

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

Baker, Bree, Casserly, Clarke, Gormley, Healy, Kilgannon, Maguire, MacManus, Mac Sharry, Mulvey, O’Grady, Queenan, Scanlon and Taylor.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive  
Mr. Tom Kilfeather, Director of Services  
Ms. Dorothy Clarke, Director of Services  
Ms. Marie Whelan, Head of Finance  
Mr. Donal Tinney, County Librarian  
Ms. Margaret McConnell, A/Director of Services  
Mr. Tom Brennan, Senior Engineer  
Ms. Marian O’Callaghan, Senior Executive Architect  
Mr. Joe Murphy, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. John Moran, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. Kevin Colreavy, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. Mary Blowick, Administrative Officer  
Mr. Jimmy O’Brien, I.S. Project Leader  
Ms. Karen Gallagher, I.S. Technical Support Officer  
Ms. Jo-Anne McGonigle, Assistant Staff Officer

**CATHAOIRLEACH:**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Rosaleen O’Grady presided.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING AS A MARK OF RESPECT – JOHN KEANEY, RIP:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Maguire  
Seconded by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

AND AGREED

“That this meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes as a mark of respect to the late John Keaney, father of Councillor Hubert Keaney”.

The Cathaoirleach and Members present wished to be associated with this vote of sympathy to Councillor Keaney and his family.

**Proposed by Councillor R. O’Grady, Cathaoirleach  
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey**

AND AGREED

“That a vote of sympathy be extended to John Reilly and family on the death of his mother, Mary”.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.10 a.m.

**RESUMPTION OF MEETING:**

The meeting resumed at 11.25 a.m.

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ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

**4. FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ACT, 2001:**

On the resumption of the Meeting, the Members agreed to take Item No. 4 on the Agenda.

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree  
Seconded by Councillor S. MacManus**

AND AGREED

“That Gino O’Boyle be co-opted to fill the vacancy which has arisen on the County Council following the death of Councillor Seamus O’Boyle (RIP) in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2001”

The Members welcomed Councillor Gino O’Boyle and his family and wished him every success, support and guidance in his new role.

The Chief Executive, on behalf of the management and staff of the Council congratulated Councillor O’Boyle on his co-option and assured him he would receive whatever support and guidance he required.

The Cathaoirleach added her welcome to Councillor O’Boyle and added to the tributes paid to his late father, Seamus, by other Members.

Councillor O’Boyle took his seat and thanked his Proposer, Councillor Bree, members of staff, and members of “People Before Profit” for their assistance. He also thanked those who had assisted them since their recent tragic loss including Sligo Regional Hospital, the Paramedics, Nazareth House and the people of Sligo for their love and support.

**1. MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 6TH JULY, 2015:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor E. Scanlon**

AND AGREED

“To confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Sligo County Council held on 6th July, 2015”.

**2. MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 13TH JULY:**

Councillor Bree read from page 1 of the Minutes as follows

“There is provision in Local Government legislation for the approval of overexpenditure by the Chief Executive if not approved by the Members.”

and highlighted that it did not indicate in the Minutes who had made the statement.

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had done so. It was then

**Proposed by Councillor E. Scanlon  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

AND AGREED

“To confirm the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Sligo County Council held on 13th July, 2015”.

**3. SECTION 183 – 1 TEELING GROVE, TUBBERCURRY:**

**Proposed by Councillor P. Taylor  
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

AND AGREED

“To approve, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, the disposal of a dwelling at 1 Teeling Grove, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo to Attracta Mannion, in exchange for private house at 44, Connolly Park, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo.

**5. APPOINTMENT TO LOCAL TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. MacManus  
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

AND AGREED

“To appoint Councillor Gino O’Boyle to the Local Traveller Consultative Committee following the death of Councillor Seamus O’Boyle, RIP”.

**6. APPOINTMENT TO REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM WEST:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. MacManus  
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

AND AGREED

“To appoint Councillor Gino O’Boyle to the Regional Health Forum West following the death of Councillor Seamus O’Boyle, RIP”.

**7. APPOINTMENT TO SLIGO HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. MacManus  
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

AND AGREED

“To appoint Councillor Gino O’Boyle to the Sligo Harbour Advisory Committee following the death of Councillor Seamus O’Boyle, RIP”.

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO

**8. APPOINTMENT TO THE SLIGO MUSIC FEST COMPANY:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. MacManus**

**Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

AND AGREED

“To appoint Councillor Gino O’Boyle to the Sligo Music Fest Company following the death of Councillor Seamus O’Boyle, RIP”.

**9. APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF “THE MODEL”:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. MacManus**

**Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

AND AGREED

“To appoint Councillor Gino O’Boyle to the Board of “The Model” following the death of Councillor Seamus O’Boyle, RIP”.

**10. TAKING IN CHARGE – MAIDEN CRESCENT, TUBBERCERRY:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley**

**Seconded by Councillor E. Scanlon**

AND AGREED

“That Sligo County Council commence the process of taking in charge the development known as “Maiden Crescent” at Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo by instigating the necessary procedures under Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 to declare public the road serving the development”.

**11. PRESENTATION BY SIRO:**

Ms. D. Clarke, Director of Services introduced Sean Atkinson, C.E.O. and Stephen O’Connor from SIRO and the Cathaoirleach welcomed them to the meeting.

Mr. Atkinson highlighted the following points during his presentation:

- SIRO is a joint venture between the E.S.B. and Vodafone.
- Building Ireland’s first 100% fibre-to-the-building (FTTB) network.
- Delivering 1000 Mbps (1 Gigabit/sec) speeds.
- Open access network
- Construction commenced in August 2015.
- The first phase will involve 50 regional towns with Sligo being one of the first ten towns.
- Phase one will involve an investment of €450m and will pass 500,000 homes.
- Maps were displayed showing High Voltage Stations and Medium Voltage lines.
- Sligo town’s planned fibre optic network is broken up into 14 areas or ‘clusters’.
- These clusters cover approximately 12,500 homes in total.

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COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

- SIRO's "go live" date in Sligo for the first customers is scheduled for the end of November 2015.
- Under the heading "Future proofing Sligo – step change in connectivity, Mr. Atkinson outlined how this would assist S.M.E.s, Start-ups, Investment, Digital economy, Healthcare, Education and Agriculture.
- Phase 2 will involve c.320 potential towns and a further 500,000 will be passed.
- Phase 2 will be following commercial delivery of Phase 1.
- Towns not covered by National Broadband Plan.
- Under the heading of "National Broadband Plan", the matters of Government intervention, c.700,000 unserved homes, the strategy published and SIRO participation were all referred to.

SIRO was introduced in May 2014 and would be formally launched in City Hall, Sligo following this meeting.

The Cathaoirleach and several Members welcomed this good news story for Sligo.

Members raised the matter of lack of adequate broadband outside the urban area. Some Government Departments, e.g. Department of Agriculture, advise people to carry out their business "on line". This, however, is not possible for people living in some areas of the county.

Mr. Atkinson confirmed that the expected completion date for the Sligo area is July 2016.

The Chief Executive agreed that this is a positive development for Sligo. It was noted that it will take time to plug the gaps in rural area. The delivery of high quality broadband was critical in terms of connectivity and access, two major issues for Sligo.

The CE added that the fact that Sligo has been chosen as one of the first towns outside of the major cities is to be welcomed

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Atkinson for his presentation, acknowledged the concerns among rural people, and welcomed Sligo's inclusion as one of the first 10 towns in the project.

## **12. SURF SUMMIT – NOVEMBER 2015:**

Ms. D. Clarke, Director of Services, reported as follows:

*"The Surf Summit will take place in Sligo on 6-7 November next. It will follow directly after this year's Web Summit (which is a major world technology conference being hosted in Dublin). Senior executives from some of the world's biggest tech brands along with future industry leaders will spend three days engaging in a range of outdoor activities including surfing, kayaking, kite surfing and more. This will be opportune for them to deepen relationships begun at the web summit while experiencing the Sligo portion of the Wild Atlantic Way as well as the host of inland attractions and business potential the County has to offer.*

*Sligo Chamber of Commerce has played a key role in bringing the Surf Summit to Sligo and is continuing its work, in partnership with a growing number of other key players, to ensure that it will be a success for Sligo. The broad initial objectives set by the Chamber are to deliver a successful Summit in 2015; be the preferred host in 2016 and to build a positive message about Sligo in all respects including its tourism and business potential.*

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

*The Chamber is seeking a contribution of €3,000 towards this summit. Given its potential as a major platform for the promotion of Sligo in a business and tourism context, it is proposed that this sum be made available under Matching Fund Code F0404001”*

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the work of Sligo Chamber of Commerce and Michael Carty of Sligo County Council in securing this event for Sligo.

Members joined in congratulating those involved and indicated that there would be benefits in the short, medium and long term from this event, and would be welcomed as another successful collaboration by local agencies.

### **13. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT:**

Ms. D. Clarke, Director of Services, welcomed Mr. Finbarr Filan to the meeting to make a presentation to the Members outlining what was involved in a BID.

Points highlighted by Mr. Filan during his presentation were

- Legislation had been introduced in 2006 in relation to BIDs.
- There are 3 BIDs in Ireland in Dundalk, Dublin and Dun Laoghaire
- Each BID exists for a specific purpose unique to the area/town/city.
- Offers a sustainable model for town and city centre management.
- A BID offers the business community an opportunity to pool resources, agree activities and make them happen.
- There is a defined area where every business pays a small fee/levy in order to fund projects in the BID area.
- A secret ballot is held among the businesses involved to decide whether there is a BID and it is then run by the businesses, for the businesses.
- If the vote is yes, it lasts for five years.
- The BID levy is tax deductible.
- There are regulated processes and structures.
- Funds are collected by the Local Authority and passed to the BID.
- A BID is a Limited Company.
- The Board of Directors is determined by proponents.
- There would be one nomination from Sligo County Council’s Members and, also, the Chief Executive.
- The Board can co-opt non voting members.
- Funds stay local and used for BID defined projects.
- The BID Proposal involves the following stages:
  - Submitted to the County Council
  - Determination of the BID area (number of businesses, location, rateable valuation of property)
  - Calculation of the BID contribution (different scenarios minimum/maximum)
  - Workshops with businesses to prepare BID work programme.
  - Benchmark services County Council
  - Preparation and submission of formal BID proposal.
  - Public consultation
  - Preparation of the plebiscite
  - Publicity campaign
  - Setting up BID company.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

- Assistance has been received from the former CEO of Dundalk Chamber of Commerce, the C.E.O. of the Dublin BID, the C.E.O. and Chairperson of the Dun Laoghaire BID and also assistance from Sligo County Council was acknowledged.
- 80% of businesses will contribute €450 or less.
- 1,260 ballot papers will be issued in November.
- Multiples, e.g. Penney's, Tesco, etc. will be included.
- Sligo now has two accredited Purple Flag town/city assessors.
- Sligo hosted 14 Purple Flag towns and cities on 27th August, 2015.
- Tables setting out the Estimated BID Levy payment, the BID contribution and percentages per range, an estimate of the annual BID contribution and the indicative budget were displayed on screen by Mr. Filan.
- The BID formula/calculation is the same for every ratepayer and it is the Rateable Valuation of the property multiplied by the BID Multiplier (3.09).

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Filan for his presentation and also welcomed Gail McGibbon, Pat Grimes, Paddy Lowe and Brían Flynn to the Meeting. The Cathaoirleach referred to having worked with this Team in the past on securing a Purple Flag for Sligo and the promotion of Sligo with events like the recent Cannonball Run.

The Chief Executive thanked Mr. Filan for his presentation and said that this initiative was about working together towards the common good and interest of Sligo. Sligo County Council is working in association with the Board to add value to Council services. This proposal was welcomed by the Chief Executive who said that, while it is a new process and there may be teething problems and issues, overall it is an extremely positive development for Sligo.

Members joined in their thanks and agreed with the comments made by the Cathaoirleach. It was noted that the calibre of people on the Committee ensured Sligo being portrayed in a very positive light with events like the recent Royal visit and All Ireland Fleadh attracting global attention.

In response to a question from Councillor Bree, Mr. Filan confirmed that the ratepayers will be fully informed and told what they are voting for over the next 14 weeks. He also added that Sligo Chamber of Commerce has 250 Members and they are supporting this initiative

Ms. Clarke, Director of Services, confirmed that the plebiscite is one step of the process and this will give an opportunity to each ratepayer to say yes or no. If agreed, this proposal comes back to the County Council for approval. It may be early in the New Year before this will be done, with one third of Members having to vote in favour of the proposal for it to be approved.

Mr. Filan, on behalf of the group and local businesses, welcomed Councillor O'Boyle and congratulated him on his co-option onto the Council.

#### **14. TOWN TWINNING:**

Ms. M. McConnell A/Director of Services, reported to the Meeting as follows:

*“Earlier this year Sligo celebrated town twinning anniversaries with its twin towns in Germany and France.*

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

*Town Twinning began for Sligo in 1980 when a group of Sligo people visited Crozon to witness the signing of the Town Twinning charter between Sligo and Crozon, located in Brittany northwest France.*

*The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this signing was celebrated in Crozon in May of this year and a delegation from Sligo visited Crozon to celebrate the event. Sligo will hold similar celebrations next year and will receive a delegation from Crozon to mark Sligo's signing of the same charter which took place in Sligo in 1981.*

*25 years of twinning with the Bavarian town of Kempten, was celebrated this year also with exchange visits by a Sligo delegation to Kempten in April and a visit to Sligo by a Kempten delegation in June of this year.*

*Sligo is also twinned with the city of Tallahassee, Florida a friendship that was sealed with the signing of the Town Twinning Charter during Sligo's 750 celebrations in 1995.*

*Town twinning is supported by the European Union since 1989 and its aim is to encourage exchanges in the field of cultural, touristic, social and economic affairs so as to develop mutual understanding, respect and friendship between the people of both locations.*

*This objective has been surpassed as the links forged between Sligo and its twinned towns are regarded as particularly strong with the Town Twinning Committee receiving various awards on behalf of Sligo for its commitment to developing and maintaining the Town Twinning connections.*

*Strong friendship have flourished between individuals and groups over the years and visits by students, artists, musicians, dancers, choirs, athletes, special needs groups, ballet groups have taken place almost annually, which continue to broaden the understanding of the cultural, recreational, educational and commercial activities of the linked towns.*

*Sligo Borough Council and Sligo County Council have been committed to the Town Twinning Programme since its inception in the 1980s by providing the necessary funding each year to finance the various town twinning activities. Sligo County Council continue to provide funding to the Town Twinning Committee who assist with the cultural exchanges that take place on a regular basis. The Town Twinning committee have also been successful in sourcing EU funding for the Crozon anniversary celebrations which take place every five years.*

*Despite the Council's current financial situation, funding was provided to fund the anniversary celebrations that took place this year.*

*Discussions have commenced with the Town Twinning Committee regarding the programme of events planned to celebrate the Crozon anniversary celebrations which will take place in Sligo in September 2016."*

Members referred to Town Twinning being dealt with, in the past, by Sligo Borough Council rather than the County Council. It was noted that funding in this area had been reduced to such an extent that voluntary Committees were asked to assist with costs of hosting visits to Sligo.

Some Members expressed the opinion that a decision had to be made to either continue the work to the extent it was carried out or, alternatively, decide to end Town Twinning. Some major exchanges had taken place in the past and Members observed the amount of resources other towns and cities are putting into Town Twinning.



**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

The Cathaoirleach advised the meeting that there is an exchange due to commence between Student Nurses from Kempton and St. Angela's College. The Town Twinning initiative has been in place in Sligo for over 35 years and is regarded as being worthwhile.

**Proposed by Councillor O'Grady  
Seconded by Councillor MacManus**

AND AGREED

“That a sub-committee be set up to progress forward Town Twinning in Sligo and that this should be looked at with the Procedures Committee”.

The Chief Executive spoke of his commitment and that of the County Council to Town Twinning. The benefit and merit of this can be seen with various cultural and business opportunities. Town Twinning had not been the preserve solely of Sligo Borough Council. Town Twinning had never been fully funded by Sligo Borough Council with there always having been an element funded by the Town Twinning Committees.

Following a query raised as to whether the link was still with Tallahassee, the Chief Executive confirmed that it was, having visited there last year. A return visit was expected during 2016 and this is currently being explored.

The Chief Executive agreed to revert to the Council Members in the matter and having regard to the Financial Plan which is at present with the Department.

**15. DATE FOR MEETING TO CONSIDER THE VARIATION OF THE LOCAL  
PROPERTY TAX, 2016:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor D. Bree**

AND AGREED

“That a Meeting be held at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, 28th September, 2015 to consider the variation of the Local Property Tax, 2016”.

**16. EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2020:**

The Chief Executive outlined that the letter, as previously circulated to the Members, had been received from Galway County Council seeking the support of local authorities in their bid to receive designation as “European Capital of Culture” for a period of one calendar year during which the winning region organises a series of cultural events with a strong European dimension. Ireland has this opportunity in 2020 and Galway is submitting a bid to host the title.

Clarification was sought regarding any request for financial support as the correspondence indicated that “At this point, the Galway bid is not seeking any financial commitment from any authority towards the bid”.

The Chief Executive acknowledged that the wording was unfortunate and it was not envisaged, at present, that financial support would be sought. The Members agreed to support the proposal. The

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

Chief Executive confirmed that if a contribution was sought, he would bring the request before the Members.

**ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH:**

The Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 1.00 p.m. and resumed at 2.00 p.m.

**REQUEST FOR PRESENTATION AT OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING:**

The Cathaoirleach advised the Meeting that a request had been received from Mr. Jim O’Sullivan to make a presentation to the Members at their October Meeting.

The Members agreed to this request.

**17. RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONES (REDZ):**

The following report was submitted to the Meeting:

“Sligo County Council has recently completed an application for funding to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government under the Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) Pilot Initiative. This application is for the area of Tobercurry and its hinterland of 15 Electoral Districts in the counties of Sligo and Mayo, as follows;

- Achonry East
- Aclare
- Banada
- Breencorragh
- Carrownaskeagh/Branchfield
- Cartron
- Cloonacool/Loughill
- Cloonoghill
- Glendarragh
- Doocastle
- Kilmacteige
- Kilturra
- Leitrim
- Streamstown
- Tobercurry

**1. REDZ Concept**

The Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) is a concept which has come from the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA). It is designed to encourage a more tailored approach to economic planning at local level with an increase in the extent of local cooperation in relation to the delivery of economic development initiatives. Within this context a localized strategic approach to the development of the Tobercurry REDZ has been developed in cooperation between Sligo County Council and the Tubbercurry Chamber of Commerce.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

**2. Need for REDZ Investment in Tobercurry**

Tobercurry continues to struggle with the inherent problems associated with a rural economy allied to an overhang in the residential property market and an unfortunate and disproportionate series of local job losses. This has resulted in the creation of an extremely difficult economic environment. Rising rates of unemployment and commercial vacancy threaten the future viability of Tobercurry. The situation is perceived locally to have reached a crisis point which requires central Government intervention.

The loss of 200 jobs is massive relative to the population of the Tobercurry REDZ and has impacted, severely in several cases, on local services businesses given the consequent erosion of local spending power. Regrettably this is very much in evidence through indicators such as a 2011 unemployment rate of 22.3%; high emigration levels; a dearth of community facilities, a local property market that went into freefall after the “construction boom” and which remains very much stuck at the bottom; and increasing social problems.

Within this context the Rural Economic Development Zone concept is timely and will help to address the immediate need for economic stimulus in this rural area. It is important for the sustainability of the town and its hinterland to ensure that adequate facilities are available for start up-businesses and for the potential expansion of existing industries and enterprises. Tobercurry needs more jobs and increased commercial footfall to sustain even the present level of services in the town. Having reached a point of consolidation it can begin to grow again after a sustained period of economic decline.

**3. Timeline for the Preparation of this Application for Funding**

It should be noted that the timeframe for the formulation of applications to this pilot scheme was extremely short. The original request for applications in relation to this pilot scheme was dated the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2015. Subsequently a training day was delivered on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, while a further letter of clarification was received from the Department on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August.

**4. Consultation**

Despite the very limited timeframe Sligo County Council and Tubbercurry Chamber have endeavoured to consult with as many local groups as possible during the formulation of this application. A range of local businesses and groups have been consulted in relation to the proposal inclusive the following;

- Tubbercurry Chamber of Commerce
- Aurivo Co-op
- Sligo Greenway Co-op
- Western Drama festival
- Tubbercurry Old Fair Day Committee
- Tubbercurry Tidy Towns Committee
- Ox Mountain Development Company
- South Sligo Summer School – School of Traditional Music, Song and Dance
- Phoenix Players
- South Sligo Community Park Ltd.
- Inblex plastics Ltd.
- Lawrence Engineering Ltd.
- A.I.S. Ltd.
- Basta Parsons Ltd.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

- SOLAS
- Enterprise Ireland

**5. Components of REDZ Proposal**

The proposed REDZ scheme will consist of the following elements;

**5.1 Enterprise/Incubation Centre *Projected Cost: €109,320***

As a consequence of the recent relocation of the Headquarters of the Aurivo Co-op, Tobercurry REDZ now has a once-off opportunity to establish an Incubation Centre to foster the development of start-up businesses in the area. The enterprise/incubation centre will be located in the old Aurivo Headquarters which is being provided on a rent free basis for three years. The incubation centre will consist of 7,000 sq feet of second generation office space and 2,000 sq feet of adjoining warehouse space.

**5.2 Urban Enhancement *Projected Cost €27,500***

The proposal includes the development of a linkage between Wolf Tone Square and the Circular Road would deliver improved levels of permeability allied to an attractive and safe urban space in the town centre. The proposed linkage would increase footfall and dwell times at this location by means of linking existing car parking facilities with the town centre. It would also build on previous works which were carried out on a community basis with the support of Sligo County council.

**5.3 Footfall Counters *Projected Cost: €5,000***

It is considered that the collection of footfall data in Tobercurry will be a significant indicator in relation to the success of the range of measures contained within the REDZ proposal. In context it is hoped that a 5% increase in the overall footfall within the town would be achieved within 1 calendar year.

**5.4 Action Planning Workshop *Projected Cost: €2,120***

The purpose of this measure is to manage and deliver a facilitated action planning workshop with the tourism trade, community groups and festivals in the Tobercurry REDZ. The workshop will devise a vision; broad objectives and a range of proposed actions to develop and market tourism and to create the genesis of a tourism network

**5.5 Economic Appraisal of future use of disused Rail Line *Projected Cost: €8,900euro***

The strategic location of Tobercurry REDZ No. 122 on the disused Sligo to Limerick Railway Line presents it with a unique advantage. The potential development of a Greenway/Railway on this route would be a huge boost for Tobercurry and a “game changer” for tourism and business generally in this area. Within the context of this opportunity, it is incumbent upon Sligo County Council to investigate the economic feasibility of the varying development proposals for this route.

**5.6 Marketing and Mentoring Programme *Projected Cost: €16,800***

Funding under the REDZ scheme will allow for Sligo County Council (SCC) to deliver on an agreed strategic mentoring and marketing plan which has been developed between SCC

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

and Tobercurry Chamber of Commerce for the Tobercurry REDZ. This programme will allow for the building of a significant capacity within existing community groups to better market their activities and events. The training programme is also designed to up-skill existing businesses in the area with regard to their online presence and to audit business websites. The ultimate aim of the programme is to enhance the digital footprint of Tobercurry and help deliver a positive, consistent and vibrant message about this area.

**5.7 Branding and Visual Identity** *Projected Cost: €1,000*

The REDZ concept has highlighted the need for clear branding for this part of County Sligo in order to build on the obvious strengths and unique selling points (USP's) of the area. In this context it is proposed to invest in the development of a brand strategy for the Tobercurry REDZ.

**5.8 Marquee for the benefit of all community Groups** *Projected Cost; 20,000*

Currently all of the significant events in Tobercurry and surrounds use a marquee as part of their staging. The provision of such a structure which would be at the disposal of all in the groups in the locality would be of great benefit in relation to the running and hosting of events. It is proposed that this structure will be managed by Tubbercurry Chamber of Commerce in trust for all of the groups locally and that any proceeds accruing from its rental will be reinvested into local community groups and projects.

**5.9 Architects fees for the development of St Brigid's Hall** *Projected Cost €5,000*

The intention is to develop a design for the development of St Brigid's hall including the lodging of a planning application. The proposal will involve the development of the facade of the Hall to facilitate the provision of a box office and Tourist Information Office and museum to enable the promotion of all things Tobercurry. This will leave the development of this building in a "shovel ready" position where potential sources of funding can be sought to further this project.

| <b>Table 7. Breakdown of REDZ Proposal</b> |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Project Element</b>                     | <b>Projected Cost</b> |
| Enterprise/Incubation Centre               | €109,765              |
| Urban Enhancement                          | €27,500               |
| Footfall Counters                          | € 5,000               |
| Action Planning Workshop                   | € 2,120               |
| Economic Appraisal of use of Rail Line     | € 8,900               |
| Marketing and Mentoring Programme          | €16,800               |
| Branding and Visual Identity               | € 1,000               |
| Marquee                                    | €20,000               |
| Architects fees St Brigid's Hall           | € 5,000               |
| <b>Total Cost of REDZ Proposal</b>         | <b>€196,085</b>       |

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

## **6. Match Funding Requirement**

In order to be in a position to secure funding of €150,000 from this pilot scheme there is a match funding requirement of a minimum 15% cash. In this context Sligo County Council is proposing to supply match funding of €22,500. In addition, funding of 23,585 will be made available from Tubbercurry Chamber of Commerce in order to bring this project to fruition.

## **7. Conclusion**

The REDZ proposal as submitted contains a range of measures which are aimed at regenerating Tobercurry and its hinterland. These projects have been tailored to have the maximum achievable benefit in terms of creating jobs, increasing footfall, improving Tobercurry's digital footprint and up-skilling local businesses and community groups. This project, if successful, could be the catalyst to set Tobercurry on a new path toward economic prosperity".

Ms. Clarke, Director of Services, advised the meeting that the closing date was 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 and the Council is awaiting the outcome of the assessment. If successful, the allocation must be spent and drawn down before the end of the year. Work had been done in conjunction with Tubbercurry Chamber of Commerce.

Members welcomed this rural initiative and the involvement and buy in of the Chamber of Commerce in this good news story for south Sligo. It was felt that this has huge tourism potential for the area and small industry can start and build on this. Members said Tubbercurry is an area that had been hit with job losses including the moving of a Government Department to Mayo and the Head offices of Aurivo to Sligo town with the resultant loss of revenue to the town.

Councillor Dara Mulvey added that he had made representations regarding this Scheme to Minister Alan Kelly and Minister of State, Paudie Coffey.

## **18. TRACKS AND TRAILS INITIATIVE:**

Ms. D. Clarke presented the following report to the Meeting:

*"The Council has been engaging with Sherwin Media, the producers of the hugely popular Tracks and Trails Programme, over the summer months with a view to featuring some of Sligo's iconic walkways in the next series to be aired in the first quarter of 2016. Central to the initiative was the imperative of putting a funding package in place and I am to advise that this was secured in mid August inclusive of a €10,000 contribution from Sligo County Council.*

*The funding partners are the Office of Public Works (OPW), Western Development Commission (WDC) and Sligo Tourist Development Association (STDA) in addition to Sligo County Council. The programme which will be aired in Spring 2016 will announce Sligo's 2016 tourism season. The chosen celebrity to guide and feature along the various trails is Waterboys musician Steve Wickham joined by his wife, Heidi. Other participants included OPW and Sligo's own Pdraig Meehan, with Yeats Society President, Martin Enright joining them at Lough Gill.*

*The programme will exclusively feature Co. Sligo and the most recognisable walking trails located therein. The dedicated programme encourages people of all ages to get out and enjoy the wonderful amenities and spectacular scenery available in Co. Sligo. Filming took place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> September with locations including; Strandhill, Killaspugbrone, Knocknarea, Carrowmore, The Sligo Way including Union Wood , Ballygawley, Loch Lumann, Slish Wood and Innisfree. The call*

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

*to action to Sligowalks.ie will be acknowledged. The captured sample content supervised by the Council during film 'shooting' will amply demonstrate the amenities which Sligo has in abundance and will act as catalyst to motivate visitors to come to Sligo and enjoy its wonderful offering”.*

The Cathaoirleach and members welcomed the benefits to tourism and marketing from this promotion. Queries were raised regarding the criteria for selecting the trails, given the existence of scenic and popular trails in West and South Sligo.

**19. COUNTY SLIGO PLACE NAMES POLICY AND NAMING OF PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AT STEPHEN STREET CAR PARK:**

It was agreed by the Members to take items 19 and Councillor MacManus’ notice of motion (Item 27 on the Agenda) together.

Ms. D. Clarke advised the Meeting that, on foot of the headed item, an item will be listed on the agenda for the Sligo Municipal District Meeting to be held on 21st September and the Ballymote-Tobercurry Municipal District Meeting to be held on 19th October. It will also be listed for the Heritage Forum meeting due to be held on 26th November and the Sligo PPN at their next meeting.

When the full list of nominees is in place, it will then be brought back before the full Council for their consent. Having regard to all the groups involved, this will most likely be at the December Meeting.

In relation to Councillor MacManus’ motion, it was agreed that consideration should be given to the renaming of certain streets and to look at the background to current street names, e.g. Charlotte Street, Union Street, etc.

Councillor MacManus also complimented Ms. Fiona Gallagher for the extensive work carried out for her book “Streets of Sligo”.

It was agreed that the Committee should start with the town area initially and then review older names in the county. It would require a plebiscite from those in the area to change any of the names.

It was further agreed that the naming of new Estates should be examined as some of them had no relevance to or association with the area they were located.

The Chief Executive said he was suggesting that this would become part of the work of the Place names Committee. Together with the naming of new Estates, there is potential to look at existing names that may no longer be relevant and the naming of the pedestrian bridge at the Garavogue.

The recommendations would come back from the Placenames Committee, through the Corporate Policy Group and back to the County Council.

**20. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORTS – JUNE AND JULY 2015:**

Councillor D. Bree enquired about figures listed in the Reports under the headings of “Road Transportation and Safety” and “Miscellaneous Services”. Ms. Whelan, Head of Finance, outlined the details corresponding to each figure.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

In addition, the Chief Executive advised the Members that it is hoped, later this month, to redeploy some existing Staff and increase the numbers of Traffic Wardens on the streets. Mr. Hayes advised Members that there will be an increased number of Traffic Wardens on duty and he hoped to convey the message that it is cheaper to buy parking tickets than to pay a parking fine.

It was then

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree  
Seconded by Councillor S. MacManus**

**AND AGREED**

“To note the June and July 2015 Monthly Management Reports.”

**21. ACTION PLAN FOR “IRELAND 2016”**

Mr. Donal Tinney, County Librarian, acknowledged that there was a very difficult timeframe associated with the project and advised members that his report would be available to the Members for their October Meeting.

He advised Members that 29 applications, with a funding requirement of €200,000 had been received. Sligo County Council has an allocation of €3,000.

It was intended to go ahead to commission low cost items such as the flags and banners. Mr. Tinney had distributed flyers to the Members which, he pointed out, had been designed in-house.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. Tinney and the Action Plan Team for the work done in such a short timeframe and to highlight that their work is appreciated.

Members expressed the view that Mr. Tinney and his Team should be given every possible support and regretted that it was not possible to source more funding. It was hoped that more funding might become available in the second tranche of funding.

The quality of applications for funding and the work of Community Groups was acknowledged, and Mr Tinney advised that successful applicants would shortly be notified.

In response to a query from Councillor Bree regarding the leaflet which had been circulated, Mr. Tinney confirmed that it had been prepared for the information of Members.

**22. ANNUAL REPORT 2014:**

**Proposed by Councillor J. Queenan  
Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey**

**AND AGREED:**

“To adopt the Annual Report 2014”.



**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

**23. CRANMORE REGENERATION MASTERPLAN:**

Ms. M. McConnell, A/Director of Services, referred to the Stage 4 Cranmore Regeneration Masterplan display which had taken place from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September at the Central Block Sit, Devins' Drive, Cranmore.

There had been a large attendance to view the drawings and boards and to meet with the Consultants. Ms. McConnell paid tribute to the Cranmore Regeneration Team, the Co-Operative and the Chair of the Residents' Association.

Members congratulated all involved for their efforts, particularly for the transparent manner this work is being done. It was noted that these works were proposed in 2001, began in 2004 and now pressure needed to be exerted to obtain the necessary finance.

In response to queries from Members, Ms. O'Callaghan, Senior Executive Architect, advised that a lot of ideas had been on display. The Team will now take the feedback to allow them to define what will happen and what will be included in the final Masterplan. The Team are conscious that there could be a jigsaw of funding requiring a partnership with other sources of funding with Departmental funding for some projects. The questionnaire distributed at the event had requested people to highlight their priorities.

In reply to an enquiry regarding the weighting of replies, dependent on whether they lived in the Cranmore area or outside it, this had not been a part of the questionnaire. However, everyone was asked to identify where they were from.

Until the questionnaires were processed, it was not possible to give accurate numbers of those attending. Some people had used the opportunity to visit the display on a couple of occasions. The number of those attending was vastly improved on July 2014 figure with a significant increase in numbers attending from the Cranmore area.

The Team was delighted with the attendance and with the feedback they have been given over the weekend.

**24. ST. ANGELA'S COLLEGE:**

With the agreement of the Meeting, this item was deferred to the October Meeting.

**25. COMMERCIAL RATES – CHILDCARE AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES:**

With the agreement of the Meeting, this item was deferred to the October Meeting.

**26. PLAYGROUND FOR ROSSES POINT:**

**Proposed by Councillor T. MacSharry  
Seconded by Councillor S. Maguire**

“That Sligo County Council taking the increase of young families and children into consideration and increase in population in Rosses Point village area of Sligo, assess the urgent need and costing for the provision of a designated playground in the village”.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

Councillor MacSharry outlined the reasons for this request, particularly with a lot of new families living in the Oyster Bay Estate. He also complimented the Engineering Staff of Sligo County Council for the works they have carried out in getting the street lighting functioning in this Estate.

Ms. D. Clarke, Director of Services reported as follows:

*“Sligo County Council has no immediate plans to develop a playground in Rosses Point.*

*Issues to be considered in the development of a playground include – community consultation, availability of a suitable site, costs of development and future costs of insurance and on-going maintenance.*

*The involvement of the local community is essential in the development of any such facility”.*

Ms. Clarke confirmed that funding had been received from LEADER in other areas in the past to provide community playgrounds. It would be unlikely that Sligo County Council could provide one directly, bearing in mind costs of construction, insurances, etc. Any advice or help that could be given by the Council’s Staff would be available to the Community.

Councillor MacSharry referred to correspondence in previous years from former Councillor Jude Devins and asked Ms. Clarke to check the file in relation to this matter and come back to the Members. Ms. Clarke agreed to do so.

**28. LIBRARY SERVICE AND MODEL NILAND CENTRE:**

**Proposed by Councillor E. Scanlon**

**Seconded by Councillor J. Queenan**

“Request the following information in relation to the Library Service and the Model Niland Centre:

- 1 a. What funding is provided by Sligo County Council toward the Branch Libraries per year and a breakdown of how this money is allocated for each branch?
- b. What funding is provided by the State towards the library service per year?
- c. Furthermore, confirm how many staff members are required for the day to day running of both Ballymote Library and Tubbercurry Library operating at their current status.
- d. How many registered members are there of Ballymote Library and Tubbercurry Library
2. Request the following information in relation to Sligo Town Library namely:
  - a. What funding is provided by Sligo County Council toward this library per year and a breakdown of how this money is allocated?
  - b. What funding is provided by the State towards this library per year?
  - c. How many registered members are there of Sligo Town Library?
3. In relation to The Model Niland Centre
  - a. What was the recorded visitor numbers for 2014?
  - b. How many members of staff are currently employed at The Model Niland Centre?
  - c. What funding comes directly from Sligo County Council to the Model Niland Centre and a

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

breakdown of how this money is allocated on an annual basis?

d. What funding comes from the State to the Model Niland Centre on an annual basis?"

Ms. Clarke delivered the following report to the Meeting:

***“a. What funding is provided by Sligo Co. Co. toward the Branch Libraries per year and a breakdown of how this money is allocated for each branch?”***

*In 2015, a total of €786,359.00 was provided for the upkeep and running of the Library Service. This is broken down as follows:*

- *Ballymote Branch Library: €146,104 for salaries, admin costs, rent, light, heat and other overheads.*
- *Tubbercurry Branch Library: €114,000 for salaries, admin costs, light, heat and other overheads.*
- *Sligo Central Library: €476,255.00 for salaries, admin costs, light, heat and other overheads*
- *A Book fund of €50,000 was provided in 2015 to cover book stock in all branches.*

***b. What funding is provided by the State towards the library service per year?***

- *No funding is provided by Central Government for the day to day operation or running of the library service.*
- *However, €24,000 is received each year towards the running costs of (EDIC) Europe Direct Information Centre located in Tubbercurry Branch*

***c. Furthermore, confirm how many staff members are required for the day to day running of both Ballymote Library and Tubbercurry Library operating at their current status.***

*Currently, both Tubbercurry and Ballymote Branch Libraries operate with the bare minimum of two staff in each branch. From October 2015, the number of staff available for Ballymote will be reduced to one.*

*To maintain current opening hours at minimum adequate standards would require:*

- *Tubbercurry to have a minimum of three fulltime frontline staff to service rota adequately.*
- *Likewise, Ballymote would also require a minimum of three fulltime frontline staff to adequately service rota.*
- *While, Sligo Central Library would require a minimum of six fulltime frontline staff to service the rota for that branch.*

***d. How many registered members are there of Ballymote Library and Tubbercurry Library.***

*Currently,*

- *Ballymote Branch Library has a registered membership of 1,754.*
- *Tubbercurry Branch Library has a registered membership of 1,752.*

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO

2. *Request the following information in relation to Sligo Town Library namely:*
- a. *What funding is provided by Sligo Co. Co. toward this library per year and a breakdown of how this money is allocated?*
    - €476,255.00 is provided for Sligo Central Library for salaries, admin costs, light, heat and other overheads in 2015.
  - b. *What funding is provided by the State towards this library per year?*
    - No funding is provided by the State for the running or operation of any of the Branch Libraries.
  - c. *How many registered members are there of Sligo Town Library?*
    - There are 7,034 registered members of Sligo Central library at present.
3. *In relation to The Model Niland Centre*
- a. *What was the recorded visitor numbers for 2014?*
    - 114,000 visitors for 2014.
  - b. *How many members of staff are currently employed at The Model Niland Centre?*
    - A total of 11no. Staff are employed by The Model Company. Six people are also currently engaged on Community Employment schemes.
  - c. *What funding comes directly from Sligo County Council to the Model Niland Centre and a breakdown of how this money is allocated on an annual basis?*
    - An allocation of €113,000.00 was provided by SCC in 2015.
  - d. *What funding comes from the State to the Model Niland Centre on an annual basis?*
    - €250,000.00 is allocated by Arts Council for The Model by way of a Programming allocation
    - €40,000.00 is provided in 2015 by the Arts Council under RAISE Project for the purpose of developing a fundraising programme.”

**It was proposed by Councillor E. Scanlon**  
**Seconded by Councillor J. Queenan**

AND AGREED

“That a copy of this report would be circulated to each Member”.

**29. DESIGNATED URBAN CENTRES GRANTS SCHEME 2014-2020:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly**  
**Seconded by Councillor D. Bree**

“In relation to the “Designated Urban Centres Grants Scheme 2014-2020”, what provision does Sligo County Council intend to set aside to avail of this funding stream and what projects are to be applied for?”.

Mr. Tom Kilfeather outlined to the Meeting that, to avail of this Scheme, 50% funding has to be found. This would require Sligo County Council to provide €2m matching funds “without recourse to additional borrowing”.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

The deadline for submitting proposals is the end of October and the issue here is how is Sligo County Council going to provide €2m of matching funds without additional borrowing. There may be the possibility that salary costs can be allocated to it. Whether we would be allowed to take funding we might receive from other organisations is yet to be established.

Councillor Casserly said that she appreciated the financial situation but felt it was a shame that the Government has not invested in Local Authorities. The short timescale involved in meeting deadlines was also noted.

Members asked that the information, when available, would be furnished to them as soon as possible.

The Chief Executive advised the Meeting that this was being examined at the moment. It presents a difficulty when the Council gets a proposal like this, as it offers both financial challenges and valuable opportunities. In advance of considering it in the Budget, his intention is to explore the benefits of the project.

**30. CONGRATULATIONS RE. FLEADH 2015:**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly**

**Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

“I wish to propose a motion to congratulate all those involved in any way in making the Fleadh a huge success for the second year in a row and for putting Sligo centre stage nationally and internationally.”

Members agreed that this had been a great opportunity for Sligo when it had been a shop window for Ireland.

Congratulations were extended to Bartley Gavin and the Fleadh Team, Comhaltas, Sligo County Council Staff, LEADER and their Staff, Volunteers, Tidy Towns, Order of Malta and Civil Defence, TG4, the Media and local businesses.

It was noted that there is now a proposal for a Traditional Music Festival to be held each year to build on the success of the Fleadh and meetings have taken place.

Members wished to be associated with the vote of congratulations to all those listed above.

The Chief Executive thanked the Members for their comments and compliments. Mr. Hayes acknowledged the work carried out by Bartley Gavin and his Staff. A large amount of work had gone on behind the scenes, including late at night and early mornings to ensure all areas were clean and tidy. Every one of the Staff involved put their shoulder to the wheel to ensure it was successful.

**31. GRANTS TO RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS:**

With the agreement of the Meeting, this item was deferred to the October Meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

**32. REPAIRS TO ROAD L-1604**

**Proposed by Councillor E. Scanlon**

**Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

“Request Sligo County Council to have works carried out on Road L-1604 as there are some bad potholes and it’s a road that is very heavily trafficked and it is the main link road between Ballymote town and the N4”.

Mr. T. Brennan, Senior Engineer reported as follows:

*“A section of this road is included in the Restoration Improvement Programme for this year. These works will be completed in the coming weeks. Any repairs required on further sections of the road will be included in the Pothole repair programme and subject to funding and resources”.*

**33. CRITERIA FOR USAGE OF DISABLED PARKING BAYS:**

*“That Sligo County Council calls on the wider driving public to respect the criteria for usage of disabled parking bays throughout the town and county.*

*Further, that Sligo County Council will pro-actively implement the existing parking bye-laws relating to such parking bays by:*

- (i) Upgrading the existing texting facility to utilise smartphone camera technology;*
- (ii) Allow traffic wardens to place parking violation stickers on cars that don’t display the Disabled Person Parking Card.”*

Ms. Whelan advised the meeting that the Traffic Warden was required to visit the site of a traffic offence in accordance with Section 33 of the Traffic Warden Act, 1975. Traffic Wardens need to note the date, time and location of offence. At present, the Traffic Wardens also take a photograph of the vehicle.

In relation to the request to use “violation stickers”, the main deterrent is found to be the fine which is €80, rising to €100 if unpaid after 28 days.

Councillor MacManus reiterated that he felt the Council needs to take a strict line on enforcing abuse of parking in these spaces and he requested that the Council consider the introduction of ‘violation stickers’

The Chief Executive agreed with the Members regarding the abuse of the spaces. While he had reservations about the ‘violation stickers’, he noted that Cases brought before a Court Judge were successful as they usually take a very dim view of people parking in disabled parking spaces.

Members agreed that this is an area that needs to be monitored.

**34. MAGIC MOMENTS CHILDCARE FACILITY, ACLARE:**

With the agreement of the Meeting, this item was deferred to the October Meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

**35. ACCESSIBILITY OF SLIGO STREETS, ROADS, PARKS AND PUBLIC PLACES:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree  
Seconded by Councillor T. Healy**

“That the meeting be provided with a report indicating measures taken by the Council to facilitate wheelchair users in streets, roads, parks and public places.”

Councillor Bree outlined a number of issues that had been raised with him by members of the public in relation to accessible spaces and street surfaces. Representations had been made to the County Council but, to date, a reply had not been received.

**It was proposed by Councillor D. Bree  
Seconded by Councillor G. O’Boyle**

AND AGREED

“That a report be provided indicating the measures that will be taken by Sligo County Council in relation to the accessibility of streets, roads, parks and public places in Sligo”.

The Chief Executive confirmed that a report will be provided to the Members at their October Meeting, as requested.

**36. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ADJACENT TO MARKIEVICZ BRIDGE:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Bree  
Seconded by Councillor S. MacManus**

“That the Council be provided with an up to date report on the proposed pedestrian footbridge to be erected adjacent to Markievicz Bridge; the report to include details of the most recent submission made to the Department seeking funding for the project”

Mr. T. Kilfeather, Director of Services reported as follows:

*“This scheme consists of the construction of a pedestrian footbridge located immediately upstream and adjacent to the existing seven span historic masonry arch Markievicz Bridge. The scheme will also stabilise the piers and abutments of the existing Bridge. A Part 8 Planning Process for the scheme had been approved by the Council in November 2009 and preliminary design and tender documents prepared. Some land acquisitions issues remain to be completed. The DTTAS provided funding for planning and design works carried out to date on this Scheme.*

*Non-National Road Schemes such as this normally attract funding under the Department’s Specific Improvement Grant Scheme (SIG). However the DTTAS has wound down this scheme in recent years and since 2013 is not seeking applications for construction of new projects. Funding is only being made available for completion of schemes under construction and for minor bridge refurbishment works.*

*The last application for funding was for an amount of €285,000 for year 2013 for preliminary works including installation of foundations for the new bridge and repair works to the existing bridge. However, no funding was allocated to the scheme.*

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

*The Planning status of the Scheme now also needs to be reviewed in the context of changes in Planning and Environmental legislation and we will be undertaking this exercise shortly”.*

Mr. Kilfeather advised Members that the Council will be engaging the services of an Ecologist in the upcoming review.

Members welcomed Mr. Kilfeather’s report and asked that he enquire with the relevant Bodies involved in the construction of the pedestrian footbridge adjacent to the bridge in Carrick-on-Shannon. In agreeing to do so, he advised the meeting that the bridge in Carrick-on-Shannon is on a National Primary road. This work would have been done by the National Roads Authority unlike the Markievicz Bridge scheme which would have to be funded by the Department of Transport as the Bridge is on a Regional Road.

While noting the contents of the report, Councillor Bree expressed the opinion that the Government need to reintroduce the Specific Improvement Grant Scheme for these works and was pleased to note that the planning status is going to be reviewed.

**37. UPGRADE OF LOUGH TALT WATER SUPPLY SCHEME:**

**Proposed by Councillor Gormley**

**Seconded by Councillor Taylor**

“That this council express its concern at the announcement that the upgrade of the Lough Talt Water Supply Scheme which supplies over 9,000 customers in the South Sligo area and for which a new treatment plant is urgently needed is to be further deferred and that we call on Irish Water for detailed report as to why”.

The following reply had been received from Irish Water:

*“Irish Water is actively progressing the upgrade to the Lough Talt Regional Water Supply Scheme.*

*Irish Water submitted a planning application for a new Water Treatment Plant at Gortersluin, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo on the 3rd July 2015 to Sligo County Council. Sligo County Council reviewed this planning application and on the 25th August 2015, Irish Water received correspondence requesting further information. Irish water is currently developing a response to this request.*

- *Site Investigation at the proposed site ongoing*
- *Lough Talt Containerised UV System: Irish Water are proposing to install an UV disinfection system to reduce the risk of cryptosporidium breakthrough at this site*
- *Tender documents are currently being prepared for the provision of UV disinfection for the Lough Talt Water Treatment Plant*
- *Tendering, tender assessment and contractor appointment are due to be complete by end December 2015*
- *Construction to commence January 2016 and be completed by end June 2016”*

Members felt it is important that they get answers from Irish Water as to what they intend doing with the water situation in all of south Sligo. It was noted that Roscommon County Council are examining ways of improving the system coming from Lough Talt.



**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

Some queries were raised about recent media coverage regarding a deferral of these works by Irish Water.

**38. HOLY FAMILY N.S. TUBBERCURRY:**

Mr. Kilfeather confirmed that there is a current planning application for this project. This application is, at present, the subject of a "Further Information Request". In this case, it would be wholly inappropriate for him to comment on same.

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

"What progress is been made regarding the transfer of lands at Holy Family N.S Tubbercurry which is urgently needed for car parking set down area to enable children be dropped off and collected in safety?"

Ms. M. McConnell, A/Director of Services, advised the meeting that the matter was now with the relevant legal people dealing with the transfer between the H.S.E. and Sligo County Council. Ms. McConnell outlined that there had been problems encountered in the past with this protracted process. However, it was now at the finalisation stage.

This matter will then be the subject of a Section 183 to be brought back to the Council for their approval to transfer the property to Holy Family National School. There will also need to be some discussions as to how the costs associated with this process, when available, will be covered.

Councillor Gormley asked that the School would receive this correspondence as quickly as possible.

**39. COLLOONEY ROUNDABOUTS:**

**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy  
Seconded by Councillor S. MacManus**

"To call on Sligo County Council to write to NRA in relation to the two roundabouts on the N4 at the junction at Collooney and at the junction of the N17 and ask that the NRA to work along with Collooney Tidy town to plant some flowers and shrubs to bring a bit of colour to these two roundabouts."

Councillor Healy outlined the background to this notice of motion and referred to similar locations in Lifford, Dromod, Carrick-on-Shannon where works had been carried out with wording on the roundabouts as you entered or left those towns. A suggestion for the wording "Fáilte" and "Slán" in box/buxus hedging was put forward as an indication of what the residents of Collooney would like to see.

The local Committee are willing to assist in this work if they could get the support of the National Roads Authority. There is also a local artist, whose work can be seen in the local park there, who would be willing to create a feature, if required.

Several Members welcomed this initiative and praised the community in the Collooney area for their positivity and works they carry out in their area.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

**40. CLEAN UP OF OLD CEMETERY IN BALLISODARE:**

**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy**

**Seconded by Councillor S. MacManus**

“To call on Sligo County Council to carry out a major clean up of the old cemetery in Ballisodare and the road leading down to it”.

Mr. T. Brennan, Senior Engineer reported as follows:

*“This cemetery in Ballisodare is an old medieval cemetery and includes the ruins of an old church or abbey. The ground of the cemetery is very uneven and is very heavily overgrown.*

*Prior to any clean-up the status of the cemetery and church ruins would first have to be ascertained from a heritage and archaeological point of view and health and safety.*

*Sligo County Council’s cemetery maintenance budget only allows basic cemetery maintenance to be carried out e.g. repairs to boundary walls and gates, removal of trees etc.*

*A clean-up of this cemetery would be totally beyond the resources of this department and a community lead approach would be more appropriate in this case”.*

Councillor Healy outlined to the meeting that there had been work carried out under a FAS Scheme in the early 1980s. There had, however, been difficulties since in securing a TUS Scheme.

Mr. Brennan said that he had confirmed with the Council’s Heritage Officer that the Church in this cemetery is a recorded monument. Works can only be done in this area under very strict supervision. This would need to be done in conjunction with the Heritage Office.

Councillor Healy noted this and enquired if it would be possible to refer this matter to the Office of Public Works for their input.

**41. SOCIAL WELFARE CHRISTMAS BONUS 2015:**

With the agreement of the Meeting, this item was deferred to the October Meeting.

**42. PONTOONS AT SLIGO AND MULLAGHMORE HARBOURS:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

**Seconded by Councillor J. Queenan**

“To provide an update of the position in relation to the extensions at the Pontoons at Sligo Harbour and Mullaghmore Harbour”.

Mr. T. Kilfeather, Director of Services reported as follows:

*“The existing Pontoon at Sligo Harbour has proved to be very successful.*

*Submissions for funding for the extension of the existing Pontoon at Sligo Harbour (Hughes Bridge)*

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

*under the Marine Leisure and Marine Tourism Scheme promoted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine was made in 2014 and again earlier this year.*

*These applications were for the cost of Design, planning and expansion of the Pontoon facility. The allocation sought was €27,000.*

*However so far these funding applications have not been successful.*

*The situation regarding the Pontoon at Mullaghmore Harbour is more complicated. Mullaghmore Harbour has always been a tidal harbour, (since the first portion was constructed in the 1820's), that is, it dries out at low spring tides. The area outside the harbour entrance to the Pontoon and across the bay to the beach and Mermaids cove is also very shallow. As a result the pontoon rests on the sea bed at low spring tide and the surrounding area may dry out rendering the pontoon ineffective for a portion of the tidal cycle. Localised dredging at the Pontoon has not been successful and various possibilities have been mooted but no clear feasible solution is currently available. Sligo County Council has applied for funding previously to have a study and investigations carried out by specialists, to assess the reasons for the shallow seabed, to consider options and realistic solutions, if any, to address the matter.*

*It should be noted that the Pontoon is however available for the bulk of the tidal cycle each day and night for embarkation and disembarkation. No mooring at the Pontoon should take place for any period in excess of 20 minutes.*

*Most recently a submission for funding under the Marine Leisure and Marine Tourism Scheme promoted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine was made on March 24<sup>th</sup>. This application was for the cost of a Study, estimated at €31,000, regarding silting in the Harbour area including bathymetric and current survey, littoral current and sediment transport survey modeling, solutions and recommendations to the siltation problem at the Harbour and breakwater area. This was 1 of 5 Projects the Council applied for under this Scheme. However this Scheme was not included in the 2015 grants.*

*We consider such a Study as critical in determining what if any action can be taken to resolve this problem as previous works have not been successful”.*

Councillor Kilgannon requested that a copy of this report would be furnished to him for his information. The advantages to these areas from the extensions to the Pontoons were outlined to the meeting.

**43. CREDIT UNION ACT, 2012:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

**Seconded by Councillor E. Scanlon**

**AND AGREED**

“Sligo County Council calls on the Minister for Finance to return to the Dail with an open mind and listen to the very real concerns of TDs before he signs new Regulations into law on the remaining Sections of the 2012 Credit Union Act”.

Councillor Kilgannon asked that, as this matter had been agreed, it would now be circulated to all local authorities for their information and attention.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

**44. ROCKFIELD WATER TREATMENT PLANT, COOLANEY:**

**Proposed by Councillor D. Mulvey  
Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

“To call on Sligo County Council to repair the fencing around the Water Treatment plant at Rockfield, Coolaney and to erect a public light along the road adjacent to this facility in the interest of safety”.

Mr. Tom Brennan, Senior Engineer reported the reply received from Irish Water as follows:

*“Irish Water are currently reviewing site security at all of its operational assets and the security fence at Rockfield Coolaney Water Reservoir will be inspected this month and any necessary repairs will be undertaken within a reasonable time period.”*

*Irish Water can also confirm that an external light will be installed at the entrance to the site to enhance health and safety standards.”*

**45. INHERITANCE TAX:**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon  
Seconded by Councillor M. Casserly**

“Sligo County Council calls on the Minister for Finance, Mr. Michael Noonan, to cut the Inheritance tax in the upcoming Budget”.

Councillor Kilgannon advised the meeting that the current threshold, before a family member would be required to pay Inheritance Tax at the rate of 33% is €25,000. In 2008, the threshold had been €21,000 and the rate of tax had been 20%.

The payment date of 31<sup>st</sup> October was also proving to be a difficulty for those liable and he felt this should also be changed to allow people to adjust to their situation.

Other Members agreed and added that this was also a cause of great distress to a number of farming families.

**46. VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley  
Seconded by Councillor E. Scanlon**

AND AGREED

“That a vote of sympathy be extended to Rosaleen Wynne on the death of her mother, Nancy McCoy.

**Proposed by Councillor M. Gormley  
Seconded by Councillor E. Scanlon**

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

AND AGREED

“That a vote of sympathy be extended to Mai McDonagh on the death of her brother, Dan Shannon.

**Proposed by Councillor M. Casserly**

**Seconded by Councillor M. Gormley**

AND AGREED

“That a vote of sympathy be extended to Geraldine McDonald and family on the death of her husband, Tom.

**47. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

**Seconded by Councillor R. O’Grady**

AND AGREED

“That a vote of congratulations be extended to Thomas J. Lillis, Chairman of Irish Federation of Sea Anglers and the four provincial Councils and all the Clubs for staging the 51st World Boat Angling Championships, 2015 at Mullaghmore from the 12th to 19th September, 2015”.

**Proposed by Councillor S. Kilgannon**

**Seconded by Councillor R. O’Grady**

AND AGREED

“That a vote of congratulations be extended to Sligo Credit Union on the occasion of reaching 50 years of serving the people of Sligo and surrounding areas with a not for profit but for service Credit Union”.

**Proposed by Councillor S. Maguire**

**Seconded by Councillor D. Mulvey**

AND AGREED

“That a vote of congratulations be extended to Adrian McPartland, Hillcrest Park, Strandhill on his acceptance into training for the Garda Siochana and wish him the best of good luck”.

**Proposed by Councillor T. Healy**

**Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

“That a vote of congratulations be extended to Owenmore Gaels of Collooney on winning the Junior A Finals. This was a great day for the Club and the communities of Collooney and Ballisodare as they hadn’t won a major cup title since 1969.”

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

**48. CONFERENCES AND TRAINING**

**Proposed by Councillor E. Scanlon  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

“That the list of conferences circulated for September/October at this meeting, are unanimously agreed.”

**49. PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCES AND TRAINING**

**Proposed by Councillor E. Scanlon  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

“To note the summary of proceedings of conferences attended in accordance with Section 142(5) (f) of the Local Government Act, 2001.”

**50. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Proposed by Councillor E. Scanlon  
Seconded by Councillor P. Taylor**

AND AGREED

“To note the correspondence circulated with the agenda.”

Councillor Scanlon enquired if any replies had been received from correspondence sent from Sligo County Council to telecommunication companies some months previously.

To date, no replies had been received from this correspondence

**Proposed by Councillor Scanlon  
Seconded by Councillor Taylor**

AND AGREED

“To write to Comreg inviting them to attend a Meeting of Sligo County Council”.

**51. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

Under this heading, Councillor Gormley enquired as to the current situation at the junction at Ballymote Railway Station.

Mr. T. Kilfeather, Director of Services, undertook to get an update and revert to the Members.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER ADJOURNED ORDINARY MEETING OF SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2015 AT 11.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, RIVERSIDE, SLIGO**

**52. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**END OF MEETING:**

The meeting concluded at 4.20 p.m.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Meetings Administrator**

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

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

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