

**Minutes of the June Monthly Meeting of Clare County Council held in the  
Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare and via  
MS Teams on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 at 3:45 p.m.**

**Present:**

Councillors M. Howard, M. Nestor, P. Murphy, A. Norton, P. Daly, J. Cooney, P. Hayes, P. Burke, A. O’Callaghan, T. O’Brien, J. Crowe, M. Begley, P.J. Ryan, P. McMahon, G. Flynn, D. McGettigan, P. O’Gorman, J. Killeen, J. Garrihy, P.J. Kelly, B. Chambers, G. Keating, C. Murphy.

- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.
- Ms. Margaret O’Rourke, Assistant Staff Officer.
- Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development.
- Mr. Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development.
- Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development.
- Dr. Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development.
- Ms. Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance and Support Services.
- Mr. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical Development.
- Ms. S. McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development.

**Present via MS Teams:**

Cllrs. J. Flynn, S. Talty, L. Grant and I. Lynch.

**Apologies:**

Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P.J. Ryan presided.

**Votes of sympathy.**

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

- The Lynch family, Newmarket on Fergus on the death of Michael (Haulie) Lynch
- The Brogan family, Scarriff on the death of Sean Brogan, Waterworks Caretaker, East Clare
- The O’Malley, Knockliscrane West, Miltown Malbay on the death of Jerry O’Malley
- The Lynch family, Clarecastle on the death of Mary Lynch
- The McCabe family, Clarecastle on the death of Anne McCabe

- The Killeen family Corofin, on the death of their nephew Gary Reilly from Co. Meath
- The Gleeson family on the death of their nephew in the USA
- The Flannery family, Castleconnell on the death of Josephine Flannery

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

a. Ar moladh Cllr. P. Murphy  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. M. Howard agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the May Meeting of Clare County Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 be adopted and signed.”

**Item 2: Matters Arising.**

Cllr. G. Flynn requested that the Standing Orders Committee examine the possibility of moving the Comhfhreagras section to the beginning of Council meetings as part of the headed items as he felt that responses received need to be given opportunity for discussion. Cllr. G. Flynn expressed disappointment in relation to response received from the Department of Transport regarding the National Driver Licence Service.

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

a. Ar moladh Cllr. P. Burke  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. O’Callaghan agus glacadh leis

“That the Minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 be noted.”

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

“That the Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 be noted.”

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

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

“That the minutes of the Physical Development S.P.C. meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 be noted”.

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

The members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 as presented.

**Item 6: Monthly Management Report.**

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

Cllr. C. Murphy acknowledged the unveiling of the memorial sculpture in Kilrush. Cllr. C. Murphy highlighted the work being carried out by the West Clare Municipal District crew on road resurfacing works and welcomed the new signs erected at Doughmore beach.

Cllr. C. Murphy requested an update on the Regional Aid Map for Ireland.

L. Conneally, Director of Economic Development referred to the Regional Aid Map for Ireland and stated that 47 projects outside the designated area are now not eligible for aid. Mr. Conneally noted that the rules cover IDA companies, EI companies, tourism investment, anywhere a private company will be investing and is looking for State support. Mr. Conneally noted that all of Clare was included in the 2014-2021 map. Mr. Conneally informed the members that the Chief Executive has written to the Department in relation to this and has raised concerns in relation to the lack of consultation as well as the exclusion of this type of aid to industries in Kilrush, Killaloe and Ennistymon as the qualifying criteria is very limited.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive informed the members that there was no engagement in this process and that Clare County Council observed this after it was completed. Mr. Dowling undertook to circulate the correspondence submitted expressing Clare County Councils dis-satisfaction to the elected members.

Cllr. J. Flynn referred to the unveiling of the memorial sculpture for deceased children in Kilrush and welcomed the commitment to carry out further analysis. Cllr. J. Flynn acknowledged the work being done in the Social Development Directorate in bringing a large number of houses on stream as well as work being done on the private rented sector. Cllr. J. Flynn raised concern in relation to incidents of people sleeping outside Westbrook House as well as complaints received of anti-social behaviour at Laurel Lodge on the Clare Road.

Cllr. I. Lynch thanked the Council for the commitment to the Government Action Plan for Mother and Baby Homes. Cllr. Lynch referred to previous discussion on the Shannon Estuary Taskforce and welcomed the fact that local authorities will now be represented on the Taskforce. Cllr. Lynch also referred to impending announcement in relation to County Clare being included in Pyrite redress scheme. Cllr. Lynch

expressed concern in relation to the Regional Aid Map for Ireland and its potential impact on the county.

Cllr. J. Garrihy commended funding being allocated to community groups under the Community Support Scheme. Cllr. J. Garrihy referred to the upgrade works being carried out on Rockmount reservoir and queried if this will improve the water supply in Miltown Malbay. Cllr. Garrihy referred to the public lighting replacement works and asked if an assessment of public lighting could be carried out and replace lights that are missing and include ducting for lighting when working on footpaths in future.

S. McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Social Development Directorate addressed the concerns raised by Cllr. J. Flynn and stated that Clare County Council are working with the agencies in supporting clients and that the services and interventions are being supported.

C. Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical Development responded to query raised by Cllr. J. Garrihy and stated that previously there was no water storage capacity in the Miltown Malbay area and that the reservoir is due for completion in July/August which will provide storage and will benefit the area.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive thanked the members for their comments on the memorial sculpture for deceased children at the Clare County Nursery in Kilrush and stated that the recruitment process for two post graduates has been completed and that they will undertake a comprehensive research thesis which will analyse the administration and treatment of women at the County Nursery, other Clare Board of Health facilities and boarded out children during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Referring to the Shannon Estuary Taskforce, Mr. Dowling stated that there was disappointment that the local authority sector was not included and that following engagement with the Chairman the local authority sector is now represented on the Taskforce. Mr. Dowling stated that he is the initial nominee and that the role will be shared with his colleagues. Mr. Dowling informed the members that he attended a meeting and that the Taskforce is very pragmatic and pro-active.

Mr. Dowling expressed hope in relation to the impending announcement on the defective blocks scheme.

Mr. Dowling informed the members that Clare County Council is currently in the process of establishing a team to deal with the demand for accommodation for displaced people. This unit will consist of a Director of Service and accompanying staff. Mr. Dowling undertook to keep the elected members informed in relation to this.

**Item 7: Disposal of property at Ardnaculla North, Woodmount, Ennistymon, Co. Clare pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 211 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000.**

Report dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of property at Ardnaculla North, Woodmount, Ennistymon, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Garrihy  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. B. Chambers 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 Ardnaculla North, Woodmount, Ennistymon, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.”

**Item 8: Disposal of property at Cuinne an Bhroic, Doonaun, Tulla, 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> May, 2022 from Adrian Headd, A/Senior Engineer, Social Development Directorate was circulated with the agenda together with map. The report states that it is proposed to dispose of land measuring 0.000868 at Cuinne an Bhroic, Doonaun, Tulla, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Hayes  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Cooney 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 Cuinne an Bhroic, Doonaun, Tulla, Co. Clare subject to the conditions as set out in the notice served on the members dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.”

**Item 9: Report in accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Part VIII, Article 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for the proposed reinstatement of culvert at Lough Donnell, Clounahinchy, Quilty, Co. Clare and Cloonnagarnaun, Doonbeg, Co. Clare.**

Report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022 from Seán Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Project Management Office was circulated with the agenda together with the Chief Executive’s report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2022 (including Clare County Council’s appropriate assessment screening), which had been prepared by Helen Quinn, A/Senior Planner, under Delegation Order HR151 dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The reports outline details of a proposed reinstatement of culvert at Lough Donnell, Clounahinchy, Quilty, Co. Clare and Cloonnagarnaun, Doonbeg, Co. Clare and the members were asked if there were any issues that they wished to raise in respect of the report circulated.

As the Chief Executive’s report had been duly considered by the members, in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Part VIII, Article 80 and 81 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and as there was no proposal to vary or modify the development, and as there was no proposal to refuse the development, accordingly, the development can proceed as outlined.

**Item 10: Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022.**

The Annual Service Delivery Plan was circulated with the agenda and was noted by the members having been proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. I. Lynch.

Cllr. J. Flynn acknowledged the opportunity to include submissions in the Annual Service Delivery Plan and referred to the key performance indicators on climate change and highlighted the importance of monitoring actions across directorates.

Cllr. I. Lynch thanked the Chief Executive for the opportunity to make submissions.

**Item 11: Draft Annual Report 2021.**

The Draft Annual Report 2021 was circulated with the agenda. Cllr. G. Flynn requested the following amendments:

Page 2 – include picture of the Cathaoirleach wearing the Chain of Office.

Page 6 – Councillors listed as independent and non-party – Cllr. G. Flynn requested that this be amended in the interests of consistency.

It was agreed that the items mentioned would be rectified.

The Draft Annual Report was noted and approved by the members present having been proposed by Cllr. G. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. P. Daly subject to the amendments proposed being rectified.

**Item 12: Loan Guarantee to Kilkee Waterworld CLG.**

Report dated 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance and Support Services was circulated with the agenda. The Report states that Kilkee Waterworld CLG is a non-profit community-based swimming pool, family café and meeting space for the residents of West Clare and visitors to the area. The community group are working on ensuring every family has access to the community space all year round for physio, exercise, fun and wellness programmes. They have successfully piloted courses of instruction and specialist tuition in learning to swim for all ages, lifeguard training, first aid and defibrillator training, water based health therapy and other health and wellness leisure activities.

Recognising the challenge to keep open for longer periods, Kilkee Waterworld have formed collaborations and partnerships for the purpose of delivering these health & wellness programmes, swimming and school swimming lessons, activities and other classes that will support positive mental, physical health and well-being.

Kilkee Waterworld CLG are now embarking on a significant capital investment programme on their facility. These capital works involve the much needed upgrading of boilers, filtration units, APU's and other energy efficient upgrades. Kilkee Waterworld CLG are availing of all the relevant grants to assist in the cost of these upgrades through various funding streams. The initial phase of the capital investment of the proposed works will be financed by way of a loan over seven years from

Western Development Commission of €80,000. This facility required a guarantee from the Council.

Under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 – Promotion of interest of local community, member’s approval is requested to provide this loan guarantee to Kilkee Waterworld CLG for €80,000.

It is recommended to members to support this as a financial plan as provided by the Board, indicates the ability for Kilkee Waterworld CLG to service this loan with minimal risk to the Council

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

“Under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 – Promotion of interest of local community, member’s approval is requested to provide a loan guarantee to Kilkee Waterworld CLG for €80,000.

It is recommended to members to support this as a financial plan as provided by the Board, indicates the ability for Kilkee Waterworld CLG to service this loan with minimal risk to the Council.”

Cllr. G. Keating wished Cllr. C. Murphy best wishes on his appointment to Board of Management of Kilkee Waterworld.

**Item 13: Briefing by Mr. Conal Henry, Chairperson, Shannon Group and Ms. Mary Considine, Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Group**

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P.J. Ryan welcomed Mr. Conal Henry, Chairperson, Shannon Group and Ms. Mary Considine, Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Group to the meeting.

Ms. Mary Considine addressed the meeting and introduced Mr. Conal Henry, Chairperson, Shannon Group who has been before the Joint Oireachtas Committee and has been ratified as Chairperson of Shannon Group.

Ms. Considine outlined the importance of Shannon Airport and Shannon Group as a key economic driver in the region in terms of regeneration work, stimulating economic opportunities, bringing investment into the region and connectivity for business and tourism to have access into this part of the country.

Ms. Considine provided details of the impact the covid-19 pandemic has had on Shannon Airport and the aviation industry and stated that the foundations are in place for recovery due to the work carried out by their unwavering staff during the pandemic.

Ms. Considine stated that there is now demand for air travel and that there has been fantastic feedback from people who use Shannon Airport. Ms. Considine referred to the 27 destinations to 11 countries and the daily transatlantic service to New York and Boston which is vital for business and bringing tourists into the west of Ireland all year round.

Ms. Considine stated that Ryanair is a very significant carrier as it operates 22 routes out of Shannon Airport and referred to new services being provided this summer. Ms. Considine also referred to the significant progress undertaken in order to restore the Shannon – Heathrow flights.

Ms. Considine appealed to advocate people to use Shannon Airport services as it is very important to support the services provided and she encouraged people to look at the totality of the costs when comparing prices of flights to include travel, parking, food, etc.

Ms. Considine stated that in 2021 numbers were down 80% on pre-pandemic due to the stop/start restrictions and she noted that since restrictions were eased in early March it is hoped to get back to 75-80% pre-pandemic levels.

Ms. Considine informed the meeting that there is a highly experienced marketing team in Shannon Airport who work with key stakeholders in media and social media and with Tourism Ireland.

Ms. Considine referred to Shannon Airports recently launched new passenger screening system which is proving more efficient for airlines.

Ms. Considine acknowledged and expressed appreciation for government supports received during the pandemic which enable the airport to remain open and continue cargo services.

Ms. Considine provided details of the strategic decision to continue investing across the Shannon campus as this will generate a spin off for people to live and work and continue to contribute to the economic wellbeing of the region. Ms. Considine referred to the obligation to address climate change and stated that while some initiatives will take time and investment, it is to the fore of their strategic plans.

Ms. Considine welcomed the ongoing support received from Clare County Council and undertook to continue to work closely with Clare County Council on the completion of the transfer of Shannon Heritage in order to maximise opportunities for all of County Clare.

Mr. Conal Henry, Chairperson, Shannon Group then addressed the meeting and provided details of his previous employment. Mr. Henry stated that Shannon Airport has a strong Management Team and expressed confidence that it has potential to drive the Shannon product going forward. Mr. Henry referred to the challenges for the airport and the imbalance in aviation in the country. Mr. Henry stated that National Aviation Policy needs to be addressed as 87% of traffic is going through one airport and 13% is going through five airports and four of those five airports are competing for that 13% which is effectively undermining their ability to compete with the Dublin offering. Mr. Henry mentioned the opportunities for Shannon Estuary and its potential use as a primary economic industry for offshore wind. Mr. Henry expressed optimism in relation to the delivery of plans going forward.

The elected members welcomed Mr. Henry, Chairperson, Shannon Group and Ms. Considine, Chief Executive Officer, Shannon Group to the meeting and wished Mr. Henry well in his new role. The members raised queries in relation to the marketing of Shannon Airport and the promotion of the advantages of travelling through Shannon Airport. The elected members extended their support in relation to

examining aviation policy nationally and felt that Clare County Council should be represented on the Board of Shannon Group. The members referred to the imbalance in passenger numbers at Irish airports.

The members welcomed the recent announcements in relation to new routes from Shannon Airport. The elected members felt that Shannon Airport should have an enhanced bus service and should also be accessible by rail. Several members outlined their negative experience when travelling through Dublin airport recently and it was suggested that a visual reference of the breakdown of costs involved when using Dublin airport should be made available as this might influence people to use Shannon Airport. The members suggested that Shannon Airport should appear at the top of the google search when searching for the Wild Atlantic Way, the upcoming Ryder Cup and the west of Ireland in order to capitalize on these attractions. Concerns were expressed in relation to the cost of car hire.

Responding to the comments, Ms. Considine stated that a huge amount of work is being carried out on the marketing of Shannon Airport and that a new Head of Marketing has been appointed. Ms. Considine stated that airlines manage their own yield and that this is outside of the control of Shannon Airport but that attractive incentives are in place for airlines. Ms. Considine stated that aviation policy is a matter for Government and noted the imbalance in passenger numbers across Irish airports. Ms. Considine stated that Shannon Group made a submission in relation to the feasibility of a rail link to Shannon Airport under LSMATS and expressed hope that this will be examined in the broader economic sense. Ms. Considine informed the members that Shannon Group are engaging with the Department in relation to the provision of an enhanced bus service which will link in with flights. Ms. Considine acknowledged the issue of car hire this summer as car hire companies cannot replenish their car stock.

Mr. Henry advised the members that the Chairperson of Shannon Group is not an executive function. Mr. Henry expressed confidence in the Shannon Group Management Team who have a clear plan and are supported by their stakeholders. Mr. Henry acknowledged the significant pressure on hotel capacity and that the car hire issue is making Ireland uncompetitive.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive thanked Mr. Henry and Ms. Considine for their continued engagement and undertook to continue to work together. Mr. Dowling stated that Clare County Council is the economic driver for County Clare and that Tipperary, Limerick and Clare local authorities want to work in partnership with Shannon Airport and Shannon Group as equal partners going forward.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P.J. Ryan thanked Mr. Henry and Ms. Considine for their presentations.

#### **Item 14. Community engagement and consultation policy.**

Ar moladh Cllr. C. Murphy  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Garrihy agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council would create a detailed community engagement and consultation policy, for use both internally or by external/third party entities, to guide

the development of future county council led strategic or policy documents, whether statutory and non-statutory.

This policy should strive to be international best in practice, and notwithstanding statutory requirements, would not just reflect the requirements for undertaking such engagement, but specifically include, while not be limited to, how that engagement should take place, how submissions from such engagement will be dealt with and how feedback to those making submissions should be delivered”.

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

**(i) Local Authority – Consultation experience.**

The local authority experience has been that formal policy, whether national or local, can be useful in guiding consultation processes. Also, it is important to recognise that there is a huge wealth of existing staff knowledge and experience of community consultation developed over many years that is borne out of a strong professional staff commitment to detailed consultation on projects. This staff experience shapes the development and implementation of formal policy. Examples of this are outlined in the below case studies and indeed there are many other such examples across all directorates.

**(ii) National Policy on Consultation and its application.**

The National Government policy on consultation is entitled “Consultation Principles & Guidance 2016”. It replaces and updates “Guidelines on Consultation for Public Sector Bodies – Reaching Out (2005)”. All local authorities operate under this policy.

[Consultation Guidelines 2016 \(assets.gov.ie\)](https://assets.gov.ie)

The principles outlined in this national policy reflect international best practice and have been informed by consultation arrangements in the UK, Canada, Australia, and Netherlands, as well as guidelines and principles produced by the OECD, Council of Europe, and the European Commission. This policy aims to improve the way government departments and other public bodies consult, with an emphasis on real, meaningful, and targeted engagement. It is also intended to improve the transparency, responsiveness and accessibility of consultations, and reduce the burden of engaging with Government on policy development and implementation.

This guidance, which does not have legal force, does not prevail over statutory or mandatory requirements to consult certain groups on certain issues. In addition, when consulting, care should be taken to comply with any legal requirements which may affect a consultation exercise such as confidentiality and equality, and with the requirement to conduct Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) in relation to proposals for primary legislation, significant statutory instruments and proposals for EU Directives and significant EU Regulations. Consultation conducted as part of the RIA process should reflect these principles.

Clare County Council strives to implement this policy as part of its public engagement. In this regard, Clare County Council is operating its consultation in line with three key principles of consultation.

- The first of these is that consultation with the public must be genuine, meaningful, timely, balanced and with the ultimate objective of leading to better outcomes and greater understanding by all involved of the benefits and consequences of proceeding with particular policy or statutory /project proposals. Consultation should aim to achieve real engagement and ‘real listening’ rather than being a pro-forma exercise for bureaucratic purposes. A genuine consultation process ensures that the real-world impact of policy options and projects are considered.
- The second principle is that consultation should be targeted at and easily accessible to those with a clear interest in the policy in question. There is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to consultation. The size, type and scope of the consultative process depends on the proposed policy, the type and scale of the potential impacts of the proposal or decision being taken, the number of people or groups affected by them, and where relevant particular requirements of the child and young people and those who may be marginalised or vulnerable.
- The third principle is that systematic efforts are made to ensure that interested and affected parties have the opportunity to take part in open consultations at all stages of the policy process on significant policy, services, projects and legislative matters: development, implementation, evaluation, and review.

The SPC’s (*Strategic Policy Committees*) have the policy development remit within Clare County Council. Therefore, the consideration of the proposal in this motion is appropriate to an SPC discussion. It needs to be acknowledged though that there are some other policies already recommended for development at SPC level across the various directorates, so there is somewhat of a queue to be prioritised by SPC members. The SPCs will have much to contribute to reviewing the application of the National Consultation Policy or the development of a local consultation policy. The development of such a consultation policy would take significant staff time, and by its nature, would involve a consultation process with staff in many directorates, Elected Members and other stakeholders. This policy development can be included in the work programme going forward within capacity. At present though, due to other local authority service priorities and commitments, there is not staff capacity to take this on in the immediate period without pausing some of those services and priorities. But, it is an important piece of work for which capacity could be identified in due course if needed by SPCs. The next step would be a discussion on the proposal at SPCs to which it could be referred as a path forward. The SPCs may be satisfied that the

National Consultation Policy - “Consultation Principles & Guidance 2016” - bridges the gap in the interim.

The Citizens Information Service submission to the development of the National Consultation Guidelines may also be helpful- [DPER Public Consultation Guidelines Oct2015.pdf \(citizensinformationboard.ie\)](#)

The Elected Members of Clare County Council have a key role in consultation based on their democratic mandate. Their local knowledge and links with local stakeholders hugely benefits public consultation processes.

Other organisations and stakeholders also have practical roles. The PPN (Public Participation Network) have a specific role in such processes and also in facilitating and promoting awareness of the opportunity for the public to participate in consultation. Elected Members and these stakeholders are represented on SPCs. The role of the PPN is prescribed by Government as follows:

*“Public Participation Networks (PPN) - the main link through which the local authority connects with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors. The aim of the structures and processes is to facilitate and enable the public and the organisations to articulate a diverse range of views and interest within the local government system.”*

### **(iii) Case Studies:**

The following examples of case studies demonstrate Clare County Council’s recent experience in consultation.

#### **Case Study 1: Consultation in Planning & Development.**

The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, sets out the statutory requirements regarding consultation for all the planning functions. So, in the majority of cases the obligations for Clare County Council engagement is set out in legislation.

The most recent Planning Guidelines are the Draft “Development Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities” August 2021. <https://assets.gov.ie/181254/55f0dfe4-8f1e-4e37-9c7b-d8317592f1f6.pdf>

While these Guidelines are in Draft format, Local Authorities must have regard to same as they are issued under Section 28 of the Planning Act.

Section 2 relates to “Plan Preparation” and Section 2.4 relates to “Purposeful Public Consultation.” This captures some of the recent changes in how it is expected that Clare County Council would engage with the public. These guidelines are the most up-to-date advice that the Council has received from the Government Department around this engagement piece. It may be of use in terms of putting in place a policy for non-statutory engagement.

Over the last few years, Clare County Council has tried to change how the local authority engages with the public and the most positive feedback from communities was in relation to non-statutory required engagements:

- Clare County Council set up a stall at the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ennis to consult on the County Development Plan (CDP). All of the engagement on the day was positive which differs from many other engagements on the subject in general.
- Clare County Council organised a children's art competition as part of the Masterplan for Cappa. There was a huge number of entries and all of them were displayed on the night of one of the consultation events and later in the Library in Kilrush. On foot of the success of that engagement Clare County Council has since carried out similar events in Corofin and Ennistymon. The idea underpinning this approach is that if Clare County Council succeeds in the young people to engage and attend events, the parents will attend and engage also.
- Clare County Council developed two school projects for primary and secondary schools around planning in their own areas to promote the start of the CDP preparation. 29 primary and 4 secondary schools participated. This was a specific engagement targeted at young people and people of diverse ethnicity.
- Over the last 2 years Clare County Council has worked with Scariff Secondary School around engagement with young people in the planning process. This has been a very well received piece of engagement and was commended by the OPR (Office for Planning Regulator) in a very positive manner.
- Clare County Council also set up a specific portal in-house in the Planning Department that the public could make their submissions on for the CDP. This was hosted on our dedicated webpage for the CDP.
- Clare County Council received 1,015 submissions at the current draft CDP stage of public consultation. This compares with another local authority, who received 288 submissions for the same stage in the plan-making function. Clare County Council has succeeded in promoting the message publicly in relation to consultation for the plan-making process. While many of the submissions are not positive in nature and content, it demonstrates that the public are aware of the opportunity to participate in consultation for the CDP plan-making process and that it is invested in important local issues.

## **Case Study 2: Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040.**

### **Introduction**

The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience is the most visited natural attraction in Ireland attracting 1.6m visitors in 2019. It is a signature discovery point on Fáilte Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, a main Geosite of the Burren, and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Geopark, a Special Protected Area for Birds and Wildlife and is a wholly owned tourism asset of Clare County Council.

Clare County Council supported by Fáilte Ireland is working, with a multi-disciplinary consultancy team led by Haley Sharpe Design appointed November 2019, to prepare a new Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040 including an overall site masterplan.

The Strategy is guided by a Steering Committee comprising of an expert team, project led by Rural Directorate (Cliffs of Moher Management).

The strategy is focused on creating world-class experiences, enhancing the special qualities of the site, and growing the Cliffs of Moher's contribution to the county in a sustainable way. The strategy is a joint initiative between Clare County Council and Fáilte Ireland, and it will inform future developments at the Cliffs of Moher and will be referred to in the County Development Plan 2023-2029. Capacity issues, and a requirement for upgrade and investment, sparked the necessity to set out a sustainable future for the site and to maximise the economic benefit to County Clare for the next 20 years and beyond.

### **Consultation Process**

The consultation process has been divided into two phases engaging with local communities, organisations, businesses, residents across North Clare, the general public and onsite visitors to provide their input and listen to their views on the formulation of the draft strategy.

All information including key challenges, opportunities and press releases relating to the Cliffs of Moher Strategy sits on the Cliffs of Moher website [Cliffs of Moher 2040 Strategy | Cliffs of Moher](#)

#### *Stage 1:*

The first stage of the Public Consultation Process commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021 closed on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The first phase came after the completion of desktop research.

- ✓ Public information boards in high footfall areas across each of Co. Clare's Municipal Districts including Ennistymon, Kilrush, Ennis, Shannon, and Killaloe
- ✓ Public information boards onsite at the Cliffs of Moher Experience outdoors and indoors.
- ✓ Postal Questionnaire into 5,200 homes in north Clare
- ✓ Surveys to past and present visitors to the Cliffs of Moher Experience
- ✓ Geotargeted Survey for Co. Clare on social media
- ✓ Social Media Information Posts
- ✓ Press Release and Advert in Clare Champion and Clare Echo
- ✓ 25 consultation meetings
- ✓ Information and promotional video on [www.cliffsofmoher.ie](http://www.cliffsofmoher.ie)

#### *Stage: 2*

The second stage of the Public Consultation Process commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and ends on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 focuses on the Draft Masterplan Proposals.

- ✓ Public information boards in high footfall areas across each of Co. Clare's Municipal Districts including Ennistymon, Kilrush, Ennis, Shannon, and Killaloe
- ✓ Public information boards onsite at the Cliffs of Moher Experience outdoors and indoors.

- ✓ Comprehensive consultation document on key principles and concepts
- ✓ Geotargeted Online Survey for Co. Clare on social media
- ✓ Social Media Information Posts *See infographic Fig.1*
- ✓ Press Release and Advert in Clare Champion and Clare Echo
- ✓ Re-engagement of stakeholders for a second meeting.
- ✓ Information and promotional video on [www.cliffsofmoher.ie](http://www.cliffsofmoher.ie)

Stakeholder Consultations include:

- Clare County Council Departments including Planning, Roads and Transport, Tourism, Finance and Senior Management Team
- Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark
- National Parks & Wildlife Service
- Fáilte Ireland
- Landowners
- Irish Farmers Association
- Clare Tourism Advisory Forum
- Cliffs of Moher Centre DAC Board
- Ennis 2040
- North Clare Elected Members
- Co Clare Elected Members
- Onsite Tenants at the Cliffs of Moher Experience
- Accommodation and Business Groups
- North Clare Strategic Alliance
- Doolin Tourism and Doolin Community Council
- Clare Local Development Company (CLDC)
- Burren Ecotourism Network
- Liscannor Community
- Lisdoonvarna Failte
- Ennistymon Town Team
- Local Community Groups
- Cliffs of Moher Employees
- Elected councillors for West Clare Municipal District
- Irish Tour Operators Association (ITOA)
- Coach Tourism and Transport Council (CTTC)

Fig. 1 Infographic used for phase 2

## CLIFFS OF MOHER 2040 MASTERPLAN – A STEP CHANGE TO A WILDER VISITOR EXPERIENCE



If you would like to make a contribution please email [com2040@haleysharpe.com](mailto:com2040@haleysharpe.com)

Please visit [www.cliffsofmoher.ie](http://www.cliffsofmoher.ie) for more information including a detailed Consultation Document and a Feedback Questionnaire.



The elected members agreed on the importance of consultation and engagement with communities and discussed the impact it can have on the delivery of services. The members felt that each SPC can have a role in determining how strategies can be implemented.

### **Item 15. Community Supports Scheme.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Murphy

Cuidithe ag Cllr. A. Norton agus glacadh leis

“At present, community events such as agricultural shows, ploughing matches and horse fairs cannot apply for funding under the Community Supports Scheme. Events like these are part of the fabric of our society so therefore I am requesting that changes are made to allow for these volunteer committees to apply for monetary support from Clare County Council”.

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

“This motion can be referred to the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Ireland which comprises of two Elected Members from each of the four Municipal Districts.”

The elected members felt that events such as agricultural shows, ploughing matches and horse fairs are all part of the fabric of the county and should be considered under the Community Supports Scheme.

**Item 16. Hi-visibility vests to be worn by cyclists.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. P. Murphy agus glacadh leis

“That this Council, through County Clare Road Safety Working Group, would propose that all cyclists would wear hi visibility vests, in the interests of safety.”

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

“In accordance with the National Road Safety Plan published by the Road Safety Authority, a new Road Safety Working Together Group, incorporating relevant stakeholders, is to be established in each local authority area to co-ordinate a multiagency road safety policy and its implementation at local level.

The promotion of safe road use, which will include public education and awareness campaigns, will be one of the elements of the local road safety policy. In relation to cycling, best practice advises that cyclists should, at all times, wear fluorescent and reflective clothing, which includes high visibility vests, armbands and Sam Brown reflective belts.”

Following discussion, the members agreed that the motion should be amended as follows:

“That this Council, through County Clare Road Safety Working Group, would promote that all vulnerable road users would wear hi visibility vests, and cyclists would be encouraged to use front and back lights in the interests of safety.”

**Item 17. Review of “No Mo May”**

Ar moladh Cllr. I. Lynch

Cuidithe ag Cllr. C. Murphy agus glacadh leis

“I ask Clare County Council to undertake a review of 'No Mo May' to develop a suitable policy that ensures public spaces and recreation areas are maintained to ensure the needs of residents and users.”

**Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Physical Development replied as follows:**

“The “No Mow May” initiative is part of the wider All Ireland Pollinator Plan. The Plan’s main aim is to ensure that pollinators have safety from pesticide chemicals and have food and shelter. The Plan is not a prescriptive series of must do actions but instead provides guidelines which requires us to manage amenity areas and the countryside in a slightly different way. It is not about abandoning the landscape totally but instead we must manage it in a way that protects pollinators. With regard to open spaces, we do not need to routinely cut the entire area but instead perhaps focus

our attention on areas which are widely used for amenity purposes while minimising our interventions in the surrounding areas. This is a new approach and will be kept under review. It will take time for the correct balance to be struck in what areas we maintain on a frequent basis and areas where we do not intervene to the same extent.

If Members have a particular area of concern, they can contact their Municipal District office who are best placed to understand the particular local needs of the community.”

The elected members agreed that there needs to be clear understanding of who is responsible for grass cutting and that the “No Mo May” policy is not being applied consistently across the county due to responsibility being shared in different areas by Community Employment Schemes, Community Groups, Council and contractors. The members felt that this needs to be reviewed in the interests of road safety. The members felt that it is unacceptable that the first grass cutting after the six week “No Mo May” is not gathered and disposed of properly in some areas. The members felt that a campaign should be launched to educate the public on the “No Mo May” initiative.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive acknowledged the importance of the initiative and agreed that grass cut after six weeks should not be left on the ground. Mr. Dowling undertook to discuss this with the Directors of Service and the Municipal District Senior Executive Officers.

#### **Item 18. Local Property Tax.**

Ar moladh Cllr. G. Flynn  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. D. McGettigan

“I am calling on the Councillors in Clare County Council to reduce the Local Property Tax by 15% when they are making a decision on the new rate. Currently homeowners in Clare are paying 15% above the Government’s recommended standard rate as a result of a decision taken by local councillors. This unjust tax on homeowners in Clare is placing a huge burden on hard pressed families that are struggling to keep a roof over their heads at this very difficult time and I am appealing to the elected members in Clare to support these people and reduce the tax on their homes.”

#### **Noleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance & Support Services replied as follows:**

“Local Property Tax Income forms part of the income allocation from the central exchequer to Clare County Council as part of the annual budget process. The allocation to this council represented 5.77% of the adopted budget expenditure of the 2022 budget. The agreed rate at 15% above the standard rate (Local Adjustment Factor) represents circa. €1.5m towards the funding of local services.

Statutory Instrument No. 296 of 2014 sets out the regulations that apply to the Local Property Tax – Local Adjustment Factor. Part 4 Section 8(4) of the regulations state that a local authority shall not set a local adjustment factor except in accordance with the regulations. The regulations specify that a public consultation process takes place before the council decides not to vary the rate or to set a local adjustment factor. The regulations also specify certain matters to which a local authority shall have regard in considering a local adjustment factor, including the financial position of the authority and the potential impact on liable persons and service delivery plans.

The meeting to consider whether or not to set a local adjustment factor has been agreed as an agenda item at the September 2022 statutory meeting of the council. The public consultation process, Corporate Policy Group engagement and members consultation will take place in the coming months in advance of this meeting.”

Cllr. G. Flynn felt that this issue should be discussed in advance of the meeting to discuss the Local Property Tax for next year. Cllr. G. Flynn felt that the Local Property Tax is substituting central government funding and that any increase should not be considered in light of the poverty being experienced by many families. Cllrs. D. McGettigan and A. Norton supported this view as there is currently a cost of living crisis and families cannot afford to pay their bills.

The elected members agreed that it is important to start the discussion on the Local Property Tax but felt that the motion is premature and that it should be discussed in September as part of the budgetary process. The members expressed concern that the motion would interfere with the budgetary process and requested that the motion be withdrawn.

Cllr. G. Flynn confirmed that the motion was legitimate as it states “when they are making decision” and emphasized that the decision is not being made today.

The members acknowledged the sentiments of the motion and felt that it should be examined when looking at a balanced budget and then considered being mindful of the economic situation.

P. Dowling, Chief Executive advised that there is a statutory process involved in the consideration of the annual budget and the rate of Local Property Tax and that there is a prescribed time period in which to undertake this. Mr. Dowling stated that a detailed report on the statutory process will be available at the time. Mr. Dowling informed the members that the statutory process will commence when advice is received from the Department.

Cllr. G. Flynn referred to the effort and time that has been afforded to the County Development Plan process and felt that this issue is as legitimate as the County Development Plan as it needs to be considered being mindful of the efforts people are making in order to survive.

Some members noted that the process of the County Development Plan involves a series of workshops, whereby the members will have an opportunity to agree or disagree with the Chief Executives report on the County Development Plan and felt that any decision taken at this point on the Local Property Tax could be legally binding and could have unintended consequences as elected members may not be in a situation to assist their local communities due to the unavailability of GMA funding. The members requested that clarification is sought from the Minister on the future allocation and retention of LPT income in the county.

The members requested that the motion submitted be amended to include the words “consider” and remove “15%”. The members stated that they would support this amendment.

Cllr. G. Flynn agreed to amend the wording of the motion to read as follows:

“I am calling on the Councillors in Clare County Council to consider a reduction in the Local Property Tax when they are making a decision on the new rate. Currently homeowners in Clare are paying 15% above the Government’s recommended standard rate as a result of a decision taken by local councillors. This unjust tax on

homeowners in Clare is placing a huge burden on hard pressed families that are struggling to keep a roof over their heads at this very difficult time and I am appealing to the elected members in Clare to support these people and reduce the tax on their homes.”

The amended motion was agreed by the members present.

**Item 19. Council meeting commencement time.**

Ar moladh Cllr. P. Burke  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Cooney

“I propose that our full council meetings commence at 2:00 p.m. as opposed to the current time of 3:45 p.m.“

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

“The commencement time for Council Meetings is currently set at 3.45 p.m. in accordance with Standing Orders adopted by the Council. A meeting of the Standing Orders Committee will be convened to consider this proposal and the Committee will revert to full Council with its recommendation.”

Cllr. P. Burke stated that he submitted this notice of motion as currently some Councillors have to leave Council meetings before they conclude if they have other commitments to attend to. Cllr. Burke said that following discussion with some Councillors he was now submitting an amended motion as follows:

“I propose that our full council meetings commence at 10.00am as opposed to the current time of 3:45 p.m”

Cllrs. P. O’Gorman and I. Lynch stated that they were not in favour of the 10:00 a.m. commencement time as it would interfere with their work schedule and they felt this would discourage more people from becoming local government representatives.

Councillors present felt that Council meetings need to be made more family friendly and emphasized the importance of ensuring that all members could attend meetings as Councillors comprise of a variety of occupations. The majority of the elected members felt that 2:00 p.m. would be a more suitable commencement time.

Cllr. P. Burke thanked the members for the discussion and agreed that the proposal be discussed by the Standing Orders Committee and revert back to the full Council with their recommendation.

**Item 20. Support for agriculture industry.**

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

“In view of the deep uncertainty in Irish Agriculture and farmers worry for the future, that Clare County Council calls on the Government to be more pro-active in supporting the industry.”

The elected members agreed that the Government needs to be more pro-active in supporting the agriculture industry due to the increased costs of fuel, feed and fertilizer and called on the Government to introduce initiatives to assist farmers.

It was proposed by Cllr. C Murphy, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Gorman and agreed by the members present that the time be extended to 7:30 p.m. in order to complete the business of the meeting.

**Item 21. Proposals of Independent Post Masters Group.**

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

“That Clare County Council calls on the Government to fully implement the proposals of Independent Post Masters Group as recently presented to all members of the Oireachtas by Mr. Tom O’Callaghan, Secretary of I.P.M.G.”

The elected members acknowledged the presence of Mr. Tom O’Callaghan, Secretary of I.P.M.G. in the public gallery and were unanimous in their support of the plan put forward by the Irish Post Masters Group as it demonstrates a vibrancy and passion for the future of post offices and local communities. The members commended the vision translated and felt that community banking can be part of the future development of rural Ireland.

**Item 22. Standards in Private Rented Sector.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn  
Cuidithe ag Cllr. D. McGettigan

“Standards in Private Rented Sector (PRS)

With up to 5,000 Clare households in the Private Rented Sector paying high rents often with significant state financial support - that Clare County Council request the Government to urgently introduce an NCT type certification of compliance of such housing to “The Housing (Standards for Rented Housing) Regulations 2019”.

Currently all privately rented housing are required to have a Building Energy Rating (BER) Cert but do not require a cert for safety, housing condition or minimum standards.”

Cllr. J. Flynn provided details of state contributions being paid to landlords, many of whom are not maintaining houses to a proper standard as numerous rented properties are damp, have no heating, no hot water, are poorly ventilated and are not compliant with regulations. Cllr. J. Flynn felt that several of these landlords are charging significant rent and are receiving state subsidy.

Cllr. G. Flynn felt that he could not support this notice of motion as this would present problems for people who rent as it could provide an opportunity for landlords to issue notice to quit. Cllr. G. Flynn suggested that changing the conditions of the HAP scheme be examined as the local authority is involved in the process of accessing the quality of the properties and the local authority pay the rent directly.

The elected members felt there was merit in the motion as it provided a practical solution but expressed concern in relation to potential implications on the matter.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P.J. Ryan requested a show of hands of the 15 members present of those in favour of supporting the notice of motion which resulted in eleven Councillors in favour, therefore the motion was carried.

**Item 23. Minimum Energy Standards and retrofitting funding for Private Rented Sector (PRS) housing.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Flynn

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

“Minimum Energy Standards and retrofitting funding for Private Rented Sector (PRS) housing.

In light that 48% of Irelands current housing stock is energy inefficient producing 19.8% of Irelands CO2 emissions with an even higher percentage in the private rented sector - that Clare County Council request the Government to urgently introduce a minimum energy efficiency standard in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019. Currently all privately rented housing are required to have a Building Energy Rating (BER) Cert but there is no minimum standard set by regulation. To support this at least 20% of carbon taxes proposed to be allocated to retrofitting of housing stock should be allocated to improving energy efficiency in private rented sector housing stock.

The net cost of energy efficiency upgrade works to PRS housing minus any grant received should be tax deductible against rental income.

Environmental Health Research (over a 23-year period published) in 2014 identified that fuel poverty contributes to 2,800 excess deaths per year in the island of Ireland.”

The elected members outlined details of properties that are energy inefficient and felt that properties need to be brought up to standard so that they can be rented all year round. The members felt that landlords providing the properties need to improve the standard of the properties. The members agreed that the Government be requested to examine the carbon tax currently being collected and use the proceeds to incentivise landlords to retrofit houses and bring them up to proper standard so as to minimise the risk to tenants and improve their quality of life.

**Item 24. Review of National Aviation Policy.**

Ar moladh Cllr. J. Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. J. Garrihy agus glacadh leis

“That Clare County Council calls on the Minister for Transport to immediately initiate a review of National Aviation Policy including stakeholder consultation with a view to addressing the over concentration of passenger traffic through Dublin Airport by amending National Aviation Policy to ensure the use of spare capacity at Shannon Airport in the interest of Balanced Regional Development”.

The elected members supported the notice of motion and agreed that national aviation policy needs to be amended in the interest of balanced regional development and to

provide for an all Ireland approach. The members referred to the imbalance in passenger numbers using Dublin Airport and agreed that the capacity of Shannon Airport is greatly under utilized.

Cllr. J. Crowe requested that this be circulated to all local authorities and this was agreed by the members present.

**Item 25. Legislation enforcing all media outlets to indicate whether the images used have been photoshopped or altered in any way.**

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

“I am calling on Clare County Council to call on the Government to introduce legislation enforcing all media outlets including advertising, to indicate whether the images used have been photoshopped or altered in any way.

There is unrealistic expectations put on people to look a certain way. This legislation, as introduced in France, will inform people that the body image portrayed is not realistic and will help going forward with mental health issues in Clare related to this.”

The elected members felt that photoshopped images depicting physical ideals being posted on social media are unrealistic and are contributing to mental health problems. The members agreed that photoshopped images should indicate that the image has been modified.

**Item 26. Comhfhreagras/Correspondence.**

Cllr. G. Keating extended congratulations to the Clare Senior Football and Hurling Teams, the Clare Minor Hurling Team and the Clare Ladies Football and Camogie teams and wished them well in their upcoming games.

Cllr. I. Lynch referred to response received from the Department of Health in relation to the National Ambulance Service. Cllr. Lynch acknowledged the detailed response and felt that it did not address the request to initiate an independent review of the National Ambulance Service. Cllr. Lynch requested that further correspondence issue to the Department of Health.

**Correspondence.**

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

1. Correspondence dated 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from the Department of Health in relation to the National Ambulance Service.
2. Correspondence dated 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from the Department of Health in relation to the National Ambulance Service.
3. Correspondence dated 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from the Deputy Cathal Crowe in relation to the National Ambulance Service.
4. Correspondence dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022 from the Department of Health in relation to elective only hospitals.

5. Correspondence dated 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from the Department of Justice in relation to the use of offensive symbols and support for Russia's war in Ukraine.
6. Correspondence dated 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from the Department of Finance in relation to VAT on AEDs.
7. Correspondence dated 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2022 from the Department of Sport and the Gaeltacht regarding bilingual packaging of consumer goods.
8. Correspondence dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from the Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in relation to Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce.
9. Correspondence dated 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from the Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in relation to Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce.
10. Correspondence received from Deputy Michael McNamara in relation to adequate fodder supply in spring 2023 and in subsequent years.
11. Correspondence dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from the Minister for Health regarding screening for scoliosis in schools.
12. Correspondence dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from the Department of Social Protection in relation to artists with disabilities be allowed an artists payment without it affecting their disability supports.
13. Correspondence dated 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from the Department of Transport in relation to Shannon Airport.
14. Correspondence dated 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth concerning the Childcare Sector.
15. Resolution circulated by Cork County Council in relation to the Irish Community Air Ambulance Service.
16. Resolution circulated by Cavan County Council in relation to the ban on the cutting and sale of turf.

Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator, on behalf of the Chief Executive, Management Team and staff, thanked Cathaoirleach P.J. Ryan for his support and cooperation during the year in running the business of Clare County Council and for the way the meetings were conducted.

The meeting then concluded.

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

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

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