

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, 8th January, 2018 at 3:45 p.m.

Present:

Councillors J. Breen, J. Flynn, P. Daly, A. Norton, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, 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. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Carmel Greene, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Loretta McNamara, Staff Officer.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Service.
- Mr. Brian McCarthy, A./Director of Service.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, A./Director of Service.
- Mr. Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer.
- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, Financial Accountant.

Apologies Cllr. C. ColleranMolloy

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T. McNamara presided and wished all the Members a Happy New Year.

At the outset he congratulated Ennis on winning the Irish Business Against Litter League award for 2017. Cllr. P. Murphy, as Mayor of Ennis Municipal District, said that this was a great achievement following on from winning Ireland's Friendliest Town.

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The family of the late Nuala Murphy, New Line, Tulla. R.I.P.
- The family of the late Margaret Shannon, Moanreel, Ennistymon. R.I.P.
- The family of the late Karen Cosgrove, Golflinks Road, Ennis, R.I.P.
- The family of the late Willie Burke, Drimeen, Ennis. R.I.P.

Cllr. P. Murphy wished to congratulate Senator Gerry Buttimer on his marriage to Conchobar O'Laoghaire.

Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.

a. Ar moladh Cllr. R. Nagle
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Cooney agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the December Meeting of Clare County Council held on 11th December, 2017 be adopted and signed.”

Item 2: Matters Arising.

No matters arising.

Item 3: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.

a. Ar moladh Cllr. A. O’Callaghan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Burke agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on the 20th September, 2017 be noted.”

b. Ar moladh Cllr. A. O’Callaghan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Hayes agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Budget Meeting held on the 23rd October, 2017 be noted.”

c. Ar moladh Cllr. A. Norton
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Murphy agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 14th November, 2017 be noted.”

Item 4: Minutes of S.P.C. Meetings.

a. Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Burke agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Social Development S.P.C. meeting held on 6th September, 2017 be noted”.

Item 5: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December, 2017 as presented.

Item 6: 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.

Cllr. C. Curtin thanked the Chief Executive for his update in relation to winter 2015/16 – flooding impact and thanked the staff of Clare County Council for attending to flooding events in the Christmas period.

In relation to the Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme Cllr. J. Flynn asked that this proceeds as soon as possible.

In relation to public lighting Cllr. P. Hayes advised that recently there appears to have been a delay in repairs being carried out and his understanding is that it relates to the company that supplies the bulbs.

In relation to Capital Projects Cllr. G. Flynn asked when work on the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road is due to commence and would like updates in relation to the Shannon Embankments to appear on the Monthly Management Report. He referred to the reply from Minister of State, Kevin Moran, T.D. in relation to the role of the O.P.W. and the fact that they have provided details to Insurance Ireland on 17 completed schemes nationally. In relation to waste enforcement, Cllr. G. Flynn said that 40 tones had been removed from sites and he felt that Clare County Council needed to be more proactive. He went on to state that Tipperary County Council had been granted powers to enter private homes to find out how they were disposing of their waste. Cllr. G. Flynn asked the Chief Executive to provide a hub which would act as transient accommodation for the 54 adults and 48 children in emergency accommodation.

Cllr. P. Burke asked the Senior Engineer when would the sod be turned on the Killaloe By-Pass.

Cllr. G. Keating felt that for most villages, there was a need to upgrade public lighting. He complimented the Chief Executive, Leonard Cleary and Urban McMahon on work done on Hub and refurbishment of Kilrush Town Hall.

Cllr. J. Breen said that he had requested information in relation to planning enforcements at a previous meeting but was still awaiting response.

Cllr. C. Crowe referred to the Limerick Northern Distributor Road and the problems that will arise with a dual carriageway going onto a minor road.

In responding to the queries raised Mr. T. Tiernan, Senior Engineer advised that the flood schemes are being treated as urgent, and in relation to the Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme, the Council has answered all the questions raised by the O.P.W. Mr. T. Tiernan advised that the Feasibility Study for New Quay/Aughinish is with the O.P.W. The cost benefit analysis may pose some difficulties in securing funding for this project and he stated that he is hoping to arrange a meeting with the O.P.W. as soon as possible. Public lighting is becoming a significant issue and is being looked at nationally. The infrastructure is deteriorating, there is a bulb shortage and is

beginning to cause problems for contractors in meeting the 80% target. Mr. T. Tiernan, Senior Engineer advised that the Council was progressing the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road with initial funding having been received last year. This project is being funded on a year by year basis by Transport Infrastructure Ireland. In relation to the Killaloe By-Pass since the legal aspects have been concluded, Clare County Council has been working on land acquisition and has reached agreement on a number of blocks of land. It is hoped to receive grant allocation in order to complete land acquisition and it is hoped to commence construction in 2019. In relation to the Limerick Northern Distributor Road and the interaction of the project with local roads, this project is being led by Limerick City and County Council.

In relation to Public Lighting, the Chief Executive confirmed that this is an issue of national importance and a major project will be required to deal with this. Clare County Council has requested that they be included in the first phase of this multi-annual programme which is due to commence by the end of 2018.

Ms. A. Haugh, Director of Services replied to the issues raised in relation to waste enforcement and the pro-active programme of work in this area to deal with illegal dumping, which is a national issue. With reference to the issue raised in relation to Tipperary County Council, Ms. A. Haugh advised that she was not aware of this but possible it was part of their bye-laws. A review of our bye-laws is being carried out in 2018.

In response to Cllr. J. Breen, Mr. B. McCarthy, A/Director of Services advised that he hoped to have these figures for the next meeting.

Mr. L. Conneally, Director of Services advised that in relation to Family Hubs/Transition Centers that Clare County Council was looking at four properties and hoped to continue the programme of house purchases.

Item 7: Disposal of property pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000. Proposed disposal of property at Main Street, Kilkishen, Co. Clare.

Report dated 13th December, 2017 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of a derelict property situated at Main Street, Kilkishen subject to the conditions as set out on the report.

Ar moladh Cllr. A. O'Callaghan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Begley agus glacadh leis

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended, of the disposal of property at Main Street, Kilkishen, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 13th December, 2018.”

Item 8. Draft Speed Limit Scheme.

This matter was deferred.

Item 9. Report in accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2013 for the proposed housing development in Clonlara, Co. Clare.

Report dated 21st December, 2017 from Liam Conneally, Director of Social Development was circulated with the agenda together with report from Gareth Ruane, A/Senior Executive Planner dated 20th December, 2017. The report states that the proposed development comprises of 9 dwellings (3 X 2 bed units, 5 X 3 bed units and 1 X 4 bed unit) and includes access road, public lighting and all associated ancillary site development works. The proposed dwellings are necessary to address housing needs in the area.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Begley
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Cooney agus glacadh leis

“That pursuant to Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2010, Clare County Council proceed with the proposed construction of 9 No. dwelling houses at Knockbrack Lower, Clonlara, Co. Clare.”

Cllr. M. Begley said that this new development needed to be looked at in tandem with the existing development in terms of landscaping and connectivity. Cllr. G. Flynn asked when would there be turnkey occupancy. Mr. L. Conneally, Director of Services advised that they should be available for occupancy within 12 to 14 months.

Item 10. Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Workshop.

The meeting was informed that the national strategic planning document “Ireland 2040 Our Plan – National Planning Framework” is reaching its final stages of preparation and has been a process which Clare County Council has contributed to significantly at both regional and county level through all stages of consultation. The next step is for each of the three Regional Assemblies to commence the preparation of their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (R.S.E.S.) which will provide a long-term regional strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.

In this regard, the recent publication of the Issues Paper for the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region commences the process of its preparation and submissions in response to the issues paper are invited by Friday, 26th January, 2018. It is proposed to present the document to stimulate discussion on the issues as they relate to County Clare by way of a workshop. This workshop will take place on Thursday, 18th January 2018 in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir.

Cllr. C. Curtin asked that consideration be given to inviting the Minister and Oireachtas Members to this workshop.

Item 11. Housing needs in Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. McMahon

“I ask Clare County Council what level of funding would be required to comprehensively address the homeless issue and the housing needs in Co. Clare within a reasonable time period”.

Liam Conneally, Director of Social Development replied as follows:

“The focus of the housing team is to ensure the provision of accommodation for those in need of housing. At the time of writing there are 2,747 approved housing applicants on Clare County Councils Social Housing list this includes 54 adults (with 48 dependents) who are currently homeless, 108 transfer applicants who are already residing in Council properties, 116 applicants who have been facilitated with lease tenancies of up to 10 years and 1,195 applicants who are in receipt of a Housing Assistance Payment (H.A.P.). It also includes a significant number of applicants who have long term tenancies through the Rental Accommodation Scheme (R.A.S.). A significant proportion of these applicants are interested in housing support via H.A.P. or rent supplement only and do not wish to be considered for local authority housing. In order to be eligible for H.A.P. or rent supplement it is a requirement to be approved for social housing support.

To meet housing need Clare County Council’s Social Directorate is continuously delivering additional social housing units through various of mechanisms with units being provided through leasing (R.A.S., H.A.P. and Social Leasing), construction, refurbishment and acquisitions.

Table hereunder indicates 2017 activity with projected/estimated (*) activity up to 2021:

Delivery Mechanism	2017	2018*	2019*	2020*	2021*
Acquisitions	80	60	50	40	40
Capital	0	0	48	40	21
Additional Leased units	65	80	50	50	50
Total H.A.P. units	1195	1395	1495	1550	1600
Total R.A.S. units	386	360	330	300	300
Additional A.H.B. units	65	63	61	60	60
C.C.C./N.D.F.A. P.P.P.	-	-	56	-	-
P.P.P. (Ennistymon)	-	-	-	30	-
L.I.H.A.F. (Ennis)	-	-	-	50	150

This Council has and will continue to engage with necessary Government Departments to ensure that all funding opportunities at our disposal are available to meet the Council’s projected delivery targets.

In relation to the provision of homeless services specifically Clare County Council are well advanced in the delivery of the actions set out at the Special Council Meeting on the 18th September last.

These actions are the provision of the following:

- Homeless Action Team office to facilitate a co-ordinated multi-agency response to homelessness in Clare. Estimated cost of €600,000, Delivery by Q2 2018.
- Acquisition of **homeless transitional accommodation/ HUB** to provide accommodation and support services to transition persons from homelessness into independent living accommodation. Estimated cost €1.2 million. Delivery Q4, 2018.
- Provision of **emergency B&B accommodation** to provide supported accommodation for homeless persons. Estimated cost €900,000. Delivery Q1 2019.

Homelessness and meeting housing need are ongoing societal issues and within the resources available to it Clare County Council as the Housing Authority will continue to treat housing provision as a priority action and strive to deliver the above housing supply and homelessness accommodation.

Both housing supply and homelessness issues are complex ones and will not be solved in one ‘fell swoop’. Obviously, budgetary provision in the Government’s Rebuilding Ireland Housing Action Plan will impact on the above work programme.”

Cllr. P. McMahon thanked Mr. L. Conneally, Director of Service for his reply.

Item 12. Development Contribution charges.

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

“That planning amendment applications of single rural houses be exempt from punitive contribution charges.”

Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Economic Development replied as follows:

“In granting permission for development, there is provision under the Planning and Development Acts to require by condition a development contribution to facilitate public infrastructure and facilities benefiting development in the area of the Planning Authority that is or will be provided, by the Local Authority.

In practice, planning applications for amendments to a previous grant of permission are assessed under the policy provisions of the Development Plan and the development contribution scheme pertaining at the time of the decision. Moreover these particular grants of applications, normally result in a choice of 2 valid permissions on site and the benefit of an additional 5 year duration.

There is no provision for single houses, regardless of what amendments are proposed, to be exempt from contributions.

Clare County Council presently offers significant incentives for the early payment of development contributions for single rural houses under the existing Development Contribution Scheme 2017-2023, of which there has been broad welcome and significant uptake on.”

Cllr. P.J. Kelly outlined his reasons for putting forward this Notice of Motion, citing the increases in development contributions, and felt that there should be no development contribution for rural houses. He did acknowledge that changes could only be made when making the new Development Contribution Scheme. Cllr. J. Flynn disagreed with Cllr. P.J. Kelly in relation to zero contribution for rural houses as he said that the development contributions were required to provide matching funding for infrastructural works.

Mr. B. McCarthy, A/Director of Services advised that Clare County Council can only operate within the Development Contribution Scheme in place at the time. When drawing up the Development Contribution Scheme cognizance of the various capital projects that the Development Contributions will be funding is taken into account. The Chief Executive stated that the Development Contribution Scheme will not represent the demise of rural Clare.

The Cathaoirleach said that the issues raised need to be taken into account when drawing up the new Development Contribution Scheme. Cllr. Kelly accepted that the Development Contribution Scheme cannot be changed immediately but said that the new scheme must address this issue and provide incentives to those building in rural areas.

Item 13. Social housing waiting list.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. J. Flynn, J. Breen, G. Flynn agus P.J. Kelly agus glacadh leis

“Arising from the breakdown of the 2644 applicants on the social housing waiting list as of the 1st September, 2017 by year of application, category of applicants and area of preference (Clare County Council meeting September, 2017), that the names and addresses of said applicants be provided to the elected members of the Council i.e. housing authority.”

Liam Conneally, Director of Social Development replied as follows:

“As data controllers Clare County Council under the Data Protection Legislation is not in a position to release the names and addresses of persons on Clare County Council’s social housing list. This is in accordance with the Guidance Note for Data Controllers on the Release of Personal Data to Public Representatives which is available on the Data Commissioners website www.dataprotection.ie”

The following addendum was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen, seconded by Cllrs. C. Curtin, G. Flynn, J. Flynn, P.J. Kelly and agreed:

“That the Data Commissioner be invited to address a meeting of this Council.”

A number of Councillors expressed the view that they cannot do their job properly without this type of information and they asked that this matter be brought to the attention of Oireachtas Members. Cllr. P. Daly advised that the Association of Local Government has written to a number of Ministers regarding this matter. The Councillors asked that the Data Commissioner be invited to attend Council meeting and to advise Minister of their decision.

The Chief Executive advised that we are duty bound to work within the Data Protection Legislation and that this legislation is being strengthened in May 2018, however, it should not preclude dialogue between elected members and staff.

It was agreed to send a written invitation to the Data Commissioner to attend a Council meeting.

Item 14. Social housing.

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Ryan

“That this Council provide information regarding how many acres/hectares of land is available for social housing in Co. Clare and what is the current build plan for 2018.”

Liam Conneally, Director of Social Development replied as follows:

Please refer to the tables hereunder which show the current social housing capital construction projects in hand and the lands in Council ownership under review for future social housing development. In addition, the Council will shortly be inviting expressions of interest via an E-Tenders competition seeking land banks/turnkey developments in areas of high housing demand with a view to procuring same.

Current Approved Capital Projects							
Location	Area of Land Approved for Capital Funding	Total land bank on the site	Zoned	No. of Units	Lead	Status	Expected Start Date On Site
Clonlara	0.31HA	0.93 HA	Residential	9	CC C	Part VIII for this scheme before Council at January meeting	2018
Feakle	1.27 HA	2.77 HA	LDR, Buffer and Recreation	13	CC C	The scheme was lodged for planning on the 1 st December 2017. Strategic plan in place for remaining lands.	2018
Quilty	Circa	1.73	LDR,	18	CC	Stage 2 approval	2018

	1.2HA	HA	Residential and Green area		C	issued on the 15 th September and the project is proceeding to Planning preparation. The Part VIII is expected to be before Council by March 2018	
Roslevan	0.48 HA	0.48 HA	LDR	8	CC C	Design team are working on the Stage 2 submission for the Department and design development before proceeding to planning in 2018.	2018
Ashline	1.6 HA	1.6 HA	Residential and LDR	40	CCC	Stage 1 approval has been issued by DHPLG. Design team tender is ongoing to appoint a design team in early 2018.	2019
Shannon West	1.2 HA	1.43 HA	Residential	21	CC C & OP W	Project currently on hold awaiting outcome of the Shannon Flood Risk Assessment Study.	2019
Shannon East	Not Finalised Circa 3HA	50.14 HA	Residential and LDR	56	ND FA	NDFFA PPP housing development to proceed on part of the landbank. Remaining lands awaiting outcome of the Shannon Flood Risk Assessment Study.	2019
Total	9.06 HA 22.38 Acres			165			

Existing Housing Landbanks under review for social housing in the medium term.

(Ref Strategic Development and Management Plan for Local Authority Land - September 2017)

Location	Total Land Bank	Current Zoning	Notes
Miltown Malbay 1	1.49 HA	Zoned Residential/ Open Space	Subject to feasibility/demand review.
Kilmihil 1	0.17 HA	Existing	Subject to feasibility/demand review.
Watery Road	0.12 HA	LDR	Subject to feasibility/demand review.
Carrigaholt	2.04 HA	LDR	Low Demand
Kilrush	1.3 HA	LDR	Restricted access to this site.
Ennistymon	5.5 HA	Residential	Reviewing options for housing on circa 2 Hectares. Subject to suitability/demand review.
Total estimate	10.62 HA 26.24 Acres		

Cllr. P.J. Ryan was disappointed with the amount of land available and felt that the Council needed to purchase land in order to provide houses ourselves. He wished to know when Clare County Council was going to start with new house construction. The only place he could see it happening was in Shannon and this was being held up due to flood risk.

Mr. L. Conneally, Director of Services agreed with Cllr. P.J. Ryan in relation to the need for land acquisition for housing and advised that we had advertised looking for land in recent times and it is planned to advertise again in 2018.

Item 15. Inspections of old bridge and culvert structures.

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

“That Clare County Council allocate resources for more expansive inspecting of old bridge and culvert structures in each municipal area.”

Tom Tiernan, A/Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“As has been the case over the past 10 years through the downturn in the economy, very little funding has been made available in a range of areas to facilitate what should be routine maintenance and management of assets. This was highlighted in response to a similarly motivated notice of motion at the December meeting in relation to a need for more vigilant management and maintenance of rivers and streams around the county. Likewise, the level of funding required to support basic day to day maintenance of the road network has fallen significantly short over the past no. of years.

While the Department of Transport has facilitated the inspection and reporting on the condition of all bridges on Regional routes over the past 3 – 4 years and has

provided significant funding on foot of same to facilitate identified remediation requirements, no such programme has been proposed to date in relation to the hundreds of bridges on the Local Road network and it isn't clear whether such a strategy will be forthcoming in the foreseeable future. Short-span culverts would not normally be incorporated in any Department of Transport strategy and would be a matter for the local authority to deal with.

Undoubtedly, there is a significant body of work to be done in terms of inspection of a vast array of bridges and culverts across the county which haven't been the subject of the kind of detailed assessment that is required for many years and such inspections would undoubtedly prompt the need for a significant remediation programme – similar to that which has facilitated in the region of €3m on remediation of Regional Road Bridges over the past 3 years or so. While we will be raising the issue in relation to local roads with the Department, there will undoubtedly be a need for the local authority to allocate some of its own resources in this area going forward.

I fully concur with the motivation behind this motion and would reiterate my view that there is a very significant need to direct vastly increased funding towards the management and maintenance of the vast array of assets for which the Council has responsibility across the public road network – particularly given that it hasn't been possible to do so over the past 10 years or so.”

Cllr. C. Crowe outlined the reasons for bringing forward this Notice of Motion and the need for proper resources to carry out the necessary work. Cllr. J. Flynn advised that Kerry County Council is the lead agent for bridge rehabilitation and perhaps contact should be made with them. Cllr. P. Hayes asked if the Department's allocation had included funding for bridges.

Mr. T. Tiernan, A/Director of Services advised that of the allocation received €3m allocated to Regional Roads related to bridges. The Regional Roads bridges have been accessed but the Local Road bridges have not. Mr. T. Tiernan, A/ Director of Services confirmed that the bridges have deteriorated due to lack of funding.

Item 16. I.P.B. funding for Roads and Streetscape Improvement Works.

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

“Arising from the Stated Objective of the Planning Development Contribution Scheme and the I.P.B. Special Subvention to facilitate Streetscape Improvement Works e.g. Roads, Footpaths etc in the four Municipal Districts that the Director of Services and the Senior Engineer set up an appropriate consultation with the elected Councillors to formulate a programme of such works for implementation in 2018”.

Tom Tiernan, A/Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“The contribution to be made by members to the development of programmes to be funded from the above sources is fully acknowledged. In this regard it is intended that consultation will take place in a format to be agreed with the members once

funding becomes available. “

Item 17. Assessment of Local and minor roads assessment.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Cooney

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. J. Crowe agus P. Burke agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council carry out a complete assessment of all Local and Minor Roads throughout the County. Upon completion of assessment, Clare County Council should provide report identifying works which are required at each location to bring roads to an acceptable standard. Clare County Council shall then apply to Central Government for funding to carry out these works.”

Anne Haugh, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“The condition of all roads in the County is already known and established to a very significant degree through the PSCI system. More than 90% of the road network has been surveyed such that each 100m section is allocated a condition rating based on a scale of 1 to 10 where a rating of 1 indicates a requirement for total reconstruction and 10 indicates a condition requiring no remediation attention and nothing more than normal day to day maintenance for the foreseeable future.

The PSCI system has been evolving over the past 3 to 4 years and has been used over that period to determine the content of Roadworks Programmes. Over the past 18 months or so I have responded to 2 separate Notices of Motion (from Cllr Hillery) which requested an estimate of how much it would cost to bring all roads in the county up to the required standards - most recently, I indicated, within the past 3 months or so, that such a cost could be up to €150,000,000. This estimate was generated through interrogation of the information we have through the PSCI system.

In doing so, a figure wasn't allocated in respect of each individual road in the County but rather on the percentages of each condition rating across the county as was determined through the survey.

To carry out an assessment of each individual road, complete with estimate of works cost in each case, would be a very significant body of work and would, most likely, not result in any meaningful outcome in terms of increased funding from the DTTaS. The fact is that all Local Authorities are now using the PSCI system and the information emerging, as one would expect, is that overall road conditions vary very little from one county to the next and, therefore, there is a very significant challenge ahead to get roads restored to the condition which pertained prior to the economic downturn, right across the country. This is being handled as a National objective by the DTTaS from which gradually increasing funding is to emerge over the coming number of years - to be for the benefit of all counties.

Given the foregoing, I would suggest that a more appropriate approach would be to make the case to increase roads allocations in a National context (to a much greater degree than is currently planned) because of the false economy which has pertained for the past number of years through implementation of massive reductions in funding leading to depreciation levels which far outweigh any savings generated as a result of the spending cuts.”

The Cathaoirleach advised that Cllr. P. Burke's name should have been listed against this Notice of Motion.

Cllr. J. Cooney thanked his fellow Councillors for supporting this Notice of Motion. A number of elected members stated that additional funding needed to be sought from Central Government to carry out the necessary remedial works.

Cllr. J. Flynn asked that this matter be included in the Council's submission on the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

In response, T. Tiernan, Senior Engineer advised that just before the Christmas break the Council received its annual allocation and the only significant figure related to secondary road maintenance.

Upon the request of Cllr. J. Breen Item No. 22 was brought forward.

Item 22. Role of An Taisce.

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

“That executive members of An Taisce be invited to address the February meeting of the Council to set out the role of An Taisce and how the executive are appointed.”

Item 18. Training for elected members.

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

“That consideration be given by the Chief Executive to put in place courses for elected members at Headquarters to cover various policy changes over the years concerning Planning, Environment, Housing, Building Regulations, Legal, I.T. Technology, Data Protection and many more changes that have come about over the years that have changed the way Local Authorities do business. This request is in line with the Local Government Reform Act 2014 that was designed to stream line the delivery of public services at local Authority level in a more cost efficient manner.”

Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services replied as follows:

“A programme of information briefings will be drafted for consideration by the Corporate Policy Group with a view to holding a number of such briefings in Quarter 1 of 2018.

It is intended that the courses will focus on recent legislation and regulations, policy changes and new programmes in each of the service areas, including those listed in the motion.

It would be an opportune time to also brief the members on Freedom of Information (F.O.I.) legislation and the implications of the General Data Protection Regulation (G.D.P.R.) which will come in to force in May 2018.”

Item 19. Money owed to local authority.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Hillery

"That the management of Clare County Council would provide the amount of money owed to the Local Authority for services provided and how they propose to collect same?"

Niall Barrett, Head of Finance replied as follows:

“Set out in the table hereunder are the amount of outstanding charges for the most recently issued quarterly council accounts at 30th September 2017.

Income Source	Sept 2017 €'000
Commercial Rates	17,466
Development Contributions	6,837
Housing Loans & Rents	1,806
Fire Charges	496
LEO Refundable Aid	393
Other Charges	1,130

Commercial Rates

The Council continues to address amounts outstanding in respect of Commercial Rates. In the two year period 2015 and 2016, there has been reductions in the amount of rates outstanding at the end of each of these financial years (December 31st), with a cumulative 19% reduction (€2.6m) over that period. In 2017 collections have continued to show a positive trend throughout the year.

The amounts due are being actively pursued through engagement with customers in agreeing payment plans, or through legal action, where necessary.

Development Contributions

The balance in relation to Development Contributions is €6.8 million. This sum does not take account of any bad debts provision made or development contributions deferred based on extension of time developments or based on agreed payment plans

with customers. The council continues to pursue the collection of all outstanding contributions via invoicing once a commencement notice has been submitted and through the enforcement process or legal action where payment is not made by developers per the condition of permission.

Fire Charges

The book value amount outstanding in relation to Fire Charges at September 2017 is €496k. The council continues to actively pursue the outstanding charges through ongoing engagement with customers, facilitating payment through a range of payment options. Where there is no positive engagement, legal proceedings are to be initiated.

Housing Loans and Rents

The Council continues to make every effort in dealing with Housing arrears cases, including regular meetings with customers, facilitating payment through a range of payment options, making agreements for the payment of arrears and the close monitoring of all accounts where difficulties with payments have arisen. The Housing Directorate are in communication with a number of loan customers where loans have become unsustainable and other options are being progressed with a view to reducing arrears such as the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process, Voluntary Surrender/Mortgage to Rent.

The Council has dedicated resources in the various departments assigned to the ongoing engagement with customers to facilitate payment arrangements. Where there is no positive engagement, legal proceedings are initiated.”

Cllr. M. Hillery thanked Mr. N. Barrett, Head of Finance for his reply.

Item 20. Delegation of Soroptimists.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Breen agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council receive a delegation of Soroptimists from County Clare to present on "Living in Limbo" as pertains to those living in direct provision in County Clare and Ireland at the February Statutory Meeting.”

In the absence of Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, this motion was moved by Cllr. C. Crowe.

Item 21. Community and Local Authority CCTV Schemes.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard
Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“This Council writes to our Oireachtas members, and requests them to bring about the legislative change required to put the use of Community and Local Authority CCTV schemes on a solid legal footing.”

Cllr. M. Howard referred to the benefits that were gained in Durrow after the installation of CCTV. She said that legal clarification was required in relation to this matter for community groups seeking funding for such installations. The view was expressed that there was no point in using CCTV if the information gained could not be used as evidence.

Item 23. Comhfhreagras. Correspondence.

Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

1. Correspondence dated 21st December, 2017 from Clare Crusaders Clinic acknowledging receipt of donation of €400 from Clare County Council.
2. Correspondence dated 18th December, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding fodder crisis.
3. e-mail from Macra na Feirme in relation to fodder crisis.
4. Correspondence dated 11th December, 2017 from the O.P.W. in relation to national flood insurance scheme.
5. Correspondence dated 15th December, 2017 from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment regarding waste water facilities.
6. Correspondence dated 15th December, 2017 from the O.P.W. in relation to draining and dredging of the main rivers and tributaries in Co. Clare.
7. Correspondence dated 21st December, 2017 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to tree felling.
8. Correspondence dated 18th December, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding dog micro chipping.
9. Correspondence dated 14th December, 2017 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to dog micro chipping.
10. Correspondence dated 14th December, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding micro chipping of dogs.
11. Correspondence dated 18th December, 2017 from the Department of Rural and Community Development in relation to the control of dogs act.

12. Correspondence dated 22nd December, 2017 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to funding allocations.
13. Correspondence dated 21st December, 2017 from the Department of Rural and Community Development in relation to funding allocations 2018.
14. Correspondence dated 21st December, 2017 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding Shannon and Dublin airports.
15. Resolution passed by Galway City Council regarding the disposal of paint under the producer responsibility initiative.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____