

**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, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 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, 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, I. Lynch, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Ms. Carmel Kirby, A/Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Margaret O'Rourke, Assistant Staff Officer.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development.
- Mr. John Leahy, A/Director of Physical Development.
- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance.
- Ms. Siobhan McNulty, Senior Executive Officer.
- Mr. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Water Services,
- Mr. Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Project Management Office.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Begley presided.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York.**

At the outset it was proposed by Cllr. G. Keating, seconded by Cllr. R. Nagle and agreed by all members present that the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive accept the kind invitation of the County Clare Patriotic, Benevolent and Social Association of New York City to attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York.

**Vote of sympathy.**

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

- The Reidy family Tulla, on the death of Ben.
- The Meaney family, Quin on the death of Denis Meaney.
- The Ryan family, Lahinch on the death of Michael.
- The Quinn family, Newmarket on Fergus on the death of Johnny.
- The Kerin family, Sixmilebridge on the death of Henry.
- The Donnellan family, Whitegate on the death of Mai.

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

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

“That the Minutes of the February Meeting of Clare County Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 be adopted and signed.”

b. Ar moladh Cllr. B. Chambers  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. G. Keating agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Clare County Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 be adopted and signed.”

**Item 2: Matters Arising.**

Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy referred to Item No. 21 on the February agenda and acknowledgements received from An Garda Commissioner, the Office of the Taoiseach and the Department of Justice and Equality. She expressed disappointment that no communication has been received since the 20<sup>th</sup> February. As the seminar is taking place in late April, Cllr. Colleran Molloy requested that the Chief Executive raise this issue with An Garda Commissioner to adopt the St. Paul, MN, “blue print” to avert domestic violence incidents and fatalities.

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

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

“That the Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 be noted.”

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

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

“That the minutes of the Physical Development S.P.C. meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 be noted”.

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

“That the minutes of the Economic Development S.P.C. meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 be noted”.

c. Ar moladh Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. R. Nagle agus glacadh leis

“That the minutes of the Economic Development S.P.C. meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 be noted”.

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

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 as presented.

**Item 6: Monthly Management Report.**

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

Cllr. G. Keating welcomed the use of Irish at the beginning of the meeting and requested an update on the appointment of the Irish Officer.

C. Kirby, A/Chief Executive confirmed that the Human Resources Department is in the process of appointing the Irish Officer.

Cllr. C. Curtin referred to water outage notices and stated that Miltown Malbay had an outage on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer responded to Cllr. C. Curtin and stated that there is a problem on the Mullagh to Miltown Malbay line from the Doolough supply and an Irish Water contractor will carry out site investigation works on this line before the end of the year.

Cllr. J. Flynn welcomed the €6.8 million funding secured under rural regeneration and development projects. He applauded the work carried out on the dog shelter and expressed concern at the absence of an Animal Welfare Officer in Clare. He requested that consideration be given to filling this role.

Cllr. J. Flynn noted that Clare County Council is a leader in adopting low carbon practices and queried issues in relation to the source of heating at Áras Contae an Chláir.

Cllr. P. Burke complimented Leonard Cleary and his team on progress in Inis Cealtra.

Cllr. J. Breen sought an update in relation to the N85. Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer responded and stated that the N85 is being managed by the Project Management Office. He informed the elected members that ground investigation works commenced on site last week, the outcome of which will determine the detailed design.

Cllr. G. Keating welcomed funding allocated for Loop Head Visitor Attraction.

Cllr. B. Slattery acknowledged funding secured for Lahinch Seaworld and Town Upgrade Project.

Cllr. P. Hayes congratulated the Rural Development Directorate on the recent Tourism Networking event and the Clare Community Awards. He welcomed funding secured for the rural regeneration and development projects and queried the source of

funding from the Council's own resources. Cllr. M. Begley informed the meeting that there is a notice of motion in relation to this on the agenda.

**Item 7: Disposal of property at Lisdooney West, Kilfenora, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.**

Report dated 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from Mairead Corbett, Administrative Officer, Social Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of property at Lisdooney West, Kilfenora, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. B. Slattery

Cuidithe ag Cllr. R. Nagle agus glacadh leis

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended, of disposal of property at Lisdooney West, Kilfenora, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.”

**Item 8: Disposal of property at Ballybreen, Kilfenora, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.**

Report dated 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 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 Ballybreen, Kilfenora, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. B. Slattery

Cuidithe ag Cllr. R. Nagle agus glacadh leis

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended, of disposal of property at Ballybreen, Kilfenora, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.”

**Item 9: Disposal of area of land at No. 6 Childers Road, 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 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2019 from Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, Ennis Municipal District was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of an area of land measuring 0.010 hectares situated at No. 6 Childers Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

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

“Notice having been served pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Clare County Council approves pursuant to the powers vested on it at Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended, of disposal of area of land situated at No. 6 Childer’s Road, Ennis, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2019.”

**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 public realms improvements to Parnell Street and the laneways, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Report dated 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 from Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Physical Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda together with report from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner. The report outlines details of proposed public realms improvements to Parnell Street and the laneways in Ennis, Co. Clare.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy 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 public realms improvements to Parnell Street and the laneways in Ennis, Co. Clare.”

The elected members welcomed the proposed works on this programme and requested that the Council communicate with local residents and rate payers as the works progress.

**Item 11: Statutory Audit Report to the Members of Clare County Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017.**

The Statutory Audit Report to the Members of Clare County Council on the Accounts of Clare County Council for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 was circulated with the agenda.

The report included the Chief Executive’s responses to all comments raised by the Auditor. The report as presented was noted by the members present having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

**Item 12: Report from Audit Committee on Statutory Audit Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017.**

Report from Tom Kirby, Chairman of the Clare Audit Committee was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the Audit Committee held its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 to review the Statutory Audit Report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017.

The members noted the report as presented having been proposed by Cllr. P. Burke and seconded by Cllr. R. Nagle.

**Item 13: Clare County Council Audit Committee Annual Report 2018.**

The 2018 Audit Committee Annual Report was circulated with the agenda. The report states that Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014 requires that the Audit Committee report to the Council at least annually.

The report outlines details of the Audit Committee under the following headings:

- Functions of the Audit Committee
- Membership of the Committee
- Role and Responsibility of Internal Audit
- Detailed Matters Considered in 2018

The members noted this item as presented.

**Item 14: Clare IFA Nomination to Clare Joint Policing Committee.**

Report dated 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from Annette Donnellan, JPC Administrator was circulated with the agenda. The report states that at a recent election the IFA elected Adrian Brooks as the new IFA representative for the Clare Joint Policing Committee.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Burke

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Curtin agus glacadh leis

“That Adrian Brooks be appointed to Clare Joint Policing Committee.”

**Item 15: LCDC Annual Report 2018.**

The Clare Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2018 was circulated with the agenda. The report highlights the main activities of the Clare LCDC during the year, which included reviewing actions within the Local Economic and Community Plan under the direction of the Community Implementation Team, managing the delivery of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, making recommendations and decisions regarding funding applications under the Healthy Ireland fund and the Community Enhancement Programme.

The members noted the report as presented and acknowledged the work of the executive in this area. Queries were raised in relation to social inclusion and SICAP and the role of LCDC in relation to the function of CLDC.

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development informed the meeting that the LCDC is a statutory committee of Clare County Council. It's function is to oversee the implementation of the L.E.C.P. (Local Economic and Community Plan). It is an important framework for collaborative working between state agencies and the community.

In response to a specific question on social inclusion and S.I.C.A.P., L. Cleary stated that the LCDC has a particular focus on targets for the 'hard-to-reach' clients under the SICAP programme. The latter is contracted to C.L.D.C. (Clare Local

Development Company). He also confirmed the close working relationship between Clare County Council and CLDC for the benefit of County Clare. He reassured the Council that both organizations would endeavour to work collaboratively for future funding opportunities to Clare. He also stated that staff from both organisations would be meeting in the next few weeks to identify opportunities to work together on local projects.

**Item 16: Community Supports Scheme 2019.**

Report dated 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2019 from Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the Community Supports Scheme is available to support community and voluntary groups wishing to undertake specific projects under the relevant categories of the 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.

Ten categories of funding were promoted this year and a total of 322 applications were received and evaluated and brought before a meeting of the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The total recommended for approval under the Scheme is €12,353.

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Cooney agus glacadh leis

“That the draft Community Support Scheme 2019 be adopted by Clare County Council.”

The elected members welcomed the scheme and requested that opportunities be explored to assist and support some unsuccessful communities. It was also requested that the application process be examined as there are issues that need to be resolved. Cllr. C. Curtin, as Chair of the Working Group requested that the unsuccessful projects be looked at and taken on their merit.

**Item 17: Proposed Variation No.1 to the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 to give effect to the *Government Policy Statement on the Development of Data Centres in Ireland* by identifying in a plan led manner the preferred location of a Data Centre in County Clare.**

**Consideration of the proposed Variation no.1 to the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and the “*Chief Executive’s Report to Elected Members on Submissions received to the proposed Variation no.1 to the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023*”.**

**Making of Variation no.1 to the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023.**

Report dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2019 from Pat Dowling, Chief Executive was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the proposed variation no. 1 to the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, to give effect to the Government Policy Statement on the Development of Data Centres in Ireland by identifying in a planned manner the preferred location of a Data Centre in County Clare, was placed on public

display from 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2018 to 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. A total of 17 no. submissions were received within the statutory period.

Each submission received has been considered and a response and recommendation has been formulated on each, taking account of the EU Habitats Directive and SEA Regulations, the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area and any relevant Government Guidelines, policies or objectives.

The report continues that the next stage is for the elected members to consider the proposed Variation to the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and the Chief Executives Report.

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development addressed the meeting and gave a brief summary on the background of this proposal. He referred to presentation to the Council in November 2018, the expression of interest competition held in November 2017 and the identification of Toureen as the preferred Data Centre location.

Cllr. T. McNamara welcomed the proposal and stated that it will have a huge benefit to the economy of the town and County Clare. He also stated that Clare County Council has led this from the beginning. Cllr. J. Cooney seconded the proposal.

Cllr. J. Flynn acknowledged the Chief Executive's report and welcomed residents who have made submissions to the public gallery. He requested that the residents concerns be taken into account at planning stage and that development levies be spent in the immediate area for the necessary infrastructure.

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development thanked the elected members for their contribution and stated that the concerns of the residents will be addressed at the planning application stage. He informed the members that if the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of the 2018 Planning Act is commenced it will expedite the planning process. He stated that the residents will have a right to input into the process. In relation to income he stated that he would concur that it should be of direct benefit to the area and that local projects should benefit.

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

“Following consideration by the Elected Members of:

- a) The proposed Variation No.1 to the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, dated December 2018;
- b) The associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (Environmental Report), Natura Impact Report, and Flood Risk Assessment dated December 2018;
- c) The "*Chief Executive's Report to Elected Members on Submissions received to the Proposed Variation No.1 to the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023*", dated 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019;
- d) The Mid West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022;
- e) The policies and objectives of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023;
- f) The policies and objectives of the Minister contained in the Guidelines prepared under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) ;



- g) Any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or Minister for Government;
- h) The statutory obligations of any local authority in the area;
- i) The proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the plan relates and
- j) Our determination, in accordance with Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), that the proposed variation is not likely to have any significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site within, or adjacent to, the plan area

therefore, in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) this Council hereby resolves to make the Variation No.1 to the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023.”

**Item 18: Loan requirement for the issuing of House Purchase Loans and buy out of Shared Ownership Rental Equity.**

Report dated 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development was circulated with the agenda. The report states that in February 2018 the government backed Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme for first time buyers was introduced. The scheme operated by local authorities offers mortgage funding at competitive fixed interest rates. There has been substantial interest in the scheme to date. Arrangements whereby borrowers can buy out the Council’s equity in dwellings purchased under the Shared Ownership Scheme remain in place.

Based on predicted level of activity over the coming years, the Council will be required to borrow from the Housing Finance Agency to fund the Shared Ownership Scheme as well as to enable the Council to continue to issue loans under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme.

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

“That this Council hereby approves the raising of a loan of €7,000,000 (under Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001) from the Housing Finance Agency to facilitate the issuing of loans to borrowers to buy out the Council’s equity under the Shared Ownership Scheme and also to facilitate the drawdown of funds for House Purchase Loans.”

Cllr. P. Hayes sought clarification on the future of house purchase loans. A. Haugh, Director of Social Development stated that there was doubt around funding the Rebuilding Ireland Scheme and that clarification has been received by circular from the Department that the scheme is still operational and all local authorities should continue with applications. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance informed the meeting that it is a mortgage housing loan, whereby the funds borrowed are subsequently loaned to customers.

**Item 19: Loan requirement for the purchase of housing land.**

Report dated 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the Social Development

Directorate currently has a requirement to purchase land for the purpose of housing construction in order to meet our housing targets under Rebuilding Ireland (An Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness). Construction of social housing has commenced on our existing land banks at Feakle and Clonlara and further projects are planned to commence at Quilty, Ennis, (Roslevan, Ashline and Ballaghboy), Miltown Malbay, Sixmilebridge, Tulla, Newmarket on Fergus, Doonbeg and Scarriff. The Council are also continuing to negotiate on a number of land parcels which will deliver value for money in areas where there is housing demand.

Approval of the Council is sought to borrow €6,000,000 to meet existing and potential commitments in relation to land purchases as outlined above. These funds will only be drawn down as required.

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

“That this Council hereby approves the raising of a loan of €6,000,000 (under Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001) to fund the purchase of land for housing construction projects to meet targets under Rebuilding Ireland An Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness”.

Cllr. P. Hayes queried the reason for buying land if it is not used as the Council are liable for loans. A. Haugh, Director of Social Development stated that the Council cannot recoup the cost of the land until houses are built on the land. She informed the meeting that the Council has moved to develop on all land acquired recently and that the Council will be recouping the money in a timely manner.

Cllr. G. Flynn commended the members and officials on the Social Development S.P.C. for their visionary to cater for the housing crisis not caused by the local authority.

Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance informed the members that it is a bridging finance loan until houses are built on the land.

**Item 20: Proposal to raise a loan to fund new educational and enterprise projects.**

Report dated 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2019 from Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development and Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development was circulated with the agenda. The report states that the approval of Council members is sought to draw down a loan to finance the following economic, educational and enterprise projects for County Clare: Limerick Institute of Technology, Quin Road Campus, Digital hub at Tobertaoscan, Ennis, Multi Service Centre and Digital Hub at Parliament Street, Ennistymon, Vandeleur Walled Gardens, Kilrush and Loop Head Visitor Experience.

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

“That this Council hereby approves the raising of a loan of €5,400,000 (under Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001) to fund a number of economic, educational, enterprise and tourism projects as set out in the following table.”

<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Limerick Institute of Technology - Ennis Campus, Bindon Street, Ennis.	€750,000
Quin Road Campus - Civil Defence Headquarters with collaborative education/training Centre and Records Management Centre, Quin Road Business Park, Ennis	€2,500,000
Digital hub at Tobertaoscan, Ennis	€250,000
Multi Service Centre and Digital Hub at Parliament Street, Ennistymon	€1,000,000
Development and restoration at Vandeleur Walled Gardens	€600,000
Upgrading of the Loop Head Visitor Experience and facility	€300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€5,400,000</b>

Cllr. C. Curtin welcomed this development and requested that LCETB be involved going forward.

Cllr. P. Hayes stated that overall a lot of money is being borrowed and queried how it will affect the Council budget going forward. Cllr. Hayes also queried where the Council will source money for RRDF projects.

Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance stated that there are three different types of loans, the mortgage housing loan which is matched by loans lent to customer loans, this has no impact on budget process. The loan drawn for the Council build land bank, this will be recouped when the houses are built. The loan for economic and various projects, which have received RRDF funding; some will generate income by means of lease, this will be taken into account in the annual budgetary process together with loan charges.

## **Item 21. Limerick Regional Hospital.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Breen  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. McKee agus glacadh leis

“In view of the fact that Limerick Regional Hospital has the largest amount of people waiting on trollies for admission, that this Council propose a vote of no confidence on the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris.”

Cllr. J. Breen informed the meeting that this item has been on the agenda at the January and February Council meetings. Cllr. Breen noted that the four elected members on the Regional Health Forum West met with Minister Harris but he has not received a report on the outcome of that meeting.

Cllr. T. McNamara addressed the meeting. He stated that notes were taken at the meeting and they will be forwarded on in due course. He informed the meeting that the four items discussed were (a) Trolley crisis at University Hospital Limerick (b)

Proposed primary care centres in Clare (c) Consider opening a kidney dialysis unit at Mid West Regional Hospital, Ennis and (d) Re-opening Mid West Regional Hospital, Ennis as a Model 3 hospital. He stated that progress has been made since January and the Minister has given a commitment to visit Limerick and Ennis hospitals before the end of April. He stated that the Minister has acknowledged that mistakes were made and he is trying to improve the situation as it is.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. M. Begley informed the members that the report on the meeting will be available at the next Council meeting.

Cllr. J. Breen stated that as there is nothing in writing he proposed a motion of no confidence in Minister Harris.

Cllr. M. McKee seconded Cllr. Breens proposal in view of the recent constant controversies.

Cllrs. P. Burke, A. Norton and P.J. Ryan, who were part of the Regional Health Forum West delegation that met with Minister Harris, echoed Cllr. McNamara's comments and stated that a very good conversation had taken place with Minister Harris and they expressed confidence in progress going forward.

The elected members present commended Cllr. J. Breen on proposing this motion as it afforded them the opportunity to discuss the issue in the Council Chamber, however they agreed that policy formulation and further interaction with the Minister would be more beneficial than proceeding with a vote of no confidence in Minister Harris at this time. They acknowledged that progress has been made, dialogue is now open and this item should be kept on the agenda.

Cllr. J. Breen thanked the members for their support and contributions and agreed to defer this motion until the minutes of the meeting are received.

## **Item 22. Economic Plan for West Clare.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Kelly

“That details of the Councils Economic Plan for new West Clare area be made available.”

### **Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development replied as follows;**

“The Council’s economic objectives for the West Clare Municipal District (incorporating the new West Clare electoral area) are included in various strategies adopted by the Council, as set out hereunder.

### **Clare County Development Plan (2017 – 2023)**

The Clare County Development Plan (2017 – 2023) set out the key objectives for County Clare and each of the Municipal Districts for the period. There are a number of key documents in the Plan which are relevant to the economic development of West Clare:

- Volume 3d West Clare Municipal District – Written Statement and Settlement Plans
- Volume 5 Clare Wind Energy Strategy (County wide)
- Volume 6 Clare Renewable Energy Strategy (County wide)

While the area of the West Clare Municipal District will change following the Local elections of 2019, both the current area and the new area of the West Clare Municipal District area will be covered by the objectives of the other volumes of the County Development Plan.

### **Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy**

During February 2019 presentations on the draft RSES were provided to the four Strategic Policy Committees and a workshop with the Elected Members was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> February to assist in the collation of one overall submission on the draft RSES on behalf of Clare County Council by March 8<sup>th</sup>.

It is expected that the draft will be adopted by the Southern Regional Assembly will be adopted this year and will form the framework for the future development of the region. The Council, through its representatives on the Regional Assembly have ensured that the specific objectives for West Clare are included in the draft Strategy.

### **Clare Rural Strategy**

In September 2017, Clare became the first County to launch a rural development strategy following the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development.

The 10-year blueprint sets out objectives for the development of community-led social enterprises supported by Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Office Clare, the Office of the Action Plan for Jobs (A.P.J.), the LEADER Programme and the rural and community support unit of Clare County Council.

The Strategy also targets the development of community-run Multi-Service Centres which will aim to provide a range of public services such as GP, postal, social protection, health, transport, advice and information from a single building. Innovative rural transport initiatives such as community car pooling and community bus services are also earmarked under the Strategy. Since its adoption, the Council has employed Rural Community Development Officers who are working in each of the Municipal Districts.

### **Local Economic and Community Plan (2016 – 2021)**

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) (2016-2021) sets out role of local government in the promotion and support of economic, local and community development across the County and its partnership with key stakeholders is central to the realisation of the Plan. The delivery of the objectives of this Plan is done through existing programmes in all areas of the County, including the West Clare Municipal District. The current plan was adopted in May 2016 and submitted to the Minister in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The Council, by way of its Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (S.P.C.) - was responsible for preparing the economic elements of the plan, while the Local Community Development Committee (L.C.D.C.), is responsible for preparing the community elements of the plan. Both elements are integrated and the consultative process was core to the development of the Plan.

The review of this Plan will be commencing in 2020 approx. and will incorporate consultation with the Members of each Municipal District.

### **Local Enterprise Office**

The Local Enterprise Office is well positioned to assist, and support, our indigenous small businesses which provide significant employment in West Clare. Eligible enterprises can avail of various grant supports which can assist with capital investment, taking on new employees and marketing costs. The Local Enterprise Office also some small grants supports which facilitate a business starting to trade on-line or explore entering new export markets.

In addition to the direct supports, the Local Enterprise Office also provide a range of subsidised training programmes aimed at up skilling entrepreneurs, enhancing their potential to sustain and grow their business profitably, and create employment. These training courses are supplemented by one to one mentoring support tailored to the needs of the individual enterprise.

### **Specific Projects**

In relation to the new West Clare Electoral Area, there are a number of important projects currently being planned, in progress or recently completed. The major ones have been set out in the Section 135 report presented to Council at budget time and other Projects are brought forward for approval as funding is announced.

In addition to the above, there are a number of key economic, physical, rural, tourism and social development projects recently completed, planned and/or in progress for the West Clare Municipal District.”

Cllr. P.J. Kelly thanked the Director of Economic Development for the response and stated that it was not the reply he was looking for. He expressed concern for villages in west Clare and queried future plans to create jobs in west Clare and plan for Moneypoint and deep water projects.

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development addressed the meeting and agreed with Cllr. P.J. Kelly that the future activity at Moneypoint is of intrinsic importance to the economy and the entire county and the region. He stated that the Chief Executive has been engaging with the E.S.B. with a view to working with them to find a repurpose use for Moneypoint. In relation to Cahercon, L. Conneally stated that this project has received Enterprise Ireland funding and work is ongoing. He also stated that Clare County Council is in constant contact with the IDA in relation to the employment assets in all locations across county Clare.

### **Item 23. Taking in charge of estates.**

Due to the absence of Cllr. M. Hillery at this time, this motion was moved by Cllr. P. Hayes

“That management of Clare County Council would give an update on the progress of Taking in Charge of estates in the county.”

### **Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development replied as follows;**

“Clare County Council has a register of almost 180 residential housing estates in the County that are either unsatisfactorily completed and/or not taken in charge.

Significant progress has been made in recent years in this area and the table below outlines the number of Estates taken in charge over the past 5 years.

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. Of Estates Taken in Charge by Clare County Council</b>
2014	15
2015	9
2016	23
2017	20
2018	28

In 2019 it is planned to take in charge at least a further 20 estates. Recently the statutory process commenced to take in charge another 6 estates and in parallel maps are being prepared to commence the statutory taking in charge process on a number of others.

Separately, the taking in charge team in the Planning Department are proactively monitoring 12 new developments which are under construction and this number will increase as the year progresses. The ongoing monitoring of estates, albeit resource intensive, will ensure that housing developments in the future are finished to a higher compliance standard and that subsequent taking in charge processes as a result should be more straightforward.

Clare County Council's Planning Department continues to finalise site resolution plans and to arrange for remedial works contracts to be put in place on several estates where we are in receipt of bond monies."

At this point in the meeting, the Cathaoirleach had to excuse himself to attend another engagement and Cllr. A. O'Callaghan presided.

#### **Item 24. Illegal dumping.**

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

"That Clare County Council, introduce the following initiatives to help curb illegal dumping:

- 1) Introduce a compulsory registration scheme for Eircodes (as per system trialed in Co. Sligo).
- 2) Establish co-operatives with local environmental groups so that a more expansive covert CCTV system can be employed in Clare.

- 3) Organise for a media tour of litter blackspots in the county so that a heightened awareness of fly-tipping can be achieved with the public.
- 4) Introduce an educational programme (similar to Fire Safety Week) for all primary schools in the county.
- 5) Organise in conjunction with local environmental groups, weekly beach clean-ups.”

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

**“1) Introduce a compulsory registration scheme for Eircodes (as per system trialed in Co. Sligo).**

The Eircode Waste Initiative run by Sligo County Council was not compulsory but simply a request for householders to provide their Eircode to their waste collector so that this information could be shared with the local authority. This would then help to eliminate compliant households from further investigation for waste enforcement. Sligo County Council has informed Clare Council County that *“The Eircodes Pilot is still a work in progress and they are currently reviewing the concerns raised by the Data Protection Commissioner (DPC).”*

In February 2019 the Data Protection Commissioner (DPC) highlighted that it had *‘concerns about private waste companies passing customers Eircodes to local authorities to identify households without a private waste collection’*.

Therefore, due to the fact that there is not yet a final report on the trial in Sligo in addition to concerns raised by the DPC, Clare County Council is awaiting further guidance on this matter.

**2) Establish co-operatives with local environmental groups so that a more expansive covert CCTV system can be employed in Clare.**

As per the Notice of Motion reply for the January meeting, this matter is receiving close attention at national level and the CCMA are engaging with the Data Commissioner in this regard. Legal advice is being sought nationally and we will keep the members updated as this issue evolves.

**3) Organise for a media tour of litter blackspots in the county so that a heightened awareness of fly-tipping can be achieved with the public.**

Illegal dumping is certainly a problem in County Clare and a major issue for the Local Authority to deal with. Clare County Council would be interested in exploring such an initiative in order to highlight to the public the scale of the problem and the resources that are expended in dealing with it. However we must be careful with any such campaign so as not to inadvertently malign the hard working tidy towns /community groups who work tirelessly to keep their area litter free.

**4) Introduce an educational programme (Similar to Fire Safety Week) for all primary schools in the county.**

Green Schools is operated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce in partnership with Clare County Council. It is an international environmental education programme, environmental management system and award scheme. It acknowledges



long-term whole school action for the environment covering the themes of Litter and Waste, Energy, Travel, Water Biodiversity and Global Citizenship. Currently there are 117 schools flying the Green Flag in primary and secondary schools in Co. Clare.

Litter and waste prevention awareness is an integral part of the Green Schools programme and is the first flag obtained once actions are taken on littering and waste. Recently a new theme has been introduced called Global Citizenship and the Marine Environment which again reiterates the impacts that littering can have on local and marine environments. As part of the Green School Programme, which is student led, there is a requirement to inform and involve the wider community.

Clare County Council provides support in terms of an annual Green School seminar, visiting, advising and supporting green school committees and green school coordinators throughout the year. We also carry out assessments for the An Taisce Green School Flag. Clare County Council also supports the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards in the county.

**5) Organise in conjunction with local environmental groups, weekly beach clean-ups.”**

Clare County Council through its environmental section and relevant Municipal District offices already work with many local environmental groups/community groups throughout the county on beach clean ups.

In 2018 we had 188 Groups registered with us for the National Spring Clean campaign and we also work with An Taisce on their Clean Coast programme.

Clean Coasts has grown over the years and now includes two main national clean-up drives – Coca-Cola Clean Coasts Week and the Big Beach Clean.

We are willing to assist any group to organise beach clean-ups but we require that such clean ups must be registered in advance with the Environment Section so that the practicalities of waste disposal are considered and dealt with properly.”

Cllr. C. Crowe explained the concept of using trail cams in litter black spots on a pilot basis to assist in detecting the identity of people carrying out illegal dumping. The elected members agreed that illegal dumping can be a blight on the landscape and that community groups are doing great work to enhance their areas. They also agreed that illegal dumping perpetrators should be “named and shamed”.

C. Kirby, A/Chief Executive thanked the elected members for their comments and emphasised that members of the public should ask and check that waste collectors have a licence. She stated that all complaints are investigated and that a media campaign to educate people is being prepared. She informed the members that the Waste Management Bye Laws have been adopted and the Council will enforce them. Ms. Kirby agreed that CCTV is a good deterrent and as advised at the January meeting this matter is receiving close attention at national level and the CCMA are engaging with the Data Commissioner in this regard. Legal advice is being sought nationally and the members will be kept updated as this issue evolves.

She advised caution on this issue until such time as the position of local authorities as data controllers in respect of Community CCTV Schemes is resolved. She acknowledged the good work being done by community groups.

**Item 25. Sewerage and waste water treatment plants.**

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

“That this council would carry out an assessment for efficiency on all sewerage and waste water treatment plants under it's control in the county.”

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

“Clare County Council work under a Service Level Agreement (S.L.A.) with Irish Water who are now the water services authority. The various waste water treatment assets referred to in the motion have transferred to Irish Water.

We have forwarded this motion to Irish Water for their direct response and are awaiting a reply.”

It was agreed that the reply from Irish Water will be circulated to the elected members.

**Item 26. Commercial rates receipts and regional and local road expenditure.**

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

“That the Directors of Services update the Council on commercial rates receipts and the regional and local road expenditure (with stated mileage covered) in each municipal district for 2018, 2017 and 2016 and arising from same in order to improve the connectivity from the capital town Ennis and M18 to the north, west, east and south of the county that this element of expenditure matches the constant and emerging needs of this strategic section of our roads infrastructure.”

**Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance and Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development replied as follows:**

“The table below sets out the Commercial Rates billed on occupied properties in each municipal district’s for 2018, 2017 and 2016.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>€'000</b>	<b>37,235</b>	<b>38,010</b>	<b>38,327</b>
Ennis	6,060	6,216	6,318
Killaloe	1,053	1,013	987
Shannon	12,743	13,361	13,560
West Clare	14,475	14,475	14,470

I wish to advise that the expenditure for Restoration Improvement works and Restoration Maintenance works, for each of the years 2016, 2017 and 2018, are as outlined in the table hereunder. This expenditure together with details of road distances improved/maintained is derived from the Schedule of Municipal District Works for the respective years.

	2016			
	RI €	RI Length m	RM €	RM Length m
West Clare	2,088,214	28,887	850,826	58,490
Ennis	479,000	7,350	258,485	16,850
Killaloe	1,475,275	21,770	592,820	37,410
Shannon	525,589	3,770	232,109	10,790
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,568,078</b>	<b>61,777</b>	<b>1,934,240</b>	<b>123,540</b>

	2017			
	RI €	RI Length m	RM €	RM Length m
West Clare	2,352,767	30,685	894,814	61,454
Ennis	606,128	6,850	271,849	14,700
Killaloe	1,644,977	20,410	623,469	39,680
Shannon	669,033	4,012	244,109	13,442
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,272,905</b>	<b>61,957</b>	<b>2,034,241</b>	<b>129,276</b>

	2018			
	RI €	RI Length m	RM €	RM Length m
West Clare	3,105,689	38,201	997,890	58,375
Ennis	888,468	11,290	292,175	18,700
Killaloe	2,155,944	30,350	687,735	84,510
Shannon	804,559	4,000	269,700	16,160

Total	6,954,660	83,841	2,247,500	127,745
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Cllr. C. Curtin emphasised the importance of maintaining regional routes as they enhance connectivity in the county.

**Item 27. Speed limit review.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Burke

“I am requesting that this Council give an update on the implementation of the speed limit review.”

**John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Roads and Transportation replied as follows:**

“The signs for the new speed limits are currently being procured for the non-national roads and will be installed by each Municipal District during the month of May. T.I.I. have put the provision for national road signage out to contract. The implementation date for the new speed limits is 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2019 and on that day the new byelaws will come into force.”

**Item 28. The Lifesaver Project.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Cooney

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council facilitate ‘The Lifesaver Project’ in conjunction with An Garda Síochána on an annual basis to include all Senior Students at Second Level Schools.”

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

“Clare County Council, together with An Garda Síochána and the National Ambulance Service have hosted similar events in the past, that would have included a simulated Road Traffic Accident, with the various Blue Light Responders (including Fire Service) carrying out their tasks, followed by presentations providing firsthand accounts the Fire Responders.

The event is targeted at young people whom are about to embark on their driving careers or who currently travel in cars with young friends, and all Secondary Schools have been invited to send their students to this event. The last occasion that this event took place was in April 2017 at Glór, and was very successful.

Clare County Council commit to hosting this event on an annual basis and the details of each annual event will be agreed by the Road Safety Working Group.

The Road Safety Working Group consists of Elected Representatives, Director of Services (Chairperson), Road Safety Officer, Senior Engineer Transportation, Chief Fire Officer, Civil Defence Officer, An Garda Síochána, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Health Services Executive & Road Safety Authority.”

Cllr. J. Cooney stated that this is a vital project that should be delivered to second level students every year to raise awareness of road safety.

**Item 29. Matching funding to support successful grant application announcements.**

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Flynn agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council make provision for matching funding to support the many successful grant application announcements for County Clare that were recently indicated by the Government and that the Council put together a list of the grants and the amount of matching funding required.”

**Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance replied as follows:**

“In 2018 the Government launched two New Multi-Annual programmes as part of Project Ireland 2040. The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (U.R.D.F.) and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (R.R.D.F.). The value of both funds is €3billion for the next ten years. In addition to these two main funds, there are other funding streams available to Clare County Council that the council continues to apply for and have been successful in securing funding recently.

Clare County Council has secured funding of €1.6million for eleven projects as set out in the attached table. This analysis sets out the recent grant application, the funding source, the value of the application which in some cases are phased projects and the funding awarded and matching funding requirement.

Some of these projects namely Ennistymon Multi Service Centre, Vandeleur Walled Garden, Terret Lodge and Loop Head Lighthouse are included in the report to council this month to approve loan finance as the match funding requirement of the infrastructure project. Provision for these loan charges, matching funding for other successful projects, revenue generated from projects and associated operational expenditure will form the basis of budget 2020 considerations.

The next phase of these projects together with other projects will be included in future calls under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (U.R.D.F.) and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (R.R.D.F.) and other grant schemes.”

<b>Funding source</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Cost of this phase</b>	<b>Funding awarded</b>	<b>Clare Co. Co. match funding requirement</b>	<b>Note</b>
			<b>€000</b>	<b>€000</b>	<b>€000</b>	
URDF fund	A	Ennis Town Centre Vision 2022 public realm (Phase1 2019) Includes Parnell St., Lanes & Bow-ways	1,883	1,412	471	There are further works for this project to be claimed for Phase 2 2020

URDF fund	B	Ennis Town Centre Vision 2022 public realm Ennis Town Centre Regeneration: Barrack Square, Old Barrack Street, O'Connell Square and High Street	251	188	63	Note these figures have to be confirmed
URDF fund	B	The Venue Shannon Strategic Master Plan	200	150	50	Note these figures have to be confirmed
RRDF fund	1	Ennistymon Multi-Service Centre - Development of digital and broadband hot desk facility for business and social enterprise	2,293	1,023	1,269	
RRDF fund	1	Vandeleur Walled Gardens. Restoration of the stables building and further enhance the offering at the site. Includes restoration of the stables & the provision of museum, crafts & ancillary services to the gardens.	2,300	1,725	575	
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Heritage Council		Terret lodge Vandeleur refurbishment	242	194	48	

RRDF fund	1	Re-development of Lahinch Seaworld and Leisure centre, Public Toilets and public realm works including car park and amenity at Lahinch sports field	3,575	2,860	715	
RRDF fund	1	Refurbish and expand the facilities at Loop Head Visitor lighthouse attraction.	1,158	869	290	
RRDF fund	2	Develop a detailed design for Inis Cealtra Island and visitor Centre, design a new boat landing point including visitor trails and an interpretation strategy for the Island	1,227	920	307	There are further works for this project to be claimed for Phase 2
RRDF fund	2	Doolin Pier Visitor Services Building planning, design and tender	621	466	155	There are further works for this project to be claimed for Phase 2
Enterprise Ireland Regional Development Fund		Marine Centre of Excellence Cahiracon (Phase 1) Funding for project management, marine training simulators and specialist equipment and renovation of classroom block and wet training area.	2,157	1,768	389	This is only phase 1 of the project and excludes accommodation block and main house

Cllr. M. Begley resumed as Cathaoirleach at this point.

**Item 30. Broadband.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P. McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. O'Callaghan agus glacadh leis

“In view of the failure of all efforts to date that Clare County Council examine means to participate actively in efforts to procure broadband of acceptable quality for all areas of County Clare.”

**Urban McMahon, Head of Information Systems & Broadband Officer replied as follows:**

“The National Broadband Plan is a Government initiative to deliver high-speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. The plan is now in the final stages of the Procurement Process with announcement on same expected in the near future. In light of the ongoing delays, Clare County Council has been proactive in the area of Broadband delivery and ensuring access to services and facilities for the Community.

The following actions undertaken by Clare County Council to date:-

- (1) Appointed a Broadband Officer who acts as a single point of contact for all matters relating to Broadband and liaises between the Communities and Service Providers to provide services where possible. He also liaises with service providers and identifies areas and black spots which need to be prioritised under the plan.
- (2) Communities have been provided with access to broadband and facilities through the establishment of our Digital Hubs in Kilrush, Feakle and Miltown, with facilities in Ennistymon under construction and Ennis at a Tender stage.
- (3) Clare County Council has adopted its Digital Strategy and through same has identified a number of programmes and initiatives which will enable the various sectors of our community to access services and information as required.

It is expected that by the end of Q3 2019 approximately 66% of premises in our County will have access to high-speed broadband representing approximately 45,000 premises.”

The elected members present expressed frustration at the national broadband rollout. Cllr. P. Hayes referred to notice of motion submitted at January Council meeting inviting the Chief Executive of Eir to address Council meeting and requested that further correspondence issue in this regard.

**Item 31. Population growth.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. McMahon agus glacadh leis

“Clare County Council request the Southern Regional Assembly and both the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Minister for Rural and Community Affairs to intervene to prevent the resultant restrictions in planned population growth which will occur if the population growth figure of 0.8% pa



proposed for Clare as per the NPF Roadmap (July 2018) is adopted in the Southern Assembly Draft RSES.

The actual population growth figure for Clare over the last 25 years has been 1.2% pa which is the minimum Clare County needs to have a reasonable continuation of growth patterns and this as a minimum should be provided for in the final RSES.”

**Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development replied as follows:**

“The “*National Planning Framework*” (N.P.F.)(February 2018) aims to set out a rebalancing of Ireland’s spatial development and has assigned high level population allocations for the five Cities and three Regions, including Limerick City and the Southern Regional Assembly Area.

The “*NPF Roadmap*” (July 2018) subsequently published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, has given further detail and breakdown of the N.P.F. population allocations and provided ‘Transitional Regional and County Population Projections to 2031’ – extract below.

Regions and Counties	2016	2026	2031
<b>Mid-West</b>			
Limerick	195,000	229,000-235,500	246,000-
Clare	119,000	129,500-131,500	134,000-
Tipperary NR	71,000	77,500-79,000	80,500-
Subtotal	385,000	436,000-446,000	460,500-

**(from the NPF Roadmap – July 2018)**

The NPF Roadmap allocates County Clare a maximum population growth +18,000 to 2031. The projected population of 137,000 implies the acceptance of a growth rate of 0.8% per annum over the fifteen years 2016 to 2031. This should be compared with an actual rate of growth for Clare County over the period 1991 to 2016 (25 years) of 1.2% per annum. The population allocation set out in the NPF Roadmap does not reflect the ambition of Clare County Council for economic or population growth for the County.

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (R.S.E.S.) are 12yr strategies that will be central to translating these population projections to the regional and county levels. On March 8<sup>th</sup> Clare County Council made a comprehensive submission on the Draft R.S.E.S. to the Southern Regional Assembly which addresses *inter alia* this population issue. The submission to the Regional Assembly is informed by feedback from the Elected Members, S.P.C.’s and cross Directorate Council staff and advocates a mechanism whereby additional population could be allocated to the County Clare area of the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area, thus dealing with concerns regarding the overall low population allocation for the County, while also complying with the objectives of the National Planning Framework.”

Cllr. B. Slattery stated that this did not reflect levels of growth over the last few years and that this has been highlighted at Southern Regional Assembly meetings at every opportunity. He informed the meeting that 250 submissions have been received, the

Directors will meet on 26<sup>th</sup> April next to assess the submissions and the figures might be amended after that meeting.

The elected members expressed their disappointment with the figures and outlined the implications for every town and village.

L. Conneally, Director of Economic Development stated that this core issue has been raised with both the Southern Regional Assembly and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and it has been discussed at S.P.C. He informed the meeting that he will assist in drafting correspondence to the Minister and the Southern Regional Assembly.

**Adjourned Meeting.**

It was agreed that the adjourned meeting will take place on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting then concluded.

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

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

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

**Minutes of the adjourned March Meeting of Clare County Council held in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at 2:00 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, T. O'Brien, P. Burke, A. O'Callaghan, C. Crowe, J. Crowe, G. Flynn, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahan, M. McKee, C. Curtin, R. Nagle, B. Slattery, M. Hillery, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Margaret O'Rourke, Assistant Staff Officer.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development.
- Ms. Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development.
- Mr. Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance.
- Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Begley presided.

**Item 32. Standing 4 Women campaign.**

Ar moladh Cllr. M. McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Howard agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council, noting the recent cervical check scandal, calls upon the Minister for Health and An Taoiseach, to acknowledge, support and respond in detail to the demands of the Standing4 Women campaign. These include legislation and policy on mandatory open disclosure independent of the Patient Safety Bill, provision of a start and end date and full disclosure on the 1800 smears yet to be audited, and a breakdown of the new packages being negotiated with laboratories carrying out smear slide analysis including mandatory site audits.”

**Item 33. Return for Refund.**

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy agus glacadh leis

“Clare County Council requests Mr. Richard Bruton, Minister for Communication, Climate Action and Environment to consider the "Return For Refund" model that is operated for plastic bottles be introduced.”

Cllr. M. Howard commended the Clare students who participated in the Climate Change Protest on 15<sup>th</sup> March last. Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy requested that Clare County Council take the lead on minimising plastic in our organisation.

C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development stated that Clare County Councils Partnership Committee intends to eliminate single use plastics in 2019 and a recent EU Directive states that plastic bottles will have to be recycled in future.

The following was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllrs. J. Cooney, C. Curtin, G. Flynn, M. McKee and P.J. Kelly and agreed by the members present:

“That Clare County Council invite the young voices that have organised the recent Clare climate change school strike to speak at the seat of democracy in Clare at next months April Clare County Council meeting.”

#### **Item 34. Gambling advertisements.**

Ar moladh Cllr. M. Howard  
Cuidithe ag Cllrs. P. Daly agus A. O’Callaghan agus glacadh leis

“Clare County Council requests that Mr. Richard Bruton, Minister for Communication, provide legislation to ban gambling advertisements on all social media platforms and internet search engines.”

The elected members present supported this motion and requested that the tax from gambling be used to support addiction centres.

#### **Item 35. Defence forces campaign for Respect and Loyalty.**

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

“That this Council recognises the selfless commitment of the Irish Defence Forces (Navy, Army and Air Corps) to the people of Ireland in defence of the nation and in the protection of the internal security of the State. In particular it acknowledges the role played by the Defence Forces in multinational peacekeeping, humanitarian relief, maritime security and fishery protection.

This Council in its support for the campaign for Respect and Loyalty calls on the Government to immediately take action to resolve the issues relating to the pay and conditions of service of Defence Forces Members as they are seriously impacting retention and recruitment.”

The elected members supported this motion and stated that the Irish Defence Forces personnel should receive decent pay and recognition for the important role they play in society.

#### **Item 36. V.A.T. on health food supplements.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Crowe agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council seek clarification as to the legal authority of the increase from 0% - 23% V.A.T. from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 on health food supplements.”

Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy informed the meeting that this increase did not take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**Item 37. Irish Water.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Curtin

Cuidithe ag Cllrs. G. Flynn agus I. Lynch agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council invite Irish Water executive to a statutory meeting to outline its current scale of charges for water and waste water connections and the underlying rationale for same and attached conditions for completion of agreed works.”

Cllr. C. Curtin outlined the charges incurred when connecting to water and waste water services and stated that this is a burden on people building houses in addition to other services required. Cllr. Curtin requested that Irish Water Officials be invited to a Council meeting to clarify some issues.

Cllr. J. Breen enquired if there is a charge incurred by the Council on people who are connecting to their own water supply.

Cllr. P. Burke stated that the Irish Water clinics are very useful and that queries on local issues are responded to. He encouraged Councillors to use the Irish Water clinics when they are available.

Cllr. C. Crowe commended the Irish Water employees and stated that the good work on the ground is not being reflected at Headquarters.

**Item 38. H.S.E. expenses.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Breen

Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Daly agus glacadh leis

“I am asking the H.S.E. to provide the costs of rental accommodation in County Clare and also the cost of taxi services in the county for ferrying people and blood samples, etc. to different hospitals in the area.”

**Item 39. N.C.T. Centre in County Clare.**

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Keating

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

“That Clare County Council call on the Road Safety Authority to locate a second N.C.T. Centre in County Clare.”

Cllr. G. Keating urged the R.S.A. to consider locating an N.C.T. centre in west Clare as it is unfair on people having to travel to Ennis for testing and re-testing their vehicles. The elected members requested that legislation be amended to allow garages carry out N.C.T. testing.

**Item 40. Solution into the beef crisis.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Hayes  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. P.J. Ryan

“I propose that Clare County Council call on the Minister for Agriculture Michael Creed to immediately intervene to find a solution into the beef crisis, with particular emphasis into finding markets for live exports and also measures to support the suckler industry.”

Cllr. P. Hayes outlined the crisis in the farming industry and emphasised the importance of sustaining farming in rural Ireland. He stressed that markets need to be sourced for exporting beef.

Cllr. P. Burke stated that farming in rural Ireland is a concern but emphasised that there are more than adequate amounts of cattle being brought to factories each week. In relation to the supply and demand theory, Cllr. Burke stated that cattle prices will increase as they get scarce.

The elected members agreed that this issue needs to be dealt with at national level.

#### **Item 41. Signage on M18.**

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

"That Clare County Council liaise with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Fáilte Ireland in order to emphasise the importance of providing signage for the Shannon Estuary Way and Clarecastle in advance of exit 11 as you travel Northbound on the M18 motorway".

#### **John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation replied as follows:**

“As part of the Ennis 2040 process, many issues are being explored including signage from the M18 motorway to put more emphasis on Ennis, the county town of Clare. We will further discuss with TII and Fáilte Ireland the provision of signage on the motorway for the Shannon Estuary Way and Clarecastle as part of this process.”

#### **Item 42. Comhfhreagras. Correspondence.**

- Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy requested an update and follow up on communication from An Garda Commissioner in relation to upcoming seminar.
- Cllr. A. Norton outlined details of Autism Awareness Day taking place on 2<sup>nd</sup> April next and thanked the Chief Executive for his support.
- Cllr. J. Flynn referred to item raised at the March meeting in relation to the absence of Animal Welfare Officer in Clare. He requested that consideration be given to filling this role.

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

1. Acknowledgement received from the Phelan Ó Súilleabháin family.

2. Invitation from County Clare P.B. & S. Association of New York City inviting Cathaoirleach Cllr. M. Begley to attend the 258<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City.
3. Correspondence dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2019 from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment regarding imported fracked gas.
4. Correspondence dated 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in relation to supporting our youth.
5. Correspondence dated 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from the National Transport Authority concerning rural transport services.
6. Correspondence dated 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from the H.S.E. in relation to kidney dialysis centre at Ennis General Hospital.
7. Correspondence dated 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2019 from UL Hospital in relation to kidney dialysis centre at Ennis General Hospital.
8. Correspondence dated 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from the Department of Health in relation to kidney dialysis centre at Ennis General Hospital.
9. Correspondence dated 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from An Garda Síochána in relation to the St. Paul, MN, "blue print" to avert domestic violence incidents and fatalities.
10. Correspondence dated 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from the Office of the Taoiseach in relation to the St. Paul, MN, "blue print" to avert domestic violence incidents and fatalities.
11. Correspondence dated 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from the Department of Justice and Equality in relation to the St. Paul, MN, "blue print" to avert domestic violence incidents and fatalities.
12. Correspondence dated 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from the Department of Health concerning waiting lists for assessment of needs.
13. Correspondence dated 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from the Department of Health concerning plan for health services to 2030 and onwards to 2050.
14. Correspondence dated 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in relation to adoptee identity rights.
15. Annual Planning Conference 2019 entitled "Integrating Planning and Development" taking place in the Landmark Hotel, Leirim on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.
16. Conference entitled "Ireland and Plastic Waste" taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth on 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

**Item 34. Comhfhreagras.**

**Correspondence.**

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

**Conferences.**

**Reports on Seminars/Conferences attended.**

With regard to seminars/conferences attended, reports completed in accordance with Section 142 of the Local Government Act 2001 were made available at the meeting.

**AILG training taking place in Horse & Jockey Hotel, Co. Tipperary on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €301.76 including conference fee of €5.

It was agreed that Cllrs. G. Keating, P. Burke and B. Slattery attend this Conference.

**AILG training entitled “120 years of Irish Local Government” taking place in Longford Arms Hotel, Longford on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €394.19.

It was agreed that Cllrs. J. Breen, M. Howard, P. Burke, P. Murphy, G. Keating and B. Slattery attend this Conference.

**LAMA 2019 Spring Training Seminar taking place in the Bush Hotel, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €73.29 including conference fee of €180.

It was agreed that Cllrs. P.J. Kelly, J. Breen, A. Norton, J. Crowe, A. O’Callaghan, P. Daly, P. McMahon, R. Nagle, P. Murphy, P.J. Ryan, T. O’Brien and P. Burke attend this Conference.

**AILG training taking place in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.**

The Meetings Administrator informed the Members that the estimated average cost per Councillor attending this Conference was €25.05 including conference fee of €5.

It was agreed that Cllrs. M. Hillery, B. Chambers, J. Crowe, P. McMahon, P.J. Kelly and C. Curtin attend this Conference.

The meeting then concluded.



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

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

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