage had taken place to private properties but noted that a full costing was not currently available for these works. He stated that he was anxious that the report be submitted to the Department after the meeting so that the relevant officials would have an opportunity to consider the report before the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Cllr. J. Arkins advised the meeting that a request was submitted by Deputy Michael McNamara and Senator Martin Conway to address the meeting. This was proposed by Cllr. C. Curtin, seconded by Cllr. M. Hillery and agreed.

Deputy Michael McNamara and Senator Martin Conway addressed the meeting and Mr. Tom Tiernan responded to queries raised.

Cllr. Arkins proposed a show of hands in favour of sending the existing report as it stood with a cover letter alluding to the damage caused to private properties and advising that a further estimate would issue. This proposal was carried by the members. Mr. T. Coughlan undertook to forward a copy of his report to the members.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Méara**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 at 3:45 p.m.**

**Present:**

Councillors J. Flynn, P. Murphy, S. Scanlan, P. Daly, T. Brennan, J. Breen, T. McNamara, B. Meaney, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, R. Nagle, M. Kelly, J. Arkins, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, P. Burke, P. Fitzgerald, M. Begley, C. Crowe, C. Curtin, O. Garry, P.J. Kelly, P. Keane, B. Chambers, G. Keating, J. Crowe, S. McLoughlin, P. McCarthy, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Flynn.

- Mr. Tom Coughlan, County Manager.
- Mr. Michael McNamara, Meetings Administrator.
- Mr. Finbar Tuohy, Staff Officer.
- Mr. Ger Dollard, Director of Service.
- Ms. Bernadette Kinsella, Director of Service.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service.
- Mr. Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.
- Mr. Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer.
- Ms. Caroline O'Connor, Management Accountant.

The Mayor, Cllr. Joe Arkins presided.

**Votes of sympathy.**

At the outset votes of sympathy were extended to the following:

- Cllr. Sonny Scanlan on the passing of his brother Timothy Scanlan.
- Maeve Lait, Environment Section, on the passing of her father Edward Lait.
- Nora Kaye, Housing Section, on the passing of her mother Kathleen Kaye.
- The family of the late Eamon Sheehy, retired council staff member.
- The family of the late Martin Gaffey, retired council staff member.
- Cllr. Paul Moroney on the passing of his mother Mary Moroney.
- The family of the late Hendy Neylon, Kilfenora.
- Noelette Barry, Finance Section, on the passing of her father John McNamara.

- Margaret O'Rourke, Corporate Services, and Kitty Moroney, Scariff Area Office, on the passing of their grandmother Mary Keane.

It was proposed by Mayor Cllr. Joe Arkins, seconded by Cllr. P.J. Kelly and agreed by all members present to adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes as a mark of respect. Prayers were then recited.

The meeting resumed at 16:05 p.m.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders.**

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen, seconded by Cllr. B. Chambers and agreed by the members present:

“I am requesting the suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the serious situation at Ennis General Hospital last week in relation to the medical assessment unit that was closed due to no Doctor being available.”

After a discussion on the issue the following resolution was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen, seconded by Cllrs. T. McNamara, P. Daly, B. Chambers and B. Meaney and agreed by the members present.

“That this Council call on the Minister for Health to ensure that Ennis General Hospital is fully staffed and the situation that arose last week when the medical assessment unit was closed should not recur and the embargo on the recruitment of front line staff be lifted.”

### **Item 1(a): Minutes of Council Meetings.**

a. Ar moladh Cllr. P. Fitzgerald  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. T. Brennan agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the December Meeting of Clare County Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 be adopted and signed.”

### **Item 2(a): Minutes of S.P.C. Meetings.**

a. Ar moladh Cllr. J. Cooney  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Chambers agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Planning, Land Use and Transportation S.P.C. meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 be noted”.

**Item 3: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.**

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013 as presented.

**Item 4: Disposal of property pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000. Proposed disposal of area of land at 21 St. Joseph's Terrace, Clarecastle, Co. Clare.**

Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013 from Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of the area of land adjacent to house No. 21 St. Joseph's Terrace, Clarecastle.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Murphy  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. T. Brennan agus glacadh leis

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended, of the disposal of the area of land adjacent to house No. 21 St. Joseph's Terrace, Clarecastle subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013”.

**Item 5: Disposal of property pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000. Proposed disposal of area of land at West End, Kilkee, Co. Clare.**

Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013 from Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that back in the 1970's the Council acquired a small area of land at West End, Kilkee for a nominal sum. The Council never used the lands.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Keane  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Chambers agus glacadh leis

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended, of the disposal of area of land at West End, Kilkee subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013”.

**Item 6. Statutory Audit Report to the Members of Clare County Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.**

The Statutory Audit Report to the Members of Clare County Council on the Accounts of Clare County Council for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012 was circulated with the agenda.

Queries were raised in relation to acting allowances, commercial water, specific credit balances, development contributions, loans payable, collection rates and these queries were responded to by the County Manager and the Head of Finance.

The report as presented was noted by the members present.

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn, seconded by Cllrs. O. Garry, J. Flynn, C. Curtin, M. Begley, P. Burke and P. Keane and agreed by the members present.

“That in view of the extra 1 million euro spending, approved in the recently adopted budget – that a detailed breakdown of the budget codes, where over expenditure occurred over the amount budgeted for in the 2013 Budget be provided.”

**Item 7. Fixyourstreet.ie website.**

Ar moladh Cllr. B. Meaney  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Fitzgerald agus glacadh leis

“I request a report from this Council on the operation of the fixyourstreet.ie website. How many problems have been notified in Clare since it started? Type of problem, number of notifications from politicians, response times, relevance of problems notified, etc. etc.”

**Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services replied as follows:**

“The Programme for Government 2011 included a commitment to establish a website to assist residents in reporting problems with street lighting, drainage, graffiti, litter and illegal dumping, and road and footpath maintenance in their neighbourhoods on the understanding that there will be a response from the Local Authority within a very short time scale.

South Dublin County Council developed and piloted the [www.FixYourStreet.ie](http://www.FixYourStreet.ie) website in August 2011 and all Local Authorities including Clare County Council commenced using the site in January of 2013.

A total of 46 complaints broken down under the categories as follows have been received by the Council to date.

**Fixyourstreet.ie website.**

*The following is a breakdown of complaints received and broken down into categories.*

| <b>Categories</b>          | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Graffiti                   | 2            |
| Litter and Illegal Dumping | 6            |
| Road or Path Defects       | 14           |
| Street Lighting            | 23           |
| Tree / Grass Maintenance   | 1            |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>              | <b>46</b>    |

The system incorporates interactive mapping allowing users to locate on an online map the precise location of the problem being reported and upload a photograph or video if desired when recording the complaint.

The response time in relation to complaints lodged by this Council is always inside the next working day and 39 complaints have been closed to date and a further 7 closed with a commitment from the Council to attend to the issue raised. All the complaints lodged are anonymous. This was as decided at national level when the system was being launched. The report issues and responses are visible to all visitors to the website. The problems notified under the system are categorised under the headings outlined above and there is no mechanism for reporting problems outside of those categories.

There is a further site under the name [www.fixmystreet.ie](http://www.fixmystreet.ie) which had been already registered by a third party prior to the Programme for Government commitment to launch the nationally recognised [www.FixYourStreet.ie](http://www.FixYourStreet.ie). The [www.fixmystreet.iw](http://www.fixmystreet.iw) site has developed an automated process to send data to the nationally recognised [www.FixYourStreet.ie](http://www.FixYourStreet.ie) and to date a total of 11 such complaints have been dealt with by the Council.”

#### **Item 8. Council Plant Depots.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. O. Garry agus glacadh leis

“That the Directors of Services, Infrastructure and Corporate Affairs list the Council Plant Depots with supporting buildings and other structures on site within the existing Electoral Areas in the County and in view of the County Managers statement at December meeting of the possible synchronisation of Road Engineering Areas with Electoral Area in the re-configuration process, that the Changed Management Team give consideration to an enhanced status for these depots within their respective electoral areas (2014 onwards) to ensure the delivery of satisfactory service to the communities in their hinterland and the

presence of adequate staff and plant for ongoing maintenance work at all times and particularly at time of emergency demand.”

**Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, Transportation replied as follows:**

“The table below contains details of the main depots and sub-depots throughout the county – a total of 23. Note that in addition, there are approximately 35 chip storage areas throughout the county which are very important in facilitating efficient implementation of the Roadworks Programme annually.

At present the potential changes which may emanate arising from the forthcoming evolution of Municipal Districts are being examined in detail from a road maintenance and management perspective. It is important that the characteristics from a Roads perspective of the new Municipal Districts are fully established and interpreted so that appropriate structures can be put in place and the best use made going forward of resources at the Council’s disposal. The depots out of which work is organised are key features of the present Electoral Areas infrastructure and they will continue to be so following implementation of boundary changes. Given that there are many issues to consider and this work is presently ongoing, it would be inappropriate at this stage to be overly specific regarding the role of various depots under the amended structure. The plan will be to ensure that needs throughout the county are met as effectively and as efficiently as possible by the manner in which our staff and depot resources are deployed. In general, it will be important (just as it is now) to ensure that materials, plant and other resources are available, insofar as it is feasible, in close proximity to where they are required – be it to facilitate emergency response or otherwise.

#### **Depots in County Clare.**

*The table below contains details of the main depots and sub-depots throughout the county.*

| <b>DEPOT LOCATION</b>       | <b>ENGINEERING AREA</b> | <b>MAIN DEPOT<br/>YES/NO</b> | <b>SUB-DEPOT<br/>YES/NO</b> | <b>SHARED WITH WATER SERVICES<br/>YES/NO</b> | <b>COMMENTS</b>                          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|
|                             |                         |                              |                             |  |  |
| Beechpark                   | Ennis                   | Yes                          | No                          | No   | Cordoned off within main Beechpark depot |
| Gort Road Industrial Estate | Ennis                   | No                           | Yes                         | No   |  |
| Keevagh                     | Ennis                   | Yes                          | No                          | No   |  |
| Bodyke                      | Killaloe                | Yes                          | No                          | Yes  |  |
| Tulla                       | Killaloe                | No                           | Yes                         | No   |  |
| Clonlara                    | Killaloe                | No                           | Yes                         | No   |  |
| Shannonbanks                | Killaloe                | No                           | Yes                         | No   |  |
| Kilkee                      | Kilrush                 | Yes                          | No                          | Yes  |  |
| Kilrush                     | Kilrush                 | Yes                          | No                          | Yes  |  |
| Quilty                      | Kilrush                 | Yes                          | No                          | No   |  |



|                |            |     |     |     |                             |
|----------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------|
| Kilmihil       | Kilrush    | No  | Yes | No  |                             |
| Cliff Quarry   | Kilrush    | Yes | No  | No  |                             |
| Doolough       | Kilrush    | No  | Yes | Yes | Shared with Ennistymon Area |
| Connolly       | Kilrush    | No  | Yes | No  |                             |
| Crusheen       | Ennistymon | No  | Yes | No  |                             |
| Kilnaboy       | Ennistymon | Yes | No  | No  |                             |
| Hilarys Quarry | Ennistymon | Yes | No  | No  |                             |
| Ennistymon     | Ennistymon | Yes | No  | Yes |                             |
| Miltown        | Ennistymon | Yes | No  | No  |                             |
| Inagh          | Ennistymon | No  | Yes | No  |                             |
| Shannon        | Shannon    | Yes | No  | Yes |                             |
| Sixmilebridge  | Shannon    | No  | Yes | No  |                             |
| Cratloe        | Shannon    | No  | Yes | No  | Shared with Killaloe Area   |

## **Item 9. Outstanding charges/levies.**

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Hillery  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Meaney agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council list the amount of outstanding water charges, rates, development levies and other charges due to this Council and what plan the Local Authority has to collect same. Has the Government proposed plans to give powers to the Revenue Commissioners to collect these outstanding charges/levies?”

### **Niall Barrett, Head of Finance replied as follows:**

“Set out in the table hereunder the amount of outstanding charges at 30th November 2013.

#### **Outstanding Charges**

*The following table sets out the amount of outstanding charges at 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.*

| <b>Income Source</b>        | <b>€000</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Commercial Rates            | 11,888      |
| Water & Waste Water Charges | 7,705       |
| Development Contributions   | 6,545       |
| Housing Loans & Rents       | 1,680       |
| Fire Charges                | 1,314       |
| Other Charges               | 585         |

### **Commercial Rates and Water Charges**

The council continues to address the level of arrears that reflect the difficult economic climate and to implement a practical approach in terms of payment plans to facilitate customers. The amounts due to this council are being actively pursued through engagement with customers in agreeing payment plans or through legal action, where necessary.

### **Development Contributions**

The book value amount outstanding in relation to Development Contributions is €6.5 million. This sum does not take account of any bad debts provision. The Planning Authority continues to pursue the collection of all outstanding contributions through enforcement/legal action”

## **Fire Charges**

Both the Charging System and the Waiver System have been reviewed and are currently being finalised with one of the objectives being putting a more robust charge collection system in place.

Some of the factors impacting on the level of outstanding charges for Fire Service Attendances relate to:

- Third Party Callouts – the person invoiced may believe that there was no necessity for either the attendance of the Fire Service or the level of resources mobilised
- Insurance companies disputing costs or not will to pay above certain limits
- Lengthy duration of liability determination where two or more parties are involved leading to delay in payment
- Expectation of members of the public that the Household Charge / Local Property Tax should cover any call out charges
- Due to the financial downturn, in addition to more and more people applying for waivers, more people are moving away from the area leaving no forwarding addresses making it difficult to pursue outstanding charges

## **Housing Loans and Rents**

The Council continues to make every effort in dealing with Housing arrears cases, including regular meetings with customers, facilitating payment through a range of payment options, making agreements for the payment of arrears and the close monitoring of all accounts where difficulties with payments have arisen.

Generally the council continues to engage with customers and to issue reminders in relation to sums due. Payment for all charges may be made to the Account Manager, to the Cash Office Áras Contae an Chláir, to the local area office at Kilrush, Ennistymon, Scarriff, Shannon or Westbury; either in person or by post. If there are cash flow difficulties staged payment arrangements may be agreed. Failure by the customer to engage in relation to the liability outstanding will result in legal proceedings being initiated to the fullest extent of the law.

Clare County Council has not received any correspondence from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government setting out plans to give powers to the Revenue Commissioners to collect these outstanding charges/levies.”

## **Item 10. Revenue Collection.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Kelly  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Meaney agus glacadh leis

“That the following information be made available:-

- (a) The general policy of referral of revenue collection to the County Solicitor.
- (b) The number of letters issued for arrears to companies or other businesses by the County Solicitor since 1/1/10.
- (c) The number of times in that period where the County Solicitor intimated an intention to wind up companies.

- (d) The number of companies written to where “wind up” threats were included in first correspondence.”

**Niall Barrett, Head of Finance replied as follows:**

“General policy of referral of revenue collection to the County Solicitor.

In relation to income sources (excluding housing relates charges), generally an invoice or warrant is issued to the customer in relation to the services provided. This is a demand for payment and states the date by which it is payable.

In the case of Commercial Rates, Water and Waste Water Charges, Housing Rents and Housing Loans, each customer account is assigned an Account Manager who is responsible for collection of the amount outstanding. If the customer has not paid within the due period then written reminders issue to the customer as well as follow up contact by phone or personal contact from the account manager to the customer place of business or home in the case of Housing customers. In the case of other income sources, such as, for example, fire charges or development levies, collection is handed by the relevant council section including the initial follow up of the amount outstanding.

Generally the steps outlined above result in payment being made. However, where there is no engagement from the customer or where there is inadequate engagement; then following assessment by the section collecting the charge, the file is forwarded to the County Solicitor to proceed with legal action.

**Number of letters issued**

The County Solicitor has advised the following in relation to letters issued by the County Solicitor in respect of rates, water and development contributions arrears:

- The number of first letters issued by the County Solicitor since 1/1/10 in relation to the outstanding arrears for the above income sources was eighty six. These letters related to business and non business premises as development contributions may apply to both categories of activity.
- The number of times in that period where the County Solicitor intimated an intention to wind up companies was five.
- The number of companies written to where “wind up” threats were included in first correspondence from the County Solicitor was four. The correspondence from the County Solicitor to the companies concerned stated that in the event that the amount due to the Council was not discharged within a specified timeframe that legal proceedings were being issued which might include a petition to the High Court to have the company wound up under Section 214 of the Companies Act 1963. The letters from the County Solicitor in these cases followed numerous previous contacts between Clare County Council and the customer in an effort to satisfactorily deal with the outstanding amount. The amounts involved in these cases have since been paid by the companies to the council.”

It was requested that the cost of sending the 86 letters referred to in the reply be ascertained.

**Item 11. Maintenance of rivers.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Cooney  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Hayes agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council give an outline maintenance of rivers works carried out over the past 4 years and what works are hoped to be carried out in 2014 throughout the county.”

**Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, Transportation replied as follows:**

“Allocations from the Office of Public Works in respect of works of this nature are quite modest and there are limitations to what can be achieved in this regard. Among works carried out over the past four years are:

- Channel and other works in the Corofin/Ruan area draining to the Fergus system.
- Cleaning of drainage systems to the rear of the main Industrial Estate in Shannon and in the Hurler’s Cross Area.
- In the Ennis Area various remediations have been implemented on the Fergus Drainage system, some repairs have been carried out to river embankments and repair/replacement of flaps and fittings have been necessary at the Fergus Barrage near Clarecastle.
- A variety of relatively minor works at various locations in response to stresses on the drainage system.

Apart from the above, a number of Minor Flood Relief Schemes have been implemented – particularly in North Clare, East Clare and in the Ennis Area – some of these included river works.

For 2014 the priority will be to endeavour to secure funding with a view to development of a solution to deal with the problems presently being encountered by the community at Dooras near O’Callaghans Mills.”

**Item 12. Group Water Schemes.**

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Begley  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Burke agus P. Keane

"That Clare County Council take-in-charge all Bulk Meters attached to Group Water Schemes not yet in charge of the council where the water for these schemes is supplied by the council".

**Anne Haugh, Director of Service replied as follows:**

“Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, Irish Water is now the statutory authority for water services and therefore the decision on taking in charge of any Group Water Scheme (served by a public supply) will rest with Irish Water going forward.

To date, I understand that no formal policy has been agreed in this regard and the Council awaits receipt of a draft policy document in order to assess how the taking in charge of Group Water Supply and Sewerage Schemes are to be dealt with from now on.”

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. P. Keane, seconded by Cllrs. M. Begley, P. Burke, J. Flynn, C. Curtin, G. Flynn, B. Chambers and O. Garry and agreed by the members present.

“That a deputation of this Council meet with our T.D.’s and Senators to impress on them the importance of taking in charge of Group Water Schemes.”

It was agreed that the Deputation would consist of the movers of this motion namely Cllrs. M. Begley, P. Burke and P. Keane together with the Mayor.

**Item 13. Summer School in West Clare.**

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Keating  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council support the promotion of a Summer School in West Clare to honour Anraí De Blác, a noted Gaeilgeoir and a champion of the Irish Language.”

**Gerard Dollard, Director of Service replied as follows:**

“The Council would encourage the hosting of events that would attract economic, social and cultural benefit to areas of County Clare. In regard to the item raised in the motion, the Council would be happy to discuss with any group involved in the promotion of the hosting of a Summer School the areas where Clare County Council could assist or play a role.”

**Item 14. Shannon Venue Project.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Arkins  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. S. McLoughlin agus J. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“I propose that the Council receive a presentation on the Shannon Venue Project”.

**Item 15. Native Irish Honey Bee Apiary.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn

“Native Irish Honey Bee Apiary.

That Clare County Council liaise with and support the development in association with N.U.I.G. and others (such as the Native Irish Honey Bee Society) of an Apiary (centre) for; the conservation, protection and development of a nucleus of native Irish bees in a protected landscape in Clare such as the Burren. (The honey bee is a very important pollinator of crops, pollinators value in Ireland in 2008 reported at €53 million).”

**Anne Haugh, Director of Service replied as follows;**

“At a meeting of the Environmental and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee held in November 2013 Mr. Frank Considine who is a member of Banner Beekeepers and also a member of the Native Irish Honey Bee Society briefed the members. While it was noted that Clare County Council is not in a position to provide financial assistance as resources are not available, it was noted that the Council is happy to assist in any other way and is available to liaise with and support the development of a centre for protection and development of the Native Irish Honey Bee.”

There were a number of members opposing this motion as they felt it may interfere with cattle in the Burren area and as a result of this the item was deferred to allow both sides of the argument arrange for experts to talk to the members before a decision is made.

**Item 16. Data Commissioner.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus B. Meaney agus glacadh leis

“That the Data Commission Office Compliance Officer clarify precisely what it understands by not listing the personal data in the circulation of Managers Orders to the members of Local Authorities arising from its reply of 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 to Clare County Council”.

**Item 17. Shannon Airport.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P. McMahon  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. McCarthy agus glacadh leis

“In view of the fact that Shannon Airport Company now controls Tourism locations, that the company should consider allowing preferential rates for Shannon passengers.”

**Item 18. M18.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Hayes  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“I propose that Clare County Council call on the National Roads Authority to explain why sections of the M18 motorway near Crusheen were closed recently during poor weather conditions and also to explain why there have been so many accidents in this area.”

**Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, Transportation replied as follows:**

“I took the liberty to request the National Roads Authority to provide a response to this Notice of Motion – the response is set out hereunder.”

**Kevin O'Rourke, Senior Project Manager - Network Operations, National Roads Authority replied as follows:**

“Colas Roadbridge JV (C.R.J.V.) is the maintenance contractor appointed by the National Roads Authority under the Motorway Maintenance and Renewals Contract (MMaRC) for Network B which includes Winter Service provision on the N/M18, the N19 and the N85 in the Clare County Council area. For this part of their network C.R.J.V. run their operations out of their depot on the Tulla Road, Ennis incorporating 4 Treatment routes. Under the MMaRC contract Winter Service provision commenced on 1st October 2013 and runs until the 15th May 2014.

During December 2013 C.R.J.V. provided Winter Treatments from the Ennis Depot on 10 separate days/nights over the course of the month (4th, 16th, 19th, 22nd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 28th, 29th and 31st).

With regards to particular issues experienced on the 19th December 2013 when An Garda Síochána (A.G.S.) made the decision to close the M18 (between Jn. 14 and Jn. 16) at approximately 11:00 a.m. and again at 4:00 p.m. the information and records we hold for that period show that the M18 received three precautionary treatments at c.00:00, c.06:30 and c.10:30. Even though these treatments were carried out, the hail showers experienced on the day were of such severity and intensity that at one point (just after 2:00 p.m.) they caused the road surface temperature to drop by approximately 5 Deg Celsius in a 30 minute period. Notwithstanding this, the precautionary salting treatments that were carried out prevented the road surface from freezing at any time throughout the 19th of December and a further treatment was carried out at 17:00.

In addition to the above, having discussed the conditions experienced on the M18 on the day in question with Gerald Fleming, Head of Forecasting in Met Eireann, Gerald noted that these localised short and intense hail showers are virtually impossible to predict or forecast; even with Clare being well covered with the Met Eireann station and Radar at Shannon. With this in mind, the only action for a road operator when faced with these conditions is to implement operations to mitigate the hazard for the road user as far as is reasonably practicable. From discussions with C.R.J.V. this was the approach taken in tandem with the assistance provided to A.G.S. during the period.

In summary there is no advance treatment that can protect against the hazard that develops as a result of intense hail showers and it is incumbent on drivers to adjust their behaviour to take driving conditions into account.

In relation to the frequency of incidents on the network requiring intervention by the MMaRC contractor there were 28 incidents on the N/M18 in the month of December from a total of 474 incidents on the entire network (Motorway Traffic Control Centre Monthly report).

The National Roads Authority will continue to monitor the performance of C.R.J.V. in the execution of its duties under MMaRC, and in particular Winter Service, and take appropriate action to ensure that, as far as practicable, a safe environment is provided for the road user. The National Roads Authority along with its service providers operates a process of continuous improvement within the MMaRC contract and any changes necessary are implemented in accordance with that process.

The National Roads Authority will continue to liaise with Clare County Council in relation to the continued provision of all services on the network currently under the MMaRC Contract.”



The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes, T. McNamara, J. Cooney, P. McCarthy and B. Meaney and agreed by the members present:

“That Clare County Council request the National Roads Authority to carry out a Health and Safety Audit on the sections of the M18 motorway near Crusheen taking into account aqua planing among items to be considered. Clare County Council request the National Roads Authority introduce a speed restriction in the interim.”

**Item 19. Property Tax.**

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“In view of the economic hardships the public are enduring, that Clare County Council contact the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to clarify what services are delivered to the public on paying Property Tax as recent information indicates that no funding from this tax will be returned to the County but used instead to fund Irish water meter installation programme to extract more tax from the public”.

**Item 20. Irish Water.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Ryan  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. McMahon agus glacadh leis

“That this council would request Irish Water to remove all lead piping, connections and fittings in County Clare or alternatively provide funding to Clare County Council to facilitate same”.

**Anne Haugh, Director of Service replied as follows:**

“There was an important change on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 to the current Drinking Water Regulations, concerning the permissible level of lead in drinking water. Before that date it was 25 parts per billion (ppb) (or microgrammes per litre) but since then it has been 10 ppb. This means that from 23<sup>rd</sup> December on, any lead test results which show up as between 10 ppb and 25 ppb will be illegal, whereas they would have been legal before the change date. This has raised the bar considerably.

Clare County Council has identified all lead water mains in the county, has already replaced lead mains in Sixmilebridge and Newmarket, and is currently replacing lead mains in Marian Avenue, Ennis. When the mains in Marian Avenue, and a shorter length at Linnane’s Terrace (Carmody Street) are fully replaced, there will be (as far as is known) no further lead mains to replace in the county. However there are hundreds, if not thousands, of **lead service pipes** still in operation – i.e. pipes from the water main to an individual house or premises.

The legal position is that Irish Water is responsible for a service pipe from the main as far as the property boundary, and the property owner is responsible from the property boundary to the premises. The property owner is also responsible for the internal plumbing of the premises.

Irish Water has informed us that there is at present no lead services replacement programme planned. If Irish Waters contractor finds a leaking service pipe (be it lead or other material) during

excavation for installation of a meter, it may be replaced if not considered practical to repair it. However other than this there isn't any programme.

In Clare County Council's proposed €5.1m. Ennis water mains rehabilitation project, for which tenders are currently being evaluated and which will commence in 2014 provided that it is approved by Irish Water, the existing service pipes will have to be disconnected from the old main being replaced, and re-connected to the new main being laid. If the service pipe from the old main is lead, the replacement will be plastic or other material – hence some lead service pipes will be replaced by this means. However replacement will only be from the main to the property boundary in each case.”

It was requested that this motion be forwarded to all local authorities.

**Item 21. Storm and flood damage.**

Ar moladh Cllr. R. Nagle  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Hayes agus glacadh leis

“That this Council calls on the Minister for the Environment to provide emergency funding to meet the cost of repairing the storm and flood damage in recent days”.

**Item 22. Comhfhreagras.**

**The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:**

1. Correspondence dated 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 from the Department of Social Protection regarding Rent Supplement.
2. Correspondence dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2014 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to the distribution of the Local Property Tax.
3. Correspondence dated 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding the continuation of the Community Involvement Scheme.
4. Correspondence dated 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government regarding a resolution of the Council regarding Keeping Communities Safe and the matter of a risk assessment.
5. Correspondence dated 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 from the Department of Health concerning the cost of private beds in public hospitals.
6. Correspondence dated 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 from the Congress Centres Network in relation to the formation of Socio-Economic Committees within Local Authorities.
7. Correspondence dated 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding co-funding for the Rural Development Programme.
8. Correspondence dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 from the Office of the Taoiseach regarding co-funding for the Rural Development Programme.

9. Correspondence dated 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in connection with the takeover of group water schemes by Local Authorities.
10. Correspondence dated 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 from the Department of Health concerning private health care insurance.
11. Correspondence dated 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 from the Department of Health concerning discretionary medical cards.
12. e-mail dated 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 from the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources concerning mobile phone companies.
13. Report from Human Resources Section in response to query raised at the December 2013 meeting of Clare County Council in relation to the Labour Activation Scheme 'Gateway'.
14. Training Seminar entitled "Financing of Local Government – The Critical Issues" being held in Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
15. Conference entitled "Microsoft Word Training Workshop for Councillors" being held in Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary on 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
16. Conference entitled "Branding in Political Elections – a new quality of Political Communication" being held in Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork on 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
17. Conference entitled "Rural Housing – Planning and Development Design Guidelines" being held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
18. Training Seminar entitled "Volunteering in the community and the Elected Member" being held in Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry on 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
19. Seminar for Councillors entitled "Valuation Process for Rating Properties" being held in Scotts Limerick, Ashbourne Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick on 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
20. Training Seminar entitled "Credit Unions and the rules governing them" being held in Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Road, Dublin 22 on 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
21. Seminar entitled "Doing More with Less – Managing Time and Productivity" being held in the Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork on 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
22. Seminar entitled "Domestic Water Charges – preparation and practicalities" being held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
23. Councillor Conference entitled "How Councillors can access Grant Aid for Councillors" being held in Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
24. Training Seminar entitled "Municipal Water – the challenges for Local Authorities" being held in Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
25. Training Seminar entitled "Common Agriculture Policy, An overview of C.A.P. Reform" being held in Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Road, Dublin 22 on 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
26. Seminar entitled "Budget 2014 – A review of items confirmed and measures not yet announced" being held in The Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary on 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2014.
27. Local Authority Members Association Spring Seminar 2014 being held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan on 31<sup>st</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2014.

28. Elected Member's Training Seminar entitled "National Programme of Revaluation of Commercial and Industrial Properties" being held in Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.
29. Seminar entitled "Changes to Construction Tendering for Local Authorities" being held in Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork on 31<sup>st</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2014.
30. Seminar entitled "Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisation in Ireland" being held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 31<sup>st</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2014.
31. Conference on Mental Health and Suicide Awareness" being held in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford from 31<sup>st</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2014.
32. Training Seminar entitled "Hydro Power – How Local Authorities can harness our rivers and streams" being held in Kenmare Bay Hotel, Kenmare, Co. Kerry on 31<sup>st</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2014.
33. Workshop for Councillors entitled "Microsoft Excel Training" being held in the Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary on 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.
34. Elected Members Training Seminar entitled "Keeping Communities Safe Fire Safety" being held in Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.
35. Training Seminar entitled "Combatting the fear of crime" being held in Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.
36. Training Seminar entitled "Planning permission – the process and the Elected Member" being held in Midway (Maldron) Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois on 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.
37. A.M.A.I. Spring Seminar 2014 being held at Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.
38. Training Seminar entitled "From Ballot Box to the Council Chamber" being held in the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.
39. Conference entitled "Genealogy: Tracing your ancestors and Family Tree" being held in Scotts Limerick, Ashbourne Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick on 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2014.
40. 25<sup>th</sup> Colmcille Winter School entitled "The Irish Economy – Post Bailout" being held in Colmcille Heritage Centre, Church Hill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2014.
41. Association of Irish Regions Annual Conference 2014 being held in Kilonan Castle, Co. Roscommon on 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.
42. One Day Seminar entitled "Historic Ironwork in Graveyards – Finding Solutions Together" being held in Crokers, Murroe, Co. Limerick on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.
43. Training Seminar entitled "Insolvency Service of Ireland" being held in City North Hotel, Gormanstown, Co. Meath on 28<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2014.
44. Conference entitled "Role of Ombudsman" being held in Scotts Limerick, Ashbourne Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick on 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2014.

## **Conferences.**

### **Reports on Seminars/Conferences attended.**

With regard to seminars/conferences attended, reports completed in accordance with Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001 were made available at the meeting.

#### **Elected Member's Training Seminar entitled "Standards for Rented Houses" being held in the Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2013.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €76.61 including conference fee of €50.

It was agreed that Cllr. P. Hayes attend this Conference.

#### **Elected Member's Training Seminar entitled "Financing current Local Government expenditure programs" being held in the Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo on 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2013.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €17.62 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllr. P. Hayes attend this Conference.

#### **Conference entitled "Making Small Business Work" being held in the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Newlands Cross, Dublin 22 on 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2013.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €18.66 including conference fee of €9.

It was agreed that Cllr. P. Hayes attend this Conference.

#### **Training Seminar entitled "Internet Elections" being held in the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Newland's Cross, Naas Road, Dublin 22 on 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> October next.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €99.67 including conference fee of €9.

It was agreed that Cllr. P. Hayes attend this Conference.

#### **Seminar entitled "Sport and Community Planning" being held in The Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary on 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €62.95 including conference fee of €50.

It was agreed that Cllr. P. Hayes attend this Conference.

**Elected Members Training Seminar entitled “Preventing and Reducing Alcohol Related Harm” being held in the Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €437.62 including conference fee of €120.

It was agreed that Cllr. P. Hayes attend this Conference.

**Conference entitled “Community Based CCTV Scheme” being held in Westport, Co. Mayo on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2013.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €417.62 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllr. P. Hayes attend this Conference.

**Training Seminar entitled “Tourism Technology & Competitive Strategies for 2014” being held in the Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork on 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €501.19 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllr. J. Crowe attend this Conference.

**Elected Members Training Seminar entitled “Early Education and Childcare in your Community” being held in the Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €442.15 including conference fee of €50.

It was agreed that Cllr. P. Hayes attend this Conference.

**Conference entitled “Microsoft Excel Training Workshop for Councillors” being held in the Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork on 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2013.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €576.57 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllrs. B. Chambers and J. Crowe attend this Conference.

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Méara**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_