

Minutes of Special Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Friday, 7th September, 2018 at 3:00 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. McMahon, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Mr. Liam Conneally, Deputy Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. M. Begley presided and welcomed all members and candidates seeking nominations to run in the upcoming Presidential Election. In line with Standing Orders the Cathaoirleach advised of a request from Clare FM to audio record the presentations and requests from The Clare Champion, The Clare People and others to take some photographs. The Cathaoirleach proposed to allow both requests subject to the agreement of the members. On the proposal of Cllr. C. Curtin and seconded by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan it was agreed.

The Cathaoirleach invited each candidate to make a ten minute presentation followed by ten minutes questions and answers as follows:

1. Peter Casey,
2. Gemma O Doherty,
3. Sarah Louise Mulligan,
4. Senator Joan Freeman,
5. Kevin Sharkey,
6. Sean Gallagher.

The Cathaoirleach thanked all candidates for their presentations and advised the members of the process for nomination, details of which was circulated to all members, and confirmed that any proposed nominations would be considered at the September Council meeting.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 10th September, 2018 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, M. Begley, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Margaret O'Rourke, Assistant Staff Officer.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Service.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Service.
- Ms. Carmel Kirby, Director of Service.
- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance.
- Mr. Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer.

Apologies: Cllr. M. McKee

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Begley presided.

Welcome

At the outset Cllr. M. Begley welcomed the recently appointed Rural and Community Development Officers to the meeting.

Vote of sympathy.

Cllr. P.J. Kelly proposed a vote of sympathy to the Nunan family on the recent death of former County Manager, Michael Nunan. Cllr. Kelly stated that Michael Nunan was appointed County Manager in 1984, succeeding Joe Boland. He retired in 1994. Cllr. Kelly proposed that the meeting be adjourned as a mark of respect. This was seconded by Cllr. G. Flynn.

Tributes were paid to the late Mr. Nunan describing him as a man of vision, pragmatic, competent and well liked. The members extended their sympathy on behalf of the Council to Mr. Nunan's wife, Delma and their daughters Sinead, Anna and Shelly.

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive on behalf of all previous and current staff expressed condolences to Mr. Nunan's wife and three daughters. He referred to Mr. Nunan's huge contribution to local government service in Clare, Cork, Carlow and Roscommon.

Sympathy was also extended to the following:

- relatives of former Councillor Tim McMahon, Coolmeen who passed away over the weekend.
- family of JJ Coyne, Ennis, former Engineer with Clare County Council.
- Lavin family Ennis on the death of Josephine Lavin.
- Moroney Family Kilmihil on the death of Mary Moroney.

Prayers were recited for the deceased.

Item 15: Attendance of delegation from Clare Leader Forum at 3:00 p.m.

Cllr. M. Begley introduced Dermot Hayes, Martin Tobin and Anne Marie Flanagan from Clare Leader Forum to the meeting. Dermot Hayes thanked Cllrs. A. Norton, M. McKee and P. Murphy for proposing that the delegation from Clare Leader Forum attend the meeting to brief the elected members. He stated that as representatives of Clare Leader Forum they have a duty to represent the sizeable population of 14,000 Clare people who regard themselves as having a disability.

Martin Tobin raised the issue of accessibility in Clare, the need for a pedestrian crossing installed on the Gort Road for people accessing the Dulick Centre. He acknowledged the Councils role in supporting the Clare Leader Forum to progress the educational needs of disabled people in Clare. He also referred to the need for additional social housing to enable independent living for people with disabilities. He stated that his concluding wish is for Ennis to aim to become the “most accessible town in Europe”.

Anne Marie Flanagan addressed the meeting. She spoke about the reduction in PA hours for disabled people in Clare in July 2011, the removal of disabled people’s mobility grant, legislation governing the treatment of disabled people.

On behalf of the Clare Leader Forum, Anne Marie summarised what they are respectively asking the elected members to consider in their capacity as local representatives:

- Establish an open process as a matter of urgency to review all aspects of Local Authority duties and responsibilities assessing the level of disability equality proofing with a SMART plan to implement findings with disabled people at the heart of it.
- Create a new dedicated post within the Local Authority, including in the criteria, lived experience, to ensure the needs of disabled people are met, in a respectful, accessible and timely manner, in consultation with the Clare Leader Forum.
- To work with the Clare Leader Forum and others to be a leading Local Authority providing an extensive range of accessible and inclusive public services here in Clare.

As our County Councillors promote the interests of constituents with disabilities regarding our social, economic, environmental, recreational, and cultural opportunities by supporting and protecting the rights of all disabled people.

The elected members thanked the Dermot, Martin and Anne Marie for attending the meeting and for their detailed presentation.

Adjourned meeting.

It was agreed that the adjourned meeting will take place on Monday, 17th September, 2018 at 3:45 p.m.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Minutes of the adjourned September Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 17th September, 2018 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. McMahan, 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. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Margaret O'Rourke, Assistant Staff Officer.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Service.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Service.
- Ms. Carmel Kirby, Director of Service.
- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance.
- Mr. Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer.
- Mr. John Corry, Administrative Officer, Transportation.
- Mr. Pat Lynch, Executive Engineer, Transportation.
- Ms. Siobhan McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Department.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Begley presided.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach advised of a request from RTE to record part of the meeting covering the Presidential nomination process. The Cathaoirleach proposed to allow this request subject to the agreement of the members. This was agreed having been proposed by Cllr. C. Crowe and seconded by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan.

- It was proposed by Cllr. P. McMahan, seconded by Cllr. T. O'Brien and agreed that Cllrs. M. Begley, P. Murphy and P.J. Ryan accept the invitation to attend Langenfeld 70th birthday celebrations in October 2018.
- It was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. R. Nagle and agreed that the Cathaoirleach would accept the invitation to him to attend the Clare Association Annual Dinner Dance in New York on 19th October, 2018.
- It was proposed by Cllr. P. Burke, seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney and agreed that Cllr. T. O'Brien attend the Killaloe Ballina twinning event with Basse Goulaine, France in November.

Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.

a. Ar moladh Cllr. R. Nagle
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Slattery agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the July Meeting of Clare County Council held on 9th July, 2018 be adopted and signed.”

Item 2: Matters Arising.

Cllr. J. Breen referred to paragraph 5 of correspondence received from the Health Service Executive dated 13th July, 2018 in response to his recent notice of motion concerning a Greenfield site for St. Joseph’s Hospital, Ennis. Cllr. Breen confirmed that he was merely seeking clarification in relation to the future of St. Joseph’s Hospital, Ennis, and there was no intent to put forward any particular view.

Item 3: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.

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

“That the Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting held on the 1st May, 2018 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on the 8th May, 2018 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District A.G.M. held on the 19th June, 2018 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on the 23rd May, 2018 be noted.”

e. Ar moladh Cllr. T. O'Brien
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Cooney agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District A.G.M. held on the 22nd June, 2018 be noted.”

Item 4: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July, 2018 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.

Cllr. C. Curtin thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report. Cllr. Curtin asked for an update on the capital housing project in Quilty. He praised the work of the Heritage Officer on a very successful National Heritage Week and requested that the Council appoint a Bio-diversity Officer. He also referred to the recent water outages in Doonbeg and asked for a progress report on Rockmount W.T.P.

Cllr. P. Hayes asked for information on the housing development proposed for Feakle. He referred to the delays being incurred in the Rebuilding Ireland Programme.

Cllr. G. Flynn acknowledged the work done by Management and Sean Lenihan in getting final report on Shannon embankment and welcomed the news that the protection of the town and airport embankments should proceed as one project.

Cllr. M. Hillery requested an update on the Rockmount W.T.P. and the Miltown Malbay flood alleviation programme.

Cllr. B. Slattery sought an update on further proposed works in Lahinch promenade.

Cllr. G. Keating referred to coastal and flood/storm damaged works.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive referred to the Rebuilding Ireland Programme and stated that Clare County Council is working diligently to comply with targets set and exceed targets. It is a very ambitious programme, and the Council executive is engaging with senior officials in the Department in relation to the build and acquisition of houses across all areas of social housing. He stated that the housing process can take time and that efforts are being made to speed up the process.

In relation to Shannon embankment, P. Dowling stated that the final report has been published after many meetings with the Department of Transport, Clare County Council and the OPW to try and advance this project.

C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development addressed the meeting and referred to a considerable number of water outages in Doonbeg. She stated that Irish Water is aware of the necessity to replace the water main and have appointed a contractor to replace the water main.

C. Feeney, Senior Engineer stated that Irish Water have approved funding for the purchase of land and construction of a pumping station north of Miltown Malbay and the construction of a new reservoir on the site of the decommissioned W.T.P. in Rockmount and that plans will be lodged with the local authority in the next month.

He also stated that works on the Bealaha mains replacement should be completed in early 2019 before the Mullagh to Miltown Malbay contract starts.

S. Lenihan, Senior Engineer referred to ongoing liaison with the O.P.W. in relation to feasibility studies and work on Shannon embankment, Miltown Malbay and Lahinch. He stated that he is meeting O.P.W. officials on Friday and will update the members on the outcome of this meeting in the next Management Report.

Cllr. C. Crowe referred to the construction of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road.

Cllr. R. Nagle sought an update on the mains replacement between the Rock Shop and St. Brigids Well in Liscannor.

C. Feeney, Senior Engineer in response stated that Irish Water is looking at burst history at this location and that the Council is urging Irish Water to get the water main replaced in the next six months.

Cllr. J. Cooney referred to water restrictions in Tulla. C. Feeney stated that these restrictions have been eased and that the Council are monitoring the maintenance of supply in the region.

A. Haugh, Director of Social Development referred to queries raised in relation to housing schemes. She confirmed that the Quilty scheme comprising 18 units is going to tender and construction is due to start in January 2019 with expected completion date August 2020. She stated that stage 4 approval has recently been received for 13 units in Feakle with construction due to commence in October 2018 and completed in April 2020. 9 units due to commence in Clonlara in October 2018 and completed in October 2019. There are 8 units planned for Roslevan. She stated that there is a 59 week process from project inception to getting on site. Clare County Council has met all its targets in relation to submissions of the various stages to the Department and that Council officials will be meeting with senior officials in the Department to ensure that all our projects run smoothly through the various stage processes.

Item 6: Presidential Elections Act 1993 – To consider a resolution for the nomination of a candidate for the Presidential Election to the office of President in accordance with the Presidential Elections Act 1993.

Ar moladh Cllr. A. Norton

Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That this Council, in accordance with Section 16(1) of the Presidential Elections Act 1993, resolves to nominate **Peter Casey** to be a candidate at the forthcoming Presidential Election.”

A vote was taken on this proposal which resulted as follows:

In favour: Cllrs. A. Norton, C. Colleran Molloy, G. Flynn, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, I. Lynch, P.J. Kelly. (7)

Against: (0)

Abstentions: Cllrs. J. Flynn, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, M. Begley, P. Burke, A. O’Callaghan, J. Crowe, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahan, M. McKee, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, B. Chambers, G. Keating (18).

The Cathaoirleach then declared Peter Casey formally nominated by Clare County Council.

Item 7: 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 development at Cahercalla, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Report dated 3rd September, 2018 from Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development was circulated with the agenda together with report from Garreth Ruane, A/Senior Executive Planner. The report outlines details of proposed housing development at Cahercalla Ennis, Co. Clare. The proposed development will consist of 15 No. dwelling houses with access road, public lighting and associated ancillary site development works at Cahercalla, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. T. McNamara 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 on behalf of Cuan an Chláir Housing Association Ltd. proceed with the proposed development which consists of 15 No. dwelling houses with access road, public lighting and associated ancillary site development works at Cahercalla, Ennis, Co. Clare.”

Item 8: Public Participation Network nomination to Local Community Development Committee.

Report dated 4th September, 2018 from Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural Community & Tourism Department was circulated with the agenda. The report states that at a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group on 31st August, 2018, the members agreed that Ms. Ann Marie Flanagan be approved to represent the Social Inclusion College on the L.C.D.C. as a replacement for Mr. Dermot Hayes who recently stepped down. She has been selected by the P.P.N. to represent the Social Inclusion College.

The formal approval of this nominee is sought from the elected members of Clare County Council.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Slattery agus glacadh leis

“That Ann Marie Flanagan be approved to represent the Social Inclusion College on the L.C.D.C.”

Item 9: Interim Financial Report to 30th June, 2018.

Financial Report for half year to 30th June, 2018 was circulated with the agenda. The report set out a financial review of the Council’s income and expenditure account for

the first six months of 2018, together with an overview of the activity on capital projects in the same period. The members noted the report as presented.

Item 10: Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor).

Report on Local Property Tax (Local Adjustment Factor) was circulated with the agenda. The report has been prepared in accordance with Local Property Tax regulations, Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 as amended by Section 5 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2013. A local authority may as a reserved function resolve to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax in respect of relevant residential properties within its functional area by a maximum +/- 15%.

The elected members will as a reserved function be required to adopt the 2019 statutory budget in November 2018. In advance of preparing this budget, the members are required to make a decision in relation to Local Property Tax income by 30th September in order that it can have effect from 1st November (liability date for Revenue). This report gives a broad outline of the emerging demands on services and expenditure budgets that are known at this point.

The report provides information required by regulations to the council relevant to the decision making process. Elected members must take account of the financial position and have regard to a number of factors:

1. The Local Authorities estimation of the income it will receive and the expenditure it will incur in the period for which the varied rate is to have effect,
2. The financial position of the local authority,
3. The financial effect of the varied rate and
4. Feedback from the public consultation

Cllr. T. McNamara proposed that no change be made to the Local Property Tax for 2019. This was seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllrs. I. Lynch and M. McKee.

“That Local Property Tax be reduced by 15%.”

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that the Local Property Tax 2019 must be considered before balancing the budget for 2019. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A./Head of Finance clarified that the decision being made today is in relation to Local Property Tax for 2019. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. M. Begley called for a vote that the basic rate of local property tax should not be varied for the period 1st November, 2018 to 31st October, 2019, which resulted as follows:

In favour: Cllrs. T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, M. Begley, T. O’Brien, P. Burke, A. O’Callaghan, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahan, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating. (21)

Against: Cllrs. J. Flynn, C. Crowe, M. McKee, I. Lynch. (4)

Abstentions: Cllr. A. Norton. (1)

The Cathaoirleach declared the vote carried.

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

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 20 of the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended), that the basic rate of local property tax should not be varied for the period 1 November, 2018 to 31 October, 2019, in respect of relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Clare County Council.”

Extend duration of meeting.

Cllr. M. Begley proposed to extend the duration of the meeting by the maximum time to include the extension of time to deal with statutory items, before proceeding to notice of motions. This was seconded by Cllr. C. Curtin and agreed by the members present.

Item 11: Report on Rural Regeneration Development Funds.

Report dated 3rd September, 2018 from Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development was circulated with the agenda. The report states that as part of Project Ireland 2040, the Government has committed to providing an additional €1 billion for a new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (“the Fund”) over the period 2019 to 2027. The Fund will provide investment to support rural renewal for suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas. It will be administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The new fund provides an unprecedented opportunity to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland, to make a significant and sustainable impact on rural communities, and to address de-population in small rural towns, villages and rural areas. It will be a key instrument to support the objectives of the National Planning Framework, and in particular to achieve Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities – one of the National Strategic Outcomes of the N.P.F. Initial funding of €315 million is being allocated to the Fund on a phased basis over the period 2019 to 2022.

The first call for proposals under the Fund was launched in July 2018 and submissions are invited under two categories:

Category 1: “Ready-to-Go” proposals, or initial phases of projects which can be commenced in 2019, which have the necessary consents (e.g. planning) in place, are at an advanced stage of design, are in a position to satisfy value-for-money requirements in accordance with the Public Spending Code, and are procurement-ready.

Category 2: Proposals that have clear potential and quantifiable objectives but require further development to enable them to be potentially submitted as Category 1 proposals in subsequent funding calls.

The closing date is 27th September, 2018 with further grant application opportunities in 2019 and coming years. The application process is very complex and some

projects may be more suited to submission in 2019 when they have reached a stage of readiness.

A list of submissions under Category 1 and Category 2 was provided in the report.

Cllr. G. Keating expressed concern that no application has been made for the Irish College in Carrigaholt. This was supported by Cllrs. P.J. Kelly and C. Curtin.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that this project is not ready for category 1 at the moment and that it can be included going forward.

Item 11.(a) Report on Urban Regeneration and Development Fund 2018.

Report dated 11th September, 2018 from Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development was circulated with the agenda. The report states that as part of Project Ireland 2040, the Government announced the establishment of a new Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (U.R.D.F.), primarily to support the compact growth and sustainable development of Ireland's five cities and other large urban centres. For County Clare, this includes the Limerick / Shannon Metropolitan Area, and the towns of Ennis and Shannon.

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) has responsibility for implementing the U.R.D.F., which has an allocation of €2 billion in the National Development Plan (N.D.P.) to 2027.

In line with the objectives of the National Planning Framework (N.P.F.), the Fund is designed to leverage a greater proportion of residential and commercial development, supported by infrastructure, services and amenities, within the existing built 'footprint' of our larger settlements.

The first call for proposals under the Fund was launched in July 2018 and submissions are invited to be submitted under two categories, either 'ready-to-go', Category A proposals or as Category B proposals that require further development.

Category A - relates to proposals that are in a position to draw down funding and that can be initiated in 2019. Proposals in this category are likely to have the necessary consents (e.g. planning) in place, be at an advanced stage of design, be in a position to satisfy value for money requirements in accordance with the Public Spending Code (P.S.C.) and be procurement-ready. Funding will be subject to all such requirements.

Category B - relates to proposals that will require further development prior to being initiated and which may be approved in principle, thereby enabling proposal development to progress in 2019. Proposals in this category will be eligible for some technical assistance for project development, which it is expected will be a significant element of the Fund in 2019 in order to ensure that a 'pipeline' of eligible projects can be built, for submission as Category A proposals in subsequent funding calls.

The closing date for the first call on the fund is 27th September, 2018. The Council is working with other parties, such as Shannon Commercial Properties and the Shannon Venue Ltd. to assist in and support their applications. There will be further grant application opportunities in 2019 (second call on the U.R.D.F.) and coming years. The application process is complex and some projects may be more suited to

submission in 2019 when the information required for complete application is to hand.

A list of submissions under Category 1 and Category 2 was provided in the report.

The report as presented was noted by the members.

Item 12: New governance structure and board of Cliffs of Moher Centre Ltd.

Report dated 3rd September, 2018 from Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development was circulated with the agenda. The report states that as part of Clare County Council's commitment to rural tourism, the Rural Development Directorate is currently exploring a new strategic direction for the Cliffs of Moher visitor experience. This tourism product currently attracts 1.5m visitors. The Council is considering new approaches to developing a more sustainable visitor management strategy and commercial operation to benefit local rural communities in Clare. Clare County Council owns the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre and manages the operation through a special purpose vehicle company.

It is proposed to draw together a small group of persons to renew the Board of this company. These persons will have a diverse knowledge of the tourism industry/product development, marketing, commercial development, finance, local government, local community and governance. The Council needs to involve persons of senior leadership calibre to the board. Some discussions have commenced with persons in the following sectors:

- Tourism and commercial entrepreneur
- Public Service/Local Government
- Failte Ireland
- Financial Expertise

The report states that it is proposed that 2 Elected Members will sit on the board as directors of the Cliffs of Moher Centre Ltd to be appointed for the period from September 2018 to the end of the current Council term. The nominated directors will be reviewed and appointed by the incoming Council in June 2019 at the next A.G.M.

The Board will be chaired by an independent external nominee in line with best practice. The Rural Development Directorate will provide the executive management support to the Board and staff.

Cllr. T. O'Brien proposed that Cllr. R. Nagle and Cllr. B. Slattery be appointed to the Board of Cliffs of Moher Ltd. This was seconded by Cllrs. P. Burke and J. Flynn.

Cllr. G. Flynn stated that this was discussed at C.P.G. and agreed that nominations would not proceed at this meeting. He proposed that the party groups meet and submit nominations at the October meeting. He advised the meeting that he would like to propose the Chairperson of the West Clare Municipal District, Cllr. I. Lynch be appointed to the Board of the Cliffs of Moher Ltd. Cllr. C. Curtin stated that he wished to support the nominees and asked that Cllr. I. Lynch be nominated also.

Cllr. I. Lynch advised the meeting that the West Clare Municipal District meeting is taking place on Friday, 21st September and this item can be discussed at that meeting. He also requested that Directors are trained to sit on the Board of the Cliffs of Moher Ltd.

Cllr. T. O'Brien then withdrew his nomination and it was agreed that this item will be on the agenda at the October Council meeting.

Item 13: Winter Maintenance Strategy Review.

The Clare County Council Winter Maintenance Strategy Review dated September 2018 was circulated with the agenda and was introduced by John Leahy, Senior Engineer. He stated that the need for the review arises from the fact that it has been 3 years since the last review which took place after the 2014/15 Winter season. In carrying out this review account has been taken of the following:

- “Winter Service Manual” – issued by the N.R.A. in October, 2010.
- Submissions made by Councillors –in Summer 2018
- Additional facilities/resources being provided by the Council – new Salt Saturator – Brine Unit & installation of weighbridge to control vehicle weights prior to exiting onto public roads.
- Funding resources.
- Experience gained in responding to recent severe snow/ice weather events.

This review endeavours to examine in as much detail as is feasible all of the various issues arising through the above documents, submissions, experience etc. with a view to provision of an amended strategy which will be as effective and as fair as possible for users of the main road network throughout Co. Clare and for the people of Clare as a whole.

J. Leahy advised the members of one amendment to the review that the R484 Kilmihil to Creegh is now listed in Priority 1.

The report as presented was welcomed by the elected members. Concern was expressed that the R460 Inagh – Miltown regional road is not on the Priority 1 list as well as the Connolly to Mullagh road. It was also requested that the road from Whitegate to Galway border be included in the review.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan referred to previous notice of motion submitted by him requesting that roads leading to national schools be included and that salt bins be provided to schools.

John Leahy, Senior Engineer responded to concerns raised. He stated that the Council is using its resources in an optimal way and that it is not possible to include all routes. He stated that priority roads with busy volumes of traffic will be addressed first and that there is flexibility in addressing the winter schedule. He stated that he is not in favour of putting bins at schools due to health and safety issues and that schools will be facilitated where possible.

Item 14: Presentation from Local Authorities Water and Communities Office (LAWCO) on the River Basin Management Plan.

Ruairí Ó Conchúir, Community Water Officer, Local Authority Waters and Communities Office gave a presentation on this item. He outlined details of a new approach to catchment management under the headings:

- The Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Planning

- New approach and structures for 2016 – 2021 cycle
- Catchment management
- Water quality challenges
- Outline of key measures
- Focus on Co. Clare.
- Implementation timeframes.

He outlined details of the pressures on the catchment together with proposed initiatives under agriculture, waste water, capital investment and forestry. He outlined priority areas in Clare for 2018-2021 and the reason for selecting these areas. He informed the meeting that the timeframe of implementation is 40 months.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. M. Begley thanked Mr. Ó Conchúir for his detailed presentation. The elected members commended the work and the approach of the Local Authorities Water and Communities Office.

Item 16. Rural Regeneration Fund.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Keating

“That Clare County Council outline in detail the proposed projects which are being submitted under the Rural Regeneration Fund and the rationale for the inclusion of each project.”

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development replied as follows:

“A comprehensive report of the Rural Regeneration Development Fund is included as a headed item on the September Council Agenda with the detail requested.”

Item 17. Bridge crossing progress report.

Ar moladh Cllr. B. Slattery

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. R. Nagle agus G. Keating agus glacadh leis

“We are proposing that Clare County Council give a progress report and a time line for the provision of the bridge crossing at the junction of the N85 and the N67 on the Inagh River in view of the serious grid lock that it is causing for the people of our county and the many thousands of visitors that visit.”

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“Works on Ennistymon Inner Relief Road & Bridge Crossing (Blake’s Corner) is continuing as follows:

Current work that is ongoing at present and the immediate next steps include:

- Procurement and carry out baseline surveys
- Engagement and discussion with affected landowners
- Procurement of consultants for C.P.O., detailed design, tender preparation and construction stage
- Preparation, submission and approval by T.I.I. of detailed Cost Estimate and Project Appraisal Guideline deliverables
- Submission and technical approval for all elements as necessary to comply with T.I.I. requirements
- Completion of C.P.O. drawings and schedules followed by submission and approval by the T.I.I. and submission to An Bord Pleanála later this year

Certain works can be done in parallel and this will be done where possible to deliver the project in the shortest timescale possible. However other works must await the outcome of a decision by An Bord Pleanála. We aim to complete the detailed design in 2019 (including any amendments arising from the C.P.O. process). Subject to approval from T.I.I., I would expect that we would then be in a position to tender the works in late 2019 followed by tender award in Spring/Summer 2020. The construction phase will likely last up to 18 months so I would expect scheme opening in late 2021/early 2022.

Please be assured that where time can be shortened and made up, we will make every effort to do so in order to deliver this much needed infrastructure at the earliest juncture for the people of Ennistymon and the wider communities who live or visit the area of North Clare. Additionally, further consideration will be given to any measure that might improve traffic flow in the area.”

Queries were raised in relation to the expected timeframe and the reason for approval from An Bord Pleanála.

C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development informed the members that the C.P.O. process has to go to An Bord Pleanála and that the Council has written to the landowners involved.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive informed the meeting that he met T.I.I. officials last week and that every step is being taken to speed up the process. He advised that the Council has to go through the statutory process and assured the members that the Council will remain vigilant with all agencies involved.

Cllr. B. Slattery requested that the steps at Blakes Corner be backfilled on a temporary basis and that the two side walls be removed. C. Kirby agreed to examine this request.

Cllr. G. Flynn requested that a Traffic Management Plan be implemented to help alleviate the current traffic issues at this location.

Item 18. Weed control programme.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Murphy

“Has Clare County Council given consideration to the possible implications to its weed control programme, in light of Monsanto (global agrochemical company) having been found liable in a recent American lawsuit where the company's

glyphosate-based weed-killers (including the commonly used ROUNDUP) were allegedly, the cause of a man's cancer.”

John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation replied as follows:

“Clare County Council is cognisant of the potential impact of Glyphosate. In general terms, spraying is carried out during appropriate weather conditions and precautions are taken so that risks are minimised. In November 2017, EU states renewed the licence for Glyphosate for another five years. Most of everyday approved weed killers contain Glyphosate and Glyphosate continues to be an approved ingredient in weedkillers.

Therefore, for effective implementation of weed killing where required and urban public open space management, approved weed killers are used – subject to appropriate risk assessment and compliance with safety requirements in relation to their use and application. Dublin City Council is trialling alternatives to the use of Glyphosate as a weedkiller on streets and in parks in Dublin on behalf of Local Authorities.”

Item 19. Community Involvement Scheme.

In the absence of Cllr. M. Hillery this was proposed by Cllr. B. Chambers.

“That Management of Clare County Council would provide an update on the 37 applications under the 2018 Community Involvement Scheme as to how many will proceed and to list the roads involved.”

John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation replied as follows:

“Clare County Council applied for and received approval from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (DTTaS) for each of the 37 applications submitted under the CIS scheme in 2018. The DTTaS notified the Council in June 2018 that it was making €600k of the funding available for projects to be undertaken in 2018 with the balance of the funding, €735k, being made available for projects to be undertaken in 2019. Clare County Council wrote to all grant applicants notifying them that their grant application had been provisionally approved and seeking the 15% community contribution by the 10th August if they were interested in their grant application proceeding.

Listed hereunder are the projects which received grant approval and who submitted the 15% community contribution & where works will proceed in 2018

Project Number	Road Class	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area
1	LT	L-31801-0 L-31802-0	Creevaghmore, Quin	Ennis
2	LT	L-21002-0	Moyglass Beg Mullagh	West Clare Municipal District

				(North)
3	LT	L81071	Glendree	Killaloe Municipal District
4	LT	L81523	Crowhill	Killaloe Municipal District
5	LT	L10123	Turloughmore	Killaloe Municipal District
6	LT	L80162	Spaightspark	Killaloe Municipal District
7	LT	L80381	Coolagoree Section A	Killaloe Municipal District
8	LS	L6064	Farrihy	West Clare Municipal District (South)
9	LT	L71161	Corcase Road, Rossmanagher	Shannon Municipal District
10	LT	L-83521-0	Kilmaley	Ennis
11	LT	L-83082-0	Clonfeigh/Cappalea	Ennis
12	LT	L-20981-0	Ballymakey Beg Mullagh	West Clare Municipal District (North)
13	LT	L-10341-0	Carroweragh Doolin	West Clare Municipal District (North)
14	LT	L20442	Kilmacduane	West Clare Municipal District (South)
15	LT	L-10743-0	Clooneyogan South Moy	West Clare Municipal District (North)
16	LT	L70062/3	Meanagh	Killaloe Municipal District
17	LT	L30621	Cloncarhee	Killaloe Municipal District
18	LT	L-50701	Doolin	West Clare Municipal District (North)
19	LT	L70042	Killokennedy	Killaloe Municipal District

20	LT	L-10781-0	Moy Lahinch	West Clare Municipal District (North)
21	LT	L-10742-0	Clooneyogan North, Moy	West Clare Municipal District (North)
22	LS	L-8292	Maddens Terrace, Clarecastle	Ennis

Listed hereunder are the projects which received grant approval & where works will proceed in 2019 subject to the community contribution being paid.

Project Number	Road Class	Road Number	Road Name and/or Townland Name	Engineering Area
23	LT	L-52762	Clouna North Ennistymon	West Clare Municipal District (North)
24	LT	L-10942-0	Drumcullaun Inagh	West Clare Municipal District (North)
25	LT	L30262	Dooras, O'Callaghans Mills	Killaloe Municipal District
26	LS	L4130	Raheen	Killaloe Municipal District
27	LT	L60111	Cloghaunsavaun	West Clare Municipal District (South)
28	LT	L42291-0	Knockalough / Corgrigg	West Clare Municipal District (South)
29	LT	L42291-0	Letteragh	West Clare Municipal District (South)
30	LT	L41281	Carrowbaun	Killaloe Municipal District
31	LT	L-62442	Carrowduff Miltown	West Clare Municipal District (North)
32	LT	L31041	Hurdlestown	Killaloe Municipal District

33	LT	L61802-0	Ballydineen	West Clare Municipal District (South)
34	LT	L20641-0	Ballina, Labasheeda	West Clare Municipal District (South)
35	LS	L-8302	St Josephs Terrace, Clarecastle	Ennis
36	LS	L-8278	Church Drive, Clarecastle	Ennis
37	LS	L-8276	Church Drive, Clarecastle	Ennis

Item 20. Fire hydrants.

Ar moladh Cllr. A. O’Callaghan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. I. Lynch agus glacadh leis

“Ask this Council as a matter of urgency to carry out a review of condition and location of fire hydrants that were once the responsibility of Clare County Council, which are now in the hands of Irish water.”

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“With the creation of Irish Water in 2013 they assumed overall responsibility for the repair and maintenance of water services infrastructure inclusive of fire hydrants in County Clare.

There is currently no existing programme in place for the periodic inspection of water services fixtures and fitting such as hydrants. However all new Capital mains replacement contracts carried out by Irish Water ensure that hydrants are installed where required in accordance with Section 5.1 of Technical Guidance- Document B of the Building Regulations, 2006.

Irish Water also endeavours through the service level agreement with Clare County Council to immediately repair any hydrants which are notified as being in poor condition by either the Fire Service, members of the public or as observed by Water Services staff in the course of their day to day duties.”

Following discussion C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development agreed to raise this issue with Irish Water.

Item 21. Biodegradable packaging.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Begley agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council devise an incentive scheme to encourage fast food outlets to switch to biodegradable packaging.”

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“Clare County Council does not have a specific incentive scheme to encourage fast food outlets to switch to biodegradable or compostable packaging, however other supports are available. The Green Business programme is being developed in the county with the support of Clare County Council’s Environmental Awareness Officer, the Local Authority Prevention Network and the E.P.A. Green Business Team. As part of rolling out this initiative, Chambers of Commerce are engaged with to encourage participation by businesses. Greening initiatives are supported through the Greener Clare Environmental Education and Awareness Programme and the use of compostable packaging forms part of that programme. The Environmental and Education Officer will continue to provide advice and supports in terms of developing projects and accessing funding streams.

A specific incentive scheme to encourage fast food outlets to switch to biodegradable or compostable packaging, is not currently available. Community led projects can apply for funding under E.P.A. Local Authority Prevention Network DCCAE Anti Litter grant, the Waste Prevention Grant Scheme and Local Agenda 21. It is open to Fast Food Outlets to link in with such projects.

In 2018 €25,820 (€18,000 required under Southern Region Waste Management Plan) is provided under the Environmental Education and Awareness Programme in the form of a Waste Prevention Grant Scheme. The scheme accepts applications on an annual basis. A further €25,300 is being provided through the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership fund – 50% of which is funded by Clare County Council and 50% by the DCCAE.

Green Festivals have also been supported with waste prevention initiatives which incorporate the use of compostables and which include fast food mobile outlets being encouraged to use compostable cups and packaging. Green Festival Ambassador and Leader training funded through the LEADER programme led by Clare Tourism and supported by the Clare Local Development Company, Environment Section Clare County Council, Limerick Clare Energy Agency, Southern Region Waste Management Office and the Clare Volunteer Centre was rolled out in 2017.”

Cllr. C. Crowe requested that this item be referred to the S.P.C. for their consideration. This was agreed by the members present.

Item 22. Housing accommodation.

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

“That this Council would consider purchasing or building accommodation suitable for single people and lone parents with one child as there seem to be a serious shortage of same throughout the county”.

Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development replied as follows:

“The Council through the currently advertised call for expressions of interest are seeking properties for acquisition, all proposals will be considered. In this regard there are opportunities for landowners/developers/contractors to deliver projects to cater for specific categories of housing need such as referred to in the motion.

The Council acknowledges the shortage of available suitable accommodation on the open market to serve this need and therefore is also seeking to address this shortage through the current Capital Build Programme which includes 2 bed unit designs in all approved schemes. These units are adaptable to single family or elderly units as required in the area.”

Item 23. Electricity meters.

Ar moladh Cllr. A. Norton
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. P. Murphy agus B. Chambers agus glacadh leis

“Can Clare County Council look at reinstalling the electricity meter in all council houses to tenants that feel they might be of benefit.”

Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development replied as follows:

“The Council facilitate tenants who through their electricity provider seek to have ‘pay as you go’ meters installed. The Council is not party to the contract nor can the Council provide such meters.”

Item 24. Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. McNamara

“I call on Clare County Council to identify how many applications they have received under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme to date; how many of these loans have been approved, how many have been drawn down and what is the total value of the loans drawn down.”

Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development replied as follows:

“Clare County Council has received 52 completed applications under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme since it was introduced on February 1st, 2018.

To date, 30 applications have been decided upon by the Council’s credit committee. 20 loan applications have been approved while 10 have been declined. 7 loan applications were declined prior to going to credit committee and 1 application was withdrawn. There are 14 applications on hand for decision at present.

To date, 3 loans have been drawn down and the total value of these loans amounted to €453,250.”

Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development responded to queries raised on this.

Item 25. Planning contributions.

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

“That the necessary discount arrangements to planning contributions be made to ensure that planning contributions in rural areas be equal to planning contributions in rural villages”.

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner replied as follows:

“Clare County Council, in common with other local authorities throughout the State, is required to source considerable amounts of money annually to fund a variety of public infrastructure projects. The Development Contribution Scheme, adopted in April 2017, enables the Council to provide funding for infrastructure and amenities such as libraries, open spaces and playgrounds in addition to flood remediation and road infrastructure.

The Council is currently operating an early payment scheme for all single rural houses. Its introduction in December 2017 represents, to date, an *actual* reduction in income from development contributions of €104k with a further potential loss in income of €94k based on the number of permissions granted to date for single rural houses that have yet to commence and avail of the early payment scheme. If this trend is to continue, it will represent a reduction of €1.4m in income over the lifetime of the scheme.

Extending the early payment scheme – in addition to the many reductions and exemptions provided for already – would have significant implications for the overall sustainability of the Development Contribution Scheme. In particular the reduction in income would have negative implications for the number of projects to be funded from the scheme and require the omission of a number of capital projects across Clare that could be potentially funded from the Scheme.

Most importantly however, any proposal to extend the early payment scheme - to the extent suggested in this Notice of Motion – could not be undertaken under this current scheme and would necessitate the preparation and adoption of a totally new Development Contribution Scheme. Such a new scheme would need to be prepared and adopted in the context of the next Clare County Development Plan in 2023-2029.”

Cllr. P.J. Kelly requested that this notice of motion be amended by inserting the word “small” before “rural villages” to read as follows:

“That the necessary discount arrangements to planning contributions be made to ensure that planning contributions in rural areas be equal to planning contributions in small rural villages”.

In discussion the elected members sought clarification on retention of the early payment for rural houses. L. Conneally, Director of Economic Development confirmed this to be the case.

Cllr. J. Flynn stated that he was opposed to this notice of motion.

The following amendment signed by Cllrs. T. McNamara, P. Hayes, A. O’Callaghan, C. Colleran Molloy, P. McMahon, T. O’Brien, B. Chambers, J. Crowe, J. Cooney, R. Nagle, P. Burke and G. Keating was submitted to the meeting.

“We the undersigned propose that the current refund system of 25% remain in place for the development contribution of the once-off house in the countryside until the current development contribution scheme is reviewed and a new development contribution scheme is adopted.”

As this was deemed not to be a valid amendment a vote was taken on the notice of motion submitted and amended by Cllr. P.J. Kelly. The vote resulted as follows:

In favour: Cllrs. C. Curtin, P.J. Kelly (2).

Against: Cllrs. J. Flynn, T. McNamara, M. Howard, C. Colleran Molloy, A. O’Callaghan, G. Flynn, P. McMahan, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, B. Chambers. (10)

Abstained: Cllrs. M. Begley, P.J. Ryan, M. McKee, G. Keating. (4)

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

Cllr. P.J. Kelly thanked fellow Councillors for the debate.

Item 26. Shannon Town.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis

“I am calling on the CEO of Clare County Council to immediately put in place a series of workshops to discuss and put forward proposals to arrest the Economic and Social decline been experienced in Shannon Town as the second largest town in Clare and under the control of Clare County Council since September of 2004 and now coming under The Current 2017-2023 County Development Plan.

- (a) The population C.S.O. Figure in 2011 of 9673 has shown minimal change over 7 years and is still below 10,000.
- (b) The creation of a Main Street on Bothar Mor (n19) has shown no progress and it was expected to be a priority as indicated by many submissions from local residents.

The Focus of the Economic Development & Planning Section of Clare County Council on the current policy of development of a private shopping centre in Shannon needs to be amended as a continuation of this approach as can now be seen will lead to further decline in the overall town of Shannon as a vibrant centre of economic activity.”

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development replied as follows:

“It is the Council’s function to encourage and facilitate development within its jurisdiction. The Council’s policy for Shannon as set out in the statutory *Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan* is to proactively pursue and promote the continued growth of Shannon as a centre of industrial and business excellence and to deliver quality housing and sustainable communities.

In this regard in the coming months the Council will commence the preparation of a Shannon Town Centre Streetscape Strategy which will integrate with existing developments in the Town and in conjunction with the statutory Development Plan will lead the future spatial and economic development of the Town Centre.

Ultimately, these plans will guide the future Town Centre development applications brought forward by developers/landowners and in this regard in recent months a number of planning applications have been received and granted by Clare County Council for developments in the Town Centre not least a private development - including a Cinema for the Town.

Separately, more than 47ha. of lands in the Town have been zoned for residential development, and indeed a number of public and private housing schemes have recently been permitted with some sites under construction.

During the recent years of economic recession the focus of the Local Authority has been on enhancing the amenity of Shannon Town with the creation of an integrated green infrastructure network centred around a new Shannon Town Park (co-funding by Clare County Council and ERDF) and expected to commence construction by yearend/Q1, 2019. In recent months plans are also being prepared in partnership with other agencies to repair and enhance the Shannon Embankments which importantly will protect and future-proof the Town. In addition the Venue Project, a civic, cultural and performance centre located in the town centre has the potential to be a Town Centre streetscape ‘game changer’ and will when built provide important civic, cultural and social facilities for Shannon Town.

The Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan has been extended to 2023 to provide certainty for landowners and all stakeholders regarding the zoning objectives for the lands which have been zoned since 2011. Together with the preparation of the draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (R.S.E.S.) which will build on the inclusion of Shannon in the Limerick/Shannon Metropolitan Area (M.A.S.P.) – one of 5 areas across the Country identified in the National Planning Framework (N.P.F.) 2040 for significant growth, the future for Shannon Town is positive. The increase in economic development activity in the Free Zone will have significant positive economic impact for the Town Centre.”

The elected members stated that residents in Shannon have requested a main street in Shannon. L. Conneally, Director of Economic Development proposed that stakeholder workshops could be held around the preparation of a Shannon Town Streetscape Strategy.

Cllr. G. Flynn advised that this approach is not adequate, more urgent action is required and the existing plan needs to be amended.

Item 27. Legal expenses.

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

“That, arising from the Chief Executives Report to the July meeting on legal expenses incurred on the revenue account for the period January to June 2018, a breakdown on the figure of €22,574.14 for legal advice be provided to the Council and in view of competing demands for essential Council services that the Council would consider possible savings in this sphere of activity.”

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

“The table below sets out the breakdown by directorate and sub section on the figure of €22k. on legal expenses incurred on the revenue account for the period January to June 2018.

These figures are in all cases stated inclusive of VAT and in €000.

Directorate and sub section	€,000	€,000
Housing	148	
Housing Loans MARP		11
Traveller Accommodation		137
Economic Development & Control	34	
Planning Enforcement		20
Planning Forward Planng		6
Physical Infrastructure	34	
Fire Safety and building control		7
Environment Waste Enforcement		20
Traffic Management		2
Water Services		4
Other (Traffic/ Tourism/Roads/ Water Services)	6	16
	222	

Over 80% of the expenditure outlined has been incurred in defending or enforcing the Council’s statutory responsibilities. Legal expenditure as part of overall expenditure budgets on revenue and capital projects is kept under review by the budget holders with an overview on a quarterly basis by senior management.”

Cllr. C. Curtin requested a further breakdown of costs in relation to court appearances, court attendance, legal opinions and cost of legal letters. N. Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance agreed to furnish Cllr. C. Curtin with a further breakdown.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that costs incurred relate to transactional costs, enforcement responsibilities and defence of the Council in other cases.

Cllr. I. Lynch stated that the 61% incurred in traveller accommodation needs to be examined further.

Item 28. Carer’s allowance.

Ar moladh Cllr. A.Norton
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. McKee agus glacadh leis

“I am asking Clare County Council to write to the Minister Regina O’Doherty to remove the means test for Carer’s Allowance.”

Cllr. A. Norton stated that there are 355,000 carers in Ireland which saves the government up to €10b per year.

Item 29. Tribute to Jim Warny.

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

“That Clare County Council request that An Taoiseach give Jim Warny, Ennis resident & sole Irish member of the Thai rescue operation similar tribute as PM Theresa May granted the British Cave Rescue Divers. all of whom were instrumental in the laudable rescue of the 12 boys and coach from the Thai Cave.”

Item 30. Post office network.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. P.J. Ryan, J. Cooney agus P. Daly agus glacadh leis

“Reference – The prevention of Post Office closures and the long-term survival and prosperity of the An Post, Post Office Network.

This Council:

1. Is deeply concerned of the imminent threat of closure of up to 390 Post Offices throughout the country and the threat to the long-term future of the remaining 690 Post Offices.
2. Believes the decision as to whether a community has a Post Office or not, should not hinge on a Postmaster wishing to retire.
3. Recognises there is an alternative and superior solution to the Post Office issue available to An Post and to Government in the form of the Kiwi (Post) Bank model that was established in New Zealand in 2002, and now has 20% of the banking market and 25% of all banking customers in New Zealand. It has been described as a phenomenal success having made over \$7m profit in its third year of operation and nowadays posts annual profits of circa \$100m.
4. Therefore, supports the re-modelling of the Post Office network along the lines of Kiwi Bank so to secure its long-term future and profitability.

This Council calls for:

1. The postponement of the current deal on offer to Post Offices while an in-depth study is carried out into the suitability of the Kiwi Model for Ireland.
2. The results of this motion to be promptly conveyed to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Deputy Hildegard Naughton, Chair of Committee on Communications, Climate Action and Environment.
3. Councillors to lobby Government, TD’s, Political Parties and Media to promote and develop the Kiwi Bank initiative.”

All members agreed with the spirit of the motion. Cllr. P. Murphy urged caution in relation to the kiwi model. Cllr. M. Begley highlighted the need to respect the post masters who wish to retire. Cllr. I. Lynch referred to resolution adopted by the West Clare Municipal District that has been forwarded to all local authorities.

Item 31. Shannon Airport.

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

“In view of the Taoiseach’s warning that UK airports are likely to lose their EU access rights from March 2019, in the likely event of a “No Deal” Brexit, that this Council calls on the Government to support Shannon Airport Authority to attract a daily service to a mainland European Hub before then.”

Item 32. Tourism industry.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. McMahon
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. M. Begley agus T. McNamara agus glacadh leis

“I will ask the Minister for Tourism not to change the VAT rate from 9% as it could undermine badly, the future of the growing tourism industry.”

Item 33. Just a Minute Initiative.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard
Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. O’Callaghan agus glacadh leis

“I request that Clare County Council promote and ensure all staff are aware of the JAM- Just A Minute Initiative.”

Item 34. 9% V.A.T. rate for hospitality sector.

Ar moladh Cllr. A. O’Callaghan
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. M. Howard agus J. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“Clare County Council requests that the Minister for Tourism, Transport and Sport, Mr Shane Ross does not increase the 9% V.A.T. rate for the hospitality sector. This proposal will damage the tourism industry particularly in rural Ireland at a very crucial time considering the inconclusive Brexit negotiations.”

Item 35. R.S.E.S.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. C. Curtin, G. Flynn agus P.J. Kelly agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council request the Southern Regional Assembly to respond to the submissions made to the R.S.E.S. by

- (1) Clare County Council
- (2) Clare Councillors
- (3) Other Clare groups and individuals

in view of the importance that the R.S.E.S. will have on County Clare.”

The members commended the work of the Council representatives on the Southern Regional Assembly.

Item 36. Funding for road repairs.

Due to the absence of Cllr. J. Cooney it was agreed to defer this item to the October Council Meeting.

“That Clare County Council apply to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for special funding to repair roads damaged during the extreme warm summer weather.”

Item 37. Derg Boat Trips.

In the absence of Cllr. P. Burke this was proposed by Cllr. G. Keating.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Keating
Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. O’Callaghan agus glacadh leis

"I am asking that Clare county council invite Mr. Eoin O'Hagan of 'Derg Boat Trips' to address the members prior to the October meeting as he is seeking support for the development of a 'Greenway' stretching from UL to East Clare"

38. Comhfhreagras. Correspondence.

Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:

- Correspondence from Denis O’Brien, Killarcan, Leitrim in relation to upcoming Presidential Election.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

1. Correspondence from Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan Inis 2018 thanking Clare County Council for the great support both financial and logistical for their recent event.
2. Correspondence from Frank Fitzgerald, Regional Chairperson, Special Olympics Munster in relation to recent Mayoral reception.
3. Correspondence from Clare Association in New York inviting the Cathaoirleach to attend the 130th Anniversary Dinner Dance to be held on 19th October, 2018.
4. Invitation to attend Langenfeld 70th birthday celebrations in October 2018.
5. Correspondence dated 30th August, 2018 from An Post in relation to closure of rural post offices in County Clare.
6. Correspondence dated 14th August, 2018 from An Post in relation to the national post office network.
7. Correspondence dated 11th July, 2018 from the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment in relation to rural post offices.

8. Correspondence dated 30th June, 2018 from the Department of Health in relation to trafficking in human organs.
9. Correspondence dated 13th July, 2018 from the Health Service Executive in relation to St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis.
10. Correspondence dated 17th July, 2018 from the Department of Health in relation to St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis.
11. Correspondence dated 30th July, 2018 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade concerning the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill, 2018.
12. Correspondence dated 30th July, 2018 from the O.P.W. in relation to annual coastal protection maintenance fund to local authorities.
13. Correspondence dated 31st August, 2018 from the O.P.W. in relation to the ongoing maintenance of the rivers and tributaries in the county.
14. Correspondence dated 23rd July, 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Defence in relation to the relocation of the Air Corps.
15. Correspondence dated 12th July, 2018 from the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to vehicle registrations.
16. Correspondence dated 12th July, 2018 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding vehicle registration.
17. Correspondence dated 13th July, 2018 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to Shannon Airport.
18. Correspondence dated 29th June, 2018 from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to building and fire regulations.
19. Correspondence dated 2nd August, 2018 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to building and fire regulations.
20. Correspondence dated 10th August, 2018 from the Department of Health in relation to Ennis General Hospital.
21. Correspondence dated 16th July, 2018 from Longford County Council in relation to interim payment to be made to the women and families affected by the cervical cancer misdiagnosis.
22. Resolution circulated by Kildare County Council in relation to CFRAMS.
23. Resolution circulated by Donegal County Council regarding the bundling of public contracts.
24. Resolution circulated by Donegal County Council in relation to rates of pay and benefits paid to ancillary staff in our schools.
25. Resolution circulated by Limerick City and County Council in relation means testing payments for people with disabilities.
26. Resolution circulated by Leitrim County Council in relation to providing teachers and S.N.A.'s with Occupational First Aid Training.
27. Resolution circulated by Carrickmacross Castleblaney Municipal District in relation to making hardship funding available to the farming community.

28. Resolution circulated by Limerick City and County Council in relation to liveable wages.
29. Resolution circulated by Waterford City and County Council in relation to homecare nursing contracts for sick children.
30. AILG training dates for elected members.
31. National Disability Authority Annual Conference taking place in the Hogan Suite, Croke Park Conference Centre on 25th September, 2018.
32. Preliminary notice of LAMA 2018 Autumn Training Seminar taking place in the River Island Hotel, Castleisland, Co. Kerry on 28th & 29th September, 2018.
33. Autumn Planning Conference 2018 being held in the Gibson Hotel, Dublin 1 on 5th October, 2018.
34. Conference entitled “EU Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020” taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 5th – 7th October, 2018.
35. Conference entitled “A Practical Guide to Budget 2019” taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 12th – 14th October, 2018.
36. Conference entitled “Towards a Hard Brexit and its consequences” taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 26th – 28th October, 2018.
37. National Tourism Forum taking place in the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry on 9th November, 2018.

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 “How (not) to do Public Policy” taking place in UCG on 13th September, 2018.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €100.80.

It was agreed that Cllrs. C. Curtin and P.J. Kelly attend this Conference.

AILG training entitled “on-line planning” taking place in Cork on 15th September, 2018.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €309.09 including conference fee of €5.

It was agreed that Cllrs. C. Curtin, B. Chambers, J. Breen, C. Colleran Molloy, G. Keating, P.J. Kelly and M. Hillery attend this Conference.

LAMA 2018 Autumn Training Seminar taking place in the River Island Hotel, Castleisland, Co. Kerry on 28th & 29th September, 2018.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €10.92 including conference fee of €180.

It was agreed that Cllr. A. O'Callaghan attend this Conference.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____