

**Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 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, P. Hayes, M. Begley, P. Burke, A. O’Callaghan, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahan, M. McKee, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Loretta McNamara, Staff Officer.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development.
- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer.
- Ms. Siobhan McNulty, Senior Executive Officer.
- Mr. Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer.
- Mr. Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner.
- Mr. Urban McMahan, Head of Information Systems.
- Mr. Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer.
- Ms. Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer.
- Mr. John Corry, Administrative Officer.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Begley presided.

**Vote of Sympathy**

- Cllr. G. Keating on the death of his brother Oliver Keating, Limerick.
- The Lynch family on the death of Margaret Lynch, Kilmaley.
- The Gallagher family on the death of Kathleen Gallagher, Crusheen.
- The relatives of Mary Considine, Liscannor.

As a mark of respect on the death of Cllr. G. Keating’s brother the meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes.

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

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

“That the Minutes of the June Meeting of Clare County Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 be adopted and signed.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Clare County Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018 be adopted and signed.”

**Item 2: Matters Arising.**

In relation to Item 19 from the June Meeting Cllr. G. Flynn wished to know had there been any progress on the setting up of a working group.

The Cathaoirleach advised that he would come back on this matter.

**Item 3: Minutes of Municipal District Meetings.**

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

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 be noted.”

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

a. Ar moladh Cllr. P. Burke  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Hillery agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Social Development S.P.C. meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 be noted”.

**Item 5: Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.**

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 as presented.

**Item 6: Monthly Management Report.**

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

- Cllr. C. Curtin referred to the report on Legal Costs and the charge of €22,574.14 for legal advice and sought a detailed breakdown of this figure.
- Cllr. M. Hillery complemented the work done thus far in relation to Rockmount W.T.P. and the consultation that had taken place with the local community.
- Cllr. J. Flynn commended the Council on being the first local authority in Ireland to achieve Gold certification to the Standards Authority of Ireland's (N.S.A.I.) Excellence Through People standard. He expressed disappointment that the works in relation to Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme were outside the control of Clare County Council.
- Cllr. C. Crowe acknowledged the work being done by Archives and wished to know was there any update on the metropolitan areas.
- Cllr. J. Breen stated that the Board of University of Limerick was disappointed with the progress on the South Clare Economic Strategic Development Zone (S.D.Z.).
- Cllr. G. Flynn requested an update on the General Data Protection Regulation (G.D.P.R.).
- Cllr. G. Keating wished to know had the Irish Officer been appointed.

The Chief Executive responded to the issues raised. In relation to legal costs he advised that the Council operates within a legal framework but is looking to make savings in this area. Much of the legal advice relates to historical cases particularly in the area of equality, but will revert with further detail. Clare County Council has been looking for a meeting with the University of Limerick over the last four weeks in order to discuss the S.D.Z. The meeting has now been scheduled for August. When the application is complete approval will have to be sought from the Department. In relation to G.D.P.R. still awaiting clarification but will follow up on this. In relation to Cllr. C. Crowe's query the Chief Executive advised that last Thursday the Department outlined the structures for the national framework for major cities and the Council is assessing the implications. This relates solely to planning and how you plan growth of these cities. The recruitment process for the Irish Officer is under way. This position has a development role for the County.

**Item 7: Disposal by way of lease, of property at Mill House Building, Mill 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 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose by way of lease of Mill House, Mill Road, subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

Ar moladh Cllr. T. McNamara  
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 the disposal, by way of

lease, of property at Mill House, Mill Road, Ennis, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.”

**Item 8: Disposal of property at John Paul Avenue, 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 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 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 John Paul Avenue, Cloughleigh, Ennis, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Daly

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Breen 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 property at John Paul Avenue, Cloughleigh, Ennis, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.”

**Item 9: Report in accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2013 for the proposed flood alleviation scheme at Church Street, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare.**

Report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2018 from John Corry, Administrative Officer, Transportation Department was circulated with the agenda together with report from A/Senior Executive Planner. The report states that it is proposed to carry out a Flood Alleviation Scheme at Church Street, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Hillery

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin 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 flood alleviation scheme at Church Street, Miltown Malbay, 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 change of use and sub-division of an existing industrial unit at Quin Road Business Park, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2018 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda together with report from Senior Planner. The report states that it is proposed to carry out change of use and

sub-division of an existing industrial unit at Quin Road Business Park, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy  
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 change of use and sub-division of an industrial building at Quin Road Business Park, Clonroadmore, Ennis, Co. Clare.”

**Item 11: Report in accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2013 for the proposed rehabilitation works at O’Briens Bridge, Co. Clare.**

Report dated 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 from Ann Cronin, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design was circulated with report from Senior Planner. The report states that rehabilitation works are being proposed to regulate traffic over O’Briens Bridge and protect the riverside walk below the bridge. The works if completed will allow for the reopening of the portion of the riverside walk which runs along the River Shannon and under one of the arches of O’Briens Bridge.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Burke  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. O’Callaghan 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 rehabilitation works at O’Briens Bridge in the village of O’Briensbridge, Co. Clare.”

**Item 12: Approval for payment of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach allowances.**

Report dated 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 from Ann Reynolds, A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services was circulated with the agenda. The report states that it proposed to approve payments to the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach for the forthcoming year in accordance with Part (A) of Part (IV) of Circular LG 07/2017 dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.

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

“That Clare County Council approves payments to the Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach for the forthcoming year in accordance with Part (A) of Part (IV) of Circular LG 07/2017 dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2017.”

**Item 13: Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018.**

Report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2018 from Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural

Development was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the Town & Village Renewal Scheme is an initiative under the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development, *Realising our Rural Potential*, and is part of a package of national and local support measures to rejuvenate rural towns and villages throughout Ireland. The Scheme is funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and administered by Local Authorities.

€15 million is available in 2018 and is targeted at rural towns and villages with populations of less than 10,000 people. Applications from towns and villages can range from €20,000 to a maximum generally of €100,000. Funding of up to €200,000 will also be considered for a limited number of projects which can deliver exceptionally strong economic benefit to a town or village and its outlying areas.

In May 2018, Clare County Council sought expressions of interest from town/village groups who may have suitable project(s) for consideration under the scheme. Thirty applications were received and evaluated and brought before a meeting of the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Based on the evaluation criteria applied, it was agreed that the following six projects would be submitted to the Department for further consideration and final decision. The deadline for submission of applications to the Department was Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

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

“That Clare County Council endorse the recommendation of the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland that the projects listed be submitted for further consideration by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018:

- Irish Aviation Foundation GLG – Shannon Aviation Museum
- Kilmurry Ibrickane Development Committee
- Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
- Clarecastle Tidy Towns
- Killaloe/Ballina Community and Family Resource Centre
- Ballynacally Development Association.”

#### **Item 14: Community Support Scheme 2018.**

Report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2018 from Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda. The report states that in April, Clare County Council launched the Community Supports Scheme 2018 which co-ordinates separate grant schemes to community groups operated by various Council departments into a single structured scheme. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage community and voluntary groups to take an active part in the development of their communities and to improve the quality of life experience in their areas and thereby deliver on the targeted actions in the Clare Local Economic and Community Plan and the Clare Rural Development Strategy.

Seven categories of funding were promoted this year and a total of 261 applications were received and evaluated and brought before a meeting of the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

The total approved is €373,500.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Cooney  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. T. McNamara agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council endorse the recommendation of the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland that the projects listed be approved for approval under the Community Supports Scheme 2018:

#### **Public Area Enhancement Scheme**

<b>Name of Group</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Barefield Tidy Village	650.00
Corofin Tidy Towns Association	6,143.15
Bridgetown Tidy Towns Association	650.00
O'Briens Bridge Community Group	6,402.50
Killimer Tidy Villages	1,825.85
Kilrush Tidy Towns	5,757.70
Tuamgraney Development Association	6,695.00
O'Callaghans Mills Tidy Towns	2,915.25
Spanish Point Community Group	4,347.20
Cranny Tidy Towns	2,185.24
Whitegate Community Council	520.00
Kilkee Tidy Town Committee	11,010.35
Doolin Tidy Towns	910.00
Kildysart Tidy Towns	4,940.00
Kilmaley Meitheal Ltd	8,854.04

Labasheeda Community Pride Tidy Town Committee	3,347.50
The Kilmihil Tidy Towns	715.00
Connolly Tidy Village	4,946.50
Ruan Tidy Village	4,355.00
Lisdoonvarna Tidy Towns	1,876.71
Bodyke Tidy Towns	2,600.00
Kilkishen Tidy Towns	1,625.00
Mullagh Tidy Village	780.00
Miltown Malbay Tidy Towns	2,658.50
Mountshannon Tidy Towns	516.43
Lissycasey Tidy Towns	13,000.00
Sixmilebridge Community Development Association	1,105.00
Shannon Tidy Towns	6,500.00
Cooraclare Tidy Towns	2,600.00
Quin Village Tidy Towns	9,750.00
Ballynacally Tidy Towns	6,613.75
Broadford Development Association CLG	2,275.00
Clarecastle Tidy Towns	2,275.00
c/o Feakle Community Council	8,420.75
Scariff Community Council	14,105.00
Newmarket on Fergus Tidy Towns	9,360.00

#### **Amenity /Streetscape Shop front Improvement Scheme**

<b>Name of Group</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
College Grove Residents Association (C.G.R.A.)	300.00
Station Court Residents Association	300.00



Brideford Properties Ltd	800.00
Baunkyle Amenity Group	300.00
Cluainin Residents Association	300.00
The Moorings Grass Cutting Association	300.00
Inis Clair Residents Association	300.00
Avondale Residents Association	300.00
Old Forge Residents Association	300.00
Cregáun Residents Association	300.00
Clonlara Residents Association	300.00
Gleann Cora Residents Association	300.00
Dun Na Ri Residence Association	300.00
French Park Residents Association	300.00
Tulla Scouts 12th Clare	300.00
Rockmount Grove Residents Association	300.00
Westfields Residents Association	300.00
Beechwood Grove Residents Association	300.00
The Green Residents Association	300.00
Carrig An Oir Residents Association	300.00
Cluain Ros Leammain Residents Association	800.00
Inchicronan Residents Committee	300.00
Fergus Manor Residents Association	300.00
Poplin Green & District Residents	300.00
The C.D.A. Residents Association	300.00
St Oliver Plunkett Scout Group	300.00
Elm Park Residents' Association	300.00
Cusack Lawn Residents Association	300.00

Keelgrove Ballyglass Residents Association	800.00
Dromard Residents Association	800.00
Oakleigh Wood Residents Association	500.00
Glenoir Residents Association	300.00
Westbury Environmental Awareness Group	300.00
Glensheen Residents Association	300.00
Bruach Na Rinne Residents Association	300.00
Pine Grove Residents Association	800.00
c/o Iniscarragh Residents Association	300.00
Quilty Action Group	800.00
Hazelwood Residents Association	300.00
Ard Na Gaoithe Residents Association	300.00
Woodhaven Residents Association	300.00
Boheraroan Estate	800.00
Kildysart Parish Pastoral Council	800.00
Ros An Ore	300.00
Hazelgrove Residents Committee	600.00
Bunratty Local Development Association	800.00
Riverside Residents Association	300.00
Cree Community Spirit	800.00
Fiorusice Residents Association	300.00
Glassan Residents Association	300.00
Glenina Residents Association	800.00
Fernhill Residents Association	800.00
Bramble Lane Residence Association	300.00
Arda Na Dierge Residents	300.00

Shanballa Grass Cutting	300.00
Ivy Hill Residents Association	600.00
Springfield Residents Association	300.00
Laghtagoona Residents Association	800.00
Brookville Residents Association	300.00
Bunratty Cratloe FC	800.00
Dun Aras Residents Association	300.00
Ennistymon Town Team	600.00
Ard Donagh Residents Association	300.00
Ballinruan Development Association	800.00
Hazel Grove Residents Association	300.00
Meadow Court Residents Association	300.00
O'Garney Heights Residents Association	300.00
Lissaniska Residents Association	300.00
Marion Avenue Residents Association	600.00
Ruan Scouts	500.00
Colmeen Tidy Village	690.00
Castlerock and Forest Glen Residents Association	600.00
Dun Na hInse Residents Association	800.00
French Court Residents Association	300.00
Meelick Parteen Coonagh Active Retirement	800.00
Seapark Residents Group	300.00
Clonmoney Grove Residence Association	400.00
Marian Estate Residents	300.00
Gort Na Habhana Residents Association	300.00
Cronan Residents Association	800.00

Radharc na Coile Residents	400.00
An Sean Dún Residents Association	300.00
Cappahard Residents	300.00
The Hub Café, Ennis	300.00
Clare Language Centre	600.00
Riverdale Residents' Association	300.00
Derrymore Residents	300.00
Manor View, Quin	600.00
Lios Ard Management CLG	300.00
Lenabeg Residents Association	300.00
Kildysart Community Focus CLG	800.00
Inis Orga Residents Association	300.00
Greendale Residents Association	300.00
Gort Leamhan Residents Association	800.00
Gort na mBláth & Ráth Ban Residents Association	800.00
Kilmurry Harvest Festival	400.00
Woodview Residents Association	300.00
Whitegate GAA	800.00
East Clare Community Co-Op	300.00
College Green Residents Association - move to amenity	300.00
Phoenix Court Residents Association	300.00
Cluain Gerrain Residents Volunteers	300.00
Clondrina Residents Association	300.00
Acha Bhaile Residents Association	300.00
Cratloe Community Council	800.00
Páirc na hEaglaise Residents Association	300.00

Riverview Residents Association	700.00
Bishopscourt Residents Association	700.00
Cluain Droichead Residents Association	300.00
North West Clare Family Resource Centre Community Garden	600.00
Clonard Residents' Association	300.00
Bruachlán Grianan Residence Committee	800.00
Ballyvaughan Community Development Group	300.00
Garran Na Coille Residents Association	300.00
Abbeycourt Residents Association	300.00

### Community Playgrounds

Name of Group	Grant Amount
Cratloe Community Playground Cooperative Society Limited	3,041.10
Tulla Community Community	2,700.00
The Adventure playground, Drumdigus	1,350.00
Kildysart Playground Committee	4,623.40
St. Cronans' Playground	2,452.17
Quin Playground Committee	1,530.00
Kilkee Playground & Astro Turf	3,960.00
Sixmilebridge	9,411.00
Miltown Malbay Community Playground	1,936.80
Ballynacally Development Association	9,018.90
Lissycasey Community Playground	2,463.80
Killyballyowen Development Association Ltd	1,620.00
Corofin Community Playground	7,542.23

Kilkishen Development CLG	793.80
Clarecastle Community Playground Committee	2,217.15
Saint Senan's Community Playground	6,363.90
Killaloe/Ballina Community & Family Resource Centre/Killaloe Community Playground Committee	1,674.00
Scariff Community Council	1,620.00
Lahinch Playground Project	14,215.50
Lisdoonvarna Failte	5,460.26
O'Regan Park Development	3,006.00

### **Burial Ground Maintenance**

<b>Name of Group</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Ballyvaughan Graveyard Maintenance Group	2,400.00
Callura Graveyard Committee	600.00
Ballynacally Cemeteries Committee Ltd	1,200.00
Miltown Malbay Parish Graveyard Committee	3,000.00
Meelick Graveyards Committee	600.00
Killaloe Parish Council	600.00
Clouna Cemetery Association	600.00
The Friends of Kiltananlea Church	600.00
Ballyea Pastoral Council	1,200.00
Inagh Development Ltd	600.00
Ballysheen Conservation Group	600.00
Bunratty Graveyard Committee	600.00
Killyballyowen Parish	500.00
Lisdoonvarna Community Council Ltd	700.00
Killuran Burial Ground	360.00

Kildrum Cemetery Maintenance Committee	600.00
Ruan Tidy Village	2,400.00
Carrigaholt Parish	500.00
Breaffa Cemetary Clean Up Group	600.00
Mullagh Extension Graveyard Committee	600.00
Templemaley Graveyard Group	500.00
Old Kilmacduane Graveyard Committee	382.00
Bridgetown Cemetery Group	600.00
Doolin Cemetery Trustees Ltd	600.00
Kilmacduane New Graveyard	200.00
Kildysart Graveyard	600.00
Killanena Flagmount Pastoral Council	1,200.00
Killard Cemetery Group	600.00
Kilmurry Tidy Towns	600.00
Fanore Community Group	600.00
Cratloe Burial Ground Committee	440.00
Scariff Community Council	900.00
Kilrush and District Historical Society KDHS	500.00
Killea Cemetery Community Action Group	600.00

### Community Wifi

Name of Group	Grant Amount
Ennistymon Town Team Enterprise Committee	€5,000.00
Scarriff Community Council	€5,000.00

### Best Kept Local Authority Estate

Name of Group	Grant Amount
c/o Drumbiggle Residents Environment Group	400.00
Ballard Residents Association	400.00
Creag Bhriain Residents Association	200.00
Connaught Road Residents Association	500.00
Lower Main Street Residents Group	500.00
Pairc Na Coille Residents Association	400.00
Ardnaculla Residents Association	500.00
Lus na Si Residents Association	500.00
Old Military Barracks Residents Association	300.00
Crossroads Residents Association	400.00
Station Road Lahinch Council Estate	500.00
Ardnaculla Residents Association	0.00
Rooska Residents Association	500.00
Marian Estate Residents Group	400.00

### Item 15: Clare Public Participation Network Quarterly Reports for noting.

Clare Public Participation Network Reports from January to March 2018 and April to June 2018 were noted. The reports outline the activities and achievements of the Clare P.P.N. during that time.



**Item 16: Section 85 Agreement with Limerick City and County Council for improvement works on the bridge between O’Brien’s Bridge and Montpelier.**

Report dated 3rd July, 2018 from John Corry, Administrative Officer, Transportation was circulated with the agenda. The report states that Clare County Council is desirous of carrying out the relevant statutory procedures and procuring the necessary construction work in respect of bridge improvement works on the bridge between O’Brien’s Bridge, Co. Clare and Montpelier, Co. Limerick. Separate parts of the lands on which the proposed works are to be carried out lie within the functional areas of Clare County Council and Limerick City and County Council. The proposed work in the functional area of Limerick City and County Council would consist of the installation of traffic signals and advance warning signage in Montpelier, Co. Limerick for the purpose of increasing safety on the bridge.

Clare County Council hereby propose to enter into an Agreement with Limerick City and County Council, whereby the carrying out of the relevant statutory procedures and the discharging of powers, functions and duties in relation to procuring the necessary design and construction work of that part of the proposed works located in the functional area of Limerick City and County Council, which may be exercised or performed by Limerick City and County Council, should be exercised or performed by Clare County Council and Clare County Council are able and willing so to exercise or perform the said powers, functions and duties in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 14 of the Roads Act 1993 as amended.

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

“That the approval of the Council is hereby given to the making of an agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 14 of the Roads Act 1993 as amended with Clare County Council and Limerick City and County Council to carry out improvement works on the bridge between O’Brien’s Bridge, Co. Clare and Montpelier, Co. Limerick.”

**Item 17: Adoption of the Draft Clare Noise Action Plan 2018.**

Report dated 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 from Ann Cronin, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design Office was circulated with the agenda together with Clare County Council Draft Noise Action Plan 2018. The report states that the Draft Noise Action Plan 2018 was prepared in accordance with the requirements of EU Directive 2002/49/EC, transposed into Irish Law by the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, SI No. 140 of 2006. The aim of the Directive and Regulations is to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritized basis the harmful effects due to exposure to environmental noise. It is a follow up to the 2008 and 2013 Noise Action Plans.

In County Clare the only noise source identified is road traffic noise as train movements and flight movements to and from Shannon Airport were below the thresholds for inclusion in the noise mapping process. Noise maps were prepared for National and Regional roads with more than 3 million vehicles p.a. The Draft Plan and noise maps were produced and went on Public Display on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at various locations in Clare and on the Clare County Council website [www.clarecoco.ie](http://www.clarecoco.ie)

Councillors and members of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee were informed in advance that the Public Consultation was to begin. The closing date for receipt of submissions was 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018.

A presentation on the Draft Clare Noise Action Plan 2018 was made to the Physical Development S.P.C. on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018. No changes to the Draft Noise Action Plan 2018 Plan were requested.

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

“That the Clare Local Authorities Draft Noise Action Plan 2018 be adopted as circulated.”

Cllr. J. Breen stated that noise pollution is a serious matter and causes health issues for some people and that the report before them only deals with noise pollution from roads. A number of elected members queried the title of the plan and asked could it be changed.

Mr. J. Leahy, Senior Engineer in responding to the queries raised advised that the plan was prepared in accordance with EU Directive and deals with exposure to environmental noise. In County Clare the only noise source identified is road traffic noise as train movements and flight movements to and from Shannon Airport were below the thresholds for inclusion in the noise mapping process. It is a requirement that the plan is done every 3 years and the title of the plan is as per the legislation. The Chief Executive while acknowledging Cllr. J. Breen’s concerns advised that they could not be dealt with within this legislation and recommended approval of the action plan as this deals a specific EU Directive. The Cathaoirleach recommended that within the scope of the EU Directive we consider the draft action plan and that Cllr. J. Breen put forward a notice of motion to the September meeting.

**Item 18: Adoption of County Clare Digital Strategy.**

Report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2018 from Urban McMahon, Head of Information Systems and Broadband Officer was circulated with the agenda together with Clare Digital Strategy. The report states that the Clare Digital Strategy was commissioned by Clare County Council in the context of providing a vision and associated roadmap for supporting the digital economy in the county over the next five years and beyond. This document seeks to build on the National Broadband Plan, the Action Plan for Jobs, and both National and Rural Development Strategy: Realising Clare’s Rural Potential and the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023. This strategy is the result of a consultation process with all stakeholders within the County.

All stakeholders large or small and irrespective of sector to include agriculture, tourism, health, local services, business and enterprise should be enabled to make optimal use of digital technologies as appropriate for their specific community, size and geographical location. It is the aim of this strategy to address this.

Furthermore the Clare Digital Strategy aims to establish Clare as a leader internationally in leveraging broadband and digital technologies for rural regeneration at a county level.

It is recommended that the Clare Digital Strategy 2018-2023 be adopted by the elected members.

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

“That the Clare Digital Strategy 2018-2023 be adopted as presented.”

Both L. Cleary, Director of Rural Development and U. McMahon, Head of Information Systems spoke about the strategy and the various digital hubs. U. McMahon thanked everyone who contributed to the strategy one of aims being to enhance the I.T. skills of all age groups.

**Item 19: Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (C.F.R.A.M.) Programme and related Flood Risk Management Plans (F.R.M.P.s).**

Report dated 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 from Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Physical Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda. The report states that members will be aware and have previously been briefed on the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (C.F.R.A.M.s) Programme which was carried out to meet the requirements of the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) and the 2004 Flood Policy Review Report. The study focussed on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas subject to significant development pressure both now and in the future. County Clare is covered in the main by the Shannon Catchment Plan with a small part of North Clare covered by the Western C.F.R.A.M. Area. The objectives of C.F.R.A.M.s were to:

- Produce detailed flood mapping that identifies and maps out the existing and potential future flood risk within the relevant River Basin Districts (R.B.D.s)
- Build up the information base needed to make informed and effective decisions in relation to managing flood risk
- Identify measures and options for managing flood risks, both in local high-risk areas and across the whole study areas
- Prepare Flood Risk Management Plans (F.R.M.P.s) for each Unit of Management that sets out how the O.P.W., local authorities and stakeholders should work together to create sustainable and cost-effective ways of dealing with flood risk now and into the future.

**Flood Risk Management Plans (F.R.M.P.s)**

The Commissioners of Public Works formally adopted the F.R.M.P.s in March 2018 and following approval by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in April, the Plans were launched by the Taoiseach and Minister for State for the Office of Public Works & Flood Relief, Kevin ‘Boxer’ Moran, T.D. in early May 2018. Funding of €257 million was announced for the first tranche of 50 schemes nationwide. This announcement included €5.54 million for 5 no. Clare Flood Relief Schemes to proceed to detailed design and construction. These include Kilkee (€3.2m), Springfield (€1.1m), Bunratty (€760k), Killaloe (€310k) and Kilrush (€170k). In addition, a scheme at Shannon is also included for under the ten year €1 billion investment programme and further consideration on the Feasibility Study for this project is ongoing. The funding enables very significant flood relief works to be progressed, initially to detailed design stage and then to the construction phase of the relevant schemes. It was noted that areas outside of the current F.R.M.P.s will

continue to be identified by Clare County Council and funding sought under the O.P.W.'s Minor Works Scheme.

### **Recommendation**

While the O.P.W. is the competent Authority in this area, in accordance with the European Communities (Assessment & Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010-2015, and as outlined in SI 122 of 2010, there is a statutory obligation on Councils through reserved function to examine and consider the Flood Risk Management Plans (F.R.M.P.s) and decide whether to adopt or otherwise the said Plan. Following the Minister's launch of the Flood Risk Management Plans in early May, an update was given to the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> 2018. All the relevant information is available on a specially dedicated website, [www.floodinfo.ie](http://www.floodinfo.ie) and a hard copy of the most recent Plans are available for Public viewing at the Councils Reception Desk if required.

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

During discussion Cllr. J. Flynn said that other areas should also be included, e.g. River Fergus as it has tidal issues. While Cllr. G. Flynn was glad that Shannon has been included in the 10 year plan he hoped that it would not be 10 years before work commenced. Cllr. C. Crowe welcomed the proposal as there are large tracks of the county still having issues getting insurance due to flooding. Mr. S. Lenihan, Senior Engineer was thanked for the work he has done.

### **Item 20: Draft County Clare Waste Management Bye-Laws 2018.**

Report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2018 from William Freney, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Section was circulated with the agenda together with Draft County Clare Waste Management Bye-Laws 2018. The report states that Clare County Council as a constituent of the 10 County Southern Waste Region is reviewing its Waste Management Bye-Laws during 2018 in line with regional policy.

Clare County Council already had Waste Presentation Bye-Laws in place for many years, the most recent set were adopted in 2014 when Town Councils were still in place. This change needs to be reflected in the revised bye-laws as does any legislation updates since 2014.

As part of the process Clare County Council must revoke the existing "County of Clare (Presentation, Storage and Segregation for the Purpose of and in the course of the Collection of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2014.

Having been proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn it was approved to proceed to public consultation.

### **Item 21: Attendance of James Lafferty, Clare Branch of the Irish Red Cross Society at 3:00 p.m.**

Ken Butler, Area Director of Units, James Lafferty, Clare Area Treasurer and Ennis Branch Health and Social Care Officer and Kieran Meehan, Area Director of Health and Social Care attended.

During the presentation they summarized the services provided by the Clare Branch of the Red Cross and the training which their members receive. They outlined some of the assistance they gave during Storm Emma and Ophelia and with the flooding in Springfield, Clonlara. They spoke of the benefits to both their members and people of Clare that will be achieved as a result of the recently acquired training unit and ambulance centre in the Trackland's Business Park, Tobertescain, Ennis. As result of this acquisition they are facing years of fundraising in order to clear the debt. James Lafferty advised that they have set up a fund raising committee, he informed the meeting that it costs in the region of €90,000 to replace an ambulance.

The elected members congratulated the Irish Red Cross for their outstanding work and advised that they would consider their financial situation as part of the budget process. The delegation appreciated the offer of support.

#### **Item 22. An Post.**

Ar moladh Cllr. B. Chambers  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Hillery agus glacadh leis

“That this Council calls on An Post to review the An Post Modernisation Plan with regard to the closure of rural post offices in County Clare as they provide a range of essential services in rural communities. Also call on the Minister for Communications to intervene to protect rural post offices in County Clare.”

Cllr. B. Chambers asked that our Oireachtas Members support this notice of motion and put pressure on the Minister to protect rural post offices. Cllr. M. Hillery referred to the Post Masters Union and their proposal to put a system in place similar to that in New Zealand. He suggested that An Post be invited to address the members.

#### **Item 23. Purchase of registered licence plates.**

Ar moladh Cllr. A. O'Callaghan  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Hayes agus glacadh leis

“I request Clare County Council to write to the Minister for Transport, Shane Ross and Minister for Justice, Charles Flanagan, requesting legislation and tighter laws be put in place around the purchase of registered licence plates for vehicles. In recent criminal events, vehicle registrations can be purchased without proof.”

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan outlined how you can purchase a registered licence plate without having to show any proof of ownership.

#### **Item 24. St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis.**

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

“That this Council call on the Minister for Health and the H.S.E. to clarify the position in relation to Greenfield site for St. Joseph’s Hospital, Ennis. Is there a current proposal to re-allocate this hospital to a regional site in Limerick.”

The elected members praised the service and staff of St. Joseph’s and referred to the concerns of people in relation to the future of St. Joseph’s and fully supported the retention of St. Joseph’s hospital. Cllr. T. McNamara advised that the H.S.E. has a budget of €2.5m. to refurbish St. Joseph’s, but the hospital would have to close while refurbishment was taking place.

**Item 25. Maintenance of open spaces in housing estates.**

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

“That the Chief Executive furnish to all Councillors the document/policy which sets out the terms by which Clare County Council maintain the open spaces in certain housing estates and villages (i.e.: grass cutting in summer season) but not in others.”

**John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department replied as follows:**

“Most of the public open spaces in the county are maintained by entities such as Community Groups, Tidy Towns Committees, Social Employment Schemes etc. Nearly all of the grass cutting that is carried out by Clare County Council is being maintained for historical reasons. Policy changes in this regard began to evolve in the 1990s which resulted in public open spaces in new housing estates becoming the responsibility of the communities which benefit from them. This change in approach has been found to be a positive development for a number of reasons as follows:

- Where maintenance of public open space demands the attention of communities, it can become a focus for the community and be instrumental in developing local community spirit.
- Where communities take on the responsibility, they tend to be much more attentive to the issue than the local authority can be – in many cases the result surpasses normal expectation in that flower beds and various other innovations emerge which are all for the benefit and well-being of the community.
- Cost savings from the local authority perspective.

At present most of the grass cutting and green area maintenance work carried out under the control of Clare County Council is carried out by contract – mostly in the Shannon and Ennis MDs, (large urban areas), the overall annual cost is in the region of €250,000.

The estimated cost of extending grass cutting arrangements to all public open spaces in the county would be in excess of €750,000.

Given that the current approach is working well and given the benefits of such an approach, I would recommend that we continue with the current arrangement especially when roads funding is still limited and has not recovered to 2008 funding levels.”

Following discussion it was agreed that the estimated cost of extending the grass cutting arrangements be included in the draft budget and then debated as part of the budget process. It was suggested that as part of the planning process grass cutting and green area maintenance could be addressed in planning conditions.

**It was agreed to take Items 26 & 27 together.**

**Item 26. Dog Pound.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn

“Clare County Council Dog Pound at Ennis - I ask Clare County Council are there plans or proposals being considered to continue to improve the facilities at the County Dog Pound over the next number of years for both staff and animals. I welcome the investment and improvements to the facilities carried out over the last number of years.”

**Item 27. Dog Pound.**

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“I request a report or an update on developments if any regarding the Dog Pound on the Gort Road in Ennis. Are there any plans to renovate, extend or improve this necessary facility?”

**Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:**

“The Ennis Dog Shelter has been in existence at the Gort Road Industrial Estate for in excess of thirty years and over that period, maintenance and improvement works have been carried out, including for example in more recent years, the provision of outdoor pens and outdoor kennels.

Each year Clare County Council consults with the staff at the dog shelter in relation to any required improvement works. The 2018 programme of works is currently underway and improvements implemented to date include the addition of a new storage area which will help maximise space within the shelter building, general maintenance and minor upgrade works to heaters and lighting. Further enhancements are proposed and a schedule of works has been prepared to include inter alia, an upgrade of flooring and windows at the shelter. It is anticipated that this work will be carried out before the end of 2018.”

Cllrs. J. Flynn and M. Howard thanked Ms. C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development for her reply. They noted the improvements over the years and the fact that it was a very busy pound.

The Chief Executive welcomed the support of the members and confirmed that he had visited the pound a few weeks ago and that the Council was looking at expanding the size of the pound.

**Item 28. Road opening licence fees.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. P. Burke, G. Flynn, T. McNamara, J. Breen agus P.J. Kelly agus glacadh leis

“That in the context of the road opening licence fees required by Clare County Council, the Chief Executive update the Council on a new national charging regime required for such licences and arising from same this Council would request in the implementation of any such scheme of charges that the principle of “one size does not fit all” apply.”

**John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department replied as follows:**

“The legal framework around granting of a road opening licence is detailed in the document “Guidelines for Managing Openings on Public Roads – second edition” issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in April 2017 (aka purple book). The framework is based on the “T Model Licencing process” as follows:

- T1 – This is a notification of intent to perform works of high impact.
- T2 – Licence application for works of moderate impact.
- T3 – Licence application for work of low impact.
- T4 – Notification of emergency works.
- T5 – Notification of completion of works.

The new electronic system is in place in Clare since April, 2018 and paper applications are now obsolete. This is an on-line central management system for road opening licences managed by the R.M.O. There is a National charging fee for applications of €250 for T2 applications and €150 for T3 and T4 applications.

The existing reinstatement charges (and long-term impact charges) that Clare County Council use have been transposed into the new charging system with no change. In time these may be standardised nationally.

Clare County Council does not operate a deposit system and the deposit rate will be set at zero in the new system i.e. no charge. Where a large scheme of high impact has to be delivered then a bond will be requested. Each application received by Clare County Council is assessed on a case by case basis and evaluated on its own merits by the Area Engineer.”

A number of elected members expressed their concerns that the new framework would put additional financial burden on Group Water Schemes which are voluntary and provide a great service. In relation to “T5 – Notification of completion of works” question was raised as to who oversees the reinstatement, an example was given of the Tulla Road.

In responding to the issues raised Mr. J. Leahy, Senior Engineer advised that the new electronic system in Clare is in line with the national system. The application fee for Group Water Schemes remains the same and the Council will not be looking for a deposit. A bond is required for significant developments. In relation to reinstatements there are different stages but the final inspection is carried out by the local engineer. In relation to the Tulla Road Mr. J. Leahy advised that he would check this out and revert to the Councillor.



It was agreed that the Notice of Motion would be forwarded to the Department.

**Item 29. 2019 Irish Open Golf Championship.**

Ar moladh Cllr. B. Slattery

Cuidithe ag Cllr. R. Nagle agus glacadh leis

“With the official announcement that the 2019 Irish Open Golf Championship will be held in Lahinch, I am requesting that the buildings on the main street(s) of Lahinch and in close proximity to the golf course be supported as a paint scheme under the Clare Rural Development Strategy: that the gardening section of Clare County Council liaise with business people and Lahinch Community Groups to offer advice and provide resources for the planting of flowers, shrubs, etc. in the appropriate locations in and around the village: that the roads section would upgrade all car parks and side street lane ways; and any other support to showcase Lahinch in a positive manner for such a prestigious event, similar to that provided to the Town of Ennis for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann for 2016/2017.”

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

“The 2019 Irish Open Golf championship is a major opportunity to showcase Lahinch Golf Club, the local village and the tourism product of the Burren and Wild Atlantic Way. This will benefit tourism throughout all of County Clare. It is estimated that the worldwide TV audience during the competition will be 500m viewers.

Clare County Council’s Management Team recently met with the officers of Lahinch Golf Club to discuss plans for the Irish Open in 2019. A comprehensive plan will be prepared with input from state agencies and the Golf Club. The Rural Development Directorate and West Clare Municipal District Office Ennistymon will work with the local business community on the provision of a paint scheme in spring 2019. On a cross-directorate basis, the Gardening Section (Physical Development Directorate) will work to support local voluntary groups in flower and shrub planting etc. The local engineering office is currently reviewing infrastructure issues including roads, water and environment.”

Mr. L. Cleary, Director of Rural Development was thanked for his reply and it was acknowledged that the Chief Executive and other senior staff had already met with Lahinch Golf Club to discuss plans for the event. A request was made that additional provision be made in the budget to ensure that Lahinch and the surrounding area would be looking their best as it is expected that in the region of 30,000 would attend the event on a daily basis plus television coverage.

The Chief Executive confirmed that every effort would be made to ensure the success of this event and he confirmed that he had met with the European Tour organisers.

Having been proposed by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. G. Keating it was agreed to extend the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach advised that he had received a request from Cllr. P. Daly to bring forward Notice of Motion No. 43 and this was agreed.

**Item 43. Ennis General Hospital.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Daly

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. P. McMahon agus J. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“We call on Clare County Council to invite the Minister for Health down to Clare to assess Ennis General Hospital with a view to considering opening the A & E 24 hours, particularly with the chronic situation at Limerick Regional Hospital A & E presently.”

Discussion took place in relation to the closure of A & E at Ennis, and also at Nenagh and St. John’s Hospitals before Limerick Regional Hospital was able to cope with the influx of patients. The need for a Model 3 hospital for Ennis was raised by many of the elected members. It was advised that it had recently come to light that Limerick Regional Hospital was the only Model 4 hospital where the number on trolleys had increased.

It was agreed to issue an invitation to the Minister.

**Item 30. Infrastructure development.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Hayes

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

“I am asking that Clare County Council consider raising a loan in order to develop our infrastructure in our smaller villages and towns. In a recent report to this council that there are 33 villages or towns without a basic sewerage treatment plants. This has halted any development progress in these areas and an urgent solution is now required to address the ongoing population decline.”

**Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:**

“Clare County Council has been advised by Irish Water that funding allocation for this type of project is not available under the current (2017-2021) Programme. However, Irish Water has agreed a growth fund for rural towns and villages with the Department for which smaller villages and towns can be considered. Further details are to be available later this year and in the meantime I am developing proposals that could be supported by such initiatives. Consideration for the raising of a loan to progress such works would have to be considered by Clare County Council in the context of the annual budget.”

Cllr. P. Hayes outlined the need for proper infrastructure in place if our smaller villages and towns are to survive and that we should consider taking out a loan to carry out some of this work. Reference was made to previous loans and how loan would be paid back. Cllr. I. Lynch asked if it would be possible to find out what fines are being levied as we are not adhering to the legislation and could this be used to offset against the loan. Cllr. G. Flynn enquired how this issue fits into the Rural Directorate.

Mr. L. Cleary, Director of Rural Development advised that under the Rural Regeneration Scheme the Directorate would work with both Finance and Physical Development Directorate, perhaps a pilot project could be selected in each Municipal District. The Chief Executive agreed with the spirit of the motion and suggested that there was merit in advancing schemes to deliver key infrastructure and agreed to revert with proposals in the autumn.

Cllr. P. Hayes agreed to defer this notice of motion pending a report on proposals in September 2018.

It was agreed to take Notice of Motions 31 & 39 together.

**Item 31. Hedge Cutting Policy.**

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

“That the Hedge Cutting Policy adopted in 2011, following significant reduction in funding by the Government should be reviewed by Clare County Council in the context of expected additional funding. The Irish Economy is one of the fastest growing economies in the EU which should lead to a much needed substantial increase in the Transport, Tourism and Sport Grant allocation for 2019 to County Clare Local Authority following a reduction of over 40% in 2008.”

**John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department replied as follows:**

“The Council’s current hedgecutting policy prioritises hedgecutting on National and Regional Roads, the approaches to towns and villages and some local roads which have a strategic significance. The hedgecutting policy is complemented by the “Community Hedgecutting Scheme” initiative to encourage private property owners and communities to appropriately manage their responsibilities under Section 70 of the 1993 Roads Act which makes them responsible to ensure that hedges, shrubberies, trees etc. growing from their properties should not in any way compromise the functionality or safety of an adjacent public road. Should there be an increase in Discretionary grant funding allocated to Clare County Council the hedgecutting policy can be reviewed.”

**Item 39. Funding for grass cutting and verge trimming.**

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

“That Clare County Council would request Minister Eoghan Murphy to increase funding to facilitate grass cutting and verge trimming on our secondary and minor roads as this is becoming a very serious safety issue.”

Cllr. M. Hillery wished to know why some hedges are cut and others the land owners have to pay to get them cut and expressed the hope that in 2019 the budget could be

increased. Reference was made to the availability of the Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan advised that his notice of motion related to grass cutting on the side of roads and where this was not happening it was reducing the width of the road and causing safety issues as drivers are not driving into the grass areas. It was agreed to request additional funding for grass cutting.

The Cathaoirleach advised that he had received a request from Cllr. J. Breen to bring forward Notice of Motion No. 37 and this was agreed.

**Item 37. Cremation wall in Drumcliffe Cemetery.**

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

“I am calling on this Council to erect a cremation wall in Drumcliffe Cemetery and in other cemeteries throughout the county where space is an issue.”

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

“A new county burial ground will be provided within the Ennis area and planning for this facility will commence within the next six months. It is envisaged that the development will include the provision of a columbarium wall at the site.

The Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee received a presentation at their meeting in April 2017 regarding the provision of columbarium walls. It was noted that such facilities have been provided at Shannon Crematorium and some community run burial grounds in the County.

A number of issues will need to be considered and these include: whether or not to make provision mandatory in all new or extended burial grounds; to consider provision in existing burial grounds; to consider provision in older burial grounds etc.

A policy around their provision is currently being drafted and will go before the next meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee in September and thereafter to the full Council.”

This notice of motion was taken without debate.

**Item 32. Climate Change Strategy.**

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

“Given the challenges posed by climate change with Ireland now experiencing wetter winters and drier summers, that Clare County Council support the promotion of sustainable water conservation initiatives, by developing a Climate Change Strategy

which would promote increased water conservation measures including rain water harvesting and give consideration in conjunction with the Government of providing grant aid to individual businesses and householders to encourage the wider use of the practice.”

**Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:**

“Every local authority in Ireland is required to prepare a Climate Adaptation Strategy before September 2019. Each Climate Adaptation Strategy must have regard to the National Adaptation Framework published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in January, 2018.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has confirmed funding for Climate Action Regional Offices (C.A.R.O.) to assist local authorities in the preparation of their plans. Clare County Council is part of the Atlantic Seaboard South Region with Cork County Council being the lead authority.

There are many stages to the process, from;

- forming an adaptation team and preparing the ground
- assessing the current adaptation baseline
- identifying future climate risk
- identifying, assessing and prioritising options
- developing pathways and drafting a strategy
- implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

For these reasons, it is too early to rule in or out any particular strategies or measures but the proposals in this notice of motion can be considered as part of the process.

In addition to the foregoing, I wish to advise that promoting resource efficiency including water conservation is an integral part of Clare County Councils Greener Clare Programme and work with businesses, communities and festival organisers is ongoing. The Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership fund provides grant support to community groups for promoting water conservation in their communities.”

Cllr. J. Crowe discussed the possibility of water harvesting and the costs associated with various systems both for domestic and commercial usage and suggested that we look at how other countries deal with water shortages. It was suggested that water harvesting should be part of planning conditions. A number of elected members asked that the Minister look at the provision of grants towards water harvesting. It was also suggested that the provision of grants could be looked at under the Community Grant Structure. Cllr. J. Flynn stated that in his experience with renewable energy grants that the costs went up, he felt that a better scheme would be to get VAT back.

**Item 33. Planning contributions.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Kelly

“That in order to cherish all the people of the county and to promote rural development, the discount system for planning contributions be amended to have equal charges in both zoned land and open countryside.”

In the absence of a seconder this notice of motion did not proceed.

**Item 34. Number of planning permissions.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin

Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That the Director of Services inform the Council on the number of planning permissions granted for single houses and housing schemes in each municipal district for each of the years 2016 and 2017, and in order to expedite the planning process in this regard for 2018 and onwards that the necessary staff be engaged to facilitate the demand for pre-planning consultations etc. by potential applicants.”

**Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner replied as follows:**

“I wish to advise of the following statistics

<b>SINGLE RURAL HOUSE</b>				
<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>2016</b>		<b>2017</b>	
	<b>Granted</b>		<b>Granted</b>	
<b>Ennis</b>		25		34
<b>Killaloe</b>		52		54
<b>Shannon</b>		14		18
<b>West Clare</b>		60		71
<b>TOTAL</b>		151		177

  

<b>MULTIPLE HOUSE DEVELOPMENTS</b>				
<b>Municipal District</b>	<b>2016</b>		<b>2017</b>	
	<b>Granted</b>		<b>Granted</b>	
<b>Ennis</b>		5		6
<b>Killaloe</b>		1		1

<b>Shannon</b>	0	4
<b>West Clare</b>	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	8 developments	11 developments

\*The above figures do not include applications for Retentions, Outline permissions, Part 8 – Local Authority Schemes or Extension of appropriate period applications for residential development.

In the context of the notice of motion it should be noted that in 2016, 65% of all planning applications for housing developments were determined by the Planning Department within the first 8 weeks whilst in 2017 this figure rose to 68% representing an efficient development management service and the emphasis the planning department places on facilitating residential development.

The pre-planning advice provided by Clare County Council Planning Authority is viewed as an important service to citizens and stakeholders. This fact is reflected in the increasing numbers and complexities of pre-planning enquire received. In 2014 there were 323 pre-planning enquiries; 348 in 2015; 373 in 2016, over 350 in 2017 whilst this year to date there are over 200.

Facilitating pre-planning enquiries is just one area of work of the Planning Department. It should be noted that there are 3 less Planning Officers and technical staff in the Planning Department compared to this time last year. Moreover other activities associated with the wider remit of the planning, urban design and economic development function have also significantly increased, with the ongoing input into preparation of RSES, Ennis Spatial and Economic Strategy, local plans, taking in charge estates and a number of significant town, village and economic development projects and proposals ongoing.

Whilst all pre-plannings are dealt with, the main priority is to facilitate pre-plannings for developments which are strategic in nature in terms of economic development, tourism development and employment generation.”

It was agreed that linkages between the Economic Development and Rural Directorates could be strengthened.

**Item 35. Housing applications.**

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin

“a. I am calling on the Chief Executive to appoint additional staff to deal with the volume of applications from the public going through the application process for : Housing Aid for Older People: Housing Adaptation Grants For People With A Disability and Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme.

b. I am also requesting the C.E.O. to appoint a Liaison Officer to deal with representations from elected members on behalf of applicants and also deal with direct queries from applicants following up on their application for grant assistance.

What I am requesting is a user friendly model of delivery and communication in this very important and necessary support for vulnerable people.”

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

“a. The team processing grant applications is adequately resourced to discharge the available budget; it is acknowledged that for a period there was a deficit in the engineering compliment, this has since been addressed with the appointment of additional engineering staff to the Directorate. The volume of grant applications continues to grow and will continue to do so in light of an aging population, that said the available budget is not increasing at the same rate.

By the end of June 271 applications were received under the 3 grant schemes, in addition 270 applications were carried over from 2017 to 2018. The 2018 budget approved for grants is €2,141,596 with €28,319 or 20% to come from the Councils own resources. To date 175 grant approvals have issued with approval value of €1,445,000 this leaves a balance of ~€700,000 to discharge 365 applications on hand. In light of this budgetary reality we will shortly be writing to applicants to advise that the waiting time for approvals will extend into 2019 for non-priority works.

b. The Council has an appointed Advocacy Officer for managing the grants process, this team deal with applicant queries and representations from elected members in relation to the grant process within the constraints of the Data Protection Act. The Council is committed to reviewing the systems and business processes deployed in the administration of the grants schemes with a view to identifying opportunities for improvements in effectiveness and service delivery.

The expectation of applicants in the delivery of these schemes cannot be met in all instances; we endeavour to prioritise those most in need as indentified by the H.S.E. medical officer. The Advocacy Officer works with applicants and their families at a time when they are most vulnerable to advise and guide applicants through the process. As the demand for all three grants schemes continues to grow waiting times will increase for non-priority works, the Council will continue to prioritise Priority 1 applications.”

Cllr. G. Flynn outlined the large volume of applications being received under the various schemes which results in all the applications not being fully processed with the year of receipt. He requested additional resources to assist with the processing of the applications and dealing with queries from applicants and elected members. A number of elected members advised that they could not support the notice of motion complementing the work being done by the staff in this area and if additional funding was available it should be used towards increasing the grants.

The Chief Executive stressed that staffing requirements and priorities across departments varies and currently priority is being given to the delivery of more housing units and the homeless area. A commitment could not be given at this time to increased staffing numbers but it was acknowledged that these schemes are a very successful part of what we do and unfortunately there has never been adequate



funding. Commitment was given to review the process and procedures with a view to increasing response rate to the elected members.

The Cathaoirleach advised that he had received requests to bring forward Notice of Motion No.'s 41 & 42 and this was agreed.

**Item 41. Inspection of houses.**

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

“That this Council call on Minister Eoghan Murphy, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, to review the legislation governing the inspection of houses that are being rented to clients in receipt of H.A.P. assistance. If the tenant is happy with the condition of the rented property, is it necessary to have this property inspected.”

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

“The Council is obliged under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 to inspect properties for which the tenants are receiving Housing Assistance Payment (H.A.P.). The Housing Assistance Payment Regulations 2014 sets out the time frames for inspections and the target for inspections which is 100% of H.A.P. properties. The legislation is to protect tenants from accepting substandard accommodation in a market where demand far outstrips supply.”

This notice of motion was taken without debate.

**Item 42. Airforce training facility.**

Ar moladh Cllr. I. Lynch  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. McMahon agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council request the Minister for Defence to form a working group with Clare County Council and Shannon airport to consider the relocation of the airforce training facility to Shannon Airport.”

This notice of motion was taken without debate.

**Item 36. Paint scheme.**

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

"That consideration be given to a paint scheme whereby tenants of Clare County Council who wish to improve the appearance of their home are supported in doing so."

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

"The current paint scheme through the Community Supports Scheme is administered by the Rural Directorate and is for painting in town/village centres in the main. The consideration of external painting of the Councils housing stock is being discussed for the Planned Maintenance project currently underway. The Councils housing stock is in excess of 2500 properties, in this regard it would cost in the region of €1,750,000 to externally paint all stock on a 7 year cycle. Neither the housing maintenance nor the estate management budget could not accommodate an annual spend of circa €250,000 on painting. In this regard we will consider the merit of introducing a facility to fund the painting of properties by tenants as part of the Best Kept Local Authority Estate scheme under the Community Supports Scheme. The consideration will include identification of a source of funding, risk assessments and a cost benefit analysis. While the introduction of a paint scheme would be desirable we need to manage the risks associated with such a scheme."

**Item 38. Bye laws.**

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. A. O'Callaghan agus I. Lynch agus glacadh leis

"We request that Clare County Council put in place bye-laws dealing with professional beggars throughout the County."

**Ann Reynolds, A/Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services replied as follows:**

"The Criminal Justice Public Order Act 2011 prohibits harassment or intimidation of members of the public by persons who engage in begging; and confers powers on members of the Garda Síochána to give directions to persons to desist from begging, and to prosecute in cases of aggressive begging. It is clear from the legislation that the issue rests with the criminal justice system, but in many cases it appears that a range of social issues contribute to the problem such as, drug addiction, homelessness, and therefore a multidisciplinary approach may be appropriate.

In this regard, with the agreement of the elected members I recommend this motion be referred to the Clare Joint Policing Committee for examination."

It was agreed that this item be referred to the Clare Joint Policing Committee.

**Item 40. Shannon Airport.**

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

“Due to the under use of Shannon Airport I will ask the relevant Ministers to reposition the policy of Dublin Airport Authority so the use of Shannon Airport can be of more benefit for the country as a whole.”

Cllr. P. McMahon outlined the difficulties with using Dublin Airport and more work should be done in marketing what Shannon Airport has to offer.

#### **Item 44. Comhfhreagras. Correspondence.**

**The following correspondence was circulated at the meeting:**

- Information on 2018 Parnell Summer School entitled “Democracy Triumphant?” taking place in Avondale, Co. Wicklow on 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

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

1. Correspondence from Fr. Harry Bohan in relation to Civic Reception held to honour the Clare Senior Hurling Teams and Management that won the two National League Titles in 1977 and 1978.
2. Correspondence from Seamus Durack in relation to Civic Reception held to honour the Clare Senior Hurling Teams and Management that won the two National League Titles in 1977 and 1978.
3. Correspondence dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in relation to state pension total contribution approach.
4. Correspondence dated 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to illegal parking of camper vans and caravans.
5. Correspondence dated 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 from the Department of Health concerning Versatis.
6. Correspondence dated May 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Training, Skills, Innovation and Research and Development in relation to incentives for companies to employ apprentices.
7. Correspondence dated 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Higher Education in relation to publicly funded higher education.
8. Correspondence dated 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in relation to the introduction of a ban on trade with Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.
9. Correspondence dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018 from the Department of Health concerning illegal organ transplantations.
10. Correspondence dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality regarding the ratification of the convention against trafficking in human organs.

11. Resolution adopted by Kerry County Council in relation to retirement age.
12. Resolution adopted by Kerry County Council in relation to An Post.
13. Resolution adopted by Donegal County Council in relation to Israeli Defence Forces.
14. Resolution adopted by Wexford County Council in relation to the future of local government in Ireland.
15. Training Seminar for Local Authority Members entitled “Changing Trends and Approaches to Drug and Alcohol Abuse” taking place in Brandon Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

### **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.

#### **Conference entitled “Cohesion Policy 2014-2020” taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €15.32.

It was agreed that Cllr. G. Keating attend this Conference.

#### **A.I.L.G. training taking place in the Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €41.71 including conference fee of €0.

It was agreed that Cllr. G. Keating attend this Conference.

#### **LAMA 2018 Spring Training Seminar entitled “New National Planning Framework” taking place in the Central Hotel, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €607.37 including conference fee of €160.

It was agreed that Cllrs. C. Crowe and G. Keating attend this Conference.

#### **A.I.L.G. training taking place in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford on 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €91.90 including conference fee of €35.

It was agreed that Cllrs. C. Crowe and G. Keating attend this Conference.

**Southern Regional Audit Committee Fourm taking place in Fota Island Hotel, Cork on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2018.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €272.58.

It was agreed that Cllr. G. Keating attend this Conference.

**A.I.L.G. training entitled “Councillors and Community Safety” taking place in Westport, Co. Mayo on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €305.51 including conference fee of €5.

It was agreed that Cllr. G. Keating attend this Conference.

**A.I.L.G. training entitled “Single Public Water Utility” taking place in Killarney, Co. Kerry on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €18.05 including conference fee of €5.

It was agreed that Cllrs. P. Daly, P. McMahon, M. Howard, P.J. Kelly, P. Burke, C. Colleran Molloy, J. Breen, P. Murphy and P.J. Ryan attend this Conference.

**A.I.L.G. training taking place in Dundalk, Co. Louth on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2018.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €164.96 including conference fee of €

It was agreed that Cllrs. R. Nagle, M. McKee, J. Cooney, J. Crowe and B. Slattery attend this Conference.

**A.I.L.G. training for elected members taking place in Bundoran, Co. Donegal on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €170.42 including conference fee of €5.

It was agreed that Cllrs. C. Curtin and G. Keating attend this Conference.

**Scoil Samhraidh an Phiarsaigh taking place in Ros Muc, Connemara, Co. Galway on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €255.56.

It was agreed that Cllr. G. Keating attend this Conference.

**2018 Parnell Summer School entitled “Democracy Triumphant?” taking place in Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow on 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €650.08 including conference fee of €70.

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

**Any Other Business.**

Having been proposed by Cllr. C. Curtin, seconded by Cllr. G. Flynn it was agreed that the Council would tender its sympathy to the wife and family of the late John O'Rourke, Boston, Tubber.

The meeting then concluded.

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

**Riarthóir Cruinnithe**

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

**Cathaoirleach**

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