

**Minutes of the July 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> July, 2015 at 3:45 p.m.**

**Present:**

Councillors J. Breen, J. Flynn, A. Norton, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, M. Begley, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, M. McKee, C. Curtin, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive.
- Michael McNamara, Meetings Administrator.
- Siobhan Garvey, Staff Officer.
- Anne Haugh, Director of Service.
- Gordon Daly, Senior Planner.
- Brian McCarthy, Senior Executive Planner.
- Noeleen Fitzgerald, Financial Accountant.
- Leonard Cleary, Senior Executive Officer.
- Monica Meehan, A./ Director of Service.
- Siobhán O'Keeffe, A./ Senior Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Cllr. P. Daly.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. James Breen presided.

The Cathaoirleach took the opportunity to congratulate those who had recently been elected as Mayor/Chairs of the four Municipal Districts.

**Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.**

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

“That the Minutes of the June Meeting of Clare County Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 be adopted and signed.”

b. Ar moladh Cllr. A. Norton  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Clare County Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 be adopted and signed.”

**Item 2: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.**

a. Ar moladh Cllr. A. Norton  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Breen agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2015 be noted.”

**Item 3: Minutes of S.P.C. Meetings.**

a. Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. Norton agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Planning & Housing S.P.C. meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015 be noted”

b. Ar moladh Cllr. J. Crowe  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. Norton agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Cultural Services and Arts S.P.C. meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 be noted”

**Item 4: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.**

The members noted the minutes of the meetings held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 as presented.

**Item 5: Monthly Management Report.**

The monthly management report attached to the agenda included key activities in the principal service areas and was noted by the members.

The Cathaoirleach reported that Cllr. I. Lynch had raised a query regarding the purchase of housing and he advised Cllr. I. Lynch that this query could be discussed as part of this item on the agenda.

Cllr. I. Lynch advised the meeting that he had submitted a notice of motion in relation to house purchases in Kilrush and that this notice of motion was struck off the agenda for today’s meeting and reported that the legal advice which was sought and forwarded to the Council members in relation to this matter did not give a satisfactory explanation in his opinion.

The legal advice referred to by Cllr. I. Lynch was read out to the meeting by the Meetings Administrator, the Cathaoirleach then advised the meeting that he respected the legal advice received and that the notice of motion was deemed invalid and not included on the agenda. The following proposal was submitted to the meeting in writing having been proposed by Cllr. I. Lynch and seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

“That this Council suspend standing orders to allow me the courtesy of an explanation as to the removal of my motion and by who’s direction as well as afford me the opportunity to defend”

A vote took place on this item which resulted as follows:

**In favour:** Cllrs. J. Flynn, A. Norton, C. Colleran Molloy, C. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, M. McKee, C. Curtin, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating. (15)

**Against:** Cllrs. J. Breen, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, M. Begley, T. O’Brien, P. Burke, A. O’Callaghan, J. Crowe. (11)

Abstentions: Nil.

The Meetings Administrator informed the meeting that Standing Order No. 67 requires that Standing Orders may be suspended only with the consent of at least two thirds of the members present and voting.

This requirement was not met in this case.

### **Storm Damage.**

Cllr. B. Slattery proposed that Cragg Beach be included in the list of locations where feasibility studies are proposed. This was agreed by the members present.

### **Item 6: Draft Corporate Plan.**

Report dated 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 from Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services was circulated with the agenda together with copy of the Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019. The report states the Council are required to prepare a Corporate Plan pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Guidelines were issued by the Department last November to assist local authorities in preparing their Corporate Plan and the Council has had regard to those guidelines in the preparation of the Draft before the Council at this meeting.

Members adopted the Draft Plan last February and since then consultation has taken place and observations were invited from elected members, staff, S.P.C.’s and the PPN.

Following that process, a small number of amendments and additions have been made to the Draft Plan. The revised Draft Plan is before the members at this meeting for their consideration and approval.

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

“Pursuant to the provisions of Section 134 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended by Section 49 of the Local Government Reform Act, the Council hereby resolves that the Draft Corporate Plan 2015-2019 be adopted as circulated.”

### **Item 7: Proposed Water Supply Project - Eastern & Midlands Region.**

Report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015 from Sean Lenihan, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services Section was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the Needs Study in respect of the above proposed project was an agenda item at the April meeting of Clare County Council. Since then Irish Water has published an Options

Working Paper which outlines a review of all the previous studies undertaken on providing a new source of water supply for Dublin and the Eastern and Midlands Region.

No decision on a preferred option has been made at this stage but the four technically viable options confirmed by Irish Water in no particular order of priority, are described as follows:

**Desalination:** Abstraction of sea water from the Irish Sea in North Fingal with the removal of salt by a process called reverse osmosis.

**Lough Derg (Direct):** Abstraction and treatment on the north-eastern shore of Lough Derg.

**Lough Derg with storage:** Abstraction of raw water on the North Eastern shore of Lough Derg in combination with raw water storage in the Midlands.

**Parteen Basin (Direct):** Abstraction and treatment of water on the Eastern shore of the Parteen Basin.

Irish Water is inviting members of the public and interested groups to give their views on the proposed constraints and assessment criteria to identify an emerging preferred option. All issues raised from this consultation will be reviewed and considered as part of the next phase of the process and the report noted that the closing date for submissions is 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.

Anne Haugh, Director of Service reported that members of the Killaloe Municipal District would be briefed on the matter at a meeting arranged for Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July and following this, the position could be reviewed.

The Cathaoirleach reported that he has requested that Irish Water meet publically with all members and will advise of response received to this request.

**Item 8: Proposed Variation No.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 which *inter alia* seeks to incorporate the preferred route of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road and access to UL into the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017, whilst also making a number of changes to certain policies and objectives contained in the Plan.**

**Consideration of the proposed Variation No.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 and the “Chief Executive’s Report to Elected Members on Submissions received to the proposed Variation No.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017”.**

**Making of Variation No.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017.**

**Item 9: Proposed Amendment No.1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018 which *inter alia* seeks to incorporate the preferred route of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road into the Local Area Plan; amend the text to the Parteen Villages; and replace settlement plans of Parteen and the cluster of Gilloge with new plans**

**Consideration of the proposed Amendment No.1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018 and the “Chief Executive’s Report on submissions to the proposed Amendment No.1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018”.**

**Making of Amendment No.1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018.**

It was agreed that Items 8 and 9 be taken together.

Senior Planner, Gordon Daly provided a brief overview of the proposals and advised the meeting of the timelines involved in progressing the project.

He also confirmed that the following reports had been circulated to the members.

- Chief Executive’s Report to Elected Members on Submissions received to the proposed Variation no.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017” circulated on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.
- Chief Executive’s Report on submissions to the proposed Amendment no.1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018” circulated on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2015.

Cllr. C. Crowe advised that he was opposed to and disappointed that the current proposal was the only option to be considered, these sentiments were echoed by a number of members.

Cllr. M. Begley asked if it was possible to deal with these matters under the review of the new County Development Plan as opposed to seeking a Variation to the current plan. Gordon Daly advised that due the timeline involved this would not be possible as the new County Development Plan is not due be complete for another 18 months. In response to concerns raised with regard to flood risks, he reported that assessments carried out to date have dealt with this issue. He advised the meeting that if the members choose not to adopt the variation, this decision has the potential to end the entire project.

Several members outlined their opposition to the proposals and referred to the impact it would have on Parteen and surrounding area.

The Chief Executive highlighted the important decision before the members. He reminded members that this project was part of the National Strategic Plan and would significantly enhance access to UL from the Clare side.

He also reminded members that this was a Regional Project to be funded at national level and stated that they should weigh up the benefits and disadvantages of the project. He concluded by stating that whatever decision the members made would have major implications for the county going forward.

The Cathaoirleach suggested that it might be helpful for members to take further time to consider the proposal presented and review the matter at the adjourned meeting. At

this point it was agreed to vote to decide whether to defer the item for decision at an adjourned meeting.

**In favour of deferring item:** Cllrs. J. Breen, J. Flynn, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan, J. Crowe, P. McMahon, C. Curtin, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, B. Chambers and G. Keating. (17)

**Against:** Cllrs. A. Norton, C. Collieran Molloy, M. Begley, C. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, M. McKee, I. Lynch, P.J. Kelly (9)

**Abstentions:** Nil.

It was agreed that this matter would be further considered at the adjourned meeting to take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July.

It was agreed by the members to continue discussion on the headed items.

**Item 10: Draft Burial Ground Bye Laws 2015 County Clare – Report on Submissions.**

Report dated 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 from Gerard Dollard, Director of Service was circulated with the agenda together with the Draft Burial Ground Bye Laws 2015 County Clare and a list of submissions received on same.

The report attached outlined the background to the process, the consultation that has been carried out and also provided an overview of the content of each submission that has been received.

Following a short discussion it was proposed by Cllr. B. Slattery and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney and agreed by the members present to defer this item to the September monthly meeting.

**Item 11: CEDRA – Rural Economic Development Zones (R.E.D.Z.).**

Report dated 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 from Gerard Dollard, Director of Service was circulated with the agenda. Attached to the report was Circular received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government seeking submissions for pilot Rural Economic Development Zones (R.E.D.Z.). The closing date for the submission of applications is 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2015 and it is envisaged that up to 18 projects nationwide could be supported, depending on the quality of the submissions.

Gordon Daly advised that the CEDRA Working Group had discussed this matter and it was agreed to recommend Ennis, Shannon and Scariff under the different categories. This was agreed by the members present.

**Item 12: Town and village renewal.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin agus P.J. Kelly

“In the interest of renewal of towns in Clare and following the example of Roscommon County Council that Clare County Council examine the feasibility of “Town Teams”\* in each Municipal District as an endeavour to stimulate town and village renewal in Clare.

\*“Town Team” as per Retail Excellence Ireland (R.E.I.) Town Renewal Framework document.”

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

“The Council is familiar with the Retail Excellence Ireland R.E.I. Town Renewal Framework document and the concepts and ideas contained therein. In my role as Ennis Town Manager, I would have worked on the National Committee in the development and evolution of this framework. There is no doubt that a focus needs to be placed on town and village centres and the R.E.I. policy document underpins such an approach.

The idea of Town Teams, which involves a whole community approach, is relevant and workable if the structure can be put in place and properly resourced. The Council’s experience, through its engagement with many different groups and organisations, is that invariably the same parties are involved in such groups and organisations and it is difficult to readily see how a further structure can usefully deliver in such an environment. The concept of the document is to have a focus on towns and a town team at Municipal District level would not be appropriate and consideration would need to be given to town teams in all towns and villages if the motion was to be implemented.

The Council currently works with many groups in the Tidy Towns, Tourism and Economic Development area in many of the towns and villages in the county. The creation of further structures may only dilute and undermine current approaches unless adequate resources and a strong commitment is forthcoming from all parties that require to be involved.”

Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive advised the members that he considered this proposal warrants further consideration and that Roscommon had allocated specific funding for their proposals and that no such funding had been allocated for this purpose in Clare. On the proposal of Cllr. J. Flynn, it was agreed that the CEDRA Working Group would consider the proposal.

**Item 13: Scheme of Development Levies/Charges.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin

“Call for a single Scheme of Development Levies/Charges being applied to planning permissions across the single Planning Authority of County Clare.

Following the amalgamation of Planning Authorities into one single authority under the reform programme of Local Government 2014 and in the interest of fairness and to help stimulate the construction sector of the Clare Economy;

That Clare County Council immediately start applying the reduced level of Development Levies applicable under the Clare County Development Levies Scheme to planning permissions granted in Ennis or other areas where higher levies are being charged under schemes adopted by abolished Planning Authorities, such as Ennis Town Council.”

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

“The Development Contribution Scheme for the former Ennis Town Council functional area was adopted on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Paragraph 6(2) and 6(3) of Schedule 4 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 made provisions for the

continued application of this scheme until such time as a new Scheme is drawn up for the entire County.

The current Development Contribution Scheme for the County was adopted on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013 arising from a requirement to review the Scheme in place at the time to ensure compliance with Ministerial Guidelines published in January 2013. The preparation of this Scheme involved estimating anticipated development levels within the County over the lifetime of the Scheme and identifying capital projects which were to be funded from the Scheme. Costs were then allocated across the different types of development categories and development contribution levies were thus determined. As the determination of the current County Scheme was based on capital projects and estimates of future development levels in the functional area of the Planning Authority at the time of preparation of the Scheme, it would not be appropriate to apply this Scheme to the former Ennis Town Council functional area.

The preparation of any new Scheme involves estimating the nature and scope of future development envisaged within the County. As the County Development Plan makes provisions for future development within the County, the Guidelines recommend that any new Development Contribution Scheme should come into effect as early as possible in the 6 year Development Plan cycle.

The new Clare County Development Plan currently under preparation is likely to come into effect at the end of 2016 or in January 2017. Therefore it is envisaged that a review of the current Development Contribution Scheme will commence in mid-2016 with a view to finalising a new Scheme which will coincide with the 6 year development plan cycle.

It should be noted that costs associated with projects in urban settings are likely to be higher than rural areas. Consequently, a standard charge across the county may not be appropriate based on the capital costs associated with projects proposed for particular locations. These matters will require to be considered in the preparation of any new scheme.”

Gordon Daly responded to a number of queries raised and reported that the current scheme was adopted in 2013 and a further review of the scheme is imminent.

**Item 14: Hedge cutting.**

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

“Calling on Clare County Council to make it compulsory that hedge cutting is carried out on all public roads in the county at least once a year in the interest of road safety.”

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

“Section 70 of the 1993 Roads Act already makes it compulsory that hedges alongside public roads are maintained to the extent that their growth does not compromise public safety. Where such hedges separate privately owned land from the public road, the responsibility lies with the landowner in this regard. Where hedges are located totally within the public road curtilage, the responsibility lies with the road authority. While making it compulsory that hedgecutting be carried out once a year in addition to the Section 70 requirement (if this can be done legally) may strengthen the law and



may have the benefit that such matters could be dealt with more routinely, the counter argument is that the law as it stands at the moment is quite clear and if complied with will deal effectively with hedgecutting needs along public roads.”

Anne Haugh responded to a number of queries raised and reported that landowners are responsible for maintaining hedges on their property and that it is up to each Local Authority how they enforce this bearing in the mind the level of funding and resources they have available to do this. She advised that 250 notices were sent out to landowners in 2014 reminding them of their obligations under the Roads Act. Various media and public awareness methods are also used to remind landowners.

**Item 15: Illegal parking at sea side resorts and recreational areas.**

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

"That Clare County Council would introduce Bye-Laws to prevent illegal parking at the county's sea side resorts and recreational areas."

**Item 28: Illegal encampments.**

Ar moladh Cllr. B. Slattery  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“I am calling on Clare County Council to request the Minister for Transport to include all local and access roads to the current legislation to further prevent illegal encampments throughout the County and indeed the Country, as it is my understanding that the existing legislation only refers to motorways and national roads.”

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

“This response relates to Notices of Motion submitted by Councillor Hillery and Councillor Slattery on the basis that both relate broadly to the same issue.

It is correct that national roads and motorways are protected to a greater degree than other roads and public areas from scenarios resulting in the imposition of illegal encampments within their curtilages – this protection is facilitated by Section 69 of the 1993 Roads Act. Outside of this the experience in Clare has been that the law is weak in terms of protection of public space be it roads or otherwise from such situations – other than in locations which are in close proximity to a designated halting site.

With regard to bye-laws, the question arises regarding how much weight they would carry, what resources would be needed to facilitate appropriate levels of enforcement, what restrictions might have to be incorporated in bye-laws arising from current requirements in national legislation, etc.

It would appear that the difficulties which have been experienced over the years in dealing with this entire issue have not been confronted by the kind of legislation changes which are necessary and it is difficult to see how this situation can be

improved unless appropriately robust and focussed changes of this nature are introduced by Government.”

It was agreed to refer these proposals to the S.P.C. for further consideration.

At this point in the meeting the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Breen excused himself from the meeting and Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. M. Howard presided. The Cathaoirleach returned to the meeting after 5 minutes and Cllr. J. Breen resumed presiding.

**Item 16: Toilet and changing facilities at amenity sites.**

Ar moladh Cllr. A. Norton

Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Howard agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council undertake a survey of the toilet and changing facilities at Council owned or Council run amenity sites, so as to assess their accessibility for impaired mobility users – and where access to such facilities is deemed inadequate, that a program be put in place for their upgrade, so that all patrons of said facilities can be equally catered for.”

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

“The Council acknowledges the importance of ensuring that all visitors to our amenity sites and recreational areas are adequately served by suitable toilet and changing facilities. This need is significantly greater in the case of those with impaired mobility. The Environment Section will shortly be commencing a procurement exercise for architectural services with a view to providing new/upgraded toilet/changing facilities at three of our most popular beaches, i.e. Kilkee, Lahinch and Spanish Point. The likely new build nature of such facilities will of course take into account accessibility and mobility concerns to ensure equality of access for all. In cases where adaptation of existing facilities would be required the solution may be more complex. However, as requested in the motion the first step needs to be a review of all existing facilities to establish the status quo and the scale of the necessary upgrade/improvements which might be required. It is hoped that this assessment can be conducted over the coming months subject to available resources.”

**Item 17: Staffing.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Breen agus glacadh leis

“That the Chief Executive list for each Municipal District in the county the:-

- Number and category of posts filled in an “acting capacity”,
- Number and category of contracts agreed within past 12 months for posts,
- Number of recruits under the “Gateways” Initiative Scheme

and their plans to ensure the retention of these mentioned positions on a permanent basis.”

**Siobhan O’Keeffe, A./Senior Executive Officer, Human Resources Department**  
**replied as follows:**

“I attach herewith details of the following for Part (A) of the notice of motion:

**Number and Category of Posts filled in an acting capacity**

*The following table outlines the number and category of posts filled in an acting capacity.*

<b>Department Description</b>	<b>Post Title Description</b>	<b>Category Description</b>	<b>Substantive Grade Description</b>
Ennis Municipal District	Foreman	Outdoor	General Operative
	Foreman	Outdoor	General Operative
	Light Equipment Operator	Outdoor	General Operative
	Senior General Services Supervisor	Outdoor	Foreman
	Senior General Services Supervisor	Outdoor	Foreman
<b>Count: 5</b>			
Killaloe Municipal District	Foreman	Outdoor	General Operative
	Foreman	Outdoor	General Operative
	Foreman	Outdoor	General Operative
	Foreman	Outdoor	General Operative
	General Operative/Driver I	Outdoor	General Operative
	General Operative/Driver II	Outdoor	General Operative
	General Operative/Driver II	Outdoor	General Operative
	Senior General Services	Outdoor	Foreman

	Supervisor		
Count: 8			
Shannon Municipal District	Foreman	Outdoor	General Operative
	General Operative/Driver II	Outdoor	General Operative
Count: 2			
West Clare Municipal District	Foreman	Outdoor	General Operative
	Foreman	Outdoor	General Operative
	Foreman	Outdoor	General Operative
	Foreman	Outdoor	Ganger
	Foreman	Outdoor	General Operative
	General Operative/Driver II	Outdoor	General Operative
	General Operative/Driver II	Outdoor	General Operative
	General Operative/Driver II	Outdoor	General Operative
	Senior Executive Engineer	Professional /Technical	Executive Engineer
	Senior General Services Supervisor	Outdoor	Foreman
	Senior General Services Supervisor	Outdoor	General Operative
	Senior General Services Supervisor	Outdoor	Foreman
	Senior General Services Supervisor	Outdoor	Foreman
	Senior General Services	Outdoor	Foreman

	Supervisor		
Count: 14			

A request has been submitted to the Department for the permanent filling of the above posts. No response has been received from the Department to date.

**I attach herewith details of the following for Part (B) of the notice of motion:**

**New Contracts in Municipal Districts**

*The following table details the new contracts in Municipal Districts from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.*

Post Title	Date Joined	Category Description	Department Description
General Operative	03-Jul-15	Outdoor	Ennis Municipal District
General Operative	19-Jun-15	Outdoor	Killaloe Municipal District
General Operative	12-Jun-15		
General Operative	12-Jun-15	Outdoor	Shannon Municipal District
General Operative	12-Jun-15		
General Operative	19-Jun-15	Outdoor	West Clare Municipal District
General Operative	19-Jun-15		
General Operative	19-Jun-15		
General Operative	12-Jun-15		

Traffic/Litter Warden – Kilkee	30-May-15	Seasonal in Kilkee	
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Decisions regarding contract renewals will have to be made subject to business need, available resources and departmental sanction.

I attach herewith details of the following for Part (C) of the notice of motion:

**Number of Recruits under the Gateway Scheme.**

*The following table details the number of recruits under the Gateway Scheme.*

<b>ASSIGNMENT AREA</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>NO. OF GATEWAY PARTICIPANTS</b>
West Clare Municipal District	Ennistymon	4
West Clare Municipal District	Kilrush	4
West Clare Municipal District	Kilfenora	2
West Clare Municipal District	Kilmihil	2
West Clare Municipal District	Kilkee	5
West Clare Municipal District	Corofin	2
West Clare Municipal District	Miltown Malbay	2
West Clare Municipal District	Lahinch	1
Ennis Municipal District	Ennis Town	10
Shannon Municipal District	Shannon Town	3
Killaloe Municipal District	Scariff	6
Ennis Recycling Centre	Ennis	2
Lisdeen Recycling Centre	Kilkee	2
Shannon Recycling Centre	Shannon	2
Kilrush Sports Complex	Kilrush	2
Clare/Limerick Energy Agency	Aras Contae An Chlair	1
Ennis Municipal District	Aras Contae An Chlair	1
Glor Music Centre	Ennis	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>52</b>

I can also confirm that offers of employment have issued to a further 13 people under the Gateway Scheme and we are currently waiting on responses to those offers. A target of 80 employees under the Gateway Scheme has been set by the Government for Clare County Council.

Regarding the retention of Gateway participants I wish to advise that all participants are on a fixed term contract of 22 months with no option to further extend the contract. Gateway Employees are eligible to apply for confined competition subject to meeting the requirements for the post.”

Cllr. C. Curtin thanked Siobhán O’Keeffe for her response and being present at the meeting.

In responding to a number of queries raised the Chief Executive advised that the high level of actings across the areas are as a result of the staffing embargo which has meant vacancies cannot be filled on a permanent basis following retirements etc. A request has been sent to the Department to see if all actings can be regularised and filled on a permanent basis and a response is awaited on this. The Chief Executive reported that Clare County Council are committed to employing 80 participants under the Gateway programme and to date 52 have commenced employment within the organisation. Gateway participants are not employed to carry out any roles filled by Council employees and the Unions have been in consultation on this with the Council.

#### **Financial Incentives for Employers.**

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllrs. G. Flynn and C. Curtin and agreed by the members present.

“Working Living Wage – In light of the civic reception held by Clare County Council last week for I.C.T.U. Executive Council; that Clare County Council request the Government in formulating the upcoming budget include a policy to target financial incentives for employers, for example reducing employer P.R.S.I. contribution rates, in order that a three year target of the living working wage of €11.50 per hour be achieved.”

#### **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.

##### **Conference entitled “Cross Border Business Supports” taking place in Carrickdale Hotel, Ravensdale, Co. Monaghan on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €111.97.

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

**A.I.L.G. “In Service” Training taking place in the Brehon Hotel, Killarney on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €30.95 including conference fee of €125.

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

**A.I.L.G. Annual Conference taking place in the Nuremore Hotel, Carrickmacross on 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €28.56.

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

**L.A.M.A. Spring Training Seminar entitled “Housing Provision” taking place in Ard Rí House Hotel, Milltown Road, Tuam, Co. Galway on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €27.74 including conference fee of €180.

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

**A.I.L.G. “In Service” Training taking place in Celbridge, Co. Kildare on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €29.53 including conference fee of €50.

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

**A.I.L.G. “In Service” Training taking place in Kilkenny on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €51.56 including conference fee of €50.

It was agreed that Cllrs. P. Murphy and J. Crowe attend this Conference.

**A.I.L.G. “In Service” Training taking place in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €98.60.

It was agreed that Cllrs. P. Murphy, M. Hillery and M. Howard attend this Conference.



**A.I.L.G. “In Service” Training taking place in the Hodson Hotel, Roscommon on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €303.12 including conference fee of €50.

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

**Western Commission Regional Development Conference taking place in Ballyhaderreen, Co. Roscommon on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €200.19.

It was agreed that Cllr. C. Curtin attend this Conference.

**Parnell Summer School taking place in Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €546.62 including conference fee of €65.

It was agreed that Cllr. C. Curtin attend this Conference.

**L.A.M.A. Autumn Conference taking place in Kilkenny on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2015.**

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

It was agreed that Cllr. C. Curtin attend this Conference.

The meeting then concluded at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

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

**Minutes of the adjourned July Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Present:**

Councillors J. Breen, P. Daly, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, M. Begley, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, M. McKee, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive.
- Michael McNamara, Meetings Administrator.
- Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer.
- Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner.
- Leonard Cleary, Senior Executive Officer.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. James Breen presided.

**Item 7: Proposed Water Supply Project - Eastern & Midlands Region.**

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Begley, seconded by Cllr. P. Burke and agreed that the Council would support the submission prepared by the River Shannon Protection Alliance (R.S.P.A.) in the matter of possible diverting of river Shannon water to Dublin dated April, 2015. It was agreed that the Council would write to Irish Water and inform them of this decision.

It was agreed that Items 8 and 9 would be taken together.

**Item 8: Proposed Variation No.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 which *inter alia* seeks to incorporate the preferred route of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road and access to UL into the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017, whilst also making a number of changes to certain policies and objectives contained in the Plan.**

**Consideration of the proposed Variation No.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 and the "Chief Executive's Report to Elected Members on Submissions received to the proposed Variation No.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017".**

**Making of Variation No.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017.**

The Cathaoirleach advised that this item had been discussed in detail at the July monthly meeting and it had been agreed to postpone the decision to the adjourned meeting to give members an opportunity to review the matter and reach a decision. He noted that a further workshop had taken place with the members and that a revised

resolution was now before the members. Michael McNamara, Meetings Administrator read out the revised resolution.

“Following consideration by the Elected Members of:

The proposed Variation no.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017, dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015;

The associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (Environmental Report), Natura Impact Report and Flood Risk Assessment, dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015;

The "Chief Executive's Report to Elected Members on Submissions received to the Proposed Variation No.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017", dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015;

The Mid West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022;

The policies and objectives of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017;

The policies and objectives of the Minister contained in the Guidelines prepared under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended):

Any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or Minister for Government;

The statutory obligations of any local authority in the area;

The proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the plan relates; and

Our determination, in accordance with Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), and taking into account all matters relevant, that the proposed variation, subject to the modifications recommended in the Chief Executive's Report, is not likely to have any significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site within, or adjacent to, the plan area

therefore, in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) this Council hereby resolves to make the Variation no.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017, subject to the following modification:

The design of the proposed Limerick Northern Distributor Road, as it intersects the R464 in Parteen, shall provide for safe and adequate means of pedestrian and vehicular access and connectivity east and westwards within Parteen and across the route at this point.”

Cllr. T. McNamara proposed the adoption of the resolution and this was seconded by Cllr. B. Slattery.

The strategic importance of the project was highlighted along with the significant improvements in access to UL from County Clare which would be achieved with the proposal before the meeting.

Cllr. C. Crowe opposed the resolution and outlined his reasons for his opposition to the proposal before the meeting. Cllrs. G. Flynn, M. Begley, P.J. Kelly also outlined why they were opposing the proposal.

They expressed concern about the effects the project may have on flooding in the area and its effect on Parteen Village. The implications for toll income from traffic using the tunnel was also referred to.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Breen asked if the elected members had any counter proposals to make. Cllr. C. Crowe said that he would like to make one. Cllr. J. Breen stated that as he had not received any other proposal in writing, he was proceeding to deal with the motion which was put to the meeting and would not consider any further proposals.

The Cathaoirleach called for a vote to be taken and the result was as follows:

**In favour:** Cllrs. J. Breen, P. Daly, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy, P. Hayes, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan, P. McMahon, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, B. Chambers, G. Keating. (17)

**Against:** Cllrs. J. Cooney, M. Begley, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, M. McKee, I. Lynch, P.J. Kelly. (9)

**Abstentions:** Nil.

The Cathaoirleach declared the resolution carried.

**Item 9: Proposed Amendment No.1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018 which *inter alia* seeks to incorporate the preferred route of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road into the Local Area Plan; amend the text to the Parteen Villages; and replace settlement plans of Parteen and the cluster of Gilloge with new plans**

**Consideration of the proposed Amendment No.1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018 and the "Chief Executive's Report on submissions to the proposed Amendment No.1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018".**

**Making of Amendment No.1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018.**

“Following consideration by the Elected Members of:

The proposed Amendment No. 1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018, dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015;

The associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (Environmental Report), Natura Impact Report and Flood Risk Assessment, dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015;

The "Chief Executive's Report to Elected Members on Submissions received to the Proposed Amendment no. 1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018", dated

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015;

The Mid West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022;

The policies and objectives of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017;

The making of Variation no.3 to the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017;

The policies and objectives of the Minister contained in the Guidelines prepared under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) ;

Any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or Minister for Government;

The statutory obligations of any local authority in the area;

The proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the plan relates; and

Our determination, in accordance with Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), that the proposed amendment , subject to the modifications recommended in the Chief Executive's Report, is not likely to have any significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site within, or adjacent to, the plan area

therefore, in accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) this Council hereby resolves to make the Amendment no. 1 to the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018, subject to the following modification:

The design of the proposed Limerick Northern Distributor Road, as it intersects the R464 in Parteen, shall provide for safe and adequate means of pedestrian and vehicular access and connectivity east and westwards within Parteen and across the route at this point. “

Cllr. T. McNamara proposed the adoption of the resolution and this was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

Cllr. C. Crowe opposed the resolution.

The Cathaoirleach called for a vote to be taken and the result was as follows:

**In favour:** Cllrs. J. Breen, P. Daly, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy, P. Hayes, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan, P. McMahon, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, B. Chambers, G. Keating. (17)

**Against:** Cllrs. J. Cooney, M. Begley, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, M. McKee, I. Lynch, P.J. Kelly. (9)

**Abstentions:** Nil.

The Cathaoirleach declared the resolution carried.

**Item 18: Accessing information.**

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin agus glacadh leis

“In view of the extreme shortage of housing in County Clare and the difficulties elected members have in fully engaging with the process, I am asking the C.E.O. of Clare County Council, the Commissioner for Data Protection, the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Housing – what specific legal provisions are there to prevent members of this Council from accessing information held by the local authority with regard to housing policy, housing provision, housing allocation and any other housing matters, and to address any such legislative anomalies so as to remove restrictions on local authority members fully exercising their mandated role as public representatives.”

**Gerard Dollard, Director of Service and Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services replied as follows:**

“Clare County Council’s executive are fully committed to working in partnership with elected members to ensure that a high quality housing service is delivered. The elected members play a key role in housing policy development both through the Strategic Policy Committee for Housing & Planning and through the imparting of practical local knowledge of housing need and demand.

Due to the housing shortage in Clare and the management of existing tenancies and housing stock, this is a continuous and evolving process. The Housing Department would hope that there are not restrictions present that are causing a blockage to the effective delivery of services in the manner outlined above and will work closely with elected members to resolve any issues arising.

It is a matter for the full Council to consider the request in relation to the addressing of concerns regarding any existing legal provisions.

I attach “Guidance Note for Data Controllers on the Release of Personal Data to Public Representatives” as issued from the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.

Clarification can be sought from the Commissioner’s Office on any issue of concern to the Members.”

It was agreed that this motion would be circulated to all local authorities, to the A.I.L.G. and to L.A.M.A.

**Item 19: Repair and maintenance of vacant housing.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Hayes agus glacadh leis

“That this council would request extra funding from central government and own resources to facilitate the repair and maintenance of vacant housing to speed up availability.”

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

“Clare County Council is currently at the early stages of preparation for a draft Budget 2016. This will be presented in autumn/early winter 2015. Housing services have been deemed a priority of Government at present. The key pillars of the National Housing Strategy include the leasing of houses through social leasing /R.A.S. /H.A.P., construction of houses and house acquisitions. These pillars are coupled with refurbishment of vacant stock when previous tenants depart from the property for various reasons. At present the maintenance budget is stretched due to the shortage of financial resources, the ageing stock in some areas and the additional Town Council stock now being maintained by Clare County Council.

These issues raised in the motion will be considered and included as appropriate in the draft Budget 2016. However, the much needed but additional work programme will have to be funded in order to balance the budget. Therefore the support of the elected members will be central in ensuring that the increased spending required for housing maintenance can be funded through increased budget income, which may come from various annual and medium term sources.”

L. Cleary advised the meeting that the Chief Executive had appointed additional staff to the Housing Section and that the Council had submitted a proposal to the Department for additional funding for housing works.

**Item 20: Commercial rates.**

Ar moladh Cllr. T. McNamara  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Daly agus glacadh leis

“As part of the Budget 2016 preparation process, I call on Clare County Council to take into consideration a 10% reduction in the commercial rates as per my motion of November 2014.”

**Noeleen Fitzgerald, A./Head of Finance replied as follows:**

“The Local Government Reform Act 2014 (the Act) provided for the harmonisation of commercial rates between former rating authorities and the new restructured county. This Base Year Adjustment (B.Y.A.) process will equalise the Annual Rate on Valuation (A.R.V.) in the county in due course and will begin in 2016 when the change in the Base Year Adjustment is determined as part of the budget process 2016 and each year thereafter.

As outlined to members in November 2014, In the context of the 2016 budget process and later years, the council could consider a grant scheme to be phased in in parallel with, and in proportion to, the progress of the Base Year Adjustment changes. This would be a matter to be dealt with at budget time each year starting with the 2016 budget, and would include such items as the qualification criteria and the limits that would apply to the grant level. The consideration of any other possible actions that might provide benefits to rate payers is a matter that is likely to have significant budgetary cost implications and this will have to be dealt with in that overall context as part of the 2016 budget process in the coming months.”

**Item 21: Ennis to Limerick railway line.**

Ar moladh Cllr. M. McKee

“I call on Clare County Council, the Board of Works and Irish Rail to take joint action to eliminate flooding on the railway line between Ennis and Limerick.”

It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the September monthly meeting.

**Item 22: Civic Reception.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. J. Crowe, M. McKee agus G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

"That Clare County Council host a civic reception in September of this year to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Clare's famous All Ireland Hurling title win in 1995."

The members also wished the Clare U21 hurling team well in the Munster Final.

**Item 23: Support to Group Water Schemes.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Kelly

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council calls on the Government to reverse its decision to reduce support to Group Water Schemes by €45 per household.”

**Item 24: Boundaries of Municipal Districts.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P. McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. R. Nagle agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council calls on the Minister for Environment to review the boundaries of the Municipal Districts to ensure parishes and/or communities are not divided between different Municipal Districts.”

**Item 25: Rent Allowance Payment Caps.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

"That Clare County Council request a detailed report from senior Department of Social Protection officials on the issue of rent allowance payment caps in Co. Clare."

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

“Clare County Council can seek a report from senior management in the Department of Social Protection in relation to rent caps if deemed necessary. However, senior management is aware from a recent meeting with senior officials from both organisations that the issue of rent caps is a National Government decision.

The Housing Department acknowledges that the current rent caps, as set nationally, are not achieving the required currency in the market place for those in urgent housing



need. Based on the capped payments issued to eligible housing applicants, some housing applicants are unable to fund their own leasing of private rented accommodation currently to facilitate their alternative housing provision to that of local authority housing.

Clare County Council is aware from firsthand experience of the high quality of service delivery by local and regional staff in the Department of Social Protection in Clare. Both organisations jointly staff and operate the Clare Homelessness Unit based at Áras Contae an Chláir.”

**Item 26: Pupil/teacher ratio.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Hayes

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council calls on the Minister for Education, Jan O’Sullivan, to immediately address the pupil/teacher ratio which has remained static since 2007. This issue is causing major problems in certain schools where class sizes range from 30-37 pupils. These class sizes are detrimental to the education and learning of the pupils and must be addressed as a matter of urgency.”

**Item 27: WHO obesity predictions for Irish people.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy

Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Howard agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council call on this Government to identify what steps it intends to take to address the looming WHO obesity predictions for Irish people within the next 15 years.”

The following amended resolution was proposed by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllrs. M. Hillery and P. Hayes and agreed.

“That Clare County Council call on this Government to identify what steps it intends to take to address the looming WHO obesity predictions for Irish people within the next 15 years and correspond with the newly established cross party Oireachtas Group to express this Councils concern that policy/laws be adopted to address this serious health concern for us all into the future.”

**Item 29: Tribute to Dr. Tony Ryan.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. McMahon agus P. Daly agus glacadh leis

“That this council would request the Shannon group to organise a fitting tribute to Dr. Tony Ryan, Founder of G.P.A. and Ryanair.”

**Item 30: H.S.E. Free Screening Programme.**

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard

Cuidithe ag Cllr. T. McNamara agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council requests that Minister for Health Leo Varadkar and the H.S.E. consider including the Ovarian Cancer Blood Test CA 125 in a free screening programme.”

**Item 31. Comhfhreagras.**

- It was proposed by Cllr. R. Nagle, seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes and agreed that the Cathaoirleach accept an invitation to represent Clare County Council at the Smart Countries & Cities Congress – S3C Paris – to be held in Paris on 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015.
- It was also agreed that the Cathaoirleach would represent Clare County Council at the 35<sup>th</sup> Milwaukee Irish Fest taking place from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2015 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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

- Correspondence dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2015 from John Corry, Administrative Officer, Transportation in relation to Speed Limit Review.

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

1. Legal opinion on Variation No. 3 to County Clare Development Plan 2011-2017 – Proposed amendment No. 1 of the South Clare Local Area Plan 2012-2018.
2. Correspondence dated 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to Data Protection Act.
3. Correspondence from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to Rural Development Programme.
4. Correspondence dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2015 from Shannon Airport in relation to the proposal to rename Shannon Airport.
5. Correspondence dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to illegal dumping.
6. Correspondence dated 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to improvement of farm safety.
7. Correspondence dated 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 from the Department of Health concerning resources, structures and staffing put in place in Clare.
8. Correspondence dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 from UL Hospitals in relation to waiting time and patients on trolleys at University Hospital Limerick.
9. Correspondence dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 from UL Hospitals with regard to the “inordinate and deadly delays in waiting lists for by-pass operation patients”.
10. Resolution from Fingal County Council in relation to the status of the Irish language.
11. Resolution from Ballina Municipal District in relation to freedom of the press and also the freedom of members of the Oireachtas.

12. Resolution from Cork City Council in relation to social housing schemes.
13. Resolution from South Dublin County Council in relation to waiver for refuse disposal.
14. Resolution from Donegal County Council in relation to Irish Sign Language being recognized as an Official Language.
15. Resolution from Donegal County Council in relation to Social Housing Strategy 2020.
16. Resolution from Donegal County Council in relation to Dunnes Stores workers.
17. Conference entitled “Local Economic & Community Plans” taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.
18. Douglas Hyde Conference entitled “Saving the notes of nationality; a celebration of the protectors of Irish heritage” taking place in B.M.W. Conference Room, The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.
19. Patrick MacGill Summer School and Arts Week taking place in Glenties, Co. Donegal on 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.
20. Training Seminar entitled “Planning: Planning & Development (No. 2) Bill 2014 – Office of the Planning Regulator” taking place in the Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.
21. I.C.L.R.D. conference entitled “The Housing Debate: (Re) Building our Communities through Integrated Working with Local Government” taking place in Maynooth University Campus on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
22. La Touche Legacy in association with Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society conference entitled “2<sup>nd</sup> Festival of History: Reflections on Great War & Easter Rising 1916” taking place in Greystones Golf Club, Greystones on 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
23. Conference entitled “Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015” taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.

## **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.

### **Training Seminar for Councillors entitled “Local Government & Economic Development” taking place in Park House Hotel, Main Street, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €362.70 including conference fee of €70.

It was agreed that Cllr. P.J. Kelly attend this Conference.

**A.I.L.G. “In Service” Training taking place in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €348.60 including conference fee of €50.

It was agreed that Cllr. P.J. Kelly attend this Conference.

**A.I.L.G. “In Service” Training taking place in the Hodson Hotel, Roscommon on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €303.12 including conference fee of €50.

It was agreed that Cllr. B. Slattery attend this Conference.

**Conference entitled “Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015” taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €584.63 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllrs. P. McMahon and P. Daly attend this Conference.

**Rural Water Conference taking place in Galway on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €174.58 including conference fee of €50.

It was agreed that Cllr. C. Curtin attend this Conference.

The meeting then concluded.

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

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

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