

Minutes of November Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council

Location: Held in the Glucksman Library, University of Limerick and via MS Teams

On: Monday, 14th November, 2022

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Present:

Councillors:

M. Howard, C. Collieran Molloy, P. Daly, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, 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, G. Keating, C. Murphy, I. Lynch.

Officials Present:

- 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.
- Dr. Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development.
- Mr. Jason Murphy, A/Director of Service, Ukrainian Response Team.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.

Present via MS Teams:

Cllrs. J. Flynn, P. Murphy, A. Norton, P. Burke, B. Chambers.

Officials present via MS Teams:

- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance and Support Services.
- Mr. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Mr. Seán Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T. O'Brien presided.

Votes of sympathy.

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- The Griffin family on the death of Anne Griffin (nee Cullinan) RIP
- The Atkinson family, Ballina on the death of Philip Atkinson RIP
- The Hickey family, Mountshannon on the death of William Hickey RIP
- The Heaslip family, Ennis on the death of Jack Heaslip RIP
- The O’Hara family, Cratloe on the death of JJ O’Hara RIP
- The Lonergan family, Sixmilebridge on the death of Sean Lonergan RIP
- The McMahon family, Quin on the death of Eileen McMahon RIP
- The Frawley family, Kilmurry McMahon on the death of Patricia Frawley RIP
- The Organ family, Ennistymon on the death of Philomena Organ RIP.

The members extended sympathy to the family of Vicky Phelan RIP. The members paid tribute to her and referred to her as a woman who campaigned tirelessly for the provision of healthcare for women. A minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect.

Budget 2023 Meeting

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T. O’Brien noted that it had been agreed at the October Council meeting that the Budget meeting would be held on Friday, 25th November at 3.00 p.m. and that it has now proposed to re-schedule the budget meeting to begin at 2.30 p.m. This was agreed by the members present.

Congratulations

The members extended congratulations to Ennis as it was named “Ireland’s Friendliest Place” at the AIBMS Retail Excellence Ireland Awards ceremony recently.

It was also noted that Clare County Council has been shortlisted for Local Authority of the Year Award by Chambers Ireland.

Item 1: Formal welcome by Professor Kerstin Mey, President, University of Limerick.

Professor Kerstin Mey, President, University of Limerick addressed the meeting and welcomed the members to the Glucksman Library in UL. Professor Mey thanked the members of Clare County Council for their continued support of education through the development of UL and stated that the members can be proud as they embark on the SDZ Project.

Item 2: Minutes of Council Meetings.

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

“That the Minutes of the October Meeting of Clare County Council held on 10th October, 2022 be adopted and signed.”

b. Ar moladh Cllr. S. Talty
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Cooney agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Clare County Council held on 20th October, 2022 be adopted and signed.”

Item 3: Matters Arising.

Cllr. P.J. Kelly referred to Item No. 20 at the September Council meeting seeking legal opinion in relation to planning and expressed disappointment that this legal opinion has not been provided. Cllr. Kelly expressed concern that the Council may be exposed to legal challenge on this issue.

L. Conneally, Director of Economic advised that the legal opinion had been circulated to the elected members earlier that day.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive noted that the legal opinion had been circulated and acknowledged that it had not arrived at the desired speed. Mr. Dowling suggested that the legal opinion circulated be studied and debated at a future meeting.

Item 4. Comhfhreagras/Correspondence.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

1. Press release entitled “Our Rural Future – Minister Humphreys announces details of new €180 million Leader Programme.”
2. Correspondence dated 6th October, 2022 from Shannon Airport Authority in relation to the air link between Chicago O’Hare Airport and Shannon Airport.
3. Correspondence dated 19th October, 2022 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to the multi-annual rural water programme.
4. Correspondence dated 18th October, 2022 from Deputy Michael McNamara in relation to Ennis Injury Clinic.
5. Correspondence from Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne in relation to Ennis injury unit.

6. Correspondence dated 20th October, 2022 from the Department of Health in relation to publicly funded fertility treatments.
7. Correspondence dated 1st November, 2022 from the Department of Agriculture in relation to Avian Influenza.
8. Correspondence dated 1st November, 2022 from the Department of Justice in relation to the Garda vetting process.
9. Correspondence dated 17th October, 2022 from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science regarding support for the inclusion of all full-time participants of apprenticeship programmes in all student card schemes.
10. Resolution circulated by Monaghan County Council in relation to Citizens Assemblies.
11. Resolution circulated by Fermanagh & Omagh District Council in relation to the Justice for Noah campaign.
12. Resolution circulated by Donegal County Council in relation to turf cutting.
13. Resolution circulated by Offaly County Council in relation to difficulties faced by emergency medical technicians.
14. Resolution circulated by Cork County Council in relation to the end of waste criteria.

Item 5: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.

- a. Ar moladh Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Daly agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 6th September, 2022 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 4th October, 2022 be noted.”

Item 5: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October, 2022 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. P. Burke welcomed the recent funding announcement for Inis Cealtra and complimented and congratulated all involved in preparing the application submitted to the Department.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T. O'Brien acknowledged the official sod turning by Minister Eamon Ryan TD for the Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass project.

Cllr. C. Murphy referred to the flexible outdoor structures and asked if they can be used in various locations around the county. Cllr. C. Murphy requested that the relevant agencies act on progressing the Doonbeg water supply as there have been eight outages in three weeks during October. Cllr. C. Murphy welcomed the repairs on the foul asbestos rising main in Kilkee. Cllr. C. Murphy congratulated all involved in the success of RRDF grants recently.

Cllr. I. Lynch requested an update on the roll out of the defective concrete block redress grant scheme.

Cllr. M. Begley referred to the recent tour of the flood defence works in Springfield, Clonlara with Minister O'Donovan and welcomed the completion of the works on the embankment.

Cllr. J. Killeen referred to Phase 2 of the West Clare Greenway project and the recent consultation process and queried if face to face engagement can be arranged to provide information for landowners.

Cllr. J. Flynn welcomed progress on the derelict sites register as well as continued progress on the provision of social housing. Cllr. J. Flynn acknowledged the volume of projects being undertaken by the Project Management Office.

Cllr. S. Talty welcomed the delivery of social housing throughout the county and expressed disappointment in relation to the absence of members at the official opening of the new housing estate in Miltown Malbay recently. Cllr. Talty informed the meeting that members of a Group Water Scheme in Miltown Malbay have been without water for three days and felt that this is unsatisfactory and needs to be addressed.

Cllr. J. Cooney welcomed the Part VIII approval for Scarriff Rural Regeneration Programme.

Cllr. J. Garrihy acknowledged the work being undertaken on the active travel projects and footpaths throughout the county. Cllr. Garrihy complimented all involved in the Burren Winterage Festival.

Cllr. G. Flynn requested a more definite timeline in relation to the Shannon Flood Protection Project. Cllr. G. Flynn felt there is a need for more clarity in relation to the housing needs area.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive referred to the low attendance at the official opening of the new housing estate in Miltown Malbay and apologized to the members of the West Clare Municipal District and informed them that the original invitation issued

for 10.00 a.m. but that the Minister requested that the time change to 9.00 a.m. at short notice.

Mr. Dowling referred to the recent announcement of Rural Regional Development Funding and stated that it is quite exceptional to be allocated funding for two projects of this scale. Mr. Dowling complimented all involved in producing the quality applications. Mr. Dowling noted that there will be a requirement to match the grant and the cost of acquiring the sites and that this will require large scale financial consideration.

C. Feeney, Senior Engineer referred to the water outages in Doonbeg and stated that it has been responded to. Mr. Feeney stated that Irish Water has invested significant funding in the leakage reduction programme and that Irish Water contractors are replacing asbestos mains in Doonbeg and will resurface the roads in Doonbeg in early 2023 which will enhance the village.

Mr. Feeney referred to outages in Glendine and Miltown Malbay and stated that Clare County Council actively assist group water schemes who continue to deliver infrastructure across the county.

S. Lenihan, Senior Engineer noted that the Springfield infrastructure is now providing the defence needed. Referring to the West Clare Greenway consultation process, Mr. Lenihan stated that Corofin was included in the consultation process and that Clare County Council always engage face to face and that the code of practice agreed with farming bodies has to be adhered to.

Mr. Lenihan referred to the Shannon Flood Relief Scheme and assured the members that work continues on this project and that the quantity of work has increased due to the merging of the embankment with the town scheme which includes additional surveys and environmental challenges. Mr. Lenihan stated that a meeting with the project team is taking place during the week and that he will revert to the members with an update after that meeting.

Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development undertook to provide an update on the defective concrete block redress grant scheme when information is available.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan requested that projects in the Shannon Municipal District be progressed.

S. Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Physical Development stated that the €20m N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Project is moving at pace and it is hoped that it will be at planning stage in July 2023 and that it is anticipated that the scheme will be built by 2027.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan welcomed the upgrade works carried out on the Ballycar Group Water Scheme.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive assured Cllr. P.J. Ryan that work is being carried out on the Shannon Town Masterplan and hub and that initial stage 1 URDF funding has been received. Mr. Dowling stated that the rollout of the Shannon Town Masterplan will bring significant investment to Shannon Town.

Item 7: Disposal (by lease) of building and surrounding site at the Junction, Cloughleigh, Ennis, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

Report dated 10th October, 2022 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Property Management Unit was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose (by lease) of building and surrounding site at The Junction, Cloughleigh, Ennis, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 10th October, 2022.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Daly 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) of building and surrounding site at The Junction, Cloughleigh, Ennis, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 10th October, 2022.”

Item 7: Disposal of property at Glenina, Gort Road, Ennis, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

Report dated 28th October, 2022 from Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of property at Glenina, Gort Road, Ennis, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 28th October, 2022.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Daly 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 property at Glenina, Gort Road, Ennis, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 28th October, 2022.”

Item 7: Report in accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2013 for the proposed development at Monastery Lane, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.

Report dated 8th November, 2022 from Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, West Clare Municipal District (North) was circulated with the agenda together with the Chief Executive’s report dated 14th October, 2022 (including Clare County Council’s appropriate assessment screening), which had been prepared by Helen Quinn, A/Senior Planner, under Delegation Order HR151 dated 9th April 2021. The

reports outline details of a proposed development at Monastery Lane, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.

The members were asked if there were any issues that they wished to raise in respect of the report circulated.

Pursuant to Section 179 (4)(b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, Cllr. S. Talty proposed the following resolution:

“In reaching this proposed resolution, we the members considered the following:

- The structures to be demolished are not protected structures.
- The condition of the existing buildings including the report from Building Control.
- The Masterplan for the development of Ennistymon including the significant engagement in the public consultation process.
- The requirement for car parking spaces in Ennistymon.
- Other developments of scale in Ennistymon.

Having considered the planners report and the recommendations therein it is proposed to modify the development otherwise than recommended in the Chief Executive report to develop the carpark as outlined in Drawing reference number WCMD-0231-04 as submitted under file reference 22/8006.”

Cllr. G. Flynn expressed his concerns about how the resolution was being put forward.

The resolution was seconded by Cllr. J. Garrihy and accepted by the members.

Item 11. Lifeguards at beaches.

Ar moladh Cllr. L. Grant
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Murphy agus glacadh leis

“I call on Clare County Council to increase the lifeguard season at “big beaches” to include weekends in May.”

Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical development replied as follows:

“There are a number of factors to be considered in the provision of a weekend Lifeguard service during the month of May. Generally, the water temperature and overall sea state conditions are not as conducive to beach activities in the month of May compared to later in June and through the summer months. Atlantic swells, particularly in May, can create very unfavourable conditions for beach activities. The number of visitors to the beaches during May would also be far less compared to the busy summer holiday period and it is important to balance available resources to provide the most efficient service.

The Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 designate the bathing season from the 1st June to the 15th September each year. Local authorities work with the E.P.A. and H.S.E. to monitor bathing water quality during that period to safeguard public health. In order to deploy lifeguards, who also inform the public of any bathing water quality issues, the bathing season regulations would need to be amended and the required sampling regime initiated for any revised dates.

Another significant issue is the fact that the vast majority of our lifeguards each year are drawn from the 18 to 23 year old cohort. They are invariably in fulltime education, are generally studying or sitting exams in May and are simply not available to provide a lifeguard service at that time.

Based on this reasoning it is not our intention to provide a lifeguard service for weekends during the month of May.”

The elected members discussed the behavioural change in activity at beaches and felt that options should be explored to invest in resources in order to meet the demand and provide a safe and high-quality service. The elected members acknowledged the work being carried out at the county’s beaches by lifeguards, civil defence and volunteers. The members felt that water testing should be carried out throughout the year.

C. Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical Development referred to statutory instruments relating to water testing during the bathing season and stated that extending this service is a matter for Government. Mr. Feeney provided details in relation to recruitment of lifeguards and the resources available.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive noted that this is a recurring theme and undertook to examine the possibility of adapting to amendments going forward.

Item 12. Additional funding for local authorities.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“The members of Clare County Council, call on the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform to provide significant additional funding to Local Authorities in 2023 having regard to the unprecedented levels of inflation, in particular, spiralling energy costs, rising construction costs, enhanced payroll commitments, impact of the cost of living crisis on other revenue streams such as rent and rates. Such additional funding is crucial in maintaining essential services.”

The elected members agreed that additional funding should be allocated to local authorities as local authorities are dealing with unsustainable financial implications. The members also felt that essential services may be affected due to lack of funding available. Cllr. J. Flynn suggested that the Director of Finance compile a case study of increased costs which he undertook to direct to members of the Oireachtas.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that the collective increased costs in running local authorities will be significant in 2023 due to increased energy costs and inflationary increases.

Item 13. Draft County Development Plan.

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

“That a report be written on the rationale behind the proposal in the Draft County Development Plan which details two different policies for farmer families who possess herd numbers and who may seek to build houses on family land.”

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development replied as follows:

“In the interests of clarity, I would like to confirm that the only reference to “herd number” in the Draft County Development Plan 2023-2029 is under **CDP 4.14 New Single Houses in the Countryside within the ‘Areas of Special Control’**. The reference relates to an example of the type of documentation that a potential applicant may submit to the Planning Authority when making a planning application for a single rural dwelling, whereby the applicant is proposing to comply with the “economic need” requirement in the Plan.

It is important to point out that the submission of ‘herd number’ details is only cited as an example of the type of information which may be submitted with an application and is not in itself a requirement of the Objective of the Plan.

The nature of the objectives relating to single rural housing as set out in the Draft County Development Plan 2023-2029 are in line with RPO19 of the Government’s National Planning Framework, which the Planning Authority is required to be consistent with as per Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

I attach herewith the relevant section of the draft County Development Plan 2023 – 2029.”

Category A– Economic Need

- i. Such persons shall be defined as persons who by the nature of their work have a demonstrable economic need to reside permanently in the rural area close to their place of work. Such circumstances will normally encompass persons involved in full-time farming, horticulture, forestry, bloodstock or marine-related activities as well as others who can demonstrate a genuine need, because of their occupation or business (not including bed and breakfasts) to live in a specific rural area. Similar part-time occupations can also be considered where it can be demonstrated that it is the predominant occupation and that the ancillary occupation(s) are located within a reasonable daily commuting distance from the site or alternatively may be facilitated through remote working. The applicant must not already own or have owned a house in the surrounding rural area (except in sub-category iii as set out under the Social Need criteria) and needs the dwelling for their own permanent occupation. Where a person's economic need relates to their engagement in farming or bloodstock they shall have a minimum farm size of 12.5 hectares within the local rural area. Where this minimum requirement is not achieved favourable consideration will only be given where a business plan can satisfactorily demonstrate that the person's predominant occupation relates to farming or bloodstock activities on their landholding and which also demonstrates the viability of the activity(s).

Or

- i. An applicant who is considered ineligible under the preceding category may be considered for the construction of a permanent home in the rural Area Under Special Control, subject to being able to satisfy the Planning Authority of their commitment

to operate a full-time business (not including bed and breakfasts), from their proposed home in a rural area, as part of their planning application, in order for example, to discourage commuting to towns or cities. The applicant must not already own or have owned a house in the surrounding rural area (except in sub-category iii as set out under the Social Need criteria) and needs the dwelling for their own permanent occupation. Applicants must be able to submit evidence that:

- Demonstrates that the nature of their employment or business is compatible with those specified in the demonstrable economic need criteria for rural Areas Under Special Control (i.e. that they are serving a predominantly local rural business need).
- Their business will contribute to and enhance the rural community in which they seek to live.

For the two Economic Need categories outlined above, the documentation available/required will vary depending on the nature of the economic activity. Examples of the information to be submitted with the application include:

- Details of the functional requirement to reside either at or close to their rural based business.
- The overall extent of the landholding and the location(s) of same.
- The nature of the operations associated with the economic activity.
- The planning history associated with the economic activity (where available).
- Buildings and physical infrastructure requirements associated with the economic activities.
- Number of persons employed (or to be employed).
- Livestock and herd numbers (if applicable).
- Participation in government schemes/ programmes (e.g. Bord Bia Quality Assurance, Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), GLAS, or any similar/updated programmes or schemes).
- Any other information that would support the application.

Cllr. P.J. Kelly expressed disappointment as he felt the information sought has not been provided and that this needs to be clarified in order to provide equal advantage of everybody within the county. The members felt that this will create difficulty for people with small land holdings to live in rural areas.

L. Conneally, Director of Economic Development stated that this is a Draft County Development Plan discussion and that notice of motions submitted for Council meetings should not determine Council policy. Mr. Conneally outlined that there will be further workshops where those issues can be raised and appropriate policy can be determined.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive agreed that specific issues and decisions may pre-empt decision and that this should be debated further in the context of the Draft County Development Plan.

Item 14. Valuation of properties.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Daly

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. P. McMahon, J. Crowe, S. Talty agus J. Killeen agus glacadh leis

“We call on the Government to take steps to ease the burden on rate payers in County Clare arising from the extraordinary high valuation of properties recently introduced by the Valuation Office”.

The elected members agreed that retailers are experiencing escalating costs that are unsustainable and are putting pressure on the people concerned. The members felt that the impact of the revaluation of properties will damage towns and villages and will threaten jobs. It was suggested that the Valuation Officer be invited to a meeting of Clare County Council to discuss the situation.

Item 15. South Clare/UL SDZ.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. T. O’Brien agus glacadh leis

“Following the decision at the meeting of Clare County Council in April 2018 to progress the South Clare/UL SDZ and it’s inclusion as an objective in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, to acknowledge the past and present co-operation between the University of Limerick, President and Colleagues and Clare Members and Officials of Clare County Council and to look forward to designation by Government of the area as a Strategic Development Zone and to the continued future co-operation of all agencies to advance the proposed SDZ for the benefit of the mid west region”.

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development replied as follows:

“In 2018 Clare County Council in partnership with the University of Limerick identified an opportunity to masterplan a significant development site on the north campus of the existing UL Clare campus for education, enterprise and employment and a world class living environment. Since then the two organisations have worked together to apply to Government for the University of Limerick/South Clare Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) – a fast-track planning designation. This proposed SDZ site location recognises the positive economic impact that the University has had on the Limerick and Clare counties and the wider Mid-West region while acknowledging the policy support in the current Clare County Development Plan and the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for further expansion of the University into Co. Clare. This recognition is demonstrated further by the prioritisation of the SDZ objective in the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

An Economic report was prepared by the University of Limerick and Clare County Council in support of the SDZ application to Government and in February 2022, the 50/50 owned UL/SDZ DAC was established and applied to Government via Minister Darragh O’Brien’s Department to designate lands on the Clare side of the University of Limerick campus as an economic Strategic Development Zone (SDZ). The SDZ designation will also facilitate the development of UL’s new *Academies of Learning* model of learning. In April 2022 a constructive meeting with officials of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the SDZ discussed in detail the application for designation. In August 2022 the Department requested further information on the SDZ application and a response to this is being prepared by UL/CCC. Clare County Council and the University of Limerick will continue to work

together in order to prepare the Planning Scheme post the SDZ designation by Government and to deliver a high quality living, learning and work environment on the University North Campus.”

The elected members agreed that this development is very important for the future of the mid-west region and paid tribute to the partnership that exists between Clare County Council and UL. The members acknowledged the work carried out by Cllr. Pat McMahon and former Councillor Bill Slattery in presenting this application to the Southern Regional Assembly in 2019.

L. Conneally, Director of Economic Development referred to the partnership that exists between Clare County Council and the executive in UL and advised that they are working to prepare a response to the further information request on the SDZ application for submission to the Minister in the next week.

Item 16. LNDR.

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

“That this Council request that Minister Eamonn Ryan removes the stop he has placed on the second section of the LNDR, as this is a very important piece of infrastructure for the future economy and convenience of the public in the Clare/Limerick area.”

The elected members referred to inaccurate reporting recently in relation to Minister Ryan not being lobbied to pursue the second section of the LNDR. The members agreed that there has been continuous lobbying with the Minister requesting that this project progress as it is vital to the mid-west region, the people of Clare and the people accessing UL from the Clare direction.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that the delivery of the LNDR is a key strategic objective of Clare County Council and Limerick City and County Council and this continues to be the policy. Mr. Dowling explained the difficulty being experienced due to the LNDR being removed from the LSMASP, which is the planning framework for the region going forward.

C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development addressed the meeting and stated that a supplementary survey has been commissioned and submitted to the NTA and that the LNDR is essential to achieve sustainable transport measures. Ms. Kirby stated that the NTA are aware that the LNDR will need to be delivered so as to achieve the objective and to address and manage traffic congestion and access to UL.

Item 17. Supply chain charter.

Ar moladh Cllr. I. Lynch
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Murphy agus glacadh leis

“I request that Clare County Council develop an employment and supply chain charter to be considered for all Local Authority contracts, Ennis 2040 DAC, FDI's, Renewable Energy Investment and any investment opportunities that presents direct or indirect investment through local employment or supply chain provision.”

Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance and Support Services replied as follows:

“Clare County Council has expenditure in excess of €200m per annum across both day-to-day revenue operation and long-term capital investment, delivered by our own staff and external contractors that are subject to procurement and recruitment guidelines. Public Procurement is highly regulated, with the National Public Procurement Policy Framework, EU Procurement Directive, Capital Works Management Framework, and the Public Spending Code all governing how goods, services and works are procured by this council.

Clare County Council’s Procurement policy was revised and updated earlier this year and includes details of the various procurement requirements and thresholds for various expenditure thresholds. One of the guiding values of this policy is to encourage local business engagement. A point to note in regard to the national and European procurement thresholds is that all contracts valued over €25,000 for goods and services and over €50,000 for works have to be advertised on eTenders; this effectively means that any supplier registered on eTenders can tender for such contracts – be they local or otherwise. Under the above thresholds, requests for quotes (RFQs) would largely be sent to local suppliers.

Clare County Council is committed to helping prospective suppliers to understand the Council’s procurement and purchasing processes. In this respect, we are guided by Department of Public Expenditure & Reform Circular 10/14: Initiatives to assist SMEs in Public Procurement. Within the councils policy are various requirements to support local SME sector including advertising of contract opportunities to promote SME participation, Publication of Contract Award Notices and SME Registration on SupplyGov/eTenders and Email Alerts. Clare County Council encourages suppliers to register with SupplyGov and eTenders to ensure maximum exposure to tendering opportunities within their sector. Email alerts via eTenders are provided to registered suppliers in relation to procurement opportunities arising in their respective area.

There is regular engagement with local suppliers at various times in the year to support them with their tendering. Most recently, on 8th November, the Roads Dept/Procurement section held a SupplyGov Tendering event at the Ennis MD Headquarters in order to assist suppliers with the process of tendering via the SupplyGov platform.

In addition, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) has run several tender workshops in collaboration with Intertrade Ireland. The LEO has also run various seminars during their annual Local Enterprise week in relation to Procurement/tendering opportunities. By way of example, in the Local Enterprise week earlier this year (March), the 'Adapting to Sustainable Procurement – A Guide for Prospecting Suppliers' was one such event aimed at micro and small businesses who see an opportunity to develop a business relationship with the many larger businesses in the Mid-West. It should also be noted that several local service businesses were successful recently in winning tenders to provide services on behalf of the LEO.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that first and foremost Clare County Council is committed to the use of direct labour to the greatest extent possible, where consistent with the efficient and effective delivery of public services. In accordance with the Public Service Agreements, a protocol is in place which is a mechanism to monitor compliance with employment law for outsourced operations. In evaluating any proposal to proceed with outsourcing, a number of factors are taken into account,

including overall cost, effectiveness, current staff workloads, scheduling of work and the public interest.”

The elected members referred to the heightened interest in Clare as an offshore renewable energy hub which has the potential to see over 600 jobs created at Moneypoint and hundreds of additional jobs supporting the sector. The members felt that the lack of a national supported employment charter has the potential to cost County Clare thousands of local job opportunities and millions of lost revenue to the local economy each year and will continue to see depopulation to our rural areas. The members felt that the proposed charter would aim to boost the local economy by supporting the local supply chain, creating job opportunities, ensuring employees are paid a fair wage and promoting equality and diversity in the workplace.

L. Conneally, Director of Economic Development referred to the economic aspects of the projects mentioned and the level of potential employment activity it can bestow in the county as well as local gain for towns and villages.

Cllr. I. Lynch advised that he would welcome the opportunity to engage with the Economic Development Directorate to establish a local employment and supply chain charter.

Item 18. GP services.

Ar moladh Cllr. D. McGettigan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“Following several contacts made to me about the lack of GP services or access to GP, also added to that, the findings of the Clare Anti Poverty Group findings that Clare needs 33% more GPs even just to put us on a par with the national average. I am calling on Clare County Council to ask the Minister to establish a working group to set targets for recruitment and retention of GPs in Clare.

People are challenged with finding a new GP when their own retires, while those on medical cards are moved to already full GPs thus finding it harder to get an appointment.

People of Clare need timely, sometimes life saving access appointments with their GPs.”

The elected members outlined difficulties being experienced by constituents in trying to register with a GP and expressed concern at the lack of GP services available. The members acknowledged the challenges being faced by GPs and felt that it is important to attract and retain talent in the county. It was felt that the public need to understand change and engage with a collaboration and shared services model whereby people are not relying on one GP to provide this service. The members noted that if there was an adequate number of GP’s available it could take the pressure away from A & E Departments.

Item 19. Reduction in serviced overnight accommodation.

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

“To request that Clare County Council would

- a) seek information from the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) as to the quantity of hotel bedrooms that are currently contracted to them in Clare for i) the next 3 months ii) the next 6 months and iii) their expectation for the next 12 months.
- b) undertake discussions as soon as possible with Failte Ireland, the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum and the tourism industry in general, to get a clear understanding of the impact the reduction of serviced overnight accommodation has had to date, and may have in the future, on the wider tourism sector across the county, and
- c) create and deliver a marketing strategy for 2023 that takes full account of those expected impacts.”

Jason Murphy, A/Director of Services Ukrainian Services Development and Deirdre O’Shea, A/Head of Tourism replied as follows:

- a) seek information from the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) as to the quantity of hotel bedrooms that are currently contracted to them in Clare for i) the next 3 months ii) the next 6 months and iii) their expectation for the next 12 months.**

The humanitarian crisis unfolding as a result of the Russian invasion in Ukraine continues to activate the mass migration of Ukrainian communities across Europe. The Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55 EC), introduced into EU law in 2001, was activated in March 2022 and adopted into Irish law under Section 60 of the International Protection Act 2015.

The temporary protection supports provided in law include permission to reside in Ireland, full access to the employment market, access to accommodation (if needed), social welfare supports, access to education and to medical care. The Ukrainian visitors to our country are being provided with a unique ‘Beneficiary of Temporary Protection’ (BOTP) status under the above statutory instruments.

The national response to date in relation to the accommodation offered to those Ukrainians fleeing the war and receiving temporary protection has been coordinated by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) with additional support being offered through the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) who are a sub-department within the DCEDIY. The motion is relevant to both the DCEDIY and IPAS in relation to Ukrianian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and people receiving International Protection respectively.

Clare County Council has established a team to support the government response at a local level and as such we have responsibility for the coordination of local response services across the county and the matching of Ukrainian people displaced as a result of the war to hosted accommodation. We are coordinating the local response through the re-purposed ‘Community Response Forum’ with meetings at a countywide level being held on a bi-weekly basis and local meetings in Shannon, Ennis, Kilkee and Lisdoonvarna. This forum represents a range of agencies, NGO’s, community groups and elected representatives all working together to sustain our communities and meet the needs of our visitors.

The team in Clare County Council continues to receive updates and monitor the numbers arriving into the county however approximate this is given the on-going movement of people – a natural activity in any circumstance. This information is shared with the members of the Community Response Forum as updates are received.

There are approximately 3,207 beneficiaries of temporary protection currently accommodated in 30 multi-occupancy properties across 14 settlements in County Clare – these properties include hotels, hostels and self-catering accommodation.

The contract duration and service level agreements at each property is agreed between the property owner and DCEDIY in relation to the Ukrainian Response: The team in Clare County Council does not have details of these agreements.

Clare County Council has placed families into 20 hosted accommodation solutions and are currently focused on the existing offers of hosted accommodation, a new national ‘hosting’ call being considered by the Cabinet Committee on Ukraine and the opportunities to strengthen the community response supports through national funding – initiatives, programs and interventions to support both our Community Response Forum partners and our communities.

b) undertake discussions as soon as possible with Failte Ireland, the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum and the tourism industry in general, to get a clear understanding of the impact the reduction of serviced overnight accommodation has had to date, and may have in the future, on the wider tourism sector across the county, and

At their most recent bi-monthly meeting in September, members of the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum noted the warm welcome that County Clare has given to Ukrainian citizens following Russia’s invasion of the country in February 2022.

The members of the industry-led representative group for Clare were informed that an accommodation audit for County Clare is currently being undertaken by Fáilte Ireland, in conjunction with Clare County Council. The consultants have been appointed with the audit focussing on, current accommodation supply, capacity issues and opportunities, and areas for potential development to attract investors.

Forum members, who are continuing to respond to the aftershock of the Covid-19 pandemic, acknowledged the need for the urgent response from Government to use existing hotel stock, but agreed that in such a scenario, it would be ideal if hotels could continue to operate as visitor accommodation providers while continuing to host Ukrainian refugees.

Prior to the war in Ukraine, it was widely recognised that Clare was already lacking available bed nights, considering the level of product available within the County. The development of hotels and alternative forms of visitor accommodation, therefore, will be a key aspect to be highlighted in the completion of the accommodation audit, which is a strategic priority of the Clare Tourism Strategy 2030. In tandem with the Accommodation Audit, a comprehensive review of RV and Motor Home parking provision has also commenced for the County.

Of note, there was a County Clare Visitor Survey facilitated by Clare County Council through the local tourism industry between late April and September 2022. Domestic and International visitors participated in this survey, the response to which represented the views of solo travellers, couples, families and friends. It provided a valuable insight into visitor behaviour, preferences and satisfaction levels. While the overall satisfaction

level of visitors to Clare was overwhelmingly high, it was noted that 81% of overseas visitors had the dominant means of travelling by car to experience Clare. In this regard, and in conjunction with the lack of accommodation, there is also a recognised challenge with the cost of car hire, which must also be addressed to maintain the attraction of fully independent travellers to the County.

c) In terms of creating and delivering on a marketing strategy for 2023 to take account of expected impacts –

Whilst 2022 saw a welcome return of international visitors to Clare, the Visit Clare marketing strategy for the remainder of 2022 and for 2023 will continue to focus on the continued targeted growth of the domestic market. The Tourism Department of Clare County Council, in conjunction with the Tourism Advisory Forum, with funding from Fáilte Ireland is currently working on a digital marketing campaign to promote what Clare has to offer during the winter months as part of ongoing efforts to highlight the County as an all-year round destination.

The Strategic Marketing Plan for 2023, will also focus on creative initiatives to generate business for attractions, activities, dining and events such as promoting packages during shoulder season breaks to Clare.”

The elected members made it clear that they do not have any issue with the provision of the humanitarian response and noted that communities in Clare have welcomed new residents and referred to the positive outcomes in the provision of extra services that provide benefit for both Ukrainians and local residents.

The members noted that serviced overnight accommodation is a crucial part of our visitor economy and it has been negatively impacted by the volume of overnight beds that have been taken out of circulation. The members felt there is a need to understand the true scale of this impact and the need to get figures in broad terms as to how many beds in total will be out of action for the next 3, 6 and 12 months. The members believed there is a need to get a handle on the potential future impact so that there will be an opportunity to plan for a different type of season, one that takes the reduced quantity of overnight beds into account and build a marketing campaign around that new reality so our tourism businesses can take that new reality into account when planning their own marketing campaigns.

J. Murphy, A/Director of Service, Ukrainian Response Team thanked the Councillors for their ongoing support as well as the Community Groups, agencies and NGO’s who have been key to the response. Mr. Murphy acknowledged the challenges and the uncertainty being experienced by the tourism industry due to the response to accommodate displaced Ukrainians and stated that modular accommodation is being explored by the OPW. Mr. Murphy recognized that the number of beds in the county is significant and undertook to write to the Department seeking the information requested in the notice of motion.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive agreed that this situation is hard to predict and noted that contracts could be renewed until 2025 and if this happens it will have a profound impact on our tourism industry. Mr. Dowling stated that if contracts are not renewed there will be people who have a right to housing and referred to the impact of this as Clare County Council is a housing authority. Mr. Dowling observed that it will be difficult to balance the situation due to the requirement to satisfy the humanitarian need and protect the economy.

Cllr. C. Murphy noted that tourism is our biggest indigenous industry and stated that what is happening to ancillary services will have a knock on effect on jobs and felt that there is a need to engage with the tourism industry.

Item 20. Third party tenancies.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. D. McGettigan agus glacadh leis

“I am calling on the Minister for Housing Darragh O’Brien and the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee to have a look at the legislation covering third party tenancies that are subsidised by public funding and the role of local authorities in this policy. The current situation is proving very problematic for established communities who are experiencing anti social behaviour from some dysfunctional tenants. I would suggest a change in the legislation may be required to allow local authorities to have a more hands on approach in the management of these properties as a substantial amount of public funding is being paid to private landlords that in some cases are failing to adequately control the behaviour of their tenants and as a result peaceful community life is threatened.”

The elected members expressed concern that there are a small number of tenants creating havoc and chaos and felt that private landlords are unaware of the impact these tenants are having on communities. The members agreed that this is unacceptable as these landlords are receiving public funding.

The members agreed to defer the remaining items to the adjourned Council meeting scheduled to take place at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, 21st November, 2022 in the Council Chamber.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Minutes of the adjourned November Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council

Location: Held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare and via MS Teams

On: Monday, 21st November, 2022

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Present:

Councillors:

M. Howard, J. Flynn, A. Norton, P. Daly, J. Cooney, T. O'Brien, J. Crowe, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Flynn, J. Killeen, J. Garrihy, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating, C. Murphy, I. Lynch.

Officials Present:

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Mary McMahon, Administrative Officer, Corporate Services.
- Ms. Margaret O'Rourke, A/Staff Officer, Corporate Services.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development.
- Dr. Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development.
- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance and Support Services.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.

Present via MS Teams:

Cllrs. C. Colleran Molloy, P. Murphy, P. Hayes, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan, D. McGettigan, P. O'Gorman.

Officials present via MS Teams:

- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development.
- Mr. Jason Murphy, A/Director of Service, Ukrainian Response Team.

Absent:

Cllrs. M. Begley, S. Talty and L. Grant.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. T. O'Brien presided.

Item 21. Climate change.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. J. Garrihy, C. Murphy, L. Grant agus G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“In light of the Climate Change Crisis and the particular vulnerability of County Clare to its effects, the elected members request the Chief Executive to arrange for the recently assigned Senior Engineer for Climate Change to liaise with each Municipal District Committee to identify priority climate adaptation projects in each municipal district.”

Morgan Lahiffe, Climate Action Co Ordinator, Physical Development Directorate replied as follows:

“The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021 enshrines the National Climate Objective to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a ‘climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy’.

The Act also requires Local Authorities to put in place a Climate Action Plan twelve months from such date that the Minister commences the Section.

Climate Action will be a whole of Council approach and in that respect, the development of the Climate Action Plan and the approaches taken to Climate Adaptation will be on a cross directorate basis with actions being formulated from each directorate. The Rural Development officers will be integral to the consultation between the Executive, the elected members and communities.

The Climate Action Plan will drive the adaptation and mitigation measures required at local level and create a pathway forward towards the National Climate objective.

This will be an evidence based plan whose mitigation measures and adaptation measures will be targeted at not only Local Authority services and processes but will look to facilitate and empower different sectors of the Community towards GHG emission reduction.

The adoption of the Climate Action Plan is a reserved function.

As part of the development of the Climate Action Plan, all elected representatives will be briefed at various stages during the process and also facilitated in putting forward Adaptation and Mitigation projects. Engagement with elected members and community engagement will be an integral part of drafting the Climate Action Plan.

The Clare Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024 is currently in place. It recognises the need for adaptation measures in our infrastructure/ built environment, in our land use and development and in drainage and flood management. Project delivery via the Project Management office and the Roads section in relation to flooding and infrastructure is ongoing. The Climate Action Plan will further analyse the need for specific adaptation and mitigation measures across the county.”

The elected members welcomed the appointment of Morgan Lahiffe as the Climate Action Co-Ordinator. The members felt that Clare is vulnerable due to the impact of climate change and that Clare should become capable of dealing with climate action. The members referred to the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and queried what actions have been completed to date. The members felt that there are items specific to the Municipal Districts that may not be relevant to the entire county and requested that the Climate Action Co-ordinator liaise with the Municipal Districts.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive noted that Clare County Council are entering into a critical phase in Climate Action Plan and confirmed that the Climate Action Co-ordinator will meet all elected members at Municipal District level to discuss Municipal District issues.

Item 22. Student nurses and midwives.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. O’Gorman
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis

“This Council calls on the Government to recognise the invaluable contribution made by student nurses and midwives while on work placement and furthermore calls on the Government to adequately compensate them for the work they do during this time.”

The elected members noted that many student nurses and midwives are qualified healthcare assistants who work long hours in a pressurised environment and should be paid accordingly while on work placement. The members agreed that the Government needs to recognise the value of people who work on the frontline and felt that action needs to be taken to encourage qualified nurses to stay in Ireland as many are leaving the country to work abroad.

Item 23. L.I.S. and C.I.S. schemes.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Cooney

“That Clare County Council give an update on how many roads have been upgraded under the L.I.S. and C.I.S. schemes since 2018 in the county, and when is it hoped to take new applications for the L.I.S. scheme.”

Liam O’Connor, Administrative Officer, Physical Development replied as follows:

“Since 2018, works have been carried out on 99 roads under the Local Improvement Scheme (L.I.S.) and 73 roads under the Community Involvement Scheme (C.I.S.).

The L.I.S. remains significantly oversubscribed. There are currently 168 applications awaiting funding on file. It is estimated that grant funding of €8m would be required to clear the current backlog. A review of applications is being undertaken at present to ascertain if applicants still wish to be considered for funding under the L.I.S. and to determine if they can meet the current eligibility criteria. On completion of this review, a decision will be made on whether to invite new applications or not.”

The elected members welcomed the fact that a total 172 roads have been upgraded through the L.I.S. and C.I.S. schemes since 2018. The members complimented the people who availed of the schemes and paid contributions towards getting their roads upgraded to a standard that they deserve. The members stated that they would like to see new applications being accepted in the near future.

J. Leahy, Senior Engineer, Physical Development referred to the reply which states that these schemes have been oversubscribed. Mr. Leahy noted that the eligibility

criteria has changed and that a review of the applications is being undertaken. Mr. Leahy stated that Clare County Council received additional funding last year and that this year's allocation remained the same. Mr. Leahy stated that a decision to open to new applications cannot be made until the review is completed and undertook to revert with an update on the actual figures when it is available.

Item 24. Public Service Obligation routes.

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

"That Clare County Council contact Bus Éireann insisting on reinstatement of their heretofore policy of picking up passengers at all safe points along their Public Service Obligation routes".

The elected members outlined the experience of constituents who cannot avail of public transport as Bus Éireann no longer pick people up along the route due to a change in policy whereby passengers can only be picked up from a designated bus stop or shelter. The members felt that this is an attack on rural dwellers, vulnerable people, elderly and young people who rely on public bus services. The members felt that this is a contradiction of government policy as people are being encouraged to use public transport in order to reduce emissions.

Item 25. Tourist sites/visitor attractions.

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

"I call on Clare County Council to review the policies and the business practices of the major tourist sites/visitor attractions in Clare that are managed/proposed to be managed by public bodies to ensure, where this is necessary, that their marketing and operation steers footfall to local towns and villages/SMEs and strengthening the economic activity and sustainability of host communities."

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development replied as follows:

"Clare Tourism Strategy 2030 steers the strategic development and marketing of tourism in Clare. The objectives of the Strategy have already provided for the sentiments on this Motion. All partners are working to deliver on this objective."

The members noted that many of Clare's iconic attractions are located away from towns and villages and felt that there will be missed opportunities if clear objectives are not put in place to steer tourist footfall to our towns and villages. The members acknowledged the effort made to develop long stay tourism and agreed that this should be encouraged as the county relies heavily on tourism. The members expressed disappointment that data is not available providing information on the number of tourists who visit and the tourism spend in the county which would measure the benefits.

L. Cleary, Director of Rural Development stated that good data informs good decisions and informed the meeting that the Council's tourism department work closely with Fáilte Ireland and Town First Officer to maximise opportunities for towns and villages.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive agreed that any initiatives or interventions must be examined in the context of sustainability and that tourism products should develop the product and benefit the local communities.

Item 26. Category D1 driving licence.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. O'Brien
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Howard agus glacadh leis

“That this council write to the Minister for Transport asking that any holder of a category D1 driving licence be allowed to drive a vehicle with a capacity of 25 passengers raising it from the current 16 passengers.”

The elected members noted that category D1 licence holders are qualified and experienced drivers and felt that enabling them to drive vehicles with increased capacity would be a practical and sensible solution to alleviate the pressure on bus operators who are experiencing difficulties in recruiting drivers.

Item 27. Offshore wind energy projects.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Keating
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Kelly agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council request the promoters of offshore wind energy projects to set up an office in Kilrush with a view to providing a good local communication service.”

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development replied as follows:

“In addition to the requirement under the *Draft Rules and Guidance for ORESS 1 Community Benefit Fund*, which creates a framework for local communities to benefit from and participate in their local offshore renewable electricity project, I agree it is important that offshore wind energy developers would provide proper channels of communication with local communities in Co. Clare.

In all pre-planning discussions with off-shore wind energy companies I will raise the importance of proper consultation with local communities across Co. Clare.”

The elected members agreed that the presence of a local office to engage with people would benefit local communities as people need to be kept informed and communication promotes good will.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive stated that offshore wind energy projects have potential to be a generator of economic activity for the county going forward. Mr. Dowling informed the members that there is continued liaison with the ESB and that the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce have prepared a report on the focus of the future of energy and the Shannon Estuary which will be submitted to Government shortly. Mr. Dowling stated that Clare County Council will collaborate with potential operators and will respond appropriately to ensure joined up communication.

L. Conneally, Director of Economic Development agreed that this will be important from an economic development perspective and stated that Clare County Council will cater for promoters and contractors to plan ahead in terms of infrastructure capacity. Mr. Conneally continued that the trans-shipment capacity of the estuary will be

It was agreed that Cllrs. P.J. Kelly, G. Keating and C. Murphy attend this Conference.

LAMA Training Seminar entitled “Cost of living crisis and sustainable and renewable energy” being held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan Town on 9th and 10th November, 2022.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €825.49 including conference fee of €160.

It was agreed that Cllrs. P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Keating, P.J. Kelly, M. Howard, C. Murphy, T. O’Brien, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Cooney, J. Crowe, M. Begley, P. O’Gorman, A. O’Callaghan, A. Norton, J. Killeen, P. Daly and P. Murphy attend this Conference.

Conference entitled “The role of local authorities in addressing the needs of older people” being held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 11th – 13th November, 2022.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €18.03 including conference fee of €100.

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

AILG Elected Members Module 6 Training entitled “Data Protection Legislation” being held in the Tower Hotel, Waterford on 17th November, 2022.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €12.23 including conference fee of €70.

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

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____