

Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 13th January, 2020 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.
- Ms. Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development.
- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance.
- Ms. Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Mr. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Mr. Seán Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Ms. Deirdre O’Shea, A/Head of Tourism.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Cathal Crowe presided and extended a happy new year to all members and staff. Cllr. C. Crowe paid tribute to all Council staff working in our communities tending to damage caused by storm Brendan.

Vote of Sympathy.

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

- The Culligan family, Kilmaley on the death of Maura Culligan.
- The Carey family, Portarlinton on the death of Brendan Carey.
- The Hanrahan family, Kilrush on the death of Paddy Hanrahan.
- The Lait family, Ravensdale, Co. Louth on the death of Hazel Lait.
- The Conway family, Inagh on the death of Pat Conway.
- The McGrath family, Newmarket on Fergus on the death of Lucy McGrath.

Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.

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

“That the Minutes of the December Meeting of Clare County Council held on 9th December, 2019 be adopted and signed.”

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

“That the Minutes of the adjourned December Meeting of Clare County Council held on 16th December, 2019 be adopted and signed.”

Item 2: Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

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 12th November, 2019 be noted.”

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

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

“That the minutes of the Physical Development S.P.C. meeting held on 29th April, 2019 be noted”.

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

“That the minutes of the Rural Development S.P.C. meeting held on 23rd April, 2019 be noted”.

Item 5: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December, 2019 as presented.

Item 6: Monthly Management Report.

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

Cllr. C. Murphy requested an update on Kilkee Waste Water Treatment Plant, Kilkee CFRAMs and culvert in Kilkee.

Cllr. G. Flynn requested that Clare County Council put a programme of pipe retrofitting in place for Shannon due to the frequent bursts being experienced there.

C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development stated that a report on Kilkee Waste Water Treatment Plant is expected in the next couple of weeks and she undertook to revert to Cllr. Murphy in relation to this and the other issues raised.

In relation to pipe bursts in Shannon, Ms. Kirby stated that there is ongoing contact with Irish Water and she undertook to revert on progress.

Cllr. J. Flynn complimented the Council on the very impressive hub in Ennistymon and sought an update on the proposed Ennis hub. Cllr. Flynn also requested an update on the pedestrian crossings in Carmody Street, Ennis and Ballymacahill Cross.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive informed the meeting that Ennis hub continues to be work in progress as the Council needs to find the optimum location, one that is sustainable and will add to the asset base of Clare County Council. Mr. Dowling stated that this will be announced in the next four weeks and the hub will open in 2020.

J. Leahy, Senior Engineer stated that the pedestrian crossing in Carmody Street has been completed and he undertook to establish a completion date for work at Ballymacahill Cross.

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 changing room improvement works at Tim Smythe Park, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Report dated 6th January, 2020 from Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development was circulated with the agenda together with report from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner. The report outlines details of proposed works to dressing rooms at Tim Smythe Park, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. 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 works to dressing rooms at Tim Smythe Park, Lifford, Ennis, Co. Clare.”

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 changing room improvement works at Kilrush Sports Complex, Ballyturra Td., Cooraclare Road, Kilrush, Co. Clare.

Report dated 6th January, 2020 from Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development was circulated with the agenda together with report from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner. The report outlines details of proposed works to dressing rooms at Kilrush Sports Complex, Ballyturra Td., Cooraclare Road, Kilrush, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Keating
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 works to dressing rooms at Kilrush Sports Complex, Ballyturra Td, Cooraclare Road, Kilrush, Co. Clare.”

Item 9. Recycling Centres.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Murphy

“Can I request the following information with regards to the collection from council operated recycling centers, including bottle and clothing banks, by third party operators of all recyclable materials disposed of by the public in those facilities, to include;

- a) the total value of all these contracts per annum?
- b) a breakdown of the different types and by weight of recyclable materials deposited by the public in the recycling centers.
- c) a breakdown by waste type identified in (b) of the cost to Clare County Council to have them removed?
- d) Does Clare County Council receive any share of the resale price of the recyclable items as identified above?”

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

- “a) The total value of the contract for 2019 for the collection of recyclable materials from the 5 No. Recycling Centres and 50 No. Bring Banks was €30,693.
- b) Table 1 details the various recyclable materials and tonnages received at our 5 No. recycling centres and 50 No. Bring Banks around the county during 2019.

Table 1- Recyclable Type Tonnages

Recyclable Material	Total Tonnage 2019
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Steel Cans	45 tonnes
Timber	1137 tonnes
Cardboard	263 tonnes
Hard Plastics	303 tonnes
Bulky Waste (Inagh Only)	78 tonnes
Mattresses (Inagh Only)	37 tonnes
Glass	2412 tonnes
Mixed Plastic Bottles	253 tonnes
Tetra Pak	8 tonnes
Waste Oil, Paints + Oil Filters	Pay by lift
Paper	170 tonnes (approx)

c) Table 3 details the cost for collection by material type.

Table 3- Recyclable Type Tonnages Cost

Waste Type	Total Tonnage 2019	Total Approx Cost (incl vat)
Steel Cans	45 tonnes	€1,950
Timber	1137 tonnes	€153,275
Cardboard	263 tonnes	€30,000
Hard Plastics	303 tonnes	€7,254
Bulky Waste (Inagh Only)	78 tonnes	€1,792
Mattresses (Inagh Only)	37 tonnes	€6,344
Glass	2412 tonnes	€49,337
Mixed Plastic Bottles	253 tonnes	€4,741
Tetra Pak	8 tonnes	€5,800

Waste Oil, Paints + Oil Filters	Pay by lift	€46,000
Paper	170 tonnes (approx)	€14,200

d) Table 3 details the income by material type received from contractors/compliance schemes who collect the materials.

Table 3 Income From Recyclable Materials

Waste Type	Total Tonnage 2019	Total Income
Textiles	155 tonnes	€12,300
Scrap Metals	459 tonnes	€37,400
Batteries	10 tonnes	€1,200
Repak Subsidies	See Note below*	€75,000 (approx)
Waste Electrical Items	550 tonnes	€35,000 (approx)

*The repak subsidies are for the following waste streams: Cardboard, Glass, Steel, Aluminium, Paper, Plastic bottles, Tetra Pak.”

Item 10. Greenway along West Clare rail track.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard

“What is the current status of the greenway along the old West Clare rail track.”

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“Members will be aware of the Council’s commitment to deliver a world class Greenway within the County and this objective is referenced in the County Development Plan 2017-2023. The tentative greenway route proposed is along the line of the old West Clare Railway, a distance of 85 km. approx. Such a proposal will be world class given the proposed route: through forestry and farmlands between Ennis, Corofin and Ennistymon; along the Wild Atlantic Way through Lahinch, Miltown and Quilty; inland towards Doonbeg; and emerging to estuarial views between Moyasta and Kilrush; before finishing up again on the Coast in Kilkee.

The costs involved will be significant but we are currently preparing funding applications and are hopeful of securing the necessary finance through the Department of Rural Affairs Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (R.R.D.F.) or

the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's Greenway Specific Fund. A further issue for us is that for the most part, the route is in private ownership and we are extremely mindful that the delivery of any such Greenway has to be in co-operation and collaboration with affected landowners, local interest groups, the IFA, etc. and in accordance with the National Strategy for Greenways as published by the Department in July 2018. Some preliminary engagement with landowners has taken place already, and at the appropriate time we will consult widely with all affected individuals and their representative groupings. In the meantime, we are happy to receive any inputs, suggestions or queries from interested parties or groups.

Depending on the level of funding available, the project may have to be phased. To this end, we are currently examining the delivery of a smaller (23km) section between Kilrush and Kilkee as a pilot phase which will show how such infrastructure can be provided without undue impact on the landowner while at the same time, returning huge benefit in terms of business and tourism opportunities for the local communities. To assist with same, we have recently commissioned AECOM to carry out a Feasibility Study on this first phase."

Item 11. Tourism products in Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

"That the Economic Development and Tourism sections of Clare County Council undertake a series of feasibility studies for -

(1) the provision of large niche tourism products in our county (ie: Centre Parcs, a mid-west version of Kildare Village, etc).

(2) hosting an annual niche festival that would attract more visitors to our county (i.e.: Galway Arts Festival, Kilkenomics, Limerick's Riverfest, Cat Laughs, etc.)."

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development replied as follows:

"(1) The draft of the county-wide Clare Tourism Strategy will be available for final public consultation during the first week of February, with the finalised version expected during the Spring of 2020.

This Strategy will identify a comprehensive assessment of the current situation in Clare providing the context for its strategic direction to include evolving niche sectors and products in our County of Clare. The action plan associated with the 10 year strategy will be implemented and used to measure performance of products and collateral delivered for Clare. In this regard, consideration will be given to the provision of the aforementioned large niche tourism products in Clare.

- (1) There is currently a proposal presented to the Tourism Department by Comhaltas to rebrand the Fleadh Nua festival to the 'Fleadh down in Ennis' and to move this to the June Bank Holiday weekend. The purpose of this proposal is to commence an annual niche festival that would attract more visitors to our County. The organizing committee has determined the economic benefit that Ennis and environs have realized from hosting two consecutive national Fleadhanna, followed by two

consecutive regional Fleadhanna.

This proposal is to be fully considered by Clare County Council on a cross directorate basis as well as Fáilte Ireland, in line the '10 Key Success Factors for High Tourism Impact Festivals'. In addition, this proposal will be considered by other relevant key stakeholders.



Concern was expressed in relation to the reference to Kildare Village and the implications of increased retail traffic.

The elected members agreed that Clare has the infrastructure and capacity to host an annual festival and discussed the potential benefit this would have for the county.

Item 12. Housing Options Advice Workshops.

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

“As a follow up on an earlier agreed motion I am calling on Clare County Council to organise Housing Options Advice Workshops in each Municipal District as soon as possible.

I would suggest that other agencies involved in the provision of services to the public be invited to participate. The current situation for many people trying to purchase or rent property is extremely difficult to navigate and I believe the Council is well placed

and need to be out there and putting forward other measures to support the public as available social housing is limited and cannot possibly cope with the current demand in addressing accommodation needs.”

Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development replied as follows:

“This Council is in the process of organising a pilot workshop in Shannon for an evening in February. It is intended to invite organisations such as the Residential Tenancies Board, Treshold, MABS, the Housing Agency, Banks, local auctioneers and local mortgage brokers to participate in an information evening.

Clare County Council will also have a stand and will be available to provide information and advice in relation to housing options including the Rebuilding Ireland home loan, leasing options for landlords, details on RAS and HAP as well as new schemes in development in the Shannon Municipal District.

Subject to the success of this pilot evening the event can be rolled out to the other Municipal Districts.”

Cllr. G. Flynn stated that Clare County Council is best placed to deliver on this workshop and requested that it be rolled out to all Municipal Districts.

Item 13. Social housing allocation system.

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“That this Council would review the social housing allocation system.

Who is entitled to a house?

What is the criteria used for allocating houses?

What is the minimum/maximum time a person/family must be on the housing list?

Who makes a decision on who gets a house?

What input, if any, has a local elected representative?

Do Oireachtas members have an input?

Why are elected councillors not informed of housing allocations in their municipal district?

Why does it take so long for a house to be allocated after it is deemed fit for habitation?”

Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development replied as follows:

“Allocations of social housing tenancies are made in accordance with the Clare County Council’s Social Housing Allocation Scheme 2017 adopted on July 10th 2017. This Scheme is used in the allocation of standard Council housing units, casual vacancies and long and short term lease properties. It is planned to review the scheme this year and anticipated that a draft will be made available to the Housing S.P.C. for consideration by end Q2 2020. The scheme is prepared in accordance with section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, Social Housing Allocation Regulations 2011 and Social Housing Allocation (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

Q Who is entitled to a house?

Local authority housing is allocated according to eligibility and need. A standard procedure for assessing applicants for social housing was introduced in every local authority on 1 April 2011. The aim was to create a fairer, more consistent and transparent approach to eligibility for social housing support. The qualification criteria for social housing support are set down in section 20 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and in four sets of Social Housing Assessment Regulations made under the 2009 Act (S.I. No's 84, 136, 321 & 288) and are applied by all local authorities in assessing individual households for support.

The overarching aim of social housing support is to ensure that households who do not have sufficient resources to provide accommodation themselves to meet their needs are provided with adequate housing. In order to qualify for social housing support the household must be deemed (i) eligible for and (ii) in need of support before being placed on a housing waiting list.

There are three main criteria for eligibility for social housing support; Income, Previous Rent Arrears and Availability of Alternative Accommodation and an applicant must meet them all to be deemed in need of social housing support.

Q What is the criteria used for allocating houses? What is the minimum/maximum time a person/family must be on the housing list?

The Social Housing Allocation Scheme 2017 sets out the basis for allocating social housing support to qualified households i.e. households who are deemed eligible for support, having had their application assessed and housing need confirmed. It also covers households already in receipt of social housing support (including those in lease tenancies and households receiving HAP support) that are approved for a transfer.

In accordance with Section 29 of the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 the Council are required to review the social housing assessment of households that are being actively considered for an allocation.

All applicants who are qualified for social housing are considered once a suitable property becomes available within their identified area of choice. Housing allocations are made on basis of need and under the terms of the Social Housing Allocation Scheme and a copy of the current scheme is attached.

There is no identified minimum / maximum time that a household must be on the housing list. All are considered within the context of the adopted Social Housing Allocation Scheme, on basis of need, however regard may be given to the length of time on the housing waiting list of qualified applicants in determining priorities within the categories defined by the scheme. Where the need for accommodation arises from an emergency, such as a household finding themselves facing homelessness, the Council may make a letting as it considers necessary to meet this need, notwithstanding the order of priorities for lettings as set out in the scheme. The housing authority may from time to time determine to set aside for particular categories of persons a particular number or proportion of the dwellings becoming

available for letting. Where dwellings are set aside for a particular category(ies) priority shall be afforded to such category(ies) in the letting of such dwellings.

Q Who makes a decision on who gets a house?

The final decision in relation to an allocation is by Chief Executive Order, delegated to Senior Executive Officer level. Recommendations for decision following a process of consideration of all qualified applicants for the particular house size who have selected the relevant area are considered, shortlisted on basis of need and length of time on the housing list, estate management and sustainable neighbourhood considerations are taken into account. All short listed qualified applicants are invited to attend a meeting, which reviews the social housing needs assessment including eligibility criteria and the households need.

Housing Section Allocations Team meetings are held on a weekly basis, to consider recommendations in relation to proposed allocations. The team comprises, Administrative Officer, Senior Staff Officer (Estate Management), Senior Staff officer (HAP and leasing), Social Worker, Homeless Action Team Coordinator and Housing Welfare Officer. Recommendations for allocation are agreed and forwarded for Senior Executive Officer approval.

Q What input, if any, has a local elected representative? Q Do Oireachtas members have an input?

Adoption of the Social Housing Allocation Scheme is a reserved function of Clare County Council and the responsibility of the elected members. Implementation of the adopted scheme and the associated allocation of properties is an executive function and carried out on behalf of the Chief Executive by staff of Housing Section, Social Development Directorate.

Local elected representatives and Oireachtas members may make representations on behalf of individuals and constituents who have requested them to do so and who have provided consents in relation to the sharing of information under Data Protection legislation.

Q Why are elected councillors not informed of housing allocations in their municipal district?

The details of Chief Executive Orders, which include the listing of housing allocations, are circulated for monthly Council meetings. Personal information is protected under GDPR, therefore the name of the tenant is redacted to protect the identity of those recently allocated properties.

With the express (written) consent of the housing applicant, we advise Councillors of an allocation where a representation has been made.

Q Why does it take so long for a house to be allocated after it is deemed fit for habitation?

Properties are allocated once the works to the property are complete; it is the case that sometime those offered properties refuse the offer leading to delay in occupation of a property. However this is the exception rather than the rule. That said it is our

intention to allocation the property in advance of the works being to complete to address the potential time lag in occupation of a property.

Further, with the imminent introduction of choice based letting, the process will be further enhanced as the property will be allocated to someone who has expressed an interest in residing in same thereby reducing the risk of refusal of an offer.”

The elected members welcomed the proposed review of the social housing allocation system and stated that it is important that elected representatives have an input into this process. They acknowledged the challenges being experienced by staff in housing department and requested ongoing engagement when vacancies arise and when houses are being allocated. The elected members discussed restrictions imposed by GDPR.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive addressed the meeting and stated that the housing function has evolved and changed quite significantly. He stated that the function of allocations rests with officials and that Clare County Council is achieving its objectives, is being as progressive as we can be and will continue to keep reaching targets. Mr. Dowling assured the members that their needs will be listened to during the review process and stated that the Social Development S.P.C. will look at improvements that can be made internally. The Chief Executive stated that GDPR legislation exists and is a protection for both Councillors and housing applicants.

S. McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development informed the members that housing personnel are open to working with all Councillors and stated that everybody needs to be mindful of GDPR legislation. She stated that the Council will facilitate a workshop to address the concerns of the elected members. Ms. McNulty stated that the elected members can be advised when a property has been allocated.

It was suggested that a guidance document be prepared explaining the process of housing allocation and clearly stating who makes the decisions in relation to housing allocations and that this document be circulated to all housing applicants. This was agreed by the members present.

Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development advised the members that Choice Based Letting is being rolled out in the next few weeks and information on this will be made available to everybody on the housing list.

Item 14. E-cars charge points.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Daly

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. J. Crowe agus A. Norton agus glacadh leis

“We call on the Council to co-ordinate with the ESB to increase the number of e-cars charge points throughout the county, particularly as in the next decade electric cars will be compulsory.”

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“The Government published its “Climate Action Plan” in June 2019. The Plan sets out actions across every sector which will ensure we meet our 2030 climate commitments.

Action 72 of the plan is to develop the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging network necessary to support the growth of EVs to at least 800,000 by 2030 and set a target for the supply of infrastructure to stay sufficiently ahead of demand.

The steps necessary for the delivery of this action details the introduction of a capital support that will be provided to Local Authorities for the development of up to 200 on-street public chargers per annum.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), who will manage the scheme, and the Department are currently finalising the terms and conditions that will apply. This is being done in consultation with Local Authorities and it is planned that the scheme when finalised will then open for funding applications. Once the details of the scheme are announced we can co-ordinate with the ESB to optimise delivery of the EV charging network in County Clare.”

The elected members discussed the potential difficulties associated with this initiative due to the insufficient amount of charging points in the county.

C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development informed the members that the SEAI are liaising with the Department to devise policy for the country which will address the concerns raised.

Item 15. Water extraction from Lough Derg.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. I. Lynch, C. Murphy, B. Chambers agus P. Hayes

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and Irish Water for a full abandonment of all plans to extract water from Lough Derg, for consumption in Dublin City and environs, until such time as the basic water and sewage needs of the communities of Clare have been met.”

The elected members stated that Dublin has the worst water leak rate in the country and this needs to be addressed. The members noted that there are 48 towns and villages in County Clare that need infrastructure and investment.

Cllr. P. Burke stated that he could not agree with the totality of the motion as he is opposed to the extraction of water from Lough Derg and that tax payers money should not be wasted on this proposal.

Item 16. Rural transport.

Ar moladh Cllr. R. Garvey

Cuidithe ag Cllr. I. Lynch agus glacadh leis

“I propose that Clare County Council instigate a pilot project by liaising with Bus Éireann to create lay bys on council owned land near secondary roads that join primary bus routes. This would enable rural dwellers to access the limited rural transport options they have, more easily without needing to first get a lift to their closest town or village which can be anything up to 12 km away. Clare would lead the way in improving rural transport options for rural dwellers in this regard.

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

“Clare County Council will engage with Bus Éireann, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (T.I.I.) and the National Transport Authority (N.T.A.) regarding the proposal. Ultimately stop location applications are made by bus companies to the N.T.A. The N.T.A. subsequently deal with the Local Authority at the conditioning stage before a licence is granted.

Consideration during the assessment of locations to be identified will include the following:

- Pedestrian and driver safety
- Adequate forward visibility
- Public Lighting
- Accessibility and footpath connections
- Cost

Works on a National Secondary road would require a Road Safety Audit at the locations proposed. Planning may also be a consideration depending on the extent of the work at the particular locations.”

The elected members stated that a positive response from other bodies is necessary in order to deliver this proposal.

Item 17. Legislation to outlaw the release of Chinese lanterns and helium balloons.

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

“That Clare County Council request the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to introduce legislation to outlaw the release of Chinese lanterns and helium balloons. If Government legislation is not forthcoming that the Minister permit Clare County Council to introduce bylaws to ban the release of same.”

Item 18. Social and affordable housing.

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

“That Clare County Council apply to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, for funding for dramatically enhanced housing programmes for social and affordable housing for the next five years due to the huge increase demand.”

Item 19. Grant scheme for those building their own homes.

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

“That Clare County Council calls on the Government to introduce a €25,000 grant scheme for those building their own houses.”

In supporting Items No. 18 and 19, the elected members stated that they would welcome incentives or support grants for first time buyers and people building their own homes. It was also agreed that the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme needs to be reviewed.

Item 20. Home support system.

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

“Clare County Council calls on the Department of Health to carry out a review and publish the findings of the whole home support system in the mid west region with a view to finding better ways to fund, regulate and roll out a more effective system.”

The elected members agreed that a full appraisal of the homecare scheme is required.

Cllr. J. Killeen suggested that Colette Cowan, Chief Executive Officer, UL Hospitals Group and Paul Reid, Director General, H.S.E. be invited to address the elected members on the contingency plan for the mid west.

Item 21. Comhfhreagras/Correspondence.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive informed the members that a courtesy meeting took place with Mary Considine, Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Group and he read letter received from Ms. Considine subsequent to that meeting. The letter sought the support of Clare County Council for Shannon to become an exemplar of aviation innovation and excellence and the ambition in developing the aviation cluster in Shannon, in particular in relation to the new Hanger development. Mr. Dowling stated that Clare County Council will work in collaboration with Shannon Development and will keep the members updated.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

1. Correspondence dated 17th December, 2019 from the Department of Health concerning a National Screening Programme for newborns.
2. Correspondence dated 24th November, 2019 from UL Hospitals in relation to National Screening protocol of all neonates.
3. Correspondence dated 18th December, 2019 from the Department of Health concerning the provision of diagnostic equipment at UHL.
4. Correspondence dated 24th December, 2019 from UL Hospitals in relation to diagnostic equipment at UHL.
5. Correspondence dated 12th December, 2019 from the Department of Justice and Equality in relation to locum doctors.
6. Correspondence dated 20th December, 2019 from the Department of Health concerning staff shortages in diabetes services at UHL.
7. Correspondence dated 20th December, 2019 from the Department of Health concerning a Suicide Prevention Authority.

8. Correspondence dated 20th December, 2019 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to Rebuilding Ireland Home loan.
9. Resolution circulated by Waterford City & County Council in relation to trade union representation.
10. Conference entitled “Regional Development and EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2020” taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 7th – 9th February, 2020.
11. Conference entitled “Health & Safety in the Workplace” taking place in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 21st – 23rd February, 2020.
12. 31st Colmcille Winter School taking place in the Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Churchill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 28th & 29th February, 2020.
13. Details of AILG Training Programme Modules 1 and 2.

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 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 €55.

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 €55.

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

Conference entitled “The Finance Act 2019” taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 10th – 12th January, 2020.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €742.98 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllr. S. Talty attend this Conference.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____