The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. F. Chambers, was in the Chair.

The other Councillors present were:


The Council Staff in attendance were:

Mr. D. Mahon, Co. Manager, Mr. J. Beirne, Dir. of Services / Co. Engineer, Mr. J. Loftus, Dir. of Services, Mr. J. Condon, Meetings Administrator, Mr. T. Mullen, Head of Finance, Mr. P. Hynes, Dir. of Services, Mr. S. Granahan, Dir. of Services, Mr. R. Norton, Dir. of Services, Mr. J. Coll, Dir. Comm. and Enterprise, Mr. I. Douglas, Sen. Planner, Mr. S. Murphy, Chief Fire Officer, Mr. P. Duggan, Management Accountant, Ms. E. McCormack, Financial Accountant, Mr. P. Carroll, Head of I.S., Ms. M. Gannon, A/Co. Librarian, Mr. P. Flanagan, Sen. Ex. Officer, Mr. J. Walsh, Adm. Officer, Ms. A. McCarthy, Arts Officer, Mr. J. Moran, Sen. Staff Officer, Ms. C. Kenny, Asst. Staff Officer.

Discussion continued on the Annual Budget of Mayo County Council.

ITEM NO. 1.

- TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET OF MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2004, AND
- TO ADOPT THE SAID BUDGET WITH OR WITHOUT AMENDMENT;
- TO DETERMINE BY RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SAID BUDGET AS ADOPTED THE ANNUAL RATE TO BE LEVIED FOR THE PURPOSES SET OUT IN TABLE B OF THE SAID BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 2004, AND
- TO DETERMINE BY RESOLUTION THE CHARGES TO BE MADE FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN RESPECT OF DOMESTIC PREMISES FOR REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE AND FIRE BRIGADE SERVICE.

PROGRAMME GROUP 2 - ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY.

Mr. J. Beirne, Dir. of Services / Co. Engineer, outlined details of Programme Group 2 – Road Transportation and Safety.

A detailed discussion ensued under this Programme Group during which reference was made to the following:-
- Improvements to the N59 Road;
- Local Improvement Schemes;
- Clar Programmes funding;
- The success of the decentralisation of Motor Taxation to the Ballina and Belmullet Area Offices;
- That more emphasis be placed on Road Safety by Schools;
- Junior Warden Schemes;
- The N26 – Carrentreila / Ballina Road;
- The necessity for additional funding for Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants;
- The issue of public transport being provided and administered by the Council in rural areas;
- The poor condition of the Castlebar to Belmullet Road;
- The necessity to upgrade the Castlebar to Newport Road;
- Car Insurance;
- Litter on Public Roads;
- Removal of dangerous bend on the R334 Road between Cross and The Neale;
- Road surfacing at Mulranny, Westport;
- The provision of a Road Sign for Belmullet at Glenisland Crossroads;
- The importance of Flashing Beacons at Schools;
- The necessity to upgrade the N60 Road from Castlebar to Claremorris;
- The necessity to upgrade Public Lighting in Villages;
- The upgrading of the N17 Road between Ballindine and Milltown;
- The poor condition of the Road at Barleyhill, Westport;
Station Road / McHale Road Junction, Castlebar.

Mr. J. Beirne, Dir. of Services / Co. Engineer, replied to queries raised by the Members under the Road Transportation and Safety Programme Group.

PROGRAMME GROUP 3 - WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.

Mr. S. Granahan, Dir. of Services, gave a Presentation on Design, Build and Operate.

A detailed discussion took place on Design, Build and Operate during which the Members voiced their concerns regarding this issue.

Proposed by Cllr. G. Coyle
Seconded by Cllr. M. Ring
“That we reject Design, Build and Operate”.

Queries raised by the Members were replied to by Mr. S. Granahan, Dir. of Services, Mr. D. Mahon, Co. Manager and Mr. J. Beirne, Dir. of Services / Co. Engineer.

Mr. S. Granahan, Dir. of Services, outlined details of Programme Group 3 – Water Supply and Sewerage.

A detailed discussion ensued on this Programme Group during which reference was made to the following:

- Preliminary Report for Foxford Sewerage Scheme;
- The upgrading of Charlestown Treatment Plant;
- Mayo Sludge Management Plan;
- Kilkeely water supply;
- Kilmovee Sewerage Scheme;
- Kilmaine Water and Sewerage Scheme;
- The current position regarding Lacken Group Water Scheme;
- The extension of Westport Sewerage Scheme.

Mr. S. Granahan, Dir. of Services and Mr. J. Beirne, Dir. of Services / Co. Engineer, replied to queries raised by the Members under this Programme Group.
The time being 7.55 p.m., it was -

Proposed by Cllr. P. McHugh
Seconded by Cllr. P. Kilbane
Resolved:-
“That “Standing Orders” be suspended in order to allow the Meeting to continue”.

PROGRAMME GROUP 4 - DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES AND CONTROLS.

Mr. J. Loftus, Dir. of Services, Mr. D. Mahon, Co. Manager and Mr. J. Coll, Director, Community and Enterprise, outlined details of Programme Group 4 – Development Incentives and Controls.

A detailed discussed ensued under this Programme Group during which reference was made to the following:-

- The percentage of Planning refusals;
- The necessity to provide additional funding for industrial promotion;
- Planning Clinics;
- Inconsistencies in Planning;
- The success of the Social and Economic Fund;
- The success of the Clar Programmes;
- The necessity to provide additional Enforcement Officers;
- The tourism industry in the County;
- Pre-Planning Meetings.

Mr. J. Loftus, Dir. of Services, replied to queries raised by the Members under the Development Incentives and Controls Programme Group.

Proposed by Cllr. M. Ring
Seconded by Cllr. S. Weir
Resolved:-
“That the Chief Executive of IDA Ireland, Mr. Sean Dorgan, be invited to address a Meeting of the Council”.

Proposed by Cllr. P. McHugh
Seconded by Cllr. P. Kilbane
Resolved:—
“That the Meeting be adjourned to Friday, 23rd January, 2004, at 3.00 p.m.”.

The Meeting adjourned at 8.50 p.m.