

# **Mayo County Council Opening Statement to the Joint Committee on Public Petitions and the Ombudsmen on**

## **Public Petition No. P00021/22 “Kiltimagh Water Scheme”**

Chairman, members of the committee, my name is John Condon, Director of Services, Mayo County Council.

I am accompanied here today by Mr Michael McDermott, Senior Executive Engineer, Mayo County Council and Ms. Bernadette Burke, Executive Engineer, Mayo County Council.

I would like to thank the committee for its invitation to contribute to the discussions regarding the petition titled - “Kiltimagh Water Scheme”.

Background.

- An application was received from Clearagh Community Water Connection in July 2018. The application was assessed by Mayo County Council and the scheme was deemed viable.
- An application for funding was submitted to the DHLGH in March 2019 as part of our 2019 – 2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Program bids submission. The Department provides 85% Grant Aid for Community Water Connections up to a maximum of €15,000 per Domestic Connection with a 15% Local Contribution required from the members. An allocation was received on 14/10/2019 but without immediate provision for funding.
- Verbal confirmation was received from DHLGH in February 2020 that all approved projects could now proceed – this included Clearagh CWC.
- Covid 19 restrictions from 12/03/2020 negatively impacted the interaction of our Rural Water Department with all Community Groups but Mayo County Council endeavoured to keep the process moving, despite the challenges.
- An on-site meeting was held on 28/08/20 between Bernadette Burke, and 22 members of the local community) to provide an update and to advise on the importance of identifying all proposed connection locations and potential routes for the proposed watermains.
- The consultant procurement process commenced on 24/09/20. Ryan Hanley Consultant Engineers were appointed on 02/11/20, to act as Mayo County Council's Employer's Representative. The role of the Employers Representative is to manage the Design Stage, Tender Stage, Construction Stage, Handover Stage, liaison with the Committee and the application process to Irish Water for the connection to the public mains.

- A pre-connection enquiry was lodged by our Employers Representative with Irish Water on 22/01/21. Confirmation of feasibility, subject to conditions, was received from Irish Water on 23/04/21.
- A Natura Impact Statement and Planning Permission were required for the proposed Community Water Connection due to an Irish Water requirement that a new 100mm diameter pipe was required to be taken from the Kiltimagh Water Treatment plant and would have to cross the Glore River which is part of the river Moy Special Area of Conservation.
- A Connection Application was submitted to Uisce Eireann in November 2023, we are still awaiting an Offer of Connection from Uisce Eireann.
- Tender Documents were received from our Employers Representative, Ryan Hanley Consultant Engineers, in December 2023 and advertised on eTenders.
- Two Tenders were received, by the closing date of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024, via eTenders for the construction of the project.
- A decision to grant planning permission was received on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.
- The Tender Recommendation was received from our Employers Representative on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024, and we are currently assessing the Tender Recommendation.
- Once we receive the Offer of Connection from Uisce Eireann, outlining all of the costs associated with the connection, we will be preparing a letter, and including Form GW41, to each of the members of the proposed Community Water Connection. We will be advising them of the actual cost of the project and the required Local Contribution, we will be seeking confirmation from the members that they are willing to pay the required Local Contribution and wish to proceed with the project, the members will also be required to sign and return Form GW41 which is their individual application for funding.
- If the householders wish to proceed an application for funding approval will be submitted to the Department. This approval will enable construction to proceed.

To date Mayo County Council has spent a total of €51,352.51, on Engineering costs, Ecology, Archaeology, Site Investigation, Natura Impact Statement and Planning Application, which to date has been funded by the Department through the 2019-2021 MARWP.

No contribution has yet been requested or received from the householders. Once the details of all costs are available then their local contributions can be calculated and requested.

Finally, I wish to thank Mr. Michael Mcdermott, Ms Bernadette Burke, Ryan Hanley Consultants, The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Uisce Eireann for all of their work in progressing this project.