

**Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the
Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on
Monday, 9th December, 2019 at 3:45 p.m.**

Present:

Councillors M. Howard, M. Nestor, J. Flynn, C. Colleran Molloy, P. Murphy, A. Norton, P. Daly, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, P. Burke, A. O’Callaghan, T. O’Brien, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, M. Begley, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Flynn, S. Talty, J. Killeen, J. Garrihy, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating, C. Murphy, I. Lynch.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Colette Costelloe, A/Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Margaret O’Rourke, Assistant Staff Officer.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development.
- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance.
- Ms. Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development.
- Ms. Deirdre O’Shea, A/Head of Tourism.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.

Absent: Cllr. R. Garvey.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cathal Crowe presided.

At the outset, Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Crowe stated that the meeting is tinged with sadness and reflected on the life of recently deceased Cllr. Mike McKee. Cllr. Crowe welcomed the McKee family to the Council Chamber and offered his sympathy to them on this particularly sad and harrowing time for them. Cllr. Crowe proposed that the meeting be adjourned as a mark of respect.

Tributes were paid to the late Cllr. Mike McKee by the elected members who described Mike as an excellent business man and as a team player who instilled strength in the Shannon community and continuously championed for their cause. It was noted that Mike was the first Mayor of Shannon and the elected members recalled how proud the McKee family were when Mike was appointed Chairman of Shannon Municipal District. The elected members recalled how Mike carried out his duties to his highest potential and he was always dependable. They stated that it was an honour to have served with him on Clare County Council.

The elected members were unanimous in supporting the full adjournment of the meeting and in extending sympathy to Mike’s wife Eileen, daughter Jeanette, son David, his mother Theresa, extended family and friends.

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive on behalf of the staff and executive of the Council was associated with the sentiments expressed and stated that there has been a feeling of a huge sense of loss with Mike’s passing. He noted that Mike always showed care,

courtesy and the upmost of respect to the staff in the organisation which was a unique characteristic. Mr. Dowling extended sincere condolences to the McKee family.

It was noted that the adjourned meeting will take place on Monday, 16th December next at 3:45 p.m. and that Fr. Harry Bohan, Sociologist will attend prior to the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Minutes of the adjourned December Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 16th December, 2019 at 3:45 p.m.

Present:

Councillors M. Howard, M. Nestor, J. Flynn, C. Colleran Molloy, P. Murphy, A. Norton, P. Daly, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, P. Burke, A. O’Callaghan, T. O’Brien, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, M. Begley, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Flynn, S. Talty, J. Killeen, J. Garrihy, R. Garvey, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating, C. Murphy, I. Lynch.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Margaret O’Rourke, Assistant Staff Officer.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development.
- Mr. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Mr. Seán Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cathal Crowe presided.

Vote of Sympathy.

At the outset a vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- the Moroney family, Broadford on the death of James Moroney.
- the O’Brien family, Cranny on the death of Sean O Brien.
- the Griffin family Lissycasey on the death of Maura Griffin.
- the Cassidy family, Ruan on the death of Mona Cassidy.

Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.

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

“That the Minutes of the November Meeting of Clare County Council held on 11th November, 2019 be adopted and signed.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Clare County Council held on 8th November, 2019 be adopted and signed.”

c. Ar moladh Cllr. B. Chambers
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of Clare County Council’s Budget meeting held on 22nd November, 2019 be adopted and signed.”

Item 2: Matters Arising.

Cllr. J. Flynn requested a review of the G.M.A. to ensure an equal distribution between Municipal Districts.

Item 3: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.

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

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 8th October, 2019 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Budget Meeting held on the 4th November, 2019 be noted.”

c. Ar moladh Cllr. P. Hayes
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Burke agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on the 18th September, 2019 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on the 17th September, 2019 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Budget Meeting held on the 8th November, 2019 be noted.”

f. Ar moladh Cllr. B. Chambers
Cuidithe ag Cllr. S. Talty agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting held on the 3rd September, 2019 be noted.”

Item 4: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November, 2019 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. P. Hayes requested an update on the Northern Distributor Road and an update on communication from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to the Tulla and Barefield exits from the M18.

Cllr. J. Killeen called for an update on flooding in Murtyclough on the N67.

Cllr. J. Flynn requested figures in relation to people taken out of homelessness. Cllr. Flynn also requested an update on enforcement of the smoky coal ban in Ennis district.

Cllr. C. Crowe outlined problems being encountered on the water mains from Limerick City to South East Clare and stated that 2,000 homes have been affected for a number of days.

In response to queries raised P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that good progress is being made on the LNDR scheme. In relation to homeless figures, Mr. Dowling stated that there are people in emergency accommodation and there will be special focus on this on a 24 hour basis in the week ahead.

S. Lenihan, Senior Engineer advised the elected members that a number of critical meetings have taken place with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Department recently in relation to the LNDR. Mr. Lenihan stated that the National Transport Authority are currently developing the Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Transportation Strategy. In response to a query on the timeline for this project, Mr. Lenihan stated that this project will incur significant cost and that paperwork has been submitted to the Department where the strategic unit will carry out a cost benefit analysis and it is expected that the Department will provide funding to move it to the next stage.

Cllr. M. Begley informed the meeting that he had made a submission to develop a strategic element of the LNDR exiting from UL and Corbally Road which would alleviate congestion and solve a major problem in the area at a relatively low cost and with the least possible disruption to locals. Cllr. Begley asked if he will receive a response to this submission.

S. Lenihan, Senior Engineer stated that there has been no response to this particular submission and informed the meeting that the Council are trying to deliver this project as a whole for the benefit of the region.

Cllr. G. Flynn requested that the Shannon Municipal District be briefed on the Wastewater Treatment Plant at Tradaree Point, the Castlelake Water Treatment Plant, the N19 and Shannon embankments.

In response to query raised concerning flooding in Murtyclough, S. Lenihan, Senior Engineer stated that permission has been granted for these works and that clarification is awaited on funding.

J. Leahy, Senior Engineer informed the meeting that the concerns in relation to the Tulla and Barefield exits on the M18 have been flagged with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

A. Haugh, Director of Social Development stated that there is a requirement to report on the number of exits from homelessness and these figures are reported nationally. She informed the meeting that since Clare County Council took over the management of homeless services on 1st February last, 29 adults and 31 children have exited homeless services in County Clare.

Cllr. P. Burke complimented the general design team on work done on Holy Island and the Lough Derg Amenity Trail.

Item 6: Disposal (by way of lease agreement) of Kilkee Dive Centre, Dough, Kilkee, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

Report dated 18th November, 2019 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of Kilkee Dive Centre by way of lease agreement subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 18th November, 2019.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Murphy 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 disposal by lease agreement of Kilkee Dive Centre, Kilkee, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 18th November, 2019.”

Item 7: Disposal of lands at Liscannor, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

Report dated 15th November, 2019 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of an area of lands measuring 0.0686 hectares at Liscannor Pier subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 15th November, 2019.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Garrihy
Cuidithe ag Cllr. S. Talty 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 disposal of lands at Liscannor, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 15th November, 2019.”

Item 8: 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 of Burren Discovery Trail.

Report dated 2nd December, 2019 from Deirdre O’Shea, Acting Head of Tourism was circulated with the agenda together with report from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner. The report outlines details of proposed development of the Burren Discovery Trail in the townlands of Poulroe, Kilvoydan, Laghtagoona, Killinaboy, Kilfenora, Ennistymon, Rathbaun, Doonyvardan and Gragan East, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Garrihy
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Murphy 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 development of the Burren Discovery Trail in the townlands of Poulroe, Kilvoydan, Laghtagoona, Killinaboy, Kilfenora, Ennistymon, Rathbaun, Doonyvardan and Gragan East, Co. Clare.”

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 development of Lough Derg Amenity Trail between Tuamgraney and Bealkelly, Co. Clare.

Report dated 27th November, 2019 from Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Killaloe Municipal District was circulated with the agenda together with report from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner. The report outlines details of proposed development of Lough Derg Amenity Trail between Tuamgraney and Bealkelly, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Burke
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 development of Lough Derg amenity trail between Tuamgraney and Bealkelly, Co. Clare.”

Item 10: 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 alterations to the Public Realm Works on Parnell Street and Old Friary Lane, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Report dated 27th November, 2019 from Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Physical Development was circulated with the agenda together with report from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner. The report outlines details of proposed alterations to the public realm improvement works on Parnell Street and Old Friary Lane, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. S. Talty
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Daly 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 alterations to the public realm improvement works on Parnell Street and Old Friary Lane, Ennis, Co. Clare.”

Item 11: 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 construction of 27 houses at Ballard Road, Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare.

Report dated 2nd December, 2019 from Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development was circulated with the agenda together with report from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner. The report outlines details of proposed construction of 27 houses at Ballard Road, Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. S. Talty
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Garrihy 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 27 No. residential units at Ballard Road, Milltown Malbay, Co. Clare.”

Item 12: 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 construction of 2 specially adapted units for social housing units at Maddens Terrace, Clarecastle, Co. Clare.

Report dated 2nd December, 2019 from Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development was circulated with the agenda together with report from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner. The report outlines details of proposed housing development at Maddens Terrace, Clarecastle, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn 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 2 specially adapted units for social housing units at Maddens Terrace, Clarecastle, Co. Clare.”

Item 13: Draft Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024.

The Draft Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024 was circulated with the agenda. P. Dowling, Chief Executive introduced the Draft Corporate Plan and stated that it sets out the vision and objectives of the Council for County Clare for the next five years. The plan details by directorate the strategic goals and the supporting strategies and mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the Council in achieving those objectives. Mr. Dowling stated that consideration of climate change will be embedded into all Council policies and services.

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

“That pursuant to Section 134 (9) of the Local Government Act, 2001, the Clare County Council Draft Corporate Plan 2019-2024 be adopted as circulated.”

Item 14: Community Support Scheme 2020.

Report dated 3rd December, 2019 from Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the Community Supports Scheme for 2020 includes a number of amendments to the existing scheme in order to provide additional resources for community development, social inclusion type projects, Christmas lighting and general tourism. The Scheme categories are listed in the report. The total fund for 2020 is €35,500.

Clarification was requested in relation to category V funding support scheme for burial ground maintenance and if €600 is the maximum per group as some groups may be responsible for the maintenance of more than one graveyard.

The elected members requested that the deadline be extended to give community groups enough time to complete their applications, as this meeting is taking place a week later than scheduled. It was requested that the Rural Development Officers assist community groups in completing their applications and queries were raised in relation to transferring unclaimed funds to the next financial year.

L. Cleary, Director of Rural Development addressed the meeting and stated that the Community Supports Scheme 2020 has been compiled in conjunction with the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland which comprised of two elected members from each municipal district. Mr. Cleary recommended that the scheme proceed as presented. He stated that there will be a practical approach, to ensure each burial ground is supported, within the scope of the scheme. He also stated that if the closing date is extended, groups will not get access to funding until later in the year and in order to help with budgets, money must be spent within the approved year.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that the capability of communities should not be underestimated and that communities are well capable of making submissions before the deadline. Mr. Dowling suggested that there could be flexibility on the deadline for submissions as this meeting has been delayed by one week.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Crowe requested a show of hands in favour of extending the deadline by one week. This resulted in 16 which was a majority of members present.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that the Head of Finance is looking at the situation in relation to distribution of Ennis G.M.A. funds.

Item 15: Attendance by Fr. Harry Bohan, Sociologist at 3:00 p.m.

Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy introduced Very Rev. Fr. Harry Bohan, Sociologist to the meeting and advised that it was agreed at the November Council meeting that Very Rev. Fr. Bohan be invited to address the December Council meeting, to have him share his views on Shannon Airport, past and present.

Fr. Bohan addressed the meeting, thanked the elected members for inviting him to the meeting and gave the background on how the Shannon project evolved and where it is today. Fr. Bohan stated that Shannon is always at the mercy of global trends and centralised Government and that the recent set back in the industrial estate in Shannon has highlighted our overdependence on multi nationals. He stated that the airport will always need imaginative, creative marketing and local political support. Fr. Bohan suggested that what is now needed in our region and in our country are three things: leadership, vision and networks.

The elected members thanked Fr. Bohan for his presentation and paid tributes to his lifetime of positive outstanding contribution to Co. Clare.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive thanked Fr. Bohan for attending the meeting and stated that Fr. Bohan has always been a champion of the rural dynamic of our county and in this regard the Council will be ambitious, creative and innovative in taking small steps to continue this process. Mr. Dowling advised that a special briefing on the Copenhagen Report will be held in the New Year.

Item 16. Property marking machine.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy

“That progress on the rollout of property marking machine in County Clare be provided.”

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development replied as follows:

“The elected members from each Municipal District provided G.M.A. (General Municipal Allocation) funding for the purchase of property marking equipment in spring 2019. Over the summer months, staff from the Rural Development Directorate arranged a number of inaugural property marking clinics around the County with a view to promoting and creating awareness about Property Marking. A substantial amount of agricultural/contractor property was also marked during the course of these events. Clinics took place as follows:

- Thursday, 2nd May- Ennis Mart
- Sunday, 5th May- Newmarket on Fergus Show
- Thursday, 16th May- Ennis Mart
- Thursday, 20th June- Ennis Mart
- Wednesday, 26th June- Kilrush Mart
- Tuesday, 2nd July- Ennis Mart
- Wednesday, 3rd July- Kilrush Mart
- Wednesday, 17th July- Kilrush Mart
- Thursday, 25th July- Ennis Mart
- Sunday, 28th July- Bridgetown Show

In order for the system to be really effective, it needs to be rolled out to individual communities. Once a community reaches a certain level of property markings, they can erect a sign in the community (much like the neighbourhood watch signs) alerting would-be thieves that the property in the area is marked. This should act as a deterrent to criminals. With a view to extending this system into the community, a meeting was arranged between staff in the Rural Development Directorate, the Crime Prevention Officer and 6 Community Policing Officers of An Garda Síochána. The purpose of this meeting was to explore how best to roll out the system to communities across the county in conjunction with the Gardaí.

On the advice of the Gardaí, a decision was made to initially target the village of Crusheen and its surrounding area. A Property Marking Clinic in Crusheen subsequently took place on Saturday, 23rd November from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The clinic was jointly hosted by Clare County Council and An Garda Síochána. A substantial amount of property was marked at this clinic.

Further clinics are being planned for the remainder of the year as follows:

- 14th December - Spanish Point
- December (Date to be finalised) - Killaloe

It is proposed to continue these clinics in conjunction with An Garda Síochána into 2020. The Gardaí will also be trained on the use of the marking system for use at events.

The IFA have also come on board to assist in the promotion of the scheme amongst farmers and staff from the Rural Development Directorate have been or will be attending a number of IFA A.G.M. events in the coming months. In particular:

- 25th November – Ballyea IFA A.G.M. – Demo of system took place
- 4th December- Meelick IFA A.G.M. – Demo of system to take place
- December proposal to brief and demonstrate the scheme to the Clare IFA Executive.”

Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy requested a timescale in relation to the roll out of this initiative and the erection of signage.

L. Cleary, Director of Rural Development expressed confidence that the target will be reached as the roll out of this initiative has been broadly supported by each Municipal District. He stated that signage will be put up in mid 2020 in conjunction with the Gardaí who are supportive of the project. In response to query raised concerning locations for the property marking clinics, Mr. Cleary stated that a list of locations can be submitted following agreement at each Municipal District and the scheme will be rolled out to these locations in conjunction with the Gardaí.

Item 17. Flagship Rural Settlement Project.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Garrihy

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Murphy agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council investigate the development of a pilot flagship Rural Settlement project aimed at encouraging people to come and permanently set up home in a suitable attractive town in Rural Clare to be selected. This town or existing settlement ideally will have infrastructure and amenities capable of being an attractive option for those who wish to have a high quality of life away from city living. This pilot should also explore the options of bringing life back in to town centres with vacant buildings or infill sites and to also look at providing developed sites for those who wish to live in rural Clare but are finding it difficult to secure planning permission in some areas by exploring various incentives to this end.”

Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development replied as follows:

“Rural Development is central to Council supports and services and the development and growth of rural towns and villages is a key aim of the Council. The Council, at a cross directorate level, is currently working on the development of a pilot resettlement initiative called ‘Opt Rural’. It is proposed to submit an application under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund for this initiative, the details of which have yet to be finalised.

The proposal will in the first instance focus on quality housing opportunities with a mandatory precondition that the property be the primary permanent place of residence of the family. The premise of the scheme which is in development is to encourage households to set up permanent places of residence in rural communities by promoting opportunity and benefits of rural living. Factors such as the provision of broadband and matching skilled employees with employers will also need to be considered.

The initial focus will be a pilot project, however, if successful the model can be rolled out in other towns/villages experiencing population decline.”

Item 18. Burren Lowlands Group.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Killeen

Cuidithe ag Cllr. S. Talty agus glacadh leis

“We call on our fellow Councillors, community activists and Clare County Council to increase the co-operation and involvement for the Clare Local Development/Galway Rural Development funded Burren Lowlands Group. They are working on enhancing the economic and social aspects in the areas covering Crusheen, Ballinruan, Killanena, Boston, Tubber, Carron and New Quay, as well as south Galway parishes in the hinterland of Gort Town.”

Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development replied as follows:

“Over the last number of years Clare County Council has engaged with the Burren Lowlands Group in order to support them in their efforts to promote the area known as the Burren Lowlands. This association also extends to Galway County Council and both Councils engage as the need arises.

The development of the Fáilte Ireland led Burren Discovery Trail is a good example of where Clare and Galway have worked together in order to develop a product which not only benefits specific areas in North Clare but also has the potential to benefit those areas mentioned in the motion.

Council officials recently engaged with the Burren Lowlands Group as the group required input for a LEADER funded Preparatory Technical Project, the aim of which is to make the region of north Clare and south Galway a better place to live, work and visit.

It is envisaged that this engagement will continue.”

Item 19. Clare Abbey.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. P. Daly agus P. Murphy agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council provide information on interaction with state authorities pertaining to the recent incidents of vandalism in the Clare Abbey national monument and seek to be informed of any other similar interferences with other national and recorded monuments in County Clare.”

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“Following concerns raised at the July meeting of Ennis Municipal District, it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with representatives from the O.P.W., Ennis Municipal District Councillors, the Gardaí, and the Clarecastle Tidy Towns Committee.

Ennis Municipal District have been in contact with the O.P.W. both verbally and in writing on multiple occasions following the meeting regarding a cross organisational meeting to discuss the following issues:

- Anti-Social Behaviour and vandalism
- Illumination of the site to act as a deterrent to Anti Social Behaviour
- Illumination of the site as a Tourism Landmark on a primary route entering the town of Ennis
- The designation of the site as ‘Rural’ by O.P.W.

An update was provided at the November 2019 meeting of Ennis Municipal District from the O.P.W. indicating that it would likely be early 2020 before such a meeting could be facilitated. I can advise in recent days the O.P.W. have given us a proposed date and time for this meeting and we will shortly be issuing invitations to the relevant parties.

In addition, the Burial Grounds Unit of the Council has recently engaged with the Gardaí, the O.P.W., and the National Monuments Service in relation to the vandalism at the site. It is understood that the vandalism occurred within the site of the Abbey which is a national monument in care of the O.P.W. Staff from the Burial Grounds Unit recently met with affected parties, Councillor Clare Colleran Molloy and Councillor Pat Daly regarding this matter.”

The elected members welcomed the meeting with the O.P.W. and stated that they will request the O.P.W. to install CCTV cameras to help alleviate anti social behaviour taking place in this area.

Item 20. Road drainage program.

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

“That this Council would carry out a road drainage program on all regional roads in the county, as there is a lot of ponding and flood water accumulating on these roads and this has the potential to become a safety issue.”

John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Physical Development replied as follows:

“At the end of 2018 a request was made to Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to increase funding levels for road drainage across County Clare. Following this intervention the Clare County Council allocation was doubled in 2019. We have requested a further increase in funding in 2020 and intend during the delivery of the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works that an increased drainage programme be delivered across all Municipal Districts in Co. Clare, and this works programme will include regional roads.”

Item 21. Insurance claims.

Ar moladh Cllr. S. Talty

“Can management provide an update on insurance claims made against Clare County Council so far this year? Can the reply detail the following:

1. Total number of claims made and value of claim
2. Total number and value of claims denied
3. Total number and value of claims settled
4. Total number and value of claims ongoing.”

John Corry, Administrative Officer, Physical Development replied as follows:

“The following is the information available as at 30th September 2019 as confirmed by our insurers IPB.

1. The total number of active claims, which were being considered and which were received in 2019 was 71. We would not have details of the value of these specific claims.
2. See 3. hereunder.
3. The total number of claims which were finalised and settled in 2019 up to 30th September was 70, at a value of €13,619. Please be aware that some of these claims would have been received prior to 2019.
4. The total number of active claims, (received during 2019 and prior years), with IPB at 30th September was 174 and the associated value of same was estimated by IPB as €8,586,922.

Clare County Council are conscious of the need to continue to reduce the number of insurance claims being submitted. Accordingly €1.6m was included in the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2018 to facilitate the remediation of an extensive schedule of footpaths throughout the county. The criteria used to determine the content of the programme focused on locations where footpath conditions posed a risk to users or where there was a history of occurrence of mishaps or accidents or the submission of public liability claims. This funding was financed by a Dividend from IPB. A further provision of €150k was allocated to these ongoing works as part of the 2019 Roadworks Programme.”

Cllr. S. Talty stated that Clare County Council as an authority needs to be vigilant in accessing claims.

Item 22. Road traffic survey.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Keating
Cuidithe ag Cllr. I. Lynch agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council in conjunction with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland carry out a comprehensive road traffic survey across its entire road network in County Clare, the N67, N68, N69 & M18. The traffic counter data collected will provide valuable information in identifying requirements for infrastructural improvements on these routes; which in turn will help to alleviate bottlenecks which motorists are currently experiencing at peak times travelling to and from work.”

Ann Cronin, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design replied as follows:

“Clare County Council has a considerable amount of traffic data on file for the road network in Clare which has been gathered since 1989. Traffic surveys are undertaken for use on design projects and has on occasions also been supplied to the National Transport Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland when requested. Transport Infrastructure Ireland already has a network of permanent traffic counters in Clare with counters on the National Primary and National Secondary Routes.”

In response to queries raised, John Leahy, Senior Engineer stated that data in relation to traffic volumes on roads is available on the Transport Infrastructure Ireland website and that Clare County Council has access to this data which can be provided to the elected members on request.

Item 23. Telecommunications infrastructure.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Murphy

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. I. Lynch agus C. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“In light of the increasing amount of planning applications for large scale telecommunications infrastructure being proposed across the county, and widespread public concerns as to the possible consequences of same, we propose that Clare County Council planning department develop a planning policy document to ensure communities have been furnished with appropriate levels of public consultation before any applications are made.”

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development replied as follows:

“At the outset, for the purposes of this Notice of Notion it is assumed that reference to telecommunications infrastructure relates to over ground masts/antennae.

The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, sets out two means of seeking consent for telecommunications infrastructure

- (i) by a planning application on private lands under Section 34 of the Act
- (ii) by a licence application on public or local authority lands/road verges/footpaths under Section 254 of the Act.

In the context of the issues raised in the Notice of Motion regarding public consultation, there are significant implications and differences between both processes.

A planning application under Section 34 of the Act requires site and press notices notifying the public of the intention of the applicant to make a planning application. On payment of the prescribed fee and within 5 weeks, any person may make an observation on the planning application to the Planning Authority who then must take submissions into consideration in their decision making. Also, there is provision in the Act for a person to then appeal any decision to An Bord Pleanála. This application process provides for public input/consultation.

Section 254 of the Planning Act provides for a Local Authority to grant a licence to persons for a range of installations on public footpaths, roads, laneways. This also includes over ground masts/antennae. To date 2 No. telecommunications

infrastructure have been sought in County Clare under this section of the Act which states that in considering an application for a licence under this section, a *planning authority, or the Board on appeal, is restricted to having regard to—*

- (a) the proper planning and sustainable development of the area,*
- (b) any relevant provisions of the development plan, or a local area plan,*
- (c) the number and location of existing appliances, apparatuses or structures on, under, over or along the public road, and*
- (d) the convenience and safety of road users including pedestrians.*

The Act indicates that “*Development carried out in accordance with a licence under this section shall be exempted development for the purposes of this Act*”. The Act further indicates that “*A person shall not be entitled solely by reason of a licence under this section to erect, construct, place or maintain on, under, over or along a public road any appliance, apparatus or structure.*”

In the assessment of a Section 254 Licence application, unlike a Section 34 planning application, there is no provision for the public to make a submission to the Planning Authority, nor is there for a planning authority to consider any matters other than those above.

In the context of the Notice of Motion and as regards Section 254 of the Act there is a public consultation deficiency in the legislation. Whilst noting and appreciating the sentiment of the notice of motion, in the context of the development of a policy for community consultation – in its present form – there is no provision in legislation for public consultation under Section 254. I consider that the most appropriate mechanism to ensure communities receiving such infrastructure have been furnished with appropriate levels of public consultation under Section 254 is for such consultation to be allowed in the primary legislation under the Planning Act. In that regard, earlier in the year, we have contacted the Department highlighting this issue.

Finally, the Government are currently preparing a “*Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Facilitating Telecommunication Provider Access to State and Publicly-owned Assets*”. It is a stated aim that the “*Government Policy Statement aims to provide clarity on the need to ensure that reasonable access is provided to State and publicly owned assets (the latter pertaining to assets and property owned by public bodies such as local authorities) to assist in the utilisation of these assets for the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure around Ireland.*”

The elected members expressed concerns in relation to the lack of openness in the process of obtaining permission to construct telecommunications infrastructure. Guidance was sought regarding the possibility of creating policy requiring developers to demonstrate that public consultation has taken place when submitting new applications and setting out guidelines in relation to proximity to schools and houses.

It was suggested that a Professor from Maynooth be invited to attend a meeting of Clare County Council to brief the members on the issues raised.

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development stated that the provisions of Section 254 of the Planning Act are quite favourable towards this sector and the

absence of public consultation leaves a void in this process. Mr. Conneally informed the members that these issues have been highlighted with the Department and that the elected members can communicate with legislators in this regard. Mr. Conneally advised that the elected members can take a look at antennae infrastructure in the County Development Plan in terms of what we want as a county. He also advised that the Council are bringing forward a review of the County Development Plan in mid 2020 which will address the concerns raised.

The elected members requested that as a matter of courtesy, they be informed by e-mail when future licence applications are submitted until national legislation is updated and this was agreed.

Item 24. Shannon Region.

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

“That Clare County Council in conjunction with the Local Authorities in Limerick and Tipperary and all relevant Government Departments request a review of the NUTS 3 Geocode Standard with a view to having this Region renamed the Shannon Region. Given that we have Shannon International Airport, an abundance of tourism destinations and a first class Third Level Educational Sector, the rebranding to the Shannon Region would bring significant promotional benefits for the Airport, Tourism and Inward Investment.”

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development replied as follows:

“The NUTS or Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics is a geocode standard for referencing the subdivisions of countries for statistical purposes and was adopted in 2003. It is developed and regulated by the European Union, and therefore only covers the member states of the EU in detail. The NUTS are central delivery mechanisms for EU Cohesion Policy and structural funding.

Since it’s introduction the NUTS classifications have been reviewed a number of times, the most recent being in 2016 and this had particular relevance for Ireland as we moved from 2 NUTS II regions (Southern & Eastern and Border, Midlands and Western) to 3 NUTS II Regions (Eastern & Midlands, Southern and Northern & Western), along with a number of other changes regarding Local Authority amalgamations. This revised classification came into effect on 1st January 2018. Effectively if there are any proposed changes to the classifications within a Member State the responsibility is on the Member State to inform the Commission, and Eurostat, of the proposed changes and this has to be done at least 2 years in advance of the next cycle – the next classification cycle commences in 2021 and it is already too late to propose changes for this cycle. The advice from Eurostat in advance of a formal submission is that proposals for changes to regions under the NUTS classification should reflect the structures set out in national legislation and submissions on other configurations would not be successful. There are parameters within which each region is classified as follows:

Level	Minimum	Maximum
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Level	Minimum	Maximum
NUTS 1	3 000 000	7 000 000
NUTS 2	800 000	3 000 000
NUTS 3	150 000	800 000

In 2016 when the changes were being proposed to the NUTS II classification in Ireland I understand it was submitted through the Irish Permanent Representative to the EU but the ground work was completed by the Central Statistics Office.

In regard to the motion the proposal does not recommend a change to the classification but rather a change to the name of the NUTS III Region, in this respect I am not sure what, if any involvement the Central Statistics Office would have. However, as the time has gone for changing the 2021 classification it will be the next cycle before any amendments can be submitted.

The proposal in the Motion seems to be more a branding issue that a statistical geocoding issue.”

Cllr. J. Crowe requested that this notice of motion be sent to Limerick City and County Council and Tipperary County Council and this was agreed by the members present.

Item 25. Vacant Homes.

Ar moladh Cllr. S. Talty
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. P. McMahon agus P. Hayes agus glacadh leis

“Can the director provide an update on the work of the Councils Vacant Homes Officer during 2019. Notably, how many homes are now actively being monitored and how many have been successfully acquired through negotiation & Compulsory Purchase Order (if applicable).”

Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development replied as follows:

“A Vacant Homes Action Plan for County Clare was prepared by the Social Development Directorate and submitted to the Department in December, 2017. This report considered vacancy rates from the Central Statistics Office, (C.S.O.) and the Geo-Directory database which is administered by An Post. The Central Statistics Office Census 2016 indicated there were ~10,925 vacant homes in the county; once holiday homes were excluded the figure reduces to 6,104. Geo-Directory figures from An Post show 2,700 unoccupied dwellings for the similar period. These figures are being examined nationally to report on the disparity between the two figures and locally the vacant properties are being confirmed using the Geo-Directory as the start point.

Assessment of the current vacancy levels in the County is on-going and in 2019 assessment has been undertaken in the following areas: Ennis, Shannon, Sixmilebridge, Tulla, Broadford and Tuamgraney. Following inspections approximately 150 houses in these villages are being investigated for ownership and where the owners' details can be obtained from Land Direct, they are being contacted by Clare County Council and requested to bring their properties back in to use as social housing by availing of schemes such as:

- Repair to Lease Scheme
- Buy and Renew Scheme
- Long Term Leasing

The Vacant Homes Unit (based in Mayo County Council) maintains a database of Vacant Homes using data from Q4 of 2018 Geo Directory and entries by members of the public on www.vacanthomes.ie. To date 38 houses in Clare have been entered on the vacant homes website by members of the public. Of these, there is one imminent acquisition for social housing and a small number of potential acquisitions once legal issues are resolved and/or receivers are in a position to proceed with disposal. Others have been ruled out for reasons such as:

- Insufficient address to identify property
- Locations are in a rural area where there is insufficient demand
- Properties are tied up in the 'Fair deal' scheme

Assessing the owners of vacant properties is labour intensive and is a difficult and slow process in many cases as property owners may not reside in the area and there is a lack of knowledge on their whereabouts; where no title exists on the property we cannot establish an owner and if the property is in receivership it can be difficult to extract detail on the property owner. We are continuing to work with our colleagues in the Rural Development Directorate for leads in relation to progressing on-going cases with the assistance of the Rural Development Officers who have access to local communities who may be able to assist in identification of property owners. In this regard we are seeking your support in identification of property owners in your local area.

It should be noted however that a number of vacant properties are located in rural areas and are not suitable for social housing purposes.

That said, to date 25 number vacant properties have been acquired by this Council throughout the County under the Buy and Renew Scheme and in addition the Housing Agency has also acquired a vacant property.

The C.P.O. process has not been pursued thus far by the Vacant Homes Unit for house acquisitions but it remains an option in limited circumstance. It is the Councils preference to work with owners to bring vacant homes back to use.

We are continuing to utilise all avenues to encourage reuse of vacant stock particularly in areas of high social housing demand as we have need for additional viable, habitable properties in areas of the County.”

Item 26. Proposed Facilities Audit.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Garrihy
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. J. Killeen agus A. Norton agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council partner with Clare Sports Partnership with the objective of being the county selected by Sport Ireland as the pilot County for the proposed facilities Audit in 2020.”

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development and Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development replied as follows:

“This Council welcomes the opportunity to partner with Clare Sports Partnership to pursue Clare as a pilot County in the compilation of a ‘National Database of Sports & Recreation Amenities’ as led by Sport Ireland.

Clare Sports Partnership provided input to the response to this notice of motion:

At a recent meeting of Clare Sports Partnership on the 27th November, there was a short presentation given on this project by the Rural Recreation Officer, Mr. Eoin Hogan. The meeting was advised that it was expected there would be a pilot phase of this project in selected areas in 2020. Clare Sports Partnership agreed to put Clare forward as one of the pilot sites.

To this end a partnership between bodies will demonstrate commitment and willingness to lead and to identify and catalogue all sport and recreation amenities in the County. This database will potentially identify gaps in opportunity for participation in sport due to lack of local amenities and will facilitate a more focused approach to groups/clubs in the pursuit of grant aid for projects.

The Rural and Social Development Directorates will continue to work on a cross-directorate basis with Clare Sports Partnership.”

Item 27. Moneypoint.

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

“That Clare County Council calls on the Government to construct a trans-shipment port at Moneypoint.”

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development replied as follows:

“The Shannon Estuary is a key national strategic transport corridor and a natural deepwater resource which routinely hosts the largest vessels entering Irish waters. It has facilities that serve the national and regional economy, as well as providing the necessary maritime and ancillary resources to facilitate value-added activities serving national, European and global markets.

Recent research has found that the natural deepwater resource, availability of hinterland, and prime maritime location of the sheltered Estuary is creating an attractive investment potential for transporting containers and bulk cargo, particularly on large transshipment vessels. This trend is emerging with the aspiration of avoiding the busy shipping lanes in the English Channel and on Atlantic routes, and increasing trading and transportation efficiencies throughout Europe.

The Shannon Estuary, with its considerable deep water resource and location on the western edge of Europe, is in my opinion well placed for the potential development of a transshipment port feeding into the near European, Baltic and Scandinavian Ports. It would allow large transshipment vessels to avoid the busy shipping lanes in the English Channel and is immediately accessible from the main Atlantic route.

Moneypoint which comprises 280 hectares (227 hectares which is occupied by the Moneypoint Power Generating Station and 53 hectares of land available and zoned for further development) is a strategic development location. The objectives of the *Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023* and the recently adopted *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region* both seek to capitalise on the natural deep water potential of Moneypoint and existing Port and maritime infrastructure, by facilitating and proactively encouraging the sustainable development of maritime related industries.

Over the past eighteen months this Council has been in regular contact with the owners of Moneypoint, the E.S.B. and these discussions include the possible future uses for the site outside of power generation and transmission. Other marine related industry could include the use of the land for industry that, by its nature, requires a location adjacent to estuarine/deep-water including a dependency on marine transport, including transshipment, bulk cargo or where the processes benefit from a location adjacent to the marine area such as off-shore renewable energy hub and transmission.”

Cllr. P.J. Kelly outlined the background to this proposal and outlined the potential benefits he felt it would have for the area.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive assured the members that Clare County Council are aware of the journey Moneypoint is on and are engaging with the Plant Manager and with Government on a regular basis in the context of future uses and how Moneypoint and the E.S.B. can reinvigorate this infrastructure on the estuary. Mr. Dowling outlined the financial reality as Moneypoint is a significant contributor to the Council’s rate income. He stated that the Council will engage with the taskforce and are considering what options are available as to how Moneypoint can be reinvented into the future.

The elected members commended the Chief Executive and Director of Service on the work being done in sourcing solutions for the future of Moneypoint and acknowledged that there are challenges that will have to be addressed.

Item 28. Copenhagen Economics Report.

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

“That this Council calls on the government to, as per the Copenhagen Economics report on Shannon Airport; commissioned by Limerick Chamber of Commerce, devise a new policy to see inbound and outbound air traffic to/from Ireland shared more equally across regional airports.”

Cllr. C. Crowe stated that a copy of the “Assessment of Aviation Policy as a Driver of Economic Development in the West and Mid West of Ireland” will be circulated to all

Councillors and he outlined the main conclusions of this study. It was agreed that a special briefing on this document will be held in the New Year.

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Crowe, seconded by Cllr. G. Keating and agreed by the members present that time be extended to 6:45 p.m. in order to complete the business of the meeting.

Item 29. Rebuilding Ireland home loan.

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

“Clare County Council requests Minister for Housing, Mr. Eoghan Murphy and Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohoe revisit the criteria for "Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan". The criteria discriminates against older first time buyers. People who have rented properties for many years due to not having the necessary deposit, finally reach the point where they have saved a substantial amount are now unable to secure a mortgage due to their age.”

Item 30. TV sports packages.

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

“In view of the proliferation of charge per view TV sports providing and the excessive costs arising for sports fans at small venues, that this Council call on the Minister of Communications/ComReg to take appropriate action to restore affordable offers/packages for genuine sports fans.”

Item 31. Comhfhreagras/Correspondence.

Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

1. Correspondence dated 12th November, 2019 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in connection with motion calling on the Government to comply with the terms of the Flemish Decree.
2. Correspondence dated 27th November, 2019 from Senator Robbie Gallagher regarding sustainable rural housing guidelines following the Flemish Decree.
3. Correspondence dated 28th November, 2019 from the Department of Health regarding resolution passed on folic acid.
4. Correspondence dated 20th November, 2019 from the Department of Rural and Community Development regarding lifebuoys.
5. Correspondence dated 21st November, 2019 from the Department of Justice and Equality regarding lifebuoys.
6. Correspondence dated 14th November, 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the Agri Sector.

7. Correspondence dated 22nd November, 2019 from the Department of Justice and Equality regarding convictions for those convicted for dumping/littering offences.
8. Correspondence dated 22nd November, 2019 from Billy Kelleher M.E.P. regarding the agri sector.
9. Correspondence dated 13th November, 2019 from Mick Wallace M.E.P. regarding the agri sector.
10. Correspondence dated 3rd December, 2019 from Deputy Michael Harty in relation to the agri sector.
11. Correspondence dated 14th November, 2019 from the Department of Health concerning new diagnostic equipment for U.H.L.
12. Correspondence dated 14th November, 2019 from the Department of Health concerning a national screening programme for neonates.
13. Resolution circulated by Roscommon County Council in relation to the proposed closure of Cuisle Centre in Donamon, Co. Roscommon as a national holiday centre.
14. Resolution circulated by Monaghan County Council calling on the Minister to legislate for the banning of non-recyclable materials used in food/drinks packaging.
15. Conference entitled “The Finance Act 2019” taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 10th – 12th January, 2020.
16. Conference entitled “Tackling Carbon Emissions & Fuel Poverty” taking place in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 24th – 26th January, 2020.
17. Correspondence dated 10th December, 2019 from Timmy Dooley, T.D., concerning difficulties facing farming families.

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.

AILG autumn training seminar 2019 being held in Hillgrove Hotel, Old Armagh Road, Monaghan on 11th and 12th September, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €608.26 including conference fee of €140.

It was agreed that Cllrs. B. Chambers and P. Hayes attend this Conference.

AILG autumn training seminar entitled “The Planning Process, the Elected Member and the Office of the Planning Regulation” being held in the Crown Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth on 12th October, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €55.62 including conference fee of €108.35.

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

LAMA 2019 Autumn Training Seminar taking place in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon on 17th – 19th October, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €500 including conference fee of €180.

It was agreed that Cllr. M. Howard attend this Conference.

Housing Agency Seminar taking place in the Aviva Stadium, Landsdowne, Dublin 4 on 6th November, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €67.37.

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

LCDC Conference entitled “Leadership & Collaboration” taking place in Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 9th November, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €291.22.

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

Conference entitled “Entitlement to Health Services” taking place in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 15th – 17th November, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €55.24 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllrs. J. Cooney and M. Begley attend this Conference.

AILG training entitled “Climate Action – the Local Authority response” taking place in Athlone, Co. Westmeath on 21st November, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €297.67 including conference fee of €5.

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

AILG training entitled “Climate Action – the Local Authority response” taking place in the Radisson Hotel, Little Island, Cork on 23rd November, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €320.06 including conference fee of €5.

It was agreed that Cllrs. M. Howard, P.J. Kelly, T. O’Brien, J. Crowe, J. Killeen, G. Keating, C. Murphy, M. Begley and P. Burke attend this Conference.

Climate and Biodiversity Action Workshop taking place in Dublin County Council Offices on 4th December, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €371.85.

It was agreed that Cllrs. J. Crowe, M. Begley and T. O'Brien attend this Conference.

Conference entitled "Irish Social Welfare System" taking place in O'Donovans Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 6th – 8th December, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €702.24 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllrs. A. Norton, T. O'Brien, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon and A. O'Callaghan attend this Conference.

Conference entitled "Community Owned Energy in Ireland" taking place in Athenry, Co. Galway on 11th December, 2019.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €237.

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

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. C. Crowe wished his fellow Councillors, staff and the media a very Happy Christmas and thanked everyone for their co-operation and support during 2019.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive noted that the history of Clare County Council will be formally launched in May 2020. Mr. Dowling thanked all present for the good working relationship that exists and wished them, their families and community a happy and safe Christmas.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____