

Minutes of the March Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 27th March, 2017 at 3:45 p.m.

Present:

Councillors J. Breen, J. Flynn, P. Daly, A. Norton, T. McNamara, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Cooney, M. Begley, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahan, M. McKee, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Carmel Greene, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Karen Stackpoole, Staff Officer.
- Mr. Gerard Dollard, Director of Service.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Service.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, A/Director of Service.
- Mr. Tom Tiernan, A/Director of Service.
- Mr. Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer.

Apologies: Cllr. P. Hayes.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Bill Chambers presided.

At the outset Cllr. P.J. Ryan proposed the adjournment of the meeting in accordance with Standing Order No. 12 as a mark of respect to our friend and colleague Sean Ward, Senior Engineer, Water Services R.I.P. This was seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney and agreed by all members present. The members extended their sympathy on behalf of the Council to Sean's family, his work and music colleagues and his friends. His integrity and loyalty were noted by the members. The Chief Executive stated that he also wished to be associated with this vote of sympathy on behalf of the staff of the Council. He stated that Sean had 16 years service with Clare County Council having worked in the Environment and Water Services Directorates and would be sadly missed by his family and his work colleagues.

A vote of sympathy was also extended to the following:

- Catherine O'Halloran on the passing of her husband John O'Halloran, Tulla. R.I.P.;
- Sean Walsh on the passing of his wife Sharon Walsh, Tulla. R.I.P.;
- Kieran O'Callaghan on the passing of his mother Mrs. Patricia O'Callaghan, Feakle. R.I.P.;

- Michael Hoare and family on the passing of his son Kevin Hoare, Kilkee. R.I.P.;
- Oliver Keane and family, Kilnamona on the passing of his wife Evelyn Keane. R.I.P.;
- The Wall family, Ennistymon on the passing of Estlin Wall. R.I.P.;
- The Connellan Family, Lisscasey on the passing of Tom Connellan. R.I.P.;
- The Kelly & Stack Families, Ennis on the passing of Garry Kelly. R.I.P.;
- The Keary Family, Crusheen on the passing of Delia Keary. R.I.P.;
- The Hickey Family, Inch on the passing of Seán Hickey. R.I.P.;
- The Hannon Family, Parteen on the passing of Paul Hannon. R.I.P.;
- The McGuinness Family, on the passing of Martin McGuinness. R.I.P.

Prayers were then recited for the deceased.

The Cathaoirleach stated that the adjourned meeting would take place at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, 31st March, 2017.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

Minutes of the adjourned March Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Friday, 31st March, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Present:

Councillors J. Breen, J. Flynn, P. Daly, A. Norton, T. McNamara, M. Howard, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, M. McKee, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Carmel Greene, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Karen Stackpoole, Staff Officer.
- Mr. Gerard Dollard, Director of Service.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Service.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, A/Director of Service.
- Mr. Tom Tiernan, A/Director of Service.
- Mr. Niall Barrett, Head of Finance.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer.
- Ms. Siobhán Mulcahy, County Arts Officer.
- Mr. Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. P. Murphy

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Bill Chambers presided.

At the outset Cllr. J. Breen raised the issue of the progression of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road Phase 2. He stated that he had asked that this be addressed by the Chief Executive in order to progress this project which straddles two local authority areas. In response the Chief Executive advised that the Senior Engineer for Roads will give an update to members at the April meeting.

Cllr. Breen also questioned when he would receive a response to a planning matter he had raised previously with the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive advised that as it was a planning matter, the planning department would revert to Cllr. Breen in due course.

Item 1: Minutes of Council Meetings.

- a. Ar moladh Cllr. P. J. Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Keating agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the February Meeting of Clare County Council held on 13th February, 2017 be adopted and signed,” with one amendment as set out below.

“It was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen and seconded by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan to suspend standing orders in order to discuss the recent publication of a HIQA Report into Superbugs at our hospitals and the Whistleblower Report in relation to University Hospital Limerick. It was agreed by the Cathaoirleach to suspend Standing Orders for a period of 15 minutes to discuss this matter.”

Suspension of Standing Orders

Two motions were given to the Meetings Administrator and in accordance with Standing Order Number 24 the Cathaoirleach agreed to suspend Standing Orders for 30 minutes to discuss these matters.

1. HSE Forum

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McNamara and seconded by Cllr. A. Norton on behalf of the nominated Councillors on the HSE West Forum and agreed by all present:-

“We the undersigned call for the suspension of standing orders to allow us the four nominated councillors of Clare County Council who sit on the HSE West Forum to refute the false allegations that were levelled against us at the February meeting of Clare County Council by Councillor James Breen”.

Cllr. T. McNamara spoke on behalf of the four members. He was insistent that he totally rejects Cllr. Breen’s suggestion made at meeting on 13th February, 2017 that the serious issue in relation to deaths at Limerick Regional Hospital as a result of contracting a superbug had not been raised at the HSE West Forum by the Councillors. He directed the members to correspondence in the Agenda where there was a copy of Minutes of meeting held on 22nd November 2016 of the HSE Forum. Under Any Other Business it clearly notes that Cllr. T. McNamara had raised this issue at that meeting. Cllrs. A. Norton, P. Burke and P.J. Ryan also spoke on this matter. They all voiced their disappointment that Cllr. J. Breen felt that they in some way were not doing their job as representatives on this forum. They also felt that if Cllr. Breen had any concerns then he should have approached them directly in order to afford them the opportunity to raise these concerns directly with the HSE West Forum.

2. An Post

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. P. J. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and agreed by all present:-

“That Clare County Council calls on the Government to intervene with An Post in order to avoid closure of post offices which are an essential lifeline of rural Ireland”.

Cllr. P. J. Kelly strongly urged the members to support this request. He was emphatic in his view of the need to preserve, protect and sustain our post offices as they are a central part of the life blood of rural Ireland. Cllr. P. J. Ryan was also insistent that the Government give power back to the post offices in order to make them viable.

Cllr. P. McMahon suggested that the Government should introduce community banking to the post offices and it was suggested that New Zealand had a perfect system of the concept of community banking. The members fully supported this request as rural towns will decline with the closure of post offices. They are an integral part of rural Ireland and everything should be done to preserve them. The issue of rural transport was also raised.

Votes of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was extended to the following:

- Michael P. Houlihan and family on the passing of his wife Joan Houlihan, Ennis. R.I.P.;
- Dan Danaher on the passing of his father James Danaher, Foynes, Limerick. R.I.P.;

Item 2: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.

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

“That the Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting held on the 23rd January, 2017 be noted.”

b. Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. Norton agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 3rd February, 2017 be noted.”

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

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

“That the minutes of the Planning & Housing S.P.C. meeting held on 2nd November, 2016 be noted”.

b. Ar moladh Cllr. J. Cooney
Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. O’Callaghan agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Environment & Transportation S.P.C. meeting held on 28th November, 2016 be noted”.

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

“That the minutes of the Cultural Services & Arts, Community, Recreation and Amenity Services S.P.C. meeting held on 15th December, 2016 be noted”.

Item 4: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting.

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February, 2017 as presented.

Item 5: Monthly Management Report.

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

Cllr. C. Curtin complimented and thanked the Chief Executive for the detailed information provided on the new format management report. He asked that an update be provided at the next meeting on the Hydrological survey for Miltown Malbay, Ballyvaughan and Corofin. He also requested in his role as Chairman of the Rural Water Committee that a formal request be sent to the Department to ensure that the notifications of the grant allocations be advised to local authorities in a timely manner for 2017 in order to avoid the scenario that occurred in 2016 whereby the spend target was completely unrealistic. Cllr. J. Flynn praised the Rural Development Directorate for the roll-out of free public Wi-Fi to Ennis Town. He also stressed the importance of local businesses availing of L.E.O. training programmes in order to establish themselves as on-line traders.

Item 6: Proposed disposal by lease of Courthouse, Ennistymon pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

Report dated 20th March, 2017 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services Department was circulated with the agenda. The report states that in 2002, Clare County Council entered into a 22 year lease with Old Ennistymon Heritage Ltd in relation to the Courthouse in Ennistymon. The Courthouse is an excellent community facility which is used as an art studio and gallery and also used for the holding of many arts events.

The Company, which is a registered Charity, is now making an application for LEADER funding in order to widen the social inclusion aspect of the facility. In order to apply for this funding a lease of at least 21 years is required.

In light of this, it is proposed to enter into a new lease of the Courthouse to Old Ennistymon Heritage Ltd. The proposed term of the lease is 22 years.

Ar moladh Cllr. B. Slattery
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin 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, the disposal by lease of Courthouse in Ennistymon to Old Ennistymon Heritage Ltd. subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 7th March, 2017.”

Item 7. Proposed disposal of lands at Moyhill, Cratloe pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

Report dated 6th March, 2017 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services Department was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of an area of lands measuring 0.567 hectares.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. J. Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Crowe 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 the disposal of area of land at Moyhill, Cratloe, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 8th March, 2017.”

Cllr. P. J. Ryan asked that the legal fees in this transaction be waived. The Chief Executive advised the members that the ability to waive fees does not exist.

Item 8. Proposed disposal of plot of land at Lemenagh More, Newmarket on Fergus pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.

Report dated 8th March, 2017 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services Department was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of an area of lands measuring 0.125 hectares at Lemenagh More, Newmarket on Fergus.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Mc Mahon
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Crowe 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, the disposal of an area of land at Lemenagh More, Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 8th March, 2017.”

Item 9. Report in accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2013 to alter and extend Kilkee Fire Station at Erin Street, Dough, Kilkee, Co. Clare.

Report dated 8th March, 2017 from Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer together with the planning report was circulated with the agenda. The report outlines details of the proposed development at Kilkee Fire Station, Erin Street, Dough, Kilkee, Co. Clare.

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

“That pursuant to Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2010, Clare County Council proceed with the proposed development at Kilkee Fire Station, Erin Street, Dough, Kilkee, Co. Clare.”

Item 10. Report in accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2013 for the proposed development of Tobermurragh and Bane Field, Killaloe.

Report dated 21st March, 2017 from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner, together with the planning report was circulated with the agenda. The report outlines details of the proposed development of Tobermurragh and Bane Field, Killaloe as a Town Park.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. O’Brien
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Hayes agus glacadh leis

“That pursuant to Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2010, Clare County Council proceed with the proposed phased development of Tobermurragh and Bane Field, Killaloe as a Town Park.”

Item 11. County Clare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2016.

The County Clare Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2016 was circulated with the agenda.

The members noted the report as presented having been proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. P. J. Ryan

Item 12. Clare Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2016.

Report dated 9th February, 2017 from Monica Meehan, Chief Officer, Clare LCDC was circulated with the agenda together with Clare Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2016. The report states that Section 128B(1)(i) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, requires the LCDC to prepare, adopt and submit an annual report to the local authority in respect of the performance of its functions in the previous calendar year.

The members noted the report as presented having been proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. C. Curtin.

Item 13. Assistance under the Arts Act Grants 2017 – Grant recommendations.

Report from Siobhan Mulcahy, County Arts Officer was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the Assistance under the Arts Acts Grants Scheme is intended to assist artists and organisations stimulating public interest in the arts, promoting the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or in improving standards in the arts.

90 applications were received in total.

Ar moladh Cllr. B. Slattery
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Hayes agus glacadh leis

“That pursuant to Section 6 (2) of the provisions of Assistance under the Arts Act, 2003, the Council approves of the following payments:

Applications for Events / Projects / Organisations		
25 Recommendations for Funding		
Ref No	Name of Applicant	Amount
7	Killaloe Chamber Music Festival	875
10	Doonbeg 1-Act Drama Festival	550
13	Doolin Writers Weekend 2017	875
14	East Clare Musical Society	875
15	Inisowiacy Polish Folk Group	550
16	East Clare Community Co-Operative Society Ltd.	875
17	Ennistymon Choral Society	875
23	Kilkee Civic Trust	300
24	Oakhill Players	300
25	Kilrush Choral Society	600
26	X-PO Solical & Arts Centre	875

28	Sparks Youth Film Festival	875
34	Clare Garden Festival FRINGE	300
35	Scariff Harbour Festival	875
39	Féile Brian Ború	875
42	Doonbeg International Jazz Festival 2017	500
48	West Clare Resource Centre	300
54	Obair Newmarket on Fergus Ltd.	300
56	Kilmurry McMahon Drama Group	300
57	Kilrush Art Group	300
62	Ennistymon Art Trail	550
63	Ennis Musical Society	875
65	The Poetry Collective	550
82	Pat Hynes	300
83	Clarecare	550
	Total Funding Allocated	15000

Traditional Arts Applications		
17 Recommendations for Funding		
Ref	Name of Applicant	Amount
2	Crotty Galvin Trad	525
5	Kilrush Music Feis 2017	250
9	Fleadh Cheoil an Chláir	525
11	Kilrush Traditional Music & Set Dancing Festival	525
27	Michael Blackie O'Connell - Piping Tionol	425
30	Oidhreacht an Chláir	525
31	Consairtín, The Nat. Concertina Convention	525

36	East Clare CCE	250
38	Mountshannon Trad Festival	525
43	Kincora Trad. Weekend	525
44	Ballynacally Grúpa Ceoil	250
52	Clarecastle/Ballyea Comhaltas	525
64	Féile Chnoc na Gaoithe 2017	525
66	Kilfenora Trad Festival	525
70	Matthew Noone & Tommy Hayes - New CD	325
76	Christy McNamara - New CD / Exhibition	325
84	Rag and Bone Productions - Paula Carroll	425
	Totals	7500

Applications for Artists Support			
27 Recommendations for Funding			
Ref	Name of Applicant	Discipline	Amount
1	Carmel Doherty	Visual Arts	300
3	Mary Ellen Fean	Poetry	200
8	Denise Woods	Film	300
18	Jane Murtagh	Visual Arts	300
19	Doreen Drennan	Visual Arts	200
22	Aisling Drennan	Visual Arts	300
29	David Hope	Music	300
32	Frank Golden	Poetry	300
37	Marie Connole	Visual Arts	300
50	Marie McNamara	Drama / Theatre	300

51	Neil Hynes	Film	300
55	Fiona O'Dwyer	Visual Arts	300
58	Dermott Petty	Drama / Theatre	300
60	Treasa O'Brien	Film	300
61	Tanya Harris	Visual Arts	300
67	Maeve Collins	Visual Arts	300
68	Brian Niall Davis	Visual Arts	300
69	Paul Berg	Visual Arts	300
71	Nicholas Bromfield	Visual Arts	300
72	Joseph-Philippe Bévillard	Visual Arts	300
73	Barry Wrafter	Visual Arts	300
75	Sarah Zelig Nolan	Dance	100
78	Shelagh Honan	Visual Arts	300
81	Anna Afshar	Visual Arts	200
80	Aidan Courtney		300
85	Dog and String Theatre	Drama / Theatre	300
87	Patricia Reynolds	Visual Arts	200
	Totals		7500

The members commended the Director of Services for Social Development, Liam Conneally and also the County Arts Officer, Siobhán Mulcahy for their dedicated work in this area.

Item 14. Report on S.P.C. Structures.

Report dated 15th March, 2017 from Pat Dowling, Chief Executive was circulated with the agenda. The report refers to the report approved by the members at the November Council meeting in relation to the review of the Strategic Policy Committees for Clare County Council following the establishment of the four new directorates. This was proposed in order to ensure that the policy agenda for each of the four directorates is led and supported by a Strategic Policy Committee in each individual area.

The purpose of this report is to seek the elected members approval to the changes to the sectoral nominees on each of the individual S.P.C.'s. It is not proposed to change the chairmanship or the membership of the elected members on the individual S.P.C.'s.

The table attached to the report sets out the proposed changes to the sectoral nominees on each of the S.P.C.'s.

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

“That the Council agrees the Draft S.P.C. Scheme as circulated.”

Item 15. Report from Standing Orders Sub-Committee.

Report dated 15th March, 2017 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the Standing Orders Sub-Committee met on Monday, 5th December, 2016 and Thursday, 9th March, 2017 and considered the following matters.

1. Consider recent proposal signed by 15 members in relation to the Order of Business at meetings.
2. Consider if amendments are needed to Standing Order No. 5 – ‘Place of meeting and address of Principal Offices’.
3. Civic Receptions.
4. Clarification on motions/questions.

It was agreed by the Standing Orders sub-committee that the proposed amendments to Standing Orders would be recommended to Council for approval.

Cllr. G. Flynn, Chair of the Standing Orders Committee presented this report to the members. He asked the members to support these changes. He added that the committee are of the opinion that these changes will enhance the present Standing Orders of Clare County Council in a positive manner.

The majority of the members complimented the Standing Orders Committee on their work in producing this report. However, Cllr. P.J. Kelly queried whether the Chief Executive had requested legal advice from a Barrister prior to presenting this report to the members as he was not happy to support these changes. The Chief Executive in response advised Cllr. P.J. Kelly that he did not request legal advice because it was solely the role of the elected members on whether to adopt these changes or not. Cllr. C. Curtin did however, acknowledge Cllr. P.J. Kelly's frustration but insisted that these changes were for a trial period only and can be reviewed at the end of 2017.

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

Cllr. P.J. Kelly expressed his dissent in relation to the above item and asked that it be recorded.

Item 16. Draft Clare County Library Development Plan 2016 – 2021.

Report dated 2nd March, 2017 from Helen Walsh, Clare County Librarian was circulated with the agenda together with the Clare County Library Development Plan 2016-2021. The report states that the Draft Plan has been considered and adopted by the Cultural Services Arts (including Community, Recreation and Amenities) Strategic Policy Committee at the meeting held on 16th December, 2016.

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

“That the Draft Clare County Library Development Plan 2016-2021 be adopted.”

The members commended the Director of Services, Liam Conneally and the County Librarian, Helen Walsh and her staff on the very open, transparent and detailed Draft County Library Development Plan for the years 2016 – 2021.

It was agreed by the members to take Item No. 29 next.

Item 29. MABS.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. Norton agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection, Mr. Leo Varadkar, T.D., to issue a directive under Section 9 of the Citizens Information Act 2007 to the Citizens Information Board directing it to abandon proposals to abolish the local MABS and Citizens Information Service Companies delivering very important services to the most vulnerable in our society and to replace them with Regional Companies far removed from, and unfamiliar with, local issues. I further propose that this motion be circulated to each local authority for consideration.”

The members were in unanimous support for this motion and asked that this motion be copied to all local authorities.

Item 17. Procurement.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Breen

“In view of the fact that approximately 350 outside companies supply services to this council, how often are these tenders advertised and when and where was last time?”

Niall Barrett, Director of Finance and Support Services replied as follows:

“Procurement in all public bodies, including Clare County Council, is governed by National and EU legislation. The value of the contract determines the procurement procedure to be followed and the frequency in which the contract is tendered. There are other factors that also effect the frequency including the nature of the goods or services required, with many service contracts being of longer duration.

Most tenders are advertised on the **eTenders** website. This is a public sector procurement portal where all public sector bodies advertise public tenders and where any service provider/contractor can register free of charge and express interest and view details of any tender competition being ran by any public body.

In addition, contracts for many common goods and services (such as utilities, professional services and stationery) are put in place nationally by the **Office of Government Procurement (OGP)** for use by other public bodies, and these competitions are also advertised publically on eTenders and, if required on the Official Journal of the EU (OJEU). Within these tender competitions, framework competitions are often run for specific areas. Companies that are successful in the competition are placed on a panel of entities to supply under that framework. Then as individual contract supply opportunities arise, mini-competitions are run between all framework members to establish who will be the supplier for that particular contract. Mini-competitions are limited to existing framework participants.

In situations where goods or services are required which fall below the thresholds for the above processes then a Request for Quotations (**RFQ's**) process is used. These RFQs are also commonly advertised on the **Supplygov** website. The Supplygov site is another public procurement portal used by public bodies.

Quotations and tenders are sought by the Council on a daily basis and in many cases, quotations are sought directly from known suppliers, in full compliance with our procurement procedures, as the value of the goods is low.

The monthly Management Report now includes details of all publically advertised tenders during the previous month.

For ease of reference the tenders advertised (on eTenders) in the last month (February) are set out below:

Tender advertised	Closing Date
Re-development of Lees Road Synthetic Pitch.	20 th March 2017
Construction of upgrade to Lahinch Toilet.	1 st March 2017
Scoping, Developing, Marketing and Promoting the Lough Derg Blueway.	17 th February 2017

The tender to establish a new framework for general building services is currently advertised on eTenders and the council will be holding an information session for building contractors in the coming weeks. This competition and the information sessions will be advertised on local print media and social media in the coming weeks.”

Cllr. Breen asked if financial information on what was paid to selected contractors could be provided on request and asked that consideration be given to doing some of these works in-house.

Item 18. Customer Satisfaction Survey.

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

“That the Council carry out a Customer Satisfaction Survey.”

Niall Barrett, Director of Finance and Support Services replied as follows:

“Clare County Council carried out a “Quality of Service Survey” in July 2010. This was a detailed questionnaire which was aimed at helping the Council to monitor the level of service provided. Comments and suggestions for service improvement were invited from the people surveyed. This was a substantial undertaking and took several months to set up, collect responses and collate the responses received.

It is an opportune time for Clare County Council to carry out further survey work in order to consider customer feedback with a view to assessing service delivery. This may provide information on areas that could be improved and also provide an opportunity to assess the changing nature of the service delivery due to factors such as advances in technology in recent years.

Consideration will be given the format of the surveys, including carrying out individual surveys in particular service areas so that the survey responses may be more targeted. The options and timeframe for conducting such a survey will be assessed to determine what format the survey may take and what population groupings to survey. It may also be used as an opportunity to advise customers of enhancements to the council’s services, such as electronic payment options which are available. It is intended that those surveyed would also be given an option to provide comments, suggestions or recommendations in relation to the services provided by the Council.”

The members agreed that the last survey carried out by Clare County Council was very successful and it is their opinion that it would be a very worthwhile project. The Chief Executive in response advised that a key customer of Clare County Council is the elected member. He added that as part of this survey he is also looking into service cataloging. He informed the members that he will revert back to them once the details of how to conduct the proposed survey have been finalised.

Item 19. Tourist Attractions in County Clare.

“In light of Irelands current 2023 Rugby World Cup bid, that Clare County Council develop a series of tourism promotional videos to promote tourist attractions outside of the main tourist attractions within the county, to establish County Clare as a clear leader in Irelands tourist product and to capitalise on the possible influx of visitors presented by a successful bid as well as the current increased media attention.”

Due to the absence of Cllr. I. Lynch this motion was not moved or discussed.

Item 20. Shannon Airport.

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

“In view of the substantial threats posed by Brexit and the uncertainty surrounding immigration and pre-clearance facility at Shannon Airport, that this Council re-affirms its support for American military for transiting the airport.”

The majority of the members supported this motion. However, Cllr. M. McKee felt that he could not support this motion as Ireland is a neutral country. He therefore, expressed his dissent in relation to this matter and asked that it be recorded.

Item 21. Planning Contributions.

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Kelly

“That the following information be made available in written format:

- (a) Amount of planning contributions spent in each of the years ending 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016
- (b) The amount proposed to be spent in 2017
- (c) (1) The amount and location of each item of expenditure referred to in (a) above
- (2) the statutory and/or regulatory references applied in determining location and cost in each separate project.
- (d) The cost of proposed cycle lane from Ennis to Ennistymon and the administrative exercise which is referred to in (c) (2) (above) which was applied.”

Gerard Dollard, Director of Economic Development replied as follows:

(a) Amount of planning contributions spent in each of the years ending 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016

The table below sets out the amount of contributions allocated for various projects in accordance with the provisions of section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the adopted development contribution schemes.

Year	Recreation/Amenities	Roads & Car parks	Water/Sew	TOTAL
2012	363,570	€704,602	€4,838,159	€5,906,331
2013	-	€351,882	€492,685	€844,567
2014	-	€755,144	-	€755,144
2015	€137,306	€189,984	-	€327,290

2016	€500,000	€370,423	-	€870,423
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(b) The amount proposed to be spent in 2017

The amount available for spending in 2017 can only be determined when the collection level for contributions is known.

(c) (1) The amount and location of each item of expenditure referred to in (a) above

(2) The statutory and/or regulatory references applied in determining location and cost in each separate project.

The Development Contribution Scheme governs the allocation of monies received by way of contributions. Development contributions were allocated against capital works in progress or completed over the years 2012-2013 as follows:

<u>Allocated for spending 2012</u>	
Amenities	
Lees Road	€363,570
Roads	
Lisdoonvarna Road Restoration	€556,486
Car Park	
Sixmilebridge Car Park	€148,116
Water/Sew	
Lisdoonvarna Sewerage Scheme (C)	€ 683,932
Sixmilebridge Sewerage Scheme (C)	€299,735
Feakle, Scarrif, Quilty D.B.O & Network	€649,348
Ennis Main Drainage Scheme Ext To Ballymaley (C)	€23,925
Ennis/Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme	€2,440,199
Clonlara Village Estate Remedial Works 2009	€32,900
Clonlara Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade (C)	€146
Kilmihill (Screens) Wwtp Dev Levies	€23,093
Kilkee (Screens) Wwtp Dev Levies	€71,084
Ext Quin Wwtp Ss 2006 (Dev Levy)	€10,357

2011 Small Scheme Kilrush Sewerage Pump Station	€7,413
Remedial Action List (Epa) Dev Levy	€222,82
Upgrade Flouridation Systems At Wtp (Hse)	€15,815
Upgrading Castlelake Wtp	€16,082
North Clare (Eastern Area) Water Supply Scheme	€62,342
Lisdoonvarna Water Supply Scheme	€2,213
Ennis Water Treatment (Permanent) (C)	€140,000
2011 Small Scheme Broadford Pumping Station	€9,294
2011 Small Scheme Mountshannon Road	€7,487
2011 Small Scheme Grace Street Pella Road	€5,000
2011 Small Scheme Reservoir Upgrade	€9,040
2011 Small Scheme Doolough Intake Works	€5,956
2011 Small Scheme Kildysart Wtp Upgrade	€3,867
2011 Small Scheme Chlorine Analyser Newmarket	€5,469
2011 Small Scheme Cratloe	€5,321
2011 Small Scheme Moygalla/Clonmoney	€8,299
2011 Small Scheme Castlelake Inlet Pipe	€16,952
2011 Small Scheme Knockanean Road	€24,027
2011 Small Scheme Quin Road Ennis	€7,045
2011 Small Scheme Woodlawn Ennis	€2,773
2011 Small Scheme Tulla Reservoir Upgrade	€12,667
2011 Energy Efficiency Initiative (Doe)	€2,570
2011 Small Scheme Mt Catherine Ac Removal	€2,885
2011 Small Scheme 2011 Mountshannon Pump Upgrade	€8,081
<u>Allocated for spending in 2013</u>	
	€15,652

Roads	
Crag road Carpark, Lahinch	
Purchase Land Sixmilebridge 2008 for car park	€67,432
Tulla Road & Quin Rd Bridges roadworks dev levy	€284,170
Carpark at Glencree, Ennistymon	€24,957
Road restoration Quilty/Mullagh L67 2009	€17,820
Road restoration Quilty/Mullagh L2094 2009	€49,013
Road restoration RWSS L6120 Moanmore 2009	€10,265
Road restoration RWSS L20423 Drumellihy 2009	€3,033
Water and Sewerage	
Quin Wastewater Treatment Plant	€19,603
Upgrade Newmarket on Fergus wwtp 2007 (dev levy)	€64,491
2012 Small Scheme Kilfenora wwtp	€19,585
2012 Small Scheme Mountshannon wwtp	€6,198
2012 Small Scheme Quin Wwtp	€31,622
2012 Small Scheme Sixmilebridge	€8,335
2011 Small Scheme Chlorine Analyser Newmarket	€4,064
2011 Small Scheme Rockmount Watermain	€187
2011 Small Scheme Quin Road Ennis	€627
2012 Small Scheme Old Doolough/Kildysart Wtps	€22,114
2012 Small Scheme Carron/Kilkeedy Wtp	€16,419
2012 Small Scheme Ballagh Cahersherking	€6,093
2012 Small Scheme Castlelake Wtp	€1,210
West Clare Rws Cont. 6 (Kilkee)	€58,856
Upgrade Clonroadmore Wwtp (Dev Levy) 2008	€138,098
Inagh Serviced Land Initiative	€85,480
Ennisty. (Inclu. Liscan.) Milt. M./Spanish Pt. S.S	€9,702

Allocated for spending in 2014**Roads**

2013 Dev Contributions 08/1330 & 08/1741 (refund)	€300,000
N18/N19 Ballycasey - Carrigoran Phase 2	€250,000
Kilkee L2008 & L6034 IMP 2008	€126,104
Special P05/2260 Footpaths in Mountievers Sixmilebridge	€79,040

Allocated for spending in 2015**Amenities**

Liscannor Pier Master Plan & Works 2008	€4,030
Lees Road Improvements	€130,923
Amenity Improvement Upgrading at Tim Smythe Park	€2,352

Roads

Quin Road Pedestrian Cross & Footpath	€31,449
Tulla Road & Quin Road Bridges	€107,985
Public Lighting Improvements	€50,550

Allocated for spending in 2016**Roads**

Quin Road Pedestrian Cross & Footpath	€90,423
Oakleigh Wood Roundabout & Associated Work	€80,000
Ennis Northern Relief Road (IAPE)	€200,000

Amenities

Lahinch Promenade project, including public toilets	€200,000
Tim Smyth Park Astro Turf facility	€300,000

- (e) **The cost of proposed cycle lane from Ennis to Ennistymon and the administrative exercise which is referred to in (c) (2) (above) which was applied**

The proposed cycle lane from Ennis to Ennistymon has been included in the list of capital projects under the new draft Development Contribution Scheme for 2017-2023. It is estimated that this project will cost in the region of €4m with funding sources being central government Smarter Travel programme funding and local sources.”

Item 22. Irish Cement Plant planning application to Limerick City and County Council

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy agus glacadh leis

"That Clare County Council lodge an appeal to An Bord Pleanála against planning file 16-345 (Limerick City & County Council).

This granted application provides for a tyre burning facility at Irish Cement's plant at Castlemungret, Limerick. The people of Clare and we, their local government, should have very legitimate health, safety and environmental concerns for this development. The site bounds on the River Shannon and is only a few hundred metres from County Clare."

Gerard Dollard, Director of Economic Development replied as follows:

“Having contacted Limerick City and County Council I am advised that the application by Irish Cement Limited comprised of *“a 10 year permission for development to allow for the replacement of fossil fuels through the introduction of lower carbon alternative fuels and to allow for the use of alternative raw materials in their Limerick Cement Factory. To facilitate the on-site handling, storage, and introduction of the alternative fuels and alternative raw materials it is proposed to construct: a tyre storage area with tyre handling/separation area, and associated conveyor kiln 6 with fire water retention tank; a proposed pumpable fluids storage tank which is located within a concrete bund area with associated uploading station all within a 2.4m high security fencing; a proposed fine solids handling building with 2 no. associated truck unloading areas & associated feed conveyors; associated switch room building & associated conveyor from screening building to dosing building at front end of kiln 6, as well as a fine solids transfer building, associated conveyor connecting to a proposed fine solids dosing building to back end of kiln 6 and associated fore-water retention tank; a proposed alternative raw materials storage building with concrete path surround; 3 no. proposed silos for the introduction of free-flowing solids; a proposed by-pass filter comprising a bag filter and a cooling tower with concrete path surround and 1 no. fire-water retention tank. The works include for the demolition of 4 no. steel and metal clad covered car park bay structures. The works also include for associated mechanical equipment and ancillary works, including provision of short sections of internal roadway, pavement,*

fencing and landscape works. In reducing the quantity of fossil fuel use, the proposed development seeks to introduce a range of alternative fuels up to a maximum of 90,000 tonnes per annum. The use of alternative raw materials is contained within this proposed overall quantity. The application area extends to 10.52 hectares within Limerick Cement Factory (this application relates to an activity for which an Industrial Emissions Licence applies under the Environmental Protected Act 1992, as amended (Industrial Emission Licence Register Number P0029-03. An Environmental Impact Statement accompanies this planning application))”.

I am advised that a decision to grant permission, subject to 16 conditions, was made by Limerick City and County Council on 8th March, 2017 with the period for an appeal to An Bord Pleanala, expiring [on Monday 4th April](#). It is noted that there were over forty 3rd Party objectors to the application who all have an entitlement to appeal to An Bord Pleanala.

I am advised that the application comprised an EIS and two further submissions in response to further information and clarification requests. All of this information, together with all submissions on the application, was assessed for almost a year by Limerick City and County Council.”

The members discussed this matter in great detail. Cllr. C. Crowe asked the members to support this motion. He felt that it was a grossly offensive planning application. He appreciated that the time was short within which to lodge the appeal but he requested the assistance of the Clare County Council’s planning and environment departments in order to achieve the deadline of 4th April.

Some, however, voiced their concerns on this course of action as they felt it wasn’t appropriate for Clare County Council to question by way of an appeal the decision of Limerick City and County Council. It was also felt that it wasn’t possible for Clare County Council to come up with a substantial grounds for objection on a planning application it hadn’t seen.

The following amendment to the resolution was then proposed by Cllrs. J. Flynn and seconded by J. Cooney

“That Clare County Council deal with the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Mungret Development at the E.P.A. Licence stage, rather than the current Planning Stage”.

The Cathaoirleach called a vote on the amendment, which resulted as follows:

In favour: Cllrs. J. Flynn, M. Howard, J. Cooney, G. Flynn, C. Curtin, B. Slattery, B. Chambers and G. Keating (8).

Against: Cllrs T. McNamara, C. Colleran Molloy, T. O’Brien, C. Crowe, P. McMahan and M. McKee (6).

Abstentions: Cllrs. A. Norton, P. Burke and P.J. Ryan (3)

This amendment was deemed to have been carried by 8 votes to 6.

Item 23. Overtaking distance.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy agus glacadh leis

“Considering that the Government will introduce before the summer, a bill where motorists are to face penalty points and a fine for driving too close to a cyclist, the minimum passing distance will now be set at 1.5 meters on roads with speed limits of more than 50 kmh.

I request Clare County Council to reconsider my motion of June 2015 - "That Clare County Council imitate the initiative of other local authorities (Wexford, Mayo, Donegal) by placing signs on Council vehicles to indicate that the appropriate space to give a cyclist when overtaking to a minimum of 1.5m clearance". I believe we need to do our bit in creating awareness and instilling this basic tenet in the public consciousness.”

Tom Tiernan, A/Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“Notwithstanding the fact that the points made in response to the previous notice of motion in relation to this matter in June, 2015 continue to pertain, I would agree that the fact that the issue is now being addressed in a legislative context strengthens the argument in favour of the local authority being assertive in relation to same. The fact that a significantly enhanced network of cycleways has been developed around Ennis recently adds additional rationale to the suggestion.

Given that the legislative process referred to in the notice of motion is to evolve over the coming months, I would suggest that no action be taken until such time as the process is completed. Then we will design appropriate signage to be placed on the back of Council vehicles to reflect the key details of the forthcoming legislation – and in particular the requirement to give cyclist the space they need to use the public road safely.”

Item 24. Mother and Baby Home in Kilrush.

Ar moladh Cllr. I. Lynch

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. M. Howard agus A. Norton agus glacadh leis

“In light of the recent revelations on the sad history of Mother and Baby Homes throughout Ireland, I propose that a plaque be erected on the site of the County Clare Mother and Baby Home in Kilrush. Clare County Council set up the Home in 1922 and whilst it was in operation, unmarried, pregnant women from all over the county were sent there to have their babies. Clare County Council made the decision to close the home in 1932 and from then on, send women to Sean Ross Abbey in Roscrea.”

The Chief Executive in response advised that the sentiments of this motion would be referred to the Memorial Committee for further discussion with a strong recommendation from the members.

Item 25. Legal services.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. P.J. Kelly agus G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That a breakdown with costings of the legal services provided to the Council under the sub-heading ‘other’ (figures of €83,503 in 2015 and €119,223 in 2016) be made available and arising from same that a new reporting mechanism to the Council on legal transactions and accruing costs be implemented.”

Niall Barrett, Director of Finance and Support Services replied as follows:

“I have set out hereunder the breakdown of the figures for “other” legal costs of €83,503 in 2015 and €119,223 in 2016.

Analysis of other legal costs	2015	2016
Property Management, Title, Rights of Way, etc.	14,523	16,098
Water Capital Related (funded by Irish Water)	12,905	34,840
Fire Services and Building Control	18,487	35,569
Procurement / Tender Advice	10,510	
Planning, Taking in Charge, Development Plan	10,435	7,723
Various housing matters, estate management, rents	6,563	10,057
Roads, Traffic Management, Piers and Harbours	4,659	5,569
Environment, various items	4,102	1,970
Tourism, Enterprise and LEO, Community	956	2,927
Derelict Sites		1,230
Burial Grounds, title rectification, land registry	132	869
Library Services	232	2,371
Total of Other Legal Costs	83,504	119,223

With regard to the request for a reporting mechanism on legal transactions, it is intended to include a report on payments made for legal costs as an item every six months on the management report to Council.”

Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy queried whether the Chief Executive had considered and examined the possibility of internalising some of the more regular conveyancing work further to her motion in January. In response the Chief Executive advised the members that Senior Staff were tasked with reviewing this matter and he will revert back to the members once this had been completed.

Item 26. Spending of public funding.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn

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

“That the Chief Executive in the interest of accountability and transparency change the practice of Senior Engineers having the absolute power and decision making on the spending of public funding throughout the county of Clare and that the elected public representatives are consulted on how best practice can be applied. Councillors at local level have only the opportunity to request various improvements through motions but in reality have little or no influence on the delivery.”

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive replied as follows:

“There are 3 designated Senior Engineer positions in Clare County Council whose responsibilities are broadly as follows:

- Senior Engineer, Water Services – implementation of an evolving multifaceted transformation programme as set out by Irish Water, direction of implementation of ongoing operational and capital programmes as determined by Irish Water and implementation of the countywide Rural Water Programme based on allocations made available by the Department of the Environment.
- Senior Engineer, Environment – direction of a wide-ranging and detailed environmental inspection programme, overseeing implementation of a range of environmentally orientated management plans, development of county strategies in relation to issues such as climate change adaptation, energy management and so on and implementation of capital programmes such as in relation to beaches, recycling facilities etc.
- Senior Engineer, Transportation – development and implementation of Roadworks Programmes, similarly in relation to flood relief and coastal defence strategies and pursuit of implementation of strategic capital programmes facilitating significant transportation, coastal and flood relief needs.

We note the concerns outlined in the notice of motion, but it is important to make a number of points to reflect the reality and context within which Senior Engineers are required to deliver the services expected of them by the local authority. In this regard, the following should be noted:

- Water Services (with the exception of Rural Water) is now the responsibility of Irish Water with all budgets facilitating service delivery, operations, improvements, scheme development and so on being provided by Irish Water. As a result, Clare County Council Water Services Staff are very much required to accommodate the Irish Water agenda as part of National and Regionally based strategy going forward.
- A very large proportion of programmes to be implemented across technical areas are regulation based which, in effect, means that much of the leverage available to Engineers in the past to make judgement calls based on local circumstances etc. is no longer available.
- A much more scientific approach than heretofore is insisted upon in situations where heretofore subjective judgement calls could be made based on a variety of criteria such as Engineering need and various local circumstances. The

recent evolution of the Pavement Management System (PMS) has radically changed the approach which is taken in relation to the development of Roadworks Programmes, calculation of outputs in association with key performance indicators, programming generally and accountability in relation to the management of transportation infrastructure.

Therefore, it would appear that the environment within which Senior Engineers work which is centred around more intensive regulation, a demand for implementation of best practice technically, the strategic agenda of third parties and greater accountability is being mis-interpreted by some as “Senior Engineers having the absolute power and decision making on the spending of public money throughout the county of Clare”. The fact that funding levels have been as depleted as they have over the past number of years has added further restriction to the capacity of Engineers to incorporate flexibility in their decision-making to the degree they would wish. There is no practice in place of the type depicted by this notice of motion. To the contrary, Senior Engineers and their staff at Senior Executive and Executive Engineer level throughout the Council are more than happy to liaise and work with Council Members and to develop a detailed understanding of the issues which are of greatest concern to Councillors. We fully appreciate that a very large proportion of issues which confront Council Members on a daily basis are related to the areas which are managed by Senior Engineers. Our challenge is to be able to provide as much flexibility as possible in responding to Councillor led issues while at the same time working within the aforementioned constraints. We are very much conscious of the fact that both the Executive and Elected components of the Council structure are working towards achievement of the same objectives in terms of service to the general public and that it is in neither party’s interest to divert from that principle.”

Cllr. G. Flynn felt that it was time to have a policy that would be respectful to all four municipal districts. He also queried if a Senior Engineer from Water Services could be made available at district meetings. In response to the queries raised the Chief Executive reassured the members that improvements in engagement and consultation will happen over time to ensure a collaborative working relationship.

Item 27. Telephone allowance for the elderly.

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. T. O’Brien agus glacadh leis

“That this Council would request Minister for Social Protection, Leo Varadkar to re-instate the telephone allowance for the elderly.”

It was agreed to circulate this to all local authorities.

Item 28. Convention on the rights of persons with Disabilities.

Ar moladh Cllr. A. Norton
Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“I am requesting that Clare County Council write to our Oireachtas members asking why they are delaying in ratifying the Convention on the rights of persons with Disabilities.”

It was agreed by the members that the Standing Orders would be suspended in order to extend the meeting to 6:00 p.m. As there was one half of the members of the whole Council present, this was proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. C. Curtin.

Item 30. GoSafe Contract with An Garda Síochana.

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

“Where on the 14th March, 2017, District Judge Patrick Durkin, had no option but to dismiss a total of 9 prosecutions brought by GoSafe, and further based upon his observation that "the entire system is being brought into disrespect in the busiest district in the country," that Clare County Council call on:

- (1) the Public Accounts Committee to examine the costs of the administration of justice attributable to the GoSafe contract: and that
- (2) the Garda Commissioner undertake such prosecutions directly as it is unfair to the Garda Síochána and abusing scarce state resources.”

The members noted that the comments by Judge Durkin were a cause of concern and need to be addressed. Cllr. P.J. Ryan suggested that there should be more of an emphasis on educating young people with the money being spend on Go Safe.

Item 31. An Post.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Hillery

"That Clare County Council call on the Government to support the retention of AN POST present network because of the importance of the post office in local communities."

Due to the absence of Cllr. M. Hillery this motion was not moved or discussed. Cllr. T. McNamara on behalf of Cllr. M. Hillery requested that this motion be listed again for the April meeting.

Item 32. Undergraduate nursing places in Universities.

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Keating
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Mary Howard agus glacadh leis

“That this Council calls on the government to immediately review the number of undergraduate nursing places available in our universities and other educational institutions. The constraints on places is resulting in significant increases in the points requirement and sending many of our students overseas.”

Cllr. G. Keating spoke of the changes in recent years which prohibit nursing students from gaining access to nursing colleges in Ireland. Cllr. M. Howard advised that some nursing schools are not able to operate to full capacity. There was unanimous support for this motion. The members requested that this motion be circulated to all Universities and Institutes of Technology.

Item 33. River Maintenance budget.

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

“That Clare County Council provides details on the funding allocated for the cleaning and dredging of rivers in Clare for 2016; outline the level of funding available for 2017 and report on the river maintenance work plans for both years.”

Tom Tiernan, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:

“The funding allocated for works which would include cleaning and dredging of rivers is shown in the Annual Works Programme under the “Arterial Drainage” heading. In 2016 the sum allocated was €54,000 and for 2017 a similar sum is provided. The sum allocated for works of this nature over the past no. of years is significantly less than it should be and these very depleted resources have dictated that only the bare minimum in terms of requirements could be facilitated. In the circumstances, it has been our practice to endeavour to incorporate drainage works into the programme over and above what the allocation would facilitate where such works could be justified in association with other budgets. Therefore, the value of works achieved tends to be greater than the aforementioned adopted budgets would suggest.

In 2016 works to the value of €115,000 were carried out – exclusive of a schedule of road drainage works which were carried out throughout the county on foot of the flood damage remediation funding of €3.6m which was allocated to Clare following the severe weather events of the winter of 2015/16.

The following is an overview of the works carried out in 2016 for the aforementioned €115,000:

Ennis MD – significant remediation and upgrade works were carried out to a no. of non-return valve structures in the Lower Fergus Catchment as well as replacement of one of the large tidal barrage sluice doors near Clarecastle.

Killaloe MD – Channel clearance and bridge cleaning works were carried out at Ardcloney River and Bridge and also on the Black River near O’Briensbridge. In addition, some vegetation clearance work was carried out on the Blackwater River

near Mountcatherine in association with the Minor Flood Defence works which were carried out on foot of OPW grant funding towards the end of 2016.

Shannon MD – Drain cleaning and dredging works were undertaken at a no. of locations in Shannon and along the R462 Cratloe to Sixmilebridge Road.

West Clare MD – Dredging works were carried out on the Kildimo River in the northern part of the MD.

The poor levels of funding available to facilitate arterial drainage works don't facilitate the concept of elaborate programming and while some targets are set in relation to priority works, a significant proportion of allocated funds is used to deal with situations which emerge as priorities through the course of the year. Notwithstanding same, the following are current objectives for 2017:

- Drain cleaning works in a no. of streams in the Shannon MD including at the Shannon Free Zone East and at the Westbury Housing Estate.
- Channel maintenance/remediation works on the Owenogarney River in East Clare.
- Drain cleaning works in the Manus Drainage District, vegetation clearance in the Fergus Drainage District (Fergus Minor) and also some vegetation clearance in Quin.”

Item 34. Comhfhreagras. Correspondence.

In relation to Item No. 4, Nomination to the Board of Shannon Group

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin
Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. Norton agus glacadh leis

A written motion was given to the Cathaoirleach. It was proposed by Cllr. C. Curtin and seconded by Cllr. A. Norton that Cllr. G. Flynn be nominated by the Council for appointment to the Board of the Shannon Group. The Chief Executive advised that he would have to assess if there was a process to be followed for nominations to the Shannon Board and he would advise Cllr. G. Flynn in due course.

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda:

1. Correspondence dated 9th February, 2017 from the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment in relation to mobile phone companies.
2. Correspondence dated 14th March, 2017 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding the extension and upgrade of roads and in particular the N19.
3. Correspondence dated 14th March, 2017 from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in relation to the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB).
4. Correspondence dated 10th March, 2017 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to the Board of Shannon Group.

5. Correspondence dated 21st February, 2017 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to funding to extend and upgrade the roads in the county.
6. Correspondence dated 16th February, 2017 from the Health Service Executive regarding the invite to come and give a presentation on Mental Health issues and Suicide Prevention to all Councillors.
7. Correspondence dated 16th February, 2017 from the Health Service Executive in relation to the National Ambulance Service.
8. Correspondence dated 16th February, 2017 from the Department of Social Protection regarding the eligibility criteria for the Community Employment Scheme.
9. Correspondence dated 16th February, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in relation to farm safety.
10. Correspondence dated 1st March, 2017 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding Bus Éireann Expressway service.
11. Correspondence dated 9th March, 2017 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding free travel.
12. Correspondence dated 10th March, 2017 from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection in connection with the Free Travel Scheme.
13. Correspondence dated 7th March, 2017 from the Department of Health concerning funding for the drug Orkambi for the sufferers of Cystic Fibrosis.
14. Correspondence dated 7th March, 2017 from the Department of Health concerning public accessible defibrillators.
15. Correspondence dated 8th March, 2017 from Aware acknowledging financial donation received from Clare County Council.
16. Minutes of Regional Health Forum West Meeting held on 22nd November, 2016.
17. Resolution adopted by the members of Sligo County Council in relation to Credit Unions.
18. Resolution adopted by the members of Donegal County Council in relation to the Irish Coast Guard.
19. Resolution adopted by the members of Donegal County Council in relation to the H.S.E.
20. Resolution adopted by the members of Tipperary County Council in relation to Bus Éireann.
21. Resolution adopted by the members of South Dublin County Council in relation to Basic Income System.
22. Resolution adopted by the members of Kilkenny County Council in relation to cancer care in Ireland.
23. Conference entitled “What does a hard Brexit mean for Ireland” being held in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 31st March and 1st & 2nd April, 2017.

24. A.I.L.G. Annual Training Conference 2017 taking place in Tracey's West County Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare on 6th & 7th April, 2017.
25. Irish Planning Institute Annual Planning Conference being held in the Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo on 6th & 7th April, 2017.
26. 2 day Social Media Training for Councillors taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 15th & 16th April, 2017.
27. 2 day Social Media Training for Councillors taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 19th & 20th April, 2017.
28. Conference entitled "LGAS – an overview of the work of Local Government Auditors" taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 21st – 23rd April, 2017.
29. LAMA 2017 Spring Training Seminar being held in City North Hotel, Gormanston, Co. Meath on 28th & 29th April, 2017.
30. Conference entitled "Money Matters after Death" taking place in the Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 12th – 14th May, 2017.
31. "Mná na hÉireann 2017" A conference on the Theme of Women in Modern Ireland being held at An Grianan, The I.C.A. Headquarters in Termonfeckin, Co. Louth on 19th & 20th May, 2017.

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.

Training Seminar entitled "Tackling Japanese Knotweed – Functions of Local Authorities and NRA" taking place in Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork on 27th – 29th January, 2017.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €612.65 including conference fee of €150.

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

AILG Training Seminar entitled "National Planning Framework Ireland 2040" taking place in Dooley's Hotel, Waterford on 11th February, 2017.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €361.83 including conference fee of €50.

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

Energy Action Fuel Poverty and Climate Action Conference taking place in Croke Park, Dublin on 6th March, 2017.

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €536.87 including conference fee of €90.

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

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Riarthóir Cruinnithe

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____