

**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, 11th January, 2016 at 3:45 p.m.**

Present:

Councillors J. Breen, J. Flynn, P. Daly, 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, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Mr. Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive.
- Mr. Michael McNamara, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Siobhan Garvey, Staff Officer.
- Mr. Ger Dollard, Director of Service.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service.
- Mr. Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.
- Mr. Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer.
- Ms. Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Water Services

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. James Breen presided.

Votes of sympathy.

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The Leahy Family, Listowel and Kilrush on the death of their father Tim Leahy R.I.P., Shannon Heights, Kilrush. (Former Garda Superintendent and member of Kilrush Tidy Towns Committee).

The following proposal was submitted to the meeting and read out by the Meetings Administrator:

“We are proposing a Suspension of Standing Orders to discuss recent announcements concerning Shannon Airport.

1. The possible impact on Shannon Airport from the recent failure by the Shannon Board of Directors to support the continuation of the C.E.O. in his role as Chief Executive.
2. The impact of the decision not to proceed with the Lynx International Cargo Hub at Shannon Airport and the implications for the future of freight business and employment opportunities in the region.”

Signed by: Cllrs. P.J. Ryan, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P. McMahon, M. McKee and C. Crowe.

All the members present agreed that Standing Orders would be suspended for a period of 30 minutes to discuss this matter but that this would not take place until all headed items had been dealt with.

Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.

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

“That the Minutes of the December Meeting of Clare County Council held on 14th December, 2016 be adopted and signed.”

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

“That the Minutes of the adjourned December Meeting of Clare County Council held on 21st December, 2015 be adopted and signed.”

Item 2: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.

a. Ar moladh Cllr. P. Daly
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Murphy agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 1st December, 2015 be noted.”

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

a. Ar moladh Cllr. P. Hayes
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Murphy agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Cultural Services & Arts S.P.C. meeting held on 6th October, 2015 be noted”.

Item 4: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.

The members noted the minutes of the meetings held on 7th December, 2015 as presented.

Nomination to Governing Body – N.U.I.G.

The Meetings Administrator informed the meeting that this item was not listed on agenda issued in error and that the relevant correspondence had issued to the members on the 8th January last. This report from Michael McNamara, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services set out the background to this process.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. B. Chambers agus M. Hillery agus glacadh leis

“That Cllr. P.J. Kelly be appointed to the Governing Body of N.U.I.G. on behalf of Clare County Council”.

The members joined in wishing Cllr. P.J. Kelly well during his term of office.

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.

In response to query raised, Ger Dollard, Director of Services reported that the sum of €30,000 had been provided in 2015 and 2016 for the Public Participation Network (P.P.N.) and this would be matched by the Department by the sum of €50,000. He also advised that the new P.P.N. staff member is working from the C.L.D.C. offices.

Item 6: Update on flooding.

It was agreed that items 13, 14, 16 and 20 would be taken together as they related to the same topic of the recent flooding about the county. A reply to the concerns/issues raised in these motions was addressed as part of a report prepared by the Senior Engineer, Tom Tiernan which was issued to members by email in advance of the meeting. Many members spoke about the recent flooding at various locations within the county and the swift action of the council and emergency personnel was complimented. The Chief Executive thanked the staff of the Council as well as the volunteers from the Civil Defence and personnel from the Army and Naval Reserve. He outlined the difficulty faced by those affected and those assisting due to the prolonged nature of the flooding and wet weather.

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer addressed the meeting and referred to the contents of the report which he had prepared and in particular the timeline of events and the response. He reported that at present priority was being given to compiling a list of the damage caused but that in many cases this is yet to be known as water levels drop and until such time as water levels have completely disappeared. The Council have contacted the Department and have provided them with an approximate list of damaged roads, bridges and drainage systems and it is currently estimated that €2 million has been incurred to date. This estimate and the cost of damage will change. It will be necessary to carry out hydrological assessments in many locations once flooding subsides and members were reminded that the N67 remains closed and Transport Infrastructure Ireland has been contacted about this.

Item 13: Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Murphy
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Howard agus glacadh leis

“I am requesting that the Senior Engineer provide the following information regarding the Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme;

- i) Has there been a delay in bringing this vital project to tender and if so, what has caused the delay?
- ii) When is it envisaged that work will commence?

- iii) Is there a construction timescale envisaged for the project?
- iv) Can the Ballybeg and St. Flannan's elements of the scheme be separated in order to progress the scheme?
- v) When will the scheme move to tender?"

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer replied as follows:

"I will respond to the 5 queries raised in similar order as follows:

1. I had hoped that the project would be underway by now – given that it has had the benefit of planning approval since 2013. Technically the project has been a difficult one to design because of the nature of the solution and the difficulty in facilitating the construction of a large culvert along a route (Tobartaoscain Road) which is founded on rock and which already has a significant array of bulky infrastructure constructed along it. Late last year the O.P.W. issued a small number of technical queries which I understand to be their final queries – these are being dealt with at present by our Consultants. I expect the responses to be submitted within the next couple of weeks and I would be confident that this will facilitate the commencement of the project shortly thereafter.
2. Pending approval of the O.P.W. to proceed based on what I outline under No. 1 above, I would hope to be in a position to go tender within the next 2 – 3 months with the construction phase to commence during the second quarter of this year.
3. It is envisaged that the project will take 12 – 18 months to complete. The length of the programme will depend on when it gets underway due to the fact that there are certain parts of the project which can only be worked on at certain times of the year to facilitate compliance with the Habitats Directive and the Wildlife Act.
4. The scheme which has 3 components – the St. Flannan's culvert, the Ballybeg culvert and the river embankment upgrade – has been progressed as a single scheme from the outset. In this context, I think it will provide a complete solution for the south side of the town and this focus should be continued – particularly given the view I expressed under No. 1 above.
5. See No. 2 above."

Item 14: Report on flooding.

Ar moladh Cllr. A. O'Callaghan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Chambers agus glacadh leis

"I ask Clare County Council to give an update on the extreme flooding conditions that has happened all over our county and ask what support has the government offered up to this point of time".

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer replied as follows:

"See Flooding Report under separate Agenda item."

Item 16: Report on flooding.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. McNamara
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. A. O'Callaghan agus P. Hayes agus glacadh leis

“We call on Clare County Council to provide an estimate of the additional costs incurred by this council to date resulting from the flood and storm events of December 2015 and to compile a list of all the damage and an estimate of the cost of repairs to public infrastructure including roads, bridges, embankments etc. throughout the county as a result of these severe weather events.”

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer replied as follows:

“See Flooding Report under separate Agenda item.”

Item 20: Flooding.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Begley
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. J. Cooney agus T. O'Brien agus glacadh leis

“That the local authority, T.D., Councillors, I.F.A., effected residences and land owners come together to put a plan in place to present to the Minister for Environment to prevent the serious flooding we have witnessed in the county this winter from re-occurring again in the future. Any plan agreed be dealt with on its own merits”.

Responding to the terms of this motion the Chief Executive confirmed that the Council would write to the Minister and request that he ensure the co-operation of the other agencies with initiatives undertaken by the Council in this regard.

Suspension of Standing Orders

As agreed at the commencement of the meeting Standing Orders were suspended for the period of 30 minutes to discuss recent announcements regarding Shannon Airport. At this point in the meeting, the Cathaoirleach advised members that correspondence had been received by the Meetings Administrator from Neil Pakey, C.E.O. of Shannon Group by way of email directly prior to this meeting. The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting that in this email Neil Pakey, C.E.O., Shannon Group wished to convey to members that while he respected democracy he was requesting members not to directly discuss any details relating to his contract as these were of a personal nature to him.

Each of the members from the Shannon Municipal District then addressed the meeting and referred to the excellent work undertaken by Mr. Pakey for Shannon Airport and the region and expressed the view that he would be a major loss to Shannon. The members also outlined their disappointment that the Lynx Project was not going ahead and referred to the benefits the project could have brought to the whole area.

The members also requested that the Chief Executive outline to the meeting responses to the various queries raised having regard to his role as a Board Member of Shannon Group.

In reply the Chief Executive advised members that he had been appointed to the Board of Shannon Group by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and that

he has a duty of care to the Board while serving in this position which is overseen by a strict Code of Governance. He is tasked to serve the best interests of the Board in the successful development and operation of Shannon Airport and the Shannon Group. He advised that he had not personally been involved as a Board member in the Lynx Cargo project but his understanding was that the conditions set by Lynx Cargo to the Airport were quite demanding and the Board were not in agreement with these conditions which is a reason why the project could not proceed in the best interest of the Airport and Shannon Property Group. He reminded members that a positive focus should remain for the Airport and that business remains on an upward trend.

Item 7: Presentation from Irish Water.

Gerry Geoghegan, Claire Coleman and Mick Garrick of Irish Water attended at 2:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting and briefed the members on the current status of the proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region.

Item 8: Presentation from Clare Age Friendly Board.

Gerry Kelly, Chairperson of the Clare Age Friendly Board provided a presentation to members outlining details of the Age Friendly Programme currently in operation in Clare which has identified 55 actions. At present this programme includes citizens aged 55 years and over and in a number of months this will change to include those aged 50 years and over given our aging population. Members thanked Gerry Kelly for his presentation and complimented the work of the Clare Age Friendly Board and Older People's Council.

Item 9: Loans.

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Kelly

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. C. Curtin agus G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That the following details of all existing loans taken out by the Council be made available:

1. Total number of loans
2. Amount of each individual loan
3. Purpose of each loan
4. Amount repayable per annum on each loan
5. Duration of each loan
6. Remaining repayments on each loan
7. Total amount of loans
8. Total amount re-payable per annum.”

Niall Barrett, Head of Finance replied as follows:

“See attached table for information required.

Council loans.

The following table outlines details of loans taken out by the Council.

Loan Count	Loan Amount at Sept 15	Purpose of Loan	Projected Payment for 1 year	Loan Duration Years
	€'000		€'000	
1	15	Housing Loans	8	25
2	8	Housing Loans	4	25
3	37	Housing Loans	21	25
4	15	Housing Loans	9	25
5	7	Housing Loans	2	30
6	48	Housing Loans	14	30
7	8	Housing Loans	2	30
8	4	Housing Loans	1	30
9	2	Housing Loans	0.5	30
10	0.4	Housing Loans	0.1	30
11	3	Housing Loans	3	15
12	1	Housing Loans	1	15
13	11	Housing Loans	2	30
14	19	Housing Loans	13	20
15	13	Housing Loans	9	20
16	783	Housing Loans	319	20
17	41	Housing Loans	17	20
18	21	Housing Loans	8	20
19	49	Housing Loans	17	20
20	61	Housing Loans	21	20
21	70	Housing Loans	21	20
22	28	Housing Loans	8	20
23	95	Housing Loans	24	20
24	32	Housing Loans	8	20
25	127	Housing Loans	24	20
26	127	Housing Loans	24	20
27	42	Housing Loans	8	20
28	205	Housing Loans	36	20
29	159	Housing Loans	28	20
30	170	Housing Loans	16	25
31	393	Housing Loans	59	20
32	2,063	Housing Loans	324	20
33	82	Housing Loans	33	25
34	20	Housing Loans	8	25
35	20	Housing Loans	8	25
36	36	Housing Loans	6	25
37	74	Housing Loans	8	20
38	233	Housing Loans	25	20

Loan Count	Loan Amount at Sept 15	Purpose of Loan	Projected Payment for 1 year	Loan Duration Years
	€'000		€'000	
39	873	Housing Loans	60	25
40	116	Housing Loans	7	25
41	110	Housing Loans	10	20
42	130	Housing Loans	7	27
43	12	Housing Loans	3	10
44	40	Housing Loans	3	20
45	130	Housing Loans	6	30
46	222	Housing Loans	33	25
47	23	Housing Loans	2	15
48	18	Housing Loans	2	8
49	27	Housing Loans	3	12
50	69	Housing Loans	7	30
51	21	Housing Loans	2	30
52	44	Housing Loans	5	30
53	41	Housing Loans	4	30
54	43	Housing Loans	5	30
55	40	Housing Loans	4	30
56	28	Housing Loans	3	30
57	21	Housing Loans	2	30
58	102	Housing Loans	10	30
59	24	Housing Loans	2	30
60	57	Housing Loans	6	30
61	20	Housing Loans	2	30
62	32	Housing Loans	3	30
63	72	Housing Loans	7	30
64	57	Housing Loans	6	30
65	50	Housing Loans	5	30
66	23	Housing Loans	2	30
67	34	Housing Loans	3	30
68	26	Housing Loans	3	30
69	43	Housing Loans	4	30
70	60	Housing Loans	6	30
71	176	Housing Loans	7	25

Loan Count	Loan Amount at Sept 15	Purpose of Loan	Projected Payment for 1 year	Loan Duration Years
	€'000		€'000	
72	560	Housing Loans	21	25
73	163	Housing Loans	13	30
74	47	Housing Loans	4	30
75	133	Housing Loans	11	30
76	191	Housing Loans	15	30
77	163	Housing Loans	13	30
78	171	Housing Loans	14	30
79	12	Housing Loans	1	30
80	116	Housing Loans	9	30
81	69	Housing Loans	5	30
82	20	Housing Loans	2	30
83	188	Housing Loans	15	30
84	135	Housing Loans	10	30
85	105	Housing Loans	8	30
86	34	Housing Loans	3	30
87	32	Housing Loans	3	30
88	62	Housing Loans	5	30
89	38	Housing Loans	3	30
90	49	Housing Loans	4	30
91	21	Housing Loans	2	30
92	92	Housing Loans	7	30
93	2,965	Housing Loans	123	25
94	8	Housing Loans	0.5	30
95	57	Housing Loans	4	30
96	69	Housing Loans	5	30
97	20	Housing Loans	1	30
98	108	Housing Loans	7	30
99	50	Housing Loans	3	30
100	151	Housing Loans	10	30
101	29	Housing Loans	2	30
102	60	Housing Loans	4	30
103	1	Housing Loans	0.1	30
104	45	Housing Loans	3	30
105	17	Housing Loans	1	30
106	119	Housing Loans	7	30
107	102	Housing Loans	6	30
108	106	Housing Loans	6	30

Loan Count	Loan Amount at Sept 15	Purpose of Loan	Projected Payment for 1 year	Loan Duration Years
	€'000		€'000	
109	150	Housing Loans	9	30
110	128	Housing Loans	8	30
111	95	Housing Loans	6	30
112	104	Housing Loans	6	30
113	51	Housing Loans	3	30
114	77	Housing Loans	4	30
115	121	Housing Loans	7	30
116	2,601	Housing Loans	149	30
117	94	Housing Loans	5	30
118	1,441	Housing Loans	80	30
119	50	Housing Loans	3	30
120	154	Housing Loans	9	30
121	50	Housing Loans	3	30
122	41	Housing Loans	2	30
123	48	Housing Loans	3	30
124	19	Housing Loans	1	30
125	23	Housing Loans	1	30
126	820	Housing Loans	48	15
127	147	Housing Loans	7	30
128	36	Housing Loans	2	30
129	78	Housing Loans	4	30
130	75	Housing Loans	4	30
131	84	Housing Loans	4	30
132	111	Housing Loans	5	30
133	104	Housing Loans	5	30
134	73	Housing Loans	4	30
135	18	Housing Loans	1	30
136	19	Housing Loans	1	30
137	4	Housing Loans	0.2	30
138	17	Housing Loans	1	30
139	30	Housing Loans	1	30
140	12	Housing Loans	0.6	30
141	1,161	Housing Loans	78	25
142	6	Housing Loans	0.3	30
143	7	Housing Loans	0.3	30
144	33	Housing Loans	33	30
145	19	Housing Loans	10	30
146	19	Housing Loans	6	30

Loan Count	Loan Amount at Sept 15 €'000	Purpose of Loan	Projected Payment for 1 year €'000	Loan Duration Years
147	4	Housing Loans	1	30
148	825	Museum	63	30
149	36	Waterpark House Ennis	13	20
150	571	Ryan's Yard Offices	47	30
151	1,015	Glor	73	30
152	251	Kilrush Corporate Loan	60	15
153	1,867	Water Services	1,867	10
154	994	Environment (Doora/Recycling)	132	20
155	924	Environment (BDB)	98	20
156	9,865	Cliffs of Moher	1,114	20
157	113	Housing Maintenance	114	10
158	788	Environment (BDB)	123	20
159	798	Environment (BDB)	125	20
160	980	Scarriff Area Office	91	20
161	1,815	Roads - Inner Relief Road	133	20
162	1,651	Environment (BDB)	81	30
163	979	Roads - Lisdoonvarna Road Restoration	37	40
164	3,153	Roads - Ennis Northerin Inner Relief Road	120	40
165	526	Land Acquisition - Mountshannon	35	35
166	398	Environment (Doora)	33	30
167	3,498	Roads - Shannon Primary Road	136	40
168	352	Roads - Ennis Inner Relief Road	23	20
169	3,214	Land Acquisition - Ennistymon	70	32
170	1,729	Ennis Market Development	80	30
171	1,595	Land Acquisition - Feakle	35	32
172	1,200	Land Acquisition - Ennistymon	26	32
173	308	Land Acquisition - Clonlara	7	32
174	25,911	Corporate HQ New Road	1,966	35
175	1,295	Lees Road	142	20

Loan Count	Loan Amount at Sept 15 €'000	Purpose of Loan	Projected Payment for 1 year €'000	Loan Duration Years
176	561	Lees Road	62	20
177	4,305	Corporate Loan, BDB , Tulla Stables & Water Services	526	20
178	1,526	Water Services	505	10
179	2,609	BDB, Area Offices, Swimming Pool & Water Services	412	20
180	1,492	Environment (BDB) & Water Services	205	20
181	1,227	Museum, Inner Relief road, Ryans Yard & Water Services	196	20
182	793	Ennis Leisure Centre	72	30
TOTAL	101,501		11,059	

The remaining capital repayments on each loan at September 15 are as set out above. In addition, there will also be interest arising. However the amount of such interest, and thus the amount of the overall repayment, will depend on the interest rates that will apply from time to time on the loans, and thus will vary over time.”

Cllrs. P.J. Kelly, C. Curtin and G. Flynn submitted the following seeking further details.

“That, with regard to Item 9, a more complete report, addressing location of investment, and remaining years of repayments, be made available for full meeting as part of monthly management report and that a hard copy be furnished to each Councillor seven days in advance.”

Niall Barrett responded to some queries raised by Cllr. P.J. Kelly and it was agreed that the further details requested would be furnished with the March Monthly Management Report.

Item 10: Placenames Committee.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Begley agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council Placenames Committee be tasked and resourced to resolve the misspelling of villages and towns throughout Co. Clare and finally agree what way they should be spelled correctly.”

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer replied as follows:

“In many cases what is a misspelling for some is the correct spelling for others – this is a legitimate explanation for a significant proportion of the discussion around this issue. If the task suggested in the notice of motion were to be taken on, it would presumably involve a public consultation exercise, the consideration of submissions and would be concluded by final decisions by the committee in relation to each

situation raised. I would have no objection to such an exercise occurring but it needs to be borne in mind that conclusions reached would have to be followed by the replacement of a schedule of signage throughout the county which could run to significant cost. Resourcing the exercise would have to take this aspect into account – as things stand roads budgets don't adequately facilitate the most basic requirements in relation to road maintenance and so a means of covering the cost of this would have to be identified elsewhere."

Item 11: Council Headquarters.

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

"That a report be given on the cost of alterations on main entrance to Áras an Chláir and that the reason for expenditure be given together with source of funding for same."

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

"Payments to date for the installation of the revolving doors at the car park entrance to the Corporate Headquarters total €85,570 with a further payment of €15,402 due to be paid.

It was necessary to install the revolving doors to address issues arising from draughts in certain areas of the building. These draughts became more acute with the increased footfall to the building when motor tax was re-located here a number of years after the building was officially opened. The energy efficiency of the building was severely diminished when large pockets of cold air were entering the building each time the previous doors opened.

The cost arising has/is being charged to central management charges over the years, 2014, 2015 and 2016 as payment was/is being made over the three years."

Item 12: Roadworks Programme.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Hillery
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Breen agus glacadh leis

"Due to 41.9% reduction in government roadwork grants since 2008, the National Oversight and Audit Commission has found that 22% of Clare tertiary roads have severe structural defects and that another 15% have other defects, would the County Engineer inform the Council of the roadworks programme required to bring the roads up to 2008 standard of repair and the finance for same".

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer replied as follows:

"Figures referred to in the Notice of Motion are taken from a report which reflects figures as were available at the end of December, 2014. The percentages outlined in the report are not reflective of the complete schedule of roads in the county. Notwithstanding the fact that condition surveys have progressed significantly since the end of 2014, it isn't unreasonable at this stage to use the figures in the N.O.A.C. Report on the basis that they are a representative sample and can provide some

indications regarding what costs would be involved to restore the road network in the county to 2008 standards.

The N.O.A.C. Report outlines the position in relation to Regional, Local Primary, Local Secondary and Local Tertiary Roads in terms of proportions of each category which are structurally deficient, require surface restoration or just require resealing and restoration of skid resistance.

2% of Regional Roads have been found to be structurally defective while 21% of Local Roads are structurally defective. 18% of Regional Roads require surface restoration while the percentage in relation to Local Roads is 25%. From an analysis of these figures and taking account of the level of grant allocations which are being made available at the present time, I estimate that the additional investment required to bring the Non-National Road Network back up to 2008 standards would be between €100m. and €120m.”

Item 15: Report on flooding.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. McNamara
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Breen agus glacadh leis

“Following the storm and flooding damage of the winter of 2013/2014 I call on Clare County Council to outline the following; What additional monies did this council request from the Department of Environment, how much was approved/sanctioned and how much has been drawn down to date.”

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer replied as follows:

“The total fund sought by the Council following the storms of December, 2013 and January/February 2014 was €29.9m. This fund was sought to facilitate a vast array of works at over 40 sites along the Clare coastline. Almost €18m. of the aforementioned total was earmarked to facilitate repair works under a number of headings – coastal defences, roads, tourism infrastructure and piers and harbours – while the remainder was earmarked for what the Council consider to be a need for strengthened or upgraded defences at a number of locations.

Ultimately, by the end of the first quarter of 2014, the Emergency Response Unit in the Department had approved a total of €17.5m. - €1.3m. of which was to cover the cost of clean-up following storm events while the remaining €16.2m. was approved with the requirement that it should only be used for repair works and that strengthening works should not be catered for from that fund.

Towards the end of 2014 a separate strategy was agreed with the O.P.W. in relation to prospective strengthening works whereby each site would be dealt with on a case by case and stage by stage basis with a requirement that approval to carry out a feasibility study should be sought in the first instance in relation to each site – the strategy in this case will be separately funded – the up to date position in relation to each of the “strengthening” sites is outlined every month in monthly Management Reports.

In quarter 4 of 2015, an additional sum of €1.436m. was allocated towards coastal repair works by the Office of Public Works – implying that the total fund made available to date in respect of the storms of 2013/2014 is €19m. – of which €1.3m. would cover the post storm clean-up as referred to above and the remainder would

facilitate a repair programme including two allocations of €500,000 each to facilitate repairs to defences protecting farmland along the Atlantic and Estuary coastlines.

To the end of 2015 a total of €10.6m. had been expended. With two significant contracts on site at present, this will increase in the near future to between €2.5m. and €3m. and the remainder of the programme is being progressed through its various relevant stages.

To date, all of the aforementioned €19m. has been drawn down with the exception of €1.6m. which has been claimed and which we expect will be paid out in the near future.”

Item 17: Meetings attended by Councillors.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Breen agus glacadh leis

“That the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs outline the number of meetings (Statutory and Non Statutory) attended by Councillors in 2015 and in the interest of efficiency that the Council devise a calendar for same in 2016 in order to facilitate positive outcomes in the area of policy formulation and implementation and engagement with non elected partners as appropriate.”

Among the list, the following:-

Statutory Council meetings include:-

- Corporate authority meeting monthly
- Municipal District Committees meetings (Special G.M.A. etc.)
- Budget & Property Tax etc.
- County Development Plan

Non-Statutory:-

- S.P.C.
- County Development Plan Workshops
- C.P.G.
- C.L.D.C.
- Cedra
- Rural Water Monitoring Committee
- Joint Policing Committee
- Audit
- Standing Orders
- Local Traveller Accommodation
- L.E.C.D.C.”

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

“Attached are details of meetings attended by the members in 2015 and meetings scheduled for 2016.

Dates have not been finalised for meetings in 2016 in respect of some of the bodies as listed.”

Meetings attended in 2015 & 2016.

Meetings of Clare County Council

2015

12th January, 2015.
2nd February, 2015. (Special Meeting)
9th February, 2015.
16th February, 2015.
9th March, 2015.
30th March, 2015.
13th April, 2015.
20th April, 2015.
5th May, 2015. (Special Meeting).
11th May, 2015.
8th June, 2015.
26th June, 2015. (A.G.M.)
13th July, 2015.
24th July, 2015.
14th September, 2015.
21st September, 2015.
28th September, 2015. (L.P.T. Special Meeting).
12th October, 2015.
9th November, 2015.
20th November, 2015. (Budget Meeting).
25th November, 2015. (Special Meeting)
14th December, 2015.
21st December, 2015.

2016

11th January, 2016.
8th February, 2016.
14th March, 2016.
11th April, 2016.
9th May, 2016.
13th June, 2016.
11th July, 2016.
12th September, 2016.
10th October, 2016.

14th November, 2016.
12th December, 2016.

There may be other meetings which will be convened as agreed by the elected members during the year.

Ennis Municipal District.

Cllrs. J. Breen, J. Flynn, P. Daly, A. Norton, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy.

2015.

6th January, 2015.
3rd February, 2015.
3rd March, 2015.
Special Meeting 23rd March, 2015.
7th April, 2015.
5th May, 2015.
2nd June, 2015.
A.G.M. 24th June, 2015.
1st September, 2015.
6th October, 2015.
Workshop on Parking Ennis 23rd October, 2015.
5th November, 2015.
Budget Meeting 5th November, 2015.
1st December, 2015.

2016.

Please note that the Municipal District of Ennis committee meets monthly except for August on the first Tuesday of every month. There is also a budget and annual meeting to be agreed by the members during the year

Killaloe Municipal District.

Cllrs. J. Cooney, P. Hayes, M. Begley, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan.

2015

21st January, 2015.
25th March, 2015.
27th May, 2015.
A.G.M. 26th June, 2015.
15th July, 2015.
23rd September, 2015.
Budget 28th October, 2015.
25th November, 2015.

2016

20th January, 2016.
16th March, 2016 (provisional)

18th May, 2016 (provisional)
20th July, 2016 (provisional)
21st September, 2016 (provisional)
16th November, 2016 (provisional)

No dates have been fixed yet for the A.G.M. or the Budget meetings for 2016.

Shannon Municipal District.

Cllrs. C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, M. McKee.

2015

20th January, 2015
25th March, 2015
30th March, 2015 – Special meeting
26th May, 2015
15th June, 2015 – A.G.M.
21st July, 2015
8th September, 2015
28th October, 2015 – Budget meeting
10th November, 2015

2016

19th January, 2016 followed by a (non-statutory) briefing meeting for councillors by housing department executives

8th March, 2016
10th May, 2016
14th June, 2016 – A.G.M.
12th July, 2016

No dates have been fixed yet for the A.G.M. or the Budget meetings for 2016.

West Clare Municipal District.

Cllrs. C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

2015

6th January, 2015.
19th January 2015 – Meeting to decide on G.M.A. distribution
19th January, 2015 – Briefing
3rd March, 2015
30th March, 2015 – Special Meeting.
30th March, 2015 – Special Meeting
5th May, 2015 – Special Meeting
5th May, 2015
5th May, 2015 – Briefing

10th June, 2015 – Briefing
22nd June, 2015 – A.G.M.
26th June, 2015 – Briefing
14th July, 2015 – Special Meeting
14th July, 2015
15th September, 2015
5th October, 2015 – Briefing
6th November, 2015 – Briefing
6th November, 2015 – Meeting to consider Budgetary Plan
16th November, 2015 – Meeting to decide G.M.A. distribution
16th November, 2015 – Special Meeting
17th November, 2015 – Special Meeting
17th November, 2015

2016

18th January, 2016 – Briefing
18th January, 2016 – Briefing
19th January, 2016 – Meeting to decide on G.M.A. distribution
19th January, 2016
1st March, 2016.
March, 2016 – Meeting to consider Schedule Municipal District Works
3rd May, 2016.
June, 2016 – A.G.M.
5th July, 2016.
6th September, 2016.
October, 2016 – Meeting to consider Budgetary Plan
1st November, 2016

No dates have been fixed yet for the A.G.M. or the Budget meetings for 2016.

Corporate Policy Group.

Cllrs. J. Breen, R. Nagle, P. Hayes, J. Cooney, G. Flynn.

2015

5th January, 2015.
2nd February, 2015.
2nd March, 2015.
2nd April, 2015.
1st May, 2015.
29th May, 2015.
6th July, 2015.
7th September, 2015.
21st September, 2015.
5th October, 2015.
2nd November, 2015.
7th December, 2015.

2016

4th January, 2016.

Meetings held monthly except August on dates to be agreed throughout the year.

Planning & Housing S.P.C.

Cllrs. G. Flynn, P.J. Kelly, T. McNamara, T. O'Brien, P. Murphy, P. Burke, A. Norton.

2015

4th February, 2015.

1st April, 2015.

3rd June, 2015.

2nd September, 2015.

4th November, 2015.

2016

3rd February, 2016.

6th April, 2016.

1st June, 2016.

7th September, 2016.

2nd November, 2016.

Environment & Transportation S.P.C.

Cllrs. J. Cooney, C. Crowe, M. Hillery, A. O'Callaghan, B. Slattery, J. Breen, C. Curtin.

2015

20th January, 2015.

23rd February, 2015.

23rd March, 2015 – Special Meeting

25th May, 2015

29th September, 2015.

30th November, 2015.

2016

29th February, 2016.

30th May, 2016.

26th September, 2016.

28th November, 2016.

Economic Development & Enterprise S.P.C.

Cllrs. R. Nagle, P. McMahon, C. Collieran Molloy, P.J. Ryan, I. Lynch, J. Flynn, G. Keating.

9th February, 2015
11th May, 2015
14th September 2015
9th November 2015

2016

11th January, 2016
9th May, 2016
12th September 2016
14th November 2016

Cultural Services Arts (including Community, Recreation and Amenities) S.P.C.

Cllrs. P. Hayes, B. Chambers, P. Daly, M. Begley, M. McKee, M. Howard, J. Crowe.

2015

17th February, 2015.
12th May, 2015.
30th June, 2015.
6th October, 2015.
8th December, 2015.

Sub-committee of S.P.C. on 1916

26th May, 2015
24th June, 2015
2nd September, 2015
8th December, 2015.

Dates set aside for 2016 – February 9th, yet to be scheduled - meetings in May, September/October and December.

County Development Plan.

List of the workshops & Special meetings held with the Members on the draft C.D.P. in October/November 2015.

Below are additional workshops held earlier in the year for the pre-draft C.D.P.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	DATE
Full Council	3 rd March
Shannon Municipal District	26 th May
West Clare Municipal District	26 th May
Killaloe Municipal District	29 th May
Full Council	4 th June

**Schedule of Workshops with Elected Members on the Draft County
Development Plan 2017-2023**

Workshop No.	Members	Date
1	Full Council	8th October
2	Full Council	13th October
3	Killaloe Municipal District	14th October
4	Shannon Municipal District	15th October
5	West Clare Municipal District	15th October
6	Ennis Municipal District	16th October
7	West Clare Municipal District (West Clare Cllrs)	19 th October
8	Killaloe Municipal District	21 st October
9	West Clare Municipal District (North Clare Cllrs)	22 nd October
10	Ennis Municipal District	23 rd October
11	West Clare Municipal District (West Clare Cllrs)	27 th October
12	Shannon Municipal District	28th October
13	West Clare Municipal District	3 rd November
14	Full Council	3 rd November
15	Ennis Municipal District	5 th November
16	Killaloe Municipal District	9 th November
17	Shannon Municipal District	10 th November
18	Ennis Municipal District	20 th November

19	West Clare Municipal District	20 th November
20	Pre Sp Council Mtg workshop	Wed 25 th Nov
20	Special Council Meeting	Wed 25 th November

Local Traveller Accommodation Advisory Committee

Cllrs. T. O'Brien, C. Curtin, G. Keating, R. Nagle, M. McKee, A. Norton.

The LTACC has not met since local elections in June 2014. We have been unable to get Traveller community representation despite seeking expressions of interest in both 2014 and 2015. Will do so again in 2016 but at this stage premature to schedule a meeting.

Twinning Committee

Cllrs. M. Howard, M. Begley, T. O'Brien, G. Keating, P. McMahon, P.J. Ryan, M. McKee, P. Hayes. Cathaoirleach of the day.

27th February, 2015 Joint Twinning Committee meeting with Clare County Council & Newry & Mourne District Council

22nd April, 2015

13th July, 2015

25th November, 2015

The Schedule of meetings for 2016 has not been confirmed yet.

County Rural Water Monitoring Committee

Cllrs. P. Burke, M. Hillery, C. Curtin.

2015

26th June 2015

28th September 2015

16th December 2015

2016

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday 8th February 2016

Further meetings will be arranged by the Committee.

Audit Committee.

Cllrs. P. Hayes, G. Keating.

2015

27th January, 2015.
24th March, 2015.
9th June, 2015.
8th September, 2015.
27th October, 2015.
8th December, 2015.

2016

9th February, 2016.
12th April, 2016.
14th June, 2016.
20th September, 2016.
8th December, 2016.

Local Community Development Committee.

Cllrs. J. Flynn, B. Chambers, M. McKee

2015

4th February, 2015
8th April, 2015
20th April, 2015
28th July, 2015
30th September, 2015
22nd October, 2015
18th November, 2015
16th December, 2015

2016

3rd February 2016
2nd March, 2016
13th April, 2016
25th May 2016
6th July 2016
28th September 2016
3rd November 2016
14th December 2016

CEDRA

16th February, 2015.
9th March, 2015.
13th April, 2015.
27th April, 2015
13th July, 2015.

Nothing scheduled at this point for 2016.

Joint Policing Committee.

Cllrs. I. Lynch, M. Hillery, A. O’Callaghan, P. McMahon, P. Burke, J. Crowe, B. Slattery, A. Norton, M. Begley, P.J. Ryan, G. Flynn, P. Daly, M. Howard, P. Murphy.

26 January, 2015.

13 April, 2015.

13 July, 2015.

12 October, 2015.

At this point the J.P.C. Committee have not fixed dates for 2016 meetings.

Standing Orders Sub-Committee.

Cllrs. G. Flynn, B. Chambers, C. Curtin, J. Cooney, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy.

2nd March, 2015.

Item 18: Commercial rates system.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin agus glacadh leis

"That this Council calls on the government to fundamentally reform the commercial rates system and as a temporary measure to alleviate the unexpected pressure of the Global Valuation of Utility Companies establish a Commercial Rates assistance fund similar to the government's decision last year to fund Irish Water's commercial rates bill."

Item 19: Irish Fiscal Advisory Council.

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

“That this Council calls on the new Government to initiate a referendum to oblige all future governments to adhere to the budgetary advice of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council”.

Cllr. J. Flynn wished to express his dissent from the terms of this notice of motion.

Item 21: Tourism Information Offices.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. O’Brien
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council write to Shannon Heritage calling on them to outline their plans in relation to the servicing of the tourism information offices throughout the county for 2016 with specific reference to any reduction to the service that was provided in 2015.”

Item 22. Comhfhreagras.

Rural Water Programme

Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Water Services attended the meeting and reported to members that the Rural Water Monitoring Committee for which Cllr. C. Curtin is Chair of has just completed their Rural Water Programme for the county. This used to be a 1 year programme but now has been changed to 3 years.

Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Public Information leaflet regarding Schemes available for those affected by recent flooding.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

1. Circular L1/16 issued from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to Rural Water Multi-Annual Programme 2016-2018.
2. Correspondence dated 22nd December, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to the installation of burglar alarms in homes.
3. e-mail dated 16th December, 2015 from Joe Carey, T.D., in respect of flooding in Clonlara.
4. e-mail dated 16th December, 2015 from Pat Breen, T.D., in respect of flooding.
5. Correspondence dated 31st December, 2015 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection regarding the grant for Community Employment Schemes.
6. Resolution adopted by the members of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District in relation to the River Shannon.
7. Conference entitled “EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020” taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 5th – 7th February, 2016.
8. Conference entitled “Auditing and Governance in Local Government” taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 26th – 28th February, 2016.

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 “A practical guide to Budget 2016” taking place in Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 4th – 6th December, 2015.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €570.92 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllrs. P. McMahon, J. Crowe and P.J. Ryan attend this Conference.

A.I.L.G. “In Service” Training taking place in the Tower Hotel, Waterford on 13th February, 2015.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €344.05 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: _____