

**Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held via MS Teams on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 at 3:45 p.m.**

**Present via MS Teams:**

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

- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, Deputy 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.
- Dr. Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development.
- Mr. Seán Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Mr. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.

**Apologies:**

Cllrs. M. Nestor and C. Colleran Molloy.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P.J. Ryan presided and welcomed everybody to the January Council Meeting which was held via MS Teams. Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Ryan stated that 2022 is a special year as it marks 100 years since the foundation of the state.

**Vote of Sympathy.**

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

- The Blake family, Drumcliffe and Kilmihil on the death of Vincent (Vinny) Blake
- The O’Neill family, Lisdoonvarna on the death of John O’Neill
- The Hayes family, Tulla on the death of Denis Hayes
- The Morrissey family, Mullagh on the death of Peggy Morrissey
- The Shannon Family, Ruan, on the death of IJ Shannon
- The McCoy family, Newmarket on Fergus on the death of Frank and Pat McCoy
- The Enright family, Newmarket on Fergus on the death of Flan Enright

- The Moloney family, Broadford and New York on the death of Danny Moloney. The members acknowledged the contribution Danny made to the Aisling Irish Community Centre and his friendship, generosity and support of the people of Clare.

Cllr. P.J. Kelly extended a vote of sympathy to Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy on the passing of her mother Dolly, R.I.P. and proposed that the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes as a mark of respect. This was seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes and agreed by the members present.

The meeting resumed at 4:10 p.m.

**Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.**

- a. Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Garrihy agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the December Meeting of Clare County Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 be adopted and signed.”

**Item 2: Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

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

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

“That the minutes of the Social Development S.P.C. meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 be noted”.

**Item 4: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.**

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 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. J. Flynn commended the work undertaken by the Tenancy Enforcement Team who responded to a total of 3,027 issues during 2021. Cllr. J. Flynn stated that it is very important that people e-mail the Tenancy Enforcement Team if they have an issue that needs to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management Unit. Cllr. J. Flynn welcomed the update on the housing capital programme and requested that an appropriate mix of private, affordable and social houses be allocated if Clare County Council has any input in the further phase of houses being delivered in Ennis.

Cllr. S. Talty requested an update on the status of the Ennistymon Inner Relief Road.

Cllr. J. Garrihy commended the Arts Office for hosting the “Gifting Event” which took place in the Municipal Districts in December. Cllr. Garrihy also commended the work done by the greenway team and welcomed the funding allocated to develop and advance greenways in Clare. Cllr. Garrihy welcomed the delivery of the Burren Discovery Trail and asked that Clare County Council commit to the regeneration of towns and villages as sustainable tourist destinations and communities.

Cllr. T. O’Brien complimented all involved in the Killaloe Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan and requested an update on the new bridge crossing and bypass.

Cllr. G. Keating queried the reason for the increase in the number of L.I.S. applications being reviewed and also expressed concern in relation to the road network in West Clare which is in need of repair.

Cllr. I. Lynch sought clarity in relation to active travel funding allocation.

Cllr. A. Norton acknowledged the staff who worked to keep everybody safe during Storm Barra and the staff in each Municipal District for work done during the Christmas period. Cllr. Norton complimented all involved in the “Gifting Event”. Cllr. Norton welcomed funding allocated for Ballyalla and also to Clare Sports Partnership to help and support physical activity within the county.

Cllr. P. Hayes welcomed the regeneration funding for Scarriff and acknowledged the work done in the area office in working with the community. Cllr. Hayes acknowledged the work carried out under the bridge repair programme and thanked the Arts Office for continuing their initiatives.

Cllr. D. McGettigan congratulated all involved in the Green Flag Award for Shannon Town Park and also commended the unveiling of the plaque in memory of the late Councillor Mike McKee.

Cllr. C. Murphy referred to figures provided in relation to derelict sites and requested figures for 2019 and 2020.

Cllr. C. Murphy welcomed the survey carried out in relation to the junction between Mount Charles Terrace and the N67 and requested a timeline for the work proposed at Minister Place, Kilkee. Cllr. C. Murphy congratulated all involved in reaching agreement with landowners in relation to the Cloughaninchy flood relief scheme. Cllr. Murphy requested confirmation on dates for County Development Plan public consultation events.

Cllr. J. Killeen welcomed the investment in the Burren Discovery Trail and proposed that an event be held to further the discovery trail portals and inter county collaboration between Councillors in North Clare and South Galway.

Cllr. M. Begley requested an estimated time for meeting with Waterways Ireland in relation to Wooden Bridge Springfield. Referring to the Errinagh Canal Bank Walkway, Cllr. Begley referred to the consternation on this road and asked when work will commence and if an interim solution can be found as the family residing on the road are experiencing constant difficulties.

Dr. C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development addressed the meeting and stated that the Council are awaiting a decision from An Board Pleanala in relation to the Ennistymon Inner Relief Road. Dr. Kirby stated that the Minister has signed the order approving the appointment of a consultant for the Killaloe Bridge crossing. Dr. Kirby empathised with the residents affected by the delay in works on the Errinagh Canal Bank Walkway and undertook to revert to Cllr. Begley with an update on this project.

S. Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Physical Development then addressed the meeting and acknowledged the continued support of T.I.I. and the recent allocation of funding. Mr. Lenihan stated that the Council are awaiting a decision from An Bord Pleanala in relation to the Ennistymon Inner Relief Road. Mr. Lenihan outlined the considerable work that has been undertaken on this project. Mr. Lenihan welcomed the funding allocated for greenways in the county and informed the members that a strong case has been submitted to the Department in relation to the tender application for the Killaloe crossing and bypass.

Mr. Lenihan stated that he will attend the next West Clare Municipal District meeting where he will provide an update to the queries raised by Cllr. G. Keating.

J. Leahy, Senior Engineer, Physical Development referred to meetings held with T.I.I. in order to maximise funding and welcomed the substantial funding allocated for 2022. Mr. Leahy stated that a comprehensive review has been undertaken on L.I.S. applications and that there are currently 200 live Local Improvement Schemes, as not all schemes were valid and some referred to C.I.S.

In relation to Ministers Place in Kilkee, Mr. Leahy stated that there is ongoing engagement with T.I.I. and that a preliminary design report will be submitted in spring time. Mr. Leahy informed the members that no funding has been allocated for this project this year.

Referring to the Wooden Bridge in Springfield, Mr. Leahy advised that a meeting with Waterways Ireland will take place in the spring. Mr. Leahy stated that bridge rehabilitation works are prioritised by their structural integrity and that the entire 2021 allocation was spent. Mr. Leahy stated that proposed works for 2022 has been submitted for funding allocation.

C. Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development responded to query in relation to derelict sites and informed the members that this is a very topical issue which can result in revitalised buildings and that activity in this area has increased in the last 5/6 years. In response to query regarding the County Development Plan public consultation events, Ms. Greene stated that these events will take place between 4.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. in an effort to actively promote the events so that as many people as possible will attend and engage in the process.

Cllr. P. Hayes referred to the volume of incidents that have occurred on the Ennis to Gort section of the motorway recently and stated that this issue needs to be resolved.

J. Leahy, Senior Engineer, Physical Development undertook to discuss this with the T.I.I.

**Item 6: NUIG appointment.**

Report dated 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 from Ann Reynolds, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services Department was circulated with the agenda. The report states that one nomination paper was received before the closing date, signed by Cllrs. P.J. Kelly and P. Daly, nominating Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy to be the Council's representative on the Governing Body of N.U.I.G. The report states that the Council's representative will serve for a three-year term commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2022.

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

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

The members joined in wishing Cllr. Colleran Molloy well during her term of office. The members also acknowledged Cllr. P.J. Kelly's contribution during his term on the Governing Body of N.U.I.G.

**Item 7: Ratification of new member on the Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).**

Report dated 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 from Bernadette Haugh, A/Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda. The report states that Ennis Chamber of Commerce has nominated Sheila Lynch to fill the vacancy of membership on the Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

The members approved the nomination having been proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. C. Murphy and agreed by the members present.

Cllr. T. O'Brien referred to recent report stating that €5.2m public monies have been allocated to Shannondoc to cover services in the mid-west region and expressed concern that dispensaries in Kilrush, Ennistymon and Shannon remain closed. Cllr. O'Brien proposed that Shannondoc Senior Management be invited to brief the members of Clare County Council in relation to this. Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P.J. Ryan advised that this request should be submitted in the form of a notice of motion for the next Council meeting.

**Motion for the purpose of dealing with urgent business.**

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P.J. Ryan informed the meeting that two motions for the purpose of dealing with urgent business had been received in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 44.

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. I. Lynch seconded by Cllr. A. Norton with the approval of the following members:

Cllrs. S. Talty, C. Murphy, P. O'Gorman, M. Howard, L. Grant, J. Garrihy, J. Flynn, D. McGettigan, C. Colleran Molloy, P. Murphy, J. Crowe, B. Chambers, P.J. Kelly, J. Killeen, G. Flynn and P. Burke.

“The members of Clare County Council call on the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly to fast-track orthopaedic interventions and surgical reviews for children with Spina Bifida and additional mobility needs. We are also calling on the Minister for Health to ensure that provision of services is made to children within elective hospital settings as well as acute hospital settings to avoid a repeat of the situation in the future.”

The elected members were unanimous in supporting this motion and expressed concern in relation to the problems arising due to the lack of orthopaedic surgery available. The importance of early intervention was emphasised by the members.

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn with the approval of the following members:

Cllrs. D. McGettigan, P. O’Gorman, L. Grant, J. Garrihy, C. Murphy, P. Daly, G. Flynn, I. Lynch, M. Begley, P.J. Kelly, A. Norton, T. O’Brien, A. O’Callaghan, P. Burke and P. Murphy.

“We the undersigned members of Clare County Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Eamon Ryan, T.D., not to proceed with the Notice of Intention to grant a prospecting Licence pursuant to section (1) of the Minerals Directive Act 1940 to Minco Ireland Ltd., Coolfore Road, QME, Ardbracken, Navan, Meath, C15 KXY3 for Base Metals, Barytes, Gold (Ores of.) and Silver (Ores of.) over the following Townlands in County Clare:

Tulla Upper Barony: Affick, Annagh (E.D. Kiltannon), Ardbooly Lower, Ardbooly Upper, Ballyslattery or Newgrove, Bunavory, Cloghaun, Cloonaleary, Cloondanagh, Cloondorney Beg, Cloondorney More, Cloonteen, Cragg, Cutteen Beg, Cutteen More, Derryulk Lower, Doonaun, Drummaghmartin, Drumullan, Eyrehill, Fomerla, Furhee, Garruragh, Gorteenaneelig, Gorteennaguppoge, Kilboggoon, Kilduff Lower, Kilduff Middle, Kiltanon, Knockadoon, Knockdrumleague, Lissosfin, Loughaun South, Milltown, Moymore, Poulaforia, Rine, Tulla, Tyredagh Lower, Tyredagh Upper, Townlands in Bunratty Upper Barony: Caherloghan, Carrahan, Feenagh, Knockaphreaghau, Lassana, Sraheen, Toonag.

We ask at the very least for an extension for proper public consultation.

We stand with our colleagues in Leitrim and Sligo County Councils who unanimously voiced their opposition to the granting of such a license. The industry is long associated with negative impacts on the landscape, air and water quality, carbon emissions, and the displacement of and/or negative impacts on existing industries like tourism and agriculture. We ask the Minister to listen to the thousands of people who have made objections to this proposal.

We also encourage other local authorities around the country to voice their opposition.”

The elected members referred to public notification received by Clare County Council on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 in relation to prospecting for minerals in East Clare and

expressed concern that the opportunity for submissions was insufficient as it included the Christmas period. The members agreed that an extension of time is needed to provide a further opportunity for awareness, education and consultation for the people affected. The members acknowledged the background work completed by Cllr. D. McGettigan on awareness raising on this licence application and requested that information relating to applications be circulated to the Councillors by e-mail in future.

L. Conneally, Director of Economic Development clarified that the process for granting a prospecting licence is a separate statutory process and felt that the elected members request for an extension of time is reasonable. Mr. Conneally stated that the information will be made available at the planning counter. Mr. Conneally informed the members that many licences are not acted upon but should they be acted on there is an entire planning and environmental process to be undertaken. Mr. Conneally undertook to put procedures in place whereby information on applications will be circulated to the members when received.

#### **Item 8. Grant aid to community groups.**

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

“That Clare County Council would provide grant aid to community groups who wish to enhance existing leisure facilities by providing low-cost toilet facilities.”

#### **Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development replied as follows:**

“At a local level, the Council provides grants through the Community Support Scheme to community groups wishing to enhance public areas and amenities. The provision of funding under the scheme for the facilities as proposed could be considered. Groups applying for such funding need to ensure that appropriate permissions are in place at the time of application. In the case of toilet facilities, planning permission is likely to be required and where this is in place along with any other necessary permissions, consideration can be given to provision of funding through the Community Support Scheme.

At a national level, grant funding for such facilities could be considered where they form part of a larger project. Examples of such schemes include the Town & Village Renewal Scheme the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and the Community Enhancement Programme (for disadvantaged groups). Again, it would be important that the necessary consents and permissions are in place at the time of making the application.”

The elected members agreed that public toilets could be made available by adapting derelict buildings or constructing minor extensions to existing buildings in rural communities. The members noted the willingness of community groups to co-operate in this initiative.

#### **Item 9. Tidy Towns Committees.**

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. D. McGettigan agus glacadh leis

“I request that Clare County Council agree to write to all our Tidy Towns committees within Co. Clare area thanking them for their invaluable work within their communities. These volunteers have been keeping their street and roads litter and weed free, planting shrubs, bulbs and flowers, dealing with dumping & graffiti and ensuring their town or village looks its very best each year.”

The elected members praised the work undertaken by Tidy Towns groups whose members are volunteers and who take great pride in what they do. The members agreed that these groups deserve ongoing support and outlined the importance of recognising the Councils appreciation of the work they do. The members also noted that many towns and villages in Clare received improved results in the National Tidy Towns competition in 2021 and attributed this to the work carried out by local Tidy Towns groups.

#### **Item 10. Grants available to Community Organisations.**

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

“That this council would compile a comprehensive list of all grants available to community organisations during the year 2022 and forward a copy to the secretaries of these organisations.”

#### **Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development replied as follows:**

“In recent years Government has increased the range of grant supports for voluntary groups at a local level. Clare County Council invests in community projects through the Community Support Scheme and the GMA. The Rural and Community Department will compile a list of grants for 2022 and will circulate details to all community groups on our data base.”

The elected members agreed that the myriad of grant schemes available can cause great demand on volunteers and acknowledged the ongoing support of the Rural and Community Development Officers. The members welcomed the assurance to compile and circulate list of grants for 2022.

L. Cleary, Director of Rural Development addressed the meeting and stated that there is one Rural and Community Development Officer available in each Municipal District and they are available to work with the elected members. Mr. Cleary stated that the Rural Development Directorate will compile a list of grants for 2022 and will arrange to circulate details both electronically and by hard copy. Mr. Cleary informed the members that community projects need to be shovel ready when submitted to the Department, that costings for projects must be ready and that a budget needs to be in place.

#### **Item 11. Implications of 4 day working week.**



Ar moladh Cllr. P. McMahon

“I will ask the CEO what are the implications of a 4 day week working for Clare County Council Staff and Services.”

**Noleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance & Support Services replied as follows:**

“A four day week working can take two forms:

1. A reduced hours situation where an employee works reduced hours over the standard working week contract.
2. Compressed hours where employees still work their full contract hours, but across 4 days.

The former arrangement has been in place in this Council in the form of facilitation national leave arrangements both statutory and non-statutory. This is based on an annual application process and is considered regarding business needs. Typically, the granting of requests is rotated across staff to be equitable and fair while not impacting on service delivery. These leave arrangements support staff in their work-life balances without impacting on service delivery.

The second form is a relative new concept to the public service and has been proposed Nationally by Forsa union who have engaged with the Oireachtas Committee on Enterprise, Trade and Employment. This will be discussed and considered nationally for the sector and will require cross sectoral agreement in order to be implemented. While there has to-date been no detailed engagement or discussion with the sector on this, it is not possible to outline the implications here locally. International Studies have shown mixed results where longer working days can impact on productivity, work-life balance but for some this can lead to increased employee engagement. These findings would need to be balanced with improved service delivery and customer satisfaction. Questions like are we spreading the provision of services across longer opening hours with the same level of staff resources would need to be considered and balanced in light of avail resources both staffing and financial.

The ability to continue the provision of services remotely as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic have demonstrated this council’s ability to pivot and change how we deliver our services. In the meantime, the local authority sector continues with various flexible working, remote working and family friendly arrangements, in line with government policy, all which facilitate a positive work life balance.”

Cllr. P. McMahon stated that he felt the working from home initiative has proven to be a highly positive initiative and stated that a number of businesses across the country continue to partake in a pilot programme which sees employees work a four-day week.

**Item 12. Lifeguard service.**

Ar moladh Cllr. L. Grant  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Garrihy agus glacadh leis

"Call on Clare County Council to provide a full-time lifeguard service for the month of June at the busiest beaches in the county. With the increase in popularity of sea swimming and other water sports, there is now a need for lifeguards everyday at the most popular beaches during the month of June."

**Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical Development Directorate replied as follows:**

"The deployment of fulltime lifeguards in the month of June will be contingent on their availability as our lifeguards are drawn primarily from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level students. Once the lifeguard interview and fitness assessment process is completed in the coming months, availability will then be determined. It is premature to commit at this time to their deployment for the full month of June but every effort will be made to extend lifeguard cover."

Cllr. L. Grant congratulated Clare McGrath, Water Safety Development Officer on being appointed Chair of Water Safety Ireland. The elected members agreed that sea swimming has increased in popularity as people are swimming all year round. The members felt that lifeguards should be available at busy beaches in June in order to keep people safe and provide first aid. Tributes were paid to the reaction of Council and Water Safety staff when needed. The members also noted that people should take personal responsibility and make informed decisions in relation to sea swimming. It was suggested that a link be established between surf rescue groups and the National Ambulance Service.

Dr. C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development stated that interviews and assessments will be carried out and that busy beaches will be prioritised for lifeguard cover in June.

**Item 13. Measures to address housing crisis.**

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn

"I am requesting information from Clare County Council covering the different measures used in Clare to address the housing crisis during the years 2019/2020 & 2021. What is required is an accurate assessment of the demand from the public for housing support and the methodology been applied in Clare as a response and the effects of the measures on addressing the serious issue for those in need of a home.

1/ How many applications were received and approved by the housing section covering 2019/2020 & 2021.

2/ How many Tenancies were allocated and signed up by the housing section for 2019/2020 & 2021.

3/ How many Tenancies were allocated using Choice Based Letting (CBL) during 2019/2020 & 2021 and how many tenancies were allocated for the same period using the more traditional method of assessment of all approved applicants for consideration in respects to suitable and available housing.

4/ How many Home Loan Applications were made during 2019/2020 & 2021 and how many loans were approved and drawn down.

5/ How many approved applicants were removed from the Housing Support List as a result of the review process carried out by the local authority during 2019/2020 & 2021.

The overall information I am requesting needs to focus entirely on the measures specifically applied by Clare County Council and outside of approved housing bodies, housing assistance payments and leasing of accommodation as this will provide more transparency on how best to adjudicate on the effectiveness of the policy in place.”

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

“Please find hereunder response to the questions raised. While the question is seeking details only in relation to the local authority it should be noted that the figures at 1. below in respect of the assessment and approval for social housing supports does include applicants who are/were subsequently housed in accommodation provided by the AHB sector or in private rented with financial support.

1. *How many applications were received and approved by the housing section covering 2019/2020&2021?*

2019: 732

2020: 771

2021: 834

2. *How many Tenancies were allocated and signed up by the housing section for 2019/2020&2021.*

2019: 198

2020: 176

2021: 183

Please note these figures included all Clare County Council social housing tenancies created including leased properties, it does not include tenancies with Approved Housing Bodies or those whose housing need was met through HAP/RAS or other means.

3. *How many Tenancies were allocated using Choice Based Letting (CBL) during 2019/2020&2021 and how many tenancies were allocated for the same period using the more traditional method of assessment of all approved applicants for consideration in respects to suitable and available housing.*

All properties are allocated in accordance with the Social Housing Allocation Scheme, the most recent scheme was adopted by Clare County Council in March 2021. This Scheme sets out the priorities and procedures for allocating dwellings.

In August 2020 Clare County Council implemented CBL as a method for the allocation of social housing. The ultimate allocation of support still continues to be made in accordance with the priorities set down in the Council allocation scheme. CBL simply changes the way applicants experience the allocation process.

Dwellings which are to be allocated under CBL are designated by Order of the Chief Executive. Dwellings owned by Approved Housing Bodies may be advertised on CBL with the agreement of the Approved Housing Body and this has continued to be the case during 2020 and 2021. Elderly person Dwellings and specially adapted wheelchair accessible dwellings may not be allocated through CBL.

2019 Nil Allocations using CBL

2020 (From August 2020) 73 properties were allocated using CBL.

2021 117 properties were advertised using CBL.

The balance of tenancies allocated relates to the following:

- Transfer tenants where their current accommodation no longer was meeting their housing requirements.
- Succession tenancies.
- Properties acquired by Clare County Council through the Mortgage to Rent process and where the occupants were subsequently appointed tenants.
- Traveller specific accommodation.
- Properties acquired by Clare County Council where occupants were subsequently appointed tenants.
- Applicants who have been granted Refugee status from the Department of Justice.
- Persons who have a specific housing requirement i.e. wheelchair accessible accommodation.

The Department have advised that where Local Authorities have adopted a CBL approach, that this approach is to be used for a significant proportion of vacancies as where CBL is only used for part of the stock applicants can find it difficult to identify which properties would be included in the CBL system and can also perceive the system to be less transparent.

*4. How many Home Loan Applications were made during 2019/2020 &2021 and how many loans were approved and drawn down.*

	<b>Application s</b>	<b>Approval s</b>	<b>Drawn down</b>
<b>2021</b>	45	33	11
<b>2020</b>	38	21	22

<b>2019</b>	49	28	27
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5. *How many approved applicants were removed from The Housing Support List as a result of the review process carried out by the local authority during 2019/2020&2021.*

Closed SSHA 2019: 325

2020: 134

2021: 359

Cllr. G. Flynn voiced hope that more information could be provided to elected members in relation to the profile of housing applicants as elected members need adequate information. Cllr. Flynn outlined his concerns in relation to the Choice Based Letting scheme.

**Item 14. Comhfhreagras.**

**The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:**

1. Correspondence dated 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 from the Department of Health regarding staffing in Limerick Hospital Group.
2. Correspondence dated 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 from the Department of Finance in relation to tax policy solution that will encourage behavioural change in property owners to switch from short term lets to long term rental.
3. Correspondence dated 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to Ash Dieback Disease.
4. Correspondence dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 from the Department of the Taoiseach in relation to European Network of EU Councillors.
5. Resolution circulated by Sligo County Council in relation to granting a prospecting license.
6. Resolution circulated by Louth County Council supporting the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long standing issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families.
7. Resolution circulated by Galway City Council in relation to the Help to Buy incentive scheme.

## **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 elected members training Programme Module 1 - "Government Decision on the Reform on Remuneration Payable to Local Authority Elected Members and Update on Planning and Development Bill" taking place in the Tower Hotel & Leisure Centre, Waterford on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €345.29 including conference fee of €65.

It was agreed that Cllr. P. O’Gorman attend this Conference.

#### **AILG Training Programme Module 1 entitled "Government Decision on the Reform on Remuneration Payable to Local Authority Elected Members and Update on Planning and Development Bill 2021 and other Planning Related Matters" being held in the Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2021.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €304.48.

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

#### **Conference entitled "Mental Health & Wellbeing" taking place in O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €450.77 including conference fee of €100.

It was agreed that Cllrs. A. O’Callaghan and P. O’Gorman attend this Conference.

#### **LAMA Autumn Training Seminar taking place on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at Sligo Park Hotel.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €400 including conference fee of €150.

It was agreed that Cllrs. A. O’Callaghan and P. O’Gorman attend this Conference.

#### **AILG Training Programme Module 2 entitled "Elected members mental health and wellbeing" being held in the Avalon House Hotel, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €287.50 including conference fee of €65

It was agreed that Cllrs. J. Cooney and A. O’Callaghan attend this Conference.

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_