

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LUIMNIGH
LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Oifig an Rúnaí Chontae,
(County Secretary's Office),
Halla an Chontae,
(County Hall),
(Tuar an Daill),
Dooradoyle,
Contae Luimnigh.
(Co. Limerick).

27ú Deireadh Fómhair, 2010.

Don Chathaoirleach agus do gach Ball don Chomhairle

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Iarrtar ort a bheith i láthair ag Cruinniú de Chomhairle Chontae Luimnigh a bheidh ar siúl i Seomra na Comhairle, Halla an Chontae, Tuar an Daill, Contae Luimnigh, ar an Luan an 1ú Samhain, 2010, ar a 2.30 i.n. Tá an gnó a bheidh le déanamh leagtha amach ar an Chlár breise.

You are requested to attend Meeting of Limerick County Council to be held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick, on Monday, 1st November, 2010, at 2.30p.m. The business to be transacted is set out on the appended Agenda.

Is mise le meas,

**E. Griffin,
County Secretary/Meetings Administrator.**

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C L Á R

1. Miontuairiscí

To adopt Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Special Meeting of the Council held on 15th September, 2010.
- (b) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 20th September, 2010.

2. Disposal of Land

To consider proposal for the disposal of land at:

Newtown, Co. Limerick.

(Statutory Notices dated 20th October, 2010, already circulated)

3. Finance

(a) **Financial Report**

To consider Financial Report for period ended 30th September, 2010.

(b) **House Purchase and Home Improvement Loans**

To approve the raising of loan for House Purchase and Home Improvements.

(Report enclosed)

4. Planning & Development

(a) **Draft Limerick County Development Plan 2010 – 2016**

To consider the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Limerick County Development Plan and the Manager's Report to Members on the Proposed Amendments in accordance with Section 12(9) of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 – 2010. (Manager's Report dated 27th September, 2010, Retail Strategy for the Mid West Region 2010 – 2016 Volumes 1 and 2 and Draft Plan Volumes 1 – 4 previously circulated).

(Report already circulated)

(b) **Taking in Charge of Estates**

To consider the taking in charge of estates in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 – 2010 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

(Report enclosed)

5. Housing

Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

To consider the adoption of an Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

(Report and copy of Draft Strategy enclosed)

6. Community & Enterprise

Tidy Towns Results for County Limerick 2010

To note Tidy Towns Results 2010.

(Report and Results enclosed)

7. Conferences

To consider participation by Members at the following Conferences:

- a) Irish Walled Towns Network Conference and AGM, Heritage Council, Aras na hOidreachta, Church Lane Kilkenny on 30th September 2010
- b) IAS 14TH Annual Conference “Self-Harm: Sometimes we all hurt but help is there”, Radisson Blu Hotel, Ballincar, Rosses Point, Sligo on 5th October 2010
- c) Ballynagran Zero Carbon Community Project, Clermount College, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow on 6th October 2010
- d) Irish Planning Inst. Autumn Conference “Making Sense of the New Plannig & Development Act 2010, Morrision Hotel, Ormond Quay, Dublin 1 on 14th October 2010
- e) Active Participation : Be Part of the Debate, Aviva Stadium & Nation Convention Centre, Dublin on 21st & 22nd October 2010
- f) IT Skills for Councillors Part 2 “Facebook for Councillors; A Business Perspective”, Killarney Heights Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry on 22nd to 24th October 2010
- g) Muintir na Tire Community Alert 25th Anniversary Conference, Garda College Templemore on 30th October 2010
- h) Training Seminars for Councillors. Bogs – Management & Development – For Whom the Bogs Toll, Carlton Atlantic Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo on 5th to 7th November 2010
- i) Smart Marketing – Mastering the Art of Secure Communication, The Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 5th to 7th November 2010
- j) Ballyhoura Development Conference “The Future of Rural Areas to 2031”, Charleville Park Hotel, Charleville, Co. Cork on 11th & 12th November 2010
- k) Elected Member’s Training Seminar, Radon a Hidden Killer, Manor West Hotel Spa & Leisure Club, Killarney Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry on 12th to 14th November 2010
- l) Elected Member’s Training Seminar, Exploring Options for the Unemployed, Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, The Quay, Westport, Co. Mayo on 19th to 21st November 2010
- m) The Institute of Professional Training, Local Governance Training Seminar “Council Budgets 2011”, Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal on 19th to 21st November 2010
- n) “Achieving World Class Tourism”, Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare on 26th & 27th November 2010

- o) The Local Government Budget 2011 (PRELIMINARY NOTICE), The Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford on 10th to 12th December 2010

8. Corporate Services

25th Anniversary Community Alert

To present Certificates of Appreciation to Community Alert Groups in recognition of their social contribution as part of the Community Alert Programme.

(This item will be taken at 4.30 p.m.)

QUESTIONS

Question submitted by Councillor R. Brennan

- 9. I will ask at the next meeting of the Council for up-date on request to Limerick County Council/National Roads Authority for up-grade/safety measures on pedestrian crossing at Main Street , Adare (e.g. location Garda Station/Post Office).

Questions submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

- 10. I will ask as to what arrangements have been put in place to reinstate a Bin Bank Amenity Service to Dromcollogher. Where the proposed location will be and when is this service intended to resume locally.
- 11. I will ask as to when a decision is expected by Limerick County Council from the NRA study group in respect of the preferred N21 Road Route proposing to Bye-Pass Adare and areas westward to NCW and Abbeyfeale.
- 12. I will ask as to what progress has been made in the context of Limerick County Council C.E. driven schemes to deliver outdoor works countywide.

Question submitted by Councillor P. O'Donovan

- 13. I will ask at the next meeting if the MAN (Metropolitan Area Network) cable which was laid in a joint effort between Limerick County Council and other state agencies in Newcastle West as an upgrade to the towns broadband service is fully operational, and how broadband services have changed as a result of its installation.

Question submitted by Councillor W. O'Donnell

- 14. I will ask at the next meeting if the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government have completed their policy document to assist local authorities in dealing with vacant and uncompleted housing and infrastructure? Has a Manual of Best Practice been compiled and made available to Limerick County Council?

15. I will ask at the next meeting how many housing units are currently vacant by reason that they do not meet with the Department of the Environment Energy Rating standard?

Questions submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

16. I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick County Council (a) as to the amount of our annual budget in money and percentage terms required to service the cost of pension payments to all retired Council staff and (b) the value and type of pension fund in place to service payment.
17. I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick County in relation to the Newcastle Electoral Area (a) how many houses are unoccupied (b) how many are boarded up (c) how many meet the BER standard (d) what is the estimated cost per house to bring the houses up to the standard (e) how many applicants are on the housing list.

Question submitted by Councillor L. Walsh

18. I will ask at the next meeting for an up-to-date report on the water quality in Cois Sruthain in Croom.

Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

19. I will ask at the next meeting that Limerick County Council would inform me as to which roads in County Limerick and which are under our control are deemed to be "sub-standard". I will also ask to be supplied with a map to accompany any such list, which would have marked and highlighted any road which is classed as "sub-standard" in our County Road Network.

Question submitted by Councillor E. Ryan

20. I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick County Council the number of permissions for one off houses granted in the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 to date, and the number of these that require an S47 agreement.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Walsh

21. I will move at the next meeting that Limerick County Council provide in their upcoming budget funding to install CCTV cameras in all housing estates where the Council has rented accommodation and to extend to housing estates where the Council has ongoing anti-social behaviour.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

22. I will move at the next meeting that Limerick County Council review the terminology “sub-standard” road when refusing a planning permission for development which is situated on a County Road.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

23. I will move at the next meeting of Limerick County Council that our Housing Department expedites the retro-fitting of the vacant housing stock so we can let the properties to applicants on our growing housing list and generate much needed revenue via rental income.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

24. I will move at the next meeting of Limerick County Council that in the case where a said planning application is about to expire that the site assessment and sightlines pertaining to that application transfers to any new application on the said site by another applicant who satisfies the need and all other relevant criteria to obtain planning.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Wade

25. I will call on Limerick County Council to investigate if grave spaces with no markings can be sold for new burials.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

26. I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick County Council that water metering systems be amalgamated when billing multi user farm enterprises where freestanding systems service non accommodation land parcels of fewer than 20 acres and that if necessary Limerick County Council up date its accounting systems to service this change.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley

27. I will move at the next meeting of Limerick County Council to call on the National Roads Authority to provide funding for traffic calming in Templeglantine from Dore’s Cross to Paddy Hickey’s in the interest of safety.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Houlihan

28. I will move at the next County Council Meeting that major traffic calming measures and a pedestrian crossing be put in place at Colaiste Iosaif at Kilmallock, County Limerick.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Ryan

29. I will move at the next meeting of Limerick County Council that the matter of damage to roads in Galbally/Anglesborough and Ballyorgan be taken up with Cork County Council at senior management level as a matter of urgency. The damage to the roads in these

areas amount to €353,000. It is reported that Cork County Council have collected over €6 million in development levels from the Aldi Development in Mitchelstown. It was a condition of their planning that they provide haulage routes and maps for delivery of materials to this development. This took no account to the damage of roads in Co. Limerick.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donegan

30. I will move at the next meeting of Limerick County Council that the difference from the budget allocation for Councilors' Conferences and the actual allocation be used as a discretionary spending fund for lighting.
31. Correspondence.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, DOORADOYLE, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER 2010, AT 2.30P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor R. Butler, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Brennan, Collins (J), Collins (M), Donegan, Fitzgerald, Foley, Gleeson, Hannon, Harty, Heffernan, Houlihan, Keary, Naughton, O'Donnell, O'Donovan, Ryan, Scanlan, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Wade, Walsh.

An apology for her inability to attend the meeting was received from Councillor Jackman.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Deputy County Manager (Mr. O. Killeen), Meetings Administrator (Mr. E. Griffin).

PROPOSED CHANGE IN STATUS OF CROOM REGIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL:

Votes of Sympathy:

At the outset and with the Cathaoirleach's permission, sympathy was extended to the families of Richard Furey, Tommy Murphy and Thomas Holmes, three County Limerick men who died tragically in a crash outside Newcastle West on the night of 12th September 2010. It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting for 15 minutes as a mark of respect.

Prior to the adjournment, the Cathaoirleach informed the Meeting that Mr. Eric Masterson, Orthopaedic Surgeon, would be the first to address the meeting on behalf of the staff at Croom Hospital. Some Members stated that the H.S.E. should have been invited to the Meeting so that the Members could have a complete picture of the proposals. Councillor Collins (J) proposed a Motion to adjourn the Meeting to allow an invitation to issue to the H.S.E. to attend a future meeting. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins (M). The Cathaoirleach called for a show of hands to determine the Motion. The Motion was defeated by 10 votes to 7, with one abstention.

On the resumption of the Meeting, Mr. Masterson outlined the position with Croom Hospital, its history, developments over the years and the services provided in the hospital. Mr. Masterson stated that there was a proposal to close one ward of 14 beds and transfer the 14 Nursing Staff to the Regional Hospital, Dooradoyle. He also stated that closure of one Operating Theatre had been proposed but there was a stay of execution on this proposal.

Mr. Masterson went on to provide statistics on the levels of operations, procedures, staffing structures, cost of running the hospital and the income from private health insurance. He mentioned that there was no private facility to provide the same services as provided in Croom Hospital. He highlighted that the hospital provided high quality complex surgery, had a dedicated staff, had a high hygiene standard and performed well in terms of short length of stay by patients in the hospital.

The Members thanked Mr. Masterson for his presentation to the meeting, which they felt was very informative. The Members acknowledged that Croom Hospital was renowned for orthopaedic surgery. The Members praised the staff and quality of the services provided in Croom Hospital. The Members expressed extreme concern in relation to any closures of wards, operating theatres or downgrading of the services in the hospital. The Members also expressed concern about the impact of any closures on the patients and people who avail of the services provided by Croom Hospital.

The Members went on to speak about the Regional Health Forum West, on which the Council had a representation of four Councillors. The Members felt that the Forum meetings were undemocratic and that there was no input into the decision making process. The Members also expressed dissatisfaction with the H.S.E. and felt that the original Health Boards were much more effective.

On the proposal of Councillor Kevin Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Eddie Wade, it was agreed:

“That Limerick County Council calls on the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, to abolish the H.S.E. and replace it with 4 or 5 Health Boards.”

“That Limerick County Council calls on the Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, to resign.”

“That Limerick County Council circulate both proposals to the National Party Leaders.”

The Members mentioned that Croom Hospital served not only Limerick but also the wider Mid-West Region and that it was a major employer in the town of Croom. The Members also mentioned that Croom Hospital was a highly regarded centre of excellence, with staff highly skilled in orthopaedics. It was felt that any closures in Croom Hospital and redeployment of staff would lead to the loss of those critical skills.

On the proposal of Councillor John Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Patrick O'Donovan, it was agreed:

“That Limerick County Council calls on the Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, to give an immediate commitment that services at Croom Regional Orthopaedic Hospital be retained in full.”

“That the four Government T.D's. for Limerick be invited to attend our full Council Meeting on Monday, 20th September, to outline what they are going to do to retain services in full at Croom Orthopaedic Hospital.”

Síniú:

An Cathaoirleach

An Rúnaí Contae

Dáta:

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, DOORADOYLE, CO.
LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 20th September 2010, AT 2.30 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor R. Butler, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Brennan, Collins (J), Collins (M), Donegan, Egan, Fitzgerald, Foley, Galvin, Gleeson, Hannon, Harty, Heffernan, Houlihan, Jackman, Keary, Naughton, O'Donnell, O'Donovan, Ryan, Scanlan, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Teefy, Wade, Walsh.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

County Manager (Mr. E. Gleeson), Director, Transportation & Water Services (Mr. P. Crowe), Director, Planning & Development (Mr. T. Enright), A/Director, Environment & Emergency Services (Mr. B. Kennedy), Head of Finance (Mr. O. Killeen), A/Director, Housing (Mr. G. Naughton), Chief Veterinary Officer (Mr. J. McCarthy), Meetings Administrator (Mr. E. Griffin).

At the outset of the meeting, the Cathaoirleach and Members extended their best wishes to Cllr. Leonard Enright who was recovering from illness. They also conveyed their best wishes to Jacinta Shanny following a recent accident, and wished her a speedy recovery. Congratulations were also expressed to the Committees in Adare and Ardpatrick for their success in the Tidy Towns Competition. The Members paid tribute to the staff in C&E and in the relevant Area Offices for the assistance given to these communities. The County Manager, on his own behalf and that of the staff, joined with the Members in extending best wishes to both Cllr. Enright and Jacinta Shanny and also wished them well in their recovery.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the following meetings:-

- (a) Adjourned Meeting of the Council held on 5th July 2010.
- (b) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 12th July 2010.
- (c) Special Meeting of the Council held on 15th July 2010.

Molta ag Councillor Sheahan (J);
Cuidiú ón Councillor Collins (M);
Agus an Cinneadh:

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed.”

2. FIXING OF DATE

As the October meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday, 25th October, 2010 which was a Bank Holiday, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M) to reschedule the meeting to Monday, 1st November, 2010, at 2.30pm.

3. DISPOSAL OF LAND

Circulated, copy of Statutory Notices dated 3rd September and 9th September 2010 concerning disposal of land at:-

- (a) Rossbrien.
- (b) Ballyroe Upper, Kilfinane.

Molta ag Councillor Walsh;
Cuidiú ón Councillor Collins (M);
Agus an Cinneadh:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land at Rossbrien to George O’Dwyer, particulars of which were contained in statutory notice dated 3rd September 2010.”

“That the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land at Ballyroe Upper, Kilfinane, to Martin O’Riordan, for the sum of €82,000, particulars of which were contained in statutory notice dated 9th September 2010.”

4. LIMERICK LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Circulated report of the County Secretary, dated 14th September, 2010, in relation to Renewing Local Government in Limerick, Report of the Limerick Local Government Committee.

The Report stated that the Committee had now published its report and a copy of same was attached. The principal recommendations contained in the report were as follows:-

1. The establishment of a new Limerick local authority, to represent, manage and administer the City and County of Limerick.
2. Expand the Limerick city area to encompass approximately five square kilometres of County Clare and all of the City Environs area which has been the subject of a Boundary Extension Application in recent years.
3. Require that the Mayor of the new Limerick authority be appointed for the full five year term of the Council, from the Local Elections in 2014 onwards.

4. At an appropriate juncture, incorporate the Regeneration Agencies within a suitably resourced unit under the new Limerick authority.
5. A structured, regular process for discussing and agreeing matters be instituted by Clare County Council and the new Limerick authority.

It was noted that these recommendations were very much in line with the submission made by Limerick County Council to the Committee and accordingly the Report was to be welcomed.

In conclusion, it was noted that the Committee had made it clear that it was considered vital, if the Limerick Region was to survive and prosper, that these recommendations would be implemented as soon as possible.

The Members were unanimous in their support for the Report. They very much welcomed the report, which they stated was both a professional and comprehensive publication. They stressed the urgent need to establish the Steering Committee, which would commence implementing the Report and progress the setting up of a unified authority for the City and County of Limerick.

The County Manager joined with the Members in welcoming the Report. He stated that the Report had been widely circulated and reported on with a total of 83 submissions having been made on same. He stated that all issues of concern to people, such as social, economic and regional issues, had been covered in the Report. He stated that the Report, and Recommendations contained therein, were in line with this Council's submission to the Committee. In summing up, he also stressed the importance of moving to the next stage of implementing the Report.

5. CORPORATE SERVICES

(a) Draft Polling Scheme - 2010 Revised Dail Boundaries

Circulated report of the County Secretary, dated 13th September, 2010, in relation to the Polling Scheme - 2010 Revised Dail Boundaries which had attached Draft Polling Scheme and map for County Limerick.

It was noted that the scheme had gone through the statutory consultation process, including presentations at each Area Meeting and issues raised at same had been forwarded to Mr. Pat Meghen, Limerick County Registrar, and Mr. Paddy Burke, Kerry County Registrar for their consideration. The Members noted from correspondence received from both Registrars that some changes had been accepted while others had been rejected. It was noted that the changes accepted had duly been included in the Draft Polling Scheme.

The Members complimented all staff involved in putting the scheme together and made a number of comments in relation to specific issues, including; non-transfer of electors from Knockea NS; transfer of electors from West Limerick to North Kerry; division of Electoral Area in East Limerick between City and County.

Molta ag Councillor Sheahan(J);
Cuidiú ón Councillor Collins (M);
Agus an Cinneadh:

“That the Draft Polling Scheme for the County of Limerick 2010, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted, in accordance with the Electoral Act 1992 as amended by the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 2001”.

(b) West Limerick Resources Limited

Circulated report of the County Secretary, dated 10th September, 2010, in relation to a vacancy on the Board of West Limerick Resources.

The report stated that the vacancy had arisen due to the necessity to rotate the Board Members in accordance with the Company Memorandum and Articles of Association and that Councillor Patrick O'Donovan had been selected for rotation. It was also noted that Councillor O' Donovan was eligible to be re-nominated to the Board.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan(J), seconded by Councillor Harty, Councillor Patrick O' Donovan was re-nominated to the Board of West Limerick Resources Ltd.

6. COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

Murroe Twinning Project

Circulated report of the Director, Community and Enterprise, dated 20th September, 2010, in relation to Murroe Twinning Project.

The report stated that the Murroe Parish had entered into a twinning arrangement in 1996 with Evry Gregy, France. In this regard, the Council had provided financial assistance towards the cost of twinning events in the past. It was noted that the Murroe Twinning Committee hosted a delegation of 12 people from Evry-Gregy in August at a cost of €2,041. Approval from the Council to fund 50% of this expenditure, subject to a maximum of €1,000.00, was requested.

On the proposal of Councillor Egan, seconded by Councillor Gleeson, approval was given to the provision of financial assistance in the amount of €1,000.00 towards the cost of this twinning initiative.

7. ENVIRONMENT

Food Safety Official Controls: Proposed Section 85 Agreement with Limerick City Council

Circulated report of the Director, Environment and Emergency Services, dated 13th September, 2010, in relation to Food Safety Official Controls: Proposed Section 85 Agreement with Limerick City Council.

The report stated that Limerick County Council was contracted by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) to provide official food safety controls in certain types of food processing premises providing foods of animal origin. It was noted that, under European Community rules, these controls must be performed by official veterinarians and the cost of same was recouped from the FSAI.

The report went on to state that a request had been received from Limerick City Council and the FSAI to extend our services to cover food premises located within the City Council's area of jurisdiction as the City Council do not have the necessary veterinary expertise to provide this service. Additional funding would be provided to Limerick County Council for this extension of the service.

For these arrangements to proceed, it was outlined that both Councils would need to enter into an Agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001, which was a reserved function, and approval of the Council was necessary to enter into any such contract.

Molta ag Councillor Brennan;
Cuidiú ón Councillor Ryan;
Agus an Cinneadh:

"That the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the making of an Agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 with Limerick City Council for the provision by Limerick County Council of veterinary food safety control services within the area of jurisdiction of Limerick City Council."

8. CONFERENCES

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members: (a) 30th Annual MacGill Summer School "Reforming the Public - issues of Politics, Economics and Accountability", held in Glenties, Co. Donegal, on 18th to 24th July 2010, (b) Parnell Summer School 2010 "The Role of Media in Politics and Society" held in Avondale House & Forest Park, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, on 8th to 13th August 2010, (c) Merriman Summer School 2010 "Faith: Beyond Belief?", held in Ennis, Co. Clare, on 18th to 22nd August 2010, (d) 24th Humbert Summer School 2010, held in Castlebar and Killala, Co. Mayo on 19th to 22nd August 2010, (e) Computer & IT Development Skills for Councillors; A Business Perspective, held in Keadeen hotel, Curragh Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare on 3rd to 5th September 2010, (f) Richard Cantillon School 2010 "Entrepreneurs & Economists – Consensus or Conflicts?" held in Tralee, Co. Kerry, on 8th to 10th September 2010, (g) Smarter Travel in Rural Areas Conference & Training

Workshop, to be held in Tipperary Institute, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, on 16th and 17th September 2010, (h) Waterford Chamber National Conference “Regeneration – Opportunities for Growth” to be held in Theatre Royal, The Mall, Waterford City, on 23rd September 2010, (i) Irish Ports Association Conference 2010, to be held in Thomond Park Conference Centre, Limerick, on 24th September 2010, (j) The Blascaod Commemoration 2010, Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhoir, to be held in Dun Chaoin, Co. Chiarraí, on 24th to 26th September 2010, (k) Tipperary Remembrance Trust - Remembrance & Conference Weekend, to be held in Ballykisteen Hotel, Tipperary, on 24th to 26th September 2010; (l) Celtic Conference “How to be an effective Mayor/Chairperson”, to be held in the Creggan Court Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, on 30th September to 2nd October 2010, (m) Seminar “Report of the Local Government Efficiency Review Group”, to be held in Whites Hotel, Wexford, 1st to 3rd October 2010, (n) National Youth Council of Ireland Conference “Youth Employment and Unemployment”, to be held in Croke Park Conference Centre, Jone’s Rd., Dublin, on 5th October 2010, (o) Senior Enterprise Launch Conference, to be held in Druids Glen Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, on 5th and 6th October 2010, (p) Getting a Grip Conference 2010 “Building a Social Response” to be held in the Europe Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry, on 7th and 8th October 2010, (q) Douglas Hyde Conference 2010 “Inside Creativity: Education, Innovation, Economy & Society” to be held in Abbeyfield Hotel, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon, on 15th and 16th October 2010, (r) Seminar – Planning and Development Amendment Act 2010, to be held in Hannon’s Hotel, Athlone Road, Roscommon, on 15th to 17th October 2010, (s) Seminar “Alternative Energy Competing with the Rest of Europe”, to be held in the Glenroyal Hotel, Straffen Rd., Maynooth, Co. Kildare, on 22nd to 24th October 2010, (t) Training Seminar “Criminal Law (Defence and the Dwelling) Bill 2010 Insurance Issues for the Home and Business Enforcement of Social Standards in Local Authority Housing” to be held in Maldron Hotel, Oranmore, Co. Galway, on 29th to 31st October 2010; (u) Clonmel Chamber National Enterprise Conference, to be held in Hotel Minella, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, on 11th and 12th November 2010, (v) Ballyhoura Development Conference “The Future of Rural Areas to 2031” to be held in Charleville Park Hotel, Charleville, Co. Cork, on 11th and 12th November 2010, (w) Clare National Tourism Conference “Achieving World Class Tourism”, to be held in Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare, on 25th and 26th November 2010.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), it was agreed that the following members attend:-

Glenties, Co. Donegal: Councillors Foley, Enright, Walsh, Keary, Jackman, O’Donovan, Ryan.

Killala, Co. Mayo: Councillors Keary, O’Donovan, Fitzgerald.

Newbridge, Co. Kildare: Councillor O’Donovan.

Inishowen, Donegal: Councillor Sheahan (J)

Omagh, Tyrone: Councillor Fitzgerald.

Galway: Councillor Donegan.

Dun Chaoin, Co. Chiarraí: Councillor Scanlan.

Athlone, Co. Westmeath: Councillor Butler.

Croke Park Conference Centre: Councillor Scanlan.

Roscommon: Councillors Harty and Teefy.

Maynooth: Councillors O’Donovan and Brennan.

ADJOURNED NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

9. ***I will move at the next meeting that Limerick County Council provides a footpath between Kilcornan National School and Kilcornan House Pub and Restaurant, in the interests of safety.***

Speaking on the motion, Councillor Sheahan (K) expressed concern about the lack of a footpath between the school and the village. He stated that there was a wide grass margin at the location and that the construction of a footpath would not impinge on the traffic flow.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J) who stated that the construction of a footpath at this location should be given priority status as it was on a national road. He also highlighted that in addition to the school, there was a Playing Pitch which people use and that any footpath constructed should link the school and playing pitch to the commercial area.

In response, the Director for Transportation explained that, as the proposal was for a footpath on a national secondary road, any funding for substantial works would have to come from the N.R.A. He assured the Members that the Council would look at the proposal put forward and examine its feasibility and would advance the most suitable option through the N.R.A. for funding under the Road Cost Safety Measures.

QUESTIONS

Replies to the following Questions on the Agenda had been circulated to all Members at the commencement of the Meeting and the Questions were therefore considered as having been dealt with:

Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

10. ***I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick County Council for an update on the meeting to be arranged between Planners, Councillors and Agents regarding on-going planning issues arising from my motion at the June meeting.***

REPLY: A meeting with the Planning Agents to which all Councillors will be invited has been set for Thursday, 30th September 2010, at 11.00a.m. in the Council Chamber.

Questions submitted by Councillor T. Hannon

11. ***I will ask at the next meeting for an update and progress report on the acquisition of the necessary land to facilitate the widening of the Bloodmill Road, which will enable the developer, Joe Murphy & Co., to provide vehicle access into this road thereby reducing traffic volumes currently going to the Glendale / Glenbrook Estates.***

REPLY: Due to the current economic situation, Limerick County Council is not progressing the upgrade of Bloodmill Road in the short term. Consequently no funding has been allocated for land acquisition on lands adjoining the Murphy development.

12. ***I will ask at the next meeting if Limerick County Council have adopted a policy on the allocation of allotments.***

REPLY: The Council is currently considering the introduction of a pilot allotment initiative. Sites are being identified in the City Environs for this purpose, and it is anticipated that the pilot will commence in 2011.

13. ***I will ask at the next meeting if Limerick County Council have adopted a policy regarding the erection of signage on roundabouts, permanent or temporary, and if not that the Council draw up the necessary bye-laws to facilitate appropriate signage.***

REPLY: The provision of signage on public roads, including roundabouts, is subject to appropriate licensing / planning permission requirements. In all instances, the safety requirement of all road users is paramount. Unregulated proliferation of advertising signage is not recommended in the interest of road safety.

Roundabouts are particularly hazardous and require the full attention of all road users. The introduction of advertising signage can be a distraction and in turn compromise road safety.

Questions submitted by Councillor P. O'Donovan

14. ***I will ask at the next meeting for a list of towns and villages in the County that have had automatic speed displays installed on the approaches to the settlement and if the Council have a policy on the installation of same.***

REPLY: Automatic speed display signs or driver feedback signs display the driver's speed or advise the driver to slow. They are a very useful tool in advising the driver if he / she has exceeded the speed limit or are driving too fast. They can contribute significantly to road safety.

These signs have already been erected in some locations, e.g. Oola, Shanagolden, Ferrybridge. Consideration is being given to erecting these signs at other locations which are deemed hazardous, if funding permits. The signs are expensive, costing up to €8,000 per pair to erect. Two mobile variable message signs (VMS) have also been used by Limerick County Council but these have proved problematic in maintaining.

- 15. *I will ask at the next meeting when was the last corporate customer satisfaction survey carried out by Limerick County Council and if there are plans to undertake one in the near future.***

REPLY: The last Customer Satisfaction Survey undertaken by the Council was in late 2005 / early 2006.

In 2007, the Council carried out a review in the area of Customer Service and in response introduced a number of Quality Customer Service Initiatives which included a Customer Charter, Customer Complaints Procedure and Comment Card System. Through the Comment Card System, members of the public can have their say in how the Council conducts its business and what changes, if any, should be made to further improve customer service.

Details of these initiatives are available on the Council's website and at reception areas in County Hall and Area Offices.

At present, there are no plans to undertake a further Customer Satisfaction Survey.

- 16. *I will ask at the next meeting for the cost of a mobile CCTV unit used for the detection of illegal dumping, how many instances of reported illegal dumping were removed by Limerick County Council during 2009 and the total cost of same.***

REPLY: The cost of a mobile CCTV unit is dependant on the quality and specification of the unit. A small portable camera with short-term recording capability can be bought for about €1,000. However, the image quality may not always be good enough for evidence in court. Higher quality systems cost in the order of €5,000, the actual price depends on the level of image quality, recording duration and size. The Council purchased a portable camera unit in 2003 at a cost of €9,000. However, this unit was destroyed at a litter black spot in 2008.

The Council conducted 680 separate waste clean-ups in 2009, including about 100 from community groups who had gathered and bagged litter and waste in their own area. It is not possible to determine the total cost of these operations due to the number of different participants involved (150 incidents were dealt with by Area Offices), and the fact that in some cases the work was done in conjunction with other works. However, the estimated cost of the Environment Section's direct involvement in clean-up works in 2009 is €210,000. This figure is made up from the time input and equipment used by Environmental Clean-up Crews and

Environmental Control Wardens, as well as landfill gate fees for the disposal of the waste. It does not include any costs incurred by Area Offices.

Question submitted by Councillor R. Brennan

17. ***I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick County Council for an update on procedure in place for the discharge of mortgages by Local Authority / Department of the Environment to Voluntary Housing Associations in our County who have completed the mortgage period (20 years) of providing housing accommodation units for elderly and disadvantaged.***

REPLY: Limerick County Council has sought clarification from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to the appropriate procedure for the discharge of mortgages where the mortgage period has expired. Following the publication of the Grant Thornton Report on Capital Assistance scheme in October 2009 the Department, in co-operation with the relevant stakeholders, are considering matters relating to the corporate governance of the sector and the operation of the Capital Funding schemes, including the terms of the mortgage deed and how best to address this against the backdrop of the roll-out of leasing and private finance to the sector.

The Voluntary Housing Association members are approved housing bodies and are operating on a "not for profit basis". While the term of the mortgage may have expired, it should be noted that they are established for the purpose of provision of housing for those in need of housing. As of now, there is no agreed procedure in place and we await Department guidance on the matter on completion of their consideration of the Grant Thornton report.

Questions submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

18. ***I will ask as to the current performance of Limerick County Council's rate collection efforts and as to how receipts are in terms of the annual target.***

REPLY: The overall warrant (debit raised) for commercial rates in 2010 is €27.6 million - in line with the figure included in the Adopted Budget. The collection account at the end of August 2010 shows a slight increase over 2009, i.e. €16.42 million - v - €15.65 million.

19. ***I will ask (a) as to the number of water meters are installed county wide, (b) how many of those relate to agricultural sector users and (c) the number of multiple billings apply to the said sector.***

REPLY: A total of 7418 meters were installed throughout the County, and 3599 are classified as agricultural. The number of customers with multiple meters in this category is 302.

20. I will ask as to the number of staff in Limerick County Council's employment who form part of C.E. Schemes.

REPLY: FAS has approved fourteen (14) Community Employment placements for Limerick County Council. All posts are currently filled. Additional places on the scheme were refused by FAS. The assignments of the participants are as follows:

Horticultural Service	6
Kilmallock Roads	2
Castleconnell Roads	1
Bruff Roads	3
Corporate Services (Facilities Mgmt.)	2
	14

Question submitted by Councillor S. Keary

21. (a) I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick County Council why substantial road signage along the N7 on all the approach interchanges etc., heading towards the new Limerick Tunnel had to be altered and rearranged in recent weeks as all of this signage had been newly constructed a few weeks earlier to satisfy the change in status from a carriageway to a motorway and in preparation for the tunnel opening.

(b) I will ask at the next meeting of Limerick County Council what was the additional expense to the Irish tax payer and road user for this obvious and inexcusable mistake.

REPLY: On 28th August 2009, the N7 Limerick Southern Ring Road Phase 1 between the Rossbrien Interchange and the Newport Interchange and the N20 Limerick to Attyflyn projects were reclassified from dual carriageway to motorway status. This reclassification occurred some thirteen months in advance of the scheduled opening of the Limerick Tunnel project. In advance of this reclassification, the National Roads Authority directly arranged for the alteration of the existing (Green) signage to be replaced by new motorway (Blue) signage.

Following the completion of the Limerick Tunnel project and its opening ahead of schedule in July 2010, some of these sign faces needed to be replaced to reflect the indicated route to Galway / Shannon from the M7 and M20 approaches to the city. These alterations were also undertaken directly by the National Roads Authority. When arranging for the original Motorway signage to be designed and installed in the summer of 2009, the N.R.A. were aware that a number of these signs would need to be replaced following the opening of the tunnel project. This would result in some of these signs being replaced with larger signs to include for the N18, N19 and Shannon Airport information. Accordingly, the post and foundations were designed for the worst case scenario, so all that would be required following the opening of the Tunnel project was the replacement of the

sign faces. The replacement of these sacrificial signs was accounted for under the original contract between the NRA and the sign installer.

Question submitted by Councillor W. O'Donnell

- 22. *I will ask at the next meeting for details of all properties acquired by Limerick County Council under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative and how many units have already been made available under this scheme.***

REPLY: Limerick County Council has not acquired any properties to date under the leasing scheme.

We are in negotiations in relation to six properties and there are a further four proposals currently with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for consideration and approval. These four proposals consist of 23 units of accommodation.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

- 23. *I will move at the next meeting that Limerick County Council prepare bye-laws to introduce clamping in County Limerick.***

Referring to the Motion, Councillor Sheahan (K) stated that the motion should have read as follows; that the Council investigate the use of clamping to prevent the illegal parking of caravans in amenity areas in the County. He referred in particular to the parking of caravans at Killeery Pier over the summer months.

The County Secretary in reply stated that a response had been prepared on the basis that the motion was in relation to general clamping. However, he did go on to state that the power to clamp excludes caravans and trailers. He further outlined that clamping had significant cost implications and experience from other Local Authorities was that the fines payable were not sufficient to meet the cost of providing the service.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins (M).

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

- 24. *I will move at the next meeting of Limerick County Council for a decision to be made on Abbeyfeale to Adare By Pass.***

Councillor Galvin spoke on the urgent need to get a decision on the By-Pass.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: Limerick County Council are currently finalising the Route Selection process and documentation which will be subject to an external peer review. A preferred route corridor can only go on public display following this review. The peer review and public display are anticipated to conclude before the end of the year.

It was agreed that the following Motions would be taken together:-

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Hannon

- 25. *I will move at the next meeting that Limerick County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government to oppose the proposal of Dublin City Council or any other entity to extract water from the River Shannon until such time as a study of the impact it would have on the farming, tourism, fishing and wildlife of the Shannon Basin.***

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Jackman

- 30. *I will move at the next meeting of Limerick County Council that the Council invites members of the Shannon Protection Alliance to address the Council on the proposals by Dublin City Council to extract water from the River Shannon at high volume and to pipe directly to Dublin for domestic, commercial and industrial consumption.***

Both Councillors Hannon and Jackman spoke on the motion and urged the Members to support the Motion. Speaking on the Motion, they referred to the effect on fish, life, tourism and navigation of the river and the need to investigate mechanisms for reusing and conservation of the water.

Councillor Jackman suggested the possibility of discussing the issue in greater detail at the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee.

During the discussion that followed, it was noted that there was mixed support for the motions. It was suggested that Dublin City Council should be invited to address the Council on the issue, so that the Council could be fully briefed on what they were proposing and what impact, if any, it would have on the Shannon.

REPLY: Over the past fourteen years approximately, various studies have been undertaken for the purpose of identifying and recommending a preferred new major water supply source to meet the long-term water supply needs of the Dublin Region. This has included Feasibility Studies; a Strategic Environmental Assessment and has included consultation with stakeholders. Dublin City Council has been acting in this regard on behalf of the seven local authorities in the Dublin Region.

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has also been involved over the above period in this strategy for the development of drinking water in the Dublin Region. Obviously, the impact that this proposal would have on any other source such as the River Shannon has to be fully taken into account and this would include the impact on agriculture, tourism, fishing, etc.

As this matter is obviously quite complex and has been the subject of various proposals over the years, it is recommended that Dublin City Council and the Consultants involved be requested to make a full presentation to either the full Council or an SPC providing a full history and details of the project.

It was agreed that officials from Dublin City Council would be invited to attend and address the next appropriate monthly meeting.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Fitzgerald

26. ***I will move at the next meeting that Limerick County Council call on the Government and Minister for Health to ensure that the Limerick Regional Orthopaedic Hospital at Croom be fully retained as a Regional Orthopaedic centre, having given a committed and dedicated health service for 85 years.***

The Cathaoirleach disallowed this motion as there had been a full meeting on the issue on the 15th September 2010.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. O'Donovan

27. ***I will move at the next meeting that Limerick County Council call on the Government, H.S.E. and Oireachtas Representatives in Limerick to clarify their individual position regarding the reported cuts in services at the Regional Orthopaedic Hospital, Croom and furthermore that the Council oppose any erosion of the services at Croom on the basis that it conflicts with Government and H.S.E. policies of enhancing and developing centres of excellence.***

The Cathaoirleach disallowed this motion as there had been a full meeting on the issue on the 15th September 2010.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donegan

28. ***I will move at the next meeting that Limerick County Council call on the National Roads Authority to immediately introduce a 50kph speed limit at O'Rourke's Cross, Bruree, in the immediate interest of traffic safety.***

In moving the motion, Councillor Donegan stressed that this was a very busy junction, which was used by cars, trucks, slow moving agricultural machinery etc. and asked, in the interest of traffic safety, if a 50 kph speed limit could be introduced. He highlighted the existence

of a Bus Stop which can sometimes restrict sight lines at the junction. He also referred to the re-opening of a business at the location, which could further complicate traffic movements. He urged the Council to meet with the owner of the business premises with a view to improving safety and in particular to investigate the possibility of re-opening the northern entrance to his premises.

In supporting the Motion, Councillor Sheahan (J) stressed the need for some type of traffic calming measures to be introduced at this location. He asked for the Council to make contact with the N.R.A. in relation to the matter.

The motion was supported by a number of Members.

REPLY: A proposal for the introduction of a 50kph speed limit at O'Rourke's Cross, Bruree, was recently submitted to the National Roads Authority. While the N.R.A. were not in favour of the implementation of a 50kph speed limit, they have approved in principle the introduction of a 60kph limit as the appropriate speed limit for this location and a revised proposal to this effect has been submitted to the authority.

The Council is currently awaiting formal approval from the National Roads Authority to the introduction of a 60kph speed limit at O'Rourke's Cross, which will be included in the revised Speed Limit Bye Laws being brought before the Council for adoption in the coming months.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors J. Scanlan & M. Houlihan

29. *We will move at the next meeting of Limerick County Council that time extensions of up to a further five years be allowed on all planning grants for one off rural houses where sought by the grantees given the current state of the jobs market, emigration and the chronic lack of mortgage funding available to those fortunate enough to have work.*

Councillor Scanlan, in moving the motion, referred to the current state of business and lack of mortgage funding available, which was proving a major problem for people in rural parts of the County. Councillor Scanlan queried if the new Planning Act covered this type of situation, whereby an extension to the Planning Permission could be granted due to lack of mortgage funding / economic situation of the applicant.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Houlihan who highlighted the current state of the economy and the level of unemployment.

The motion received support from a large number of Members.

Councillor O'Donovan said that he wished to propose an amendment to the motion, as follows:-

“That the Council consider facilitating those persons, who had been communicated to by way of the Council's website that their outline permission lasted for 5 years, but were told on

application for permission consequent that the permission lapsed after 3, in accordance with the conditions of their original grant.”

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Jerome Scanlan.

In response to a query raised by Councillor Galvin on the possibility of transferring a Planning Permission to another person, the Director for Planning confirmed that this was not possible and that a new Planning Application would be required in the name of the new applicant. He confirmed that correspondence had been sent to the Members on this matter previously and that the situation was still the same, the permission could not be legally transferred to another person.

The Director of Planning, in response to a number of queries on the new Planning Act, stated that the Council was still waiting on Guidance Notes from the Department but confirmed that an extension to a Planning Permission would need to be made to the Council before the decision runs out and the process to extend would take 6 weeks approximately. He added that the new Act allows for extensions of time for Planning Permissions, including one-off houses when the development had not commenced for various reasons defined in the Act, including technical and economic considerations. He said once the Guidance Notes were received, that they would be circulated to the Members.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Jackman

30. ***I will move at the next meeting of Limerick County Council that the Council invites members of the Shannon Protection Alliance to address the Council on the proposals by Dublin City Council to extract water from the River Shannon at high volume and to pipe directly to Dublin for domestic, commercial and industrial consumption.***

This Motion was dealt with in conjunction with Motion No. 25.

31. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Correspondence circulated with the agenda was taken as read.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

With the Cathaoirleach's permission, sympathy was extended to the families of a number of people recently deceased on their bereavements and it was agreed that the Council's condolences would be conveyed to them as requested. The Cathaoirleach read the following expressions of sympathy into the Minutes:

- Mrs. Eileen Hickey, Farnane, Murroe, and Richard and Paddy Keyes, Abington, Murroe, on the death of Paddy Hickey.
- Thomas Holmes and Family, Gortalassa, Feenagh, on the death of Thomas Holmes.
- Patricia Furey, Daarwood Crescent, Newcastle West, on the death of Richard Furey.

- The Murphy Family, Rooska, Newcastle West, on the death of Tom Murphy.

COUNTY MANAGER'S ORDERS:

The Register of Orders made by the County Manager up to the date of the Meeting was available in the Council Chamber for inspection by the Members.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

The Register of Decisions on applications under the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2008, was also available in the Council Chamber for inspection by the Members.

Sínte:

An Cathaoirleach

An Rúnaí Contae

Dáta:
