

Chair's Report

As Chair of the Council, I am pleased to present this report highlighting the work, achievements, and ongoing priorities of the Council during the past year.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge how well our new Clerk has settled into her role with Kerry Community Council. Her commitment and dedication to supporting both the Council and the wider community have already been greatly appreciated, and we all look forward to continuing to work together in the years ahead.

Throughout the year, councillors have worked closely with residents, local organisations, and partner agencies to address a wide range of matters including environmental maintenance, highways concerns, public safety, local amenities, and community wellbeing. Public engagement remains a key priority, and we are grateful to all residents who have attended meetings, contributed feedback, or supported local events and projects.

The Council recognises that there are still challenges ahead. Rising costs, increasing service demands, and changing expectations continue to place pressure on local councils. Nevertheless, we remain committed to careful financial management and to ensuring that resources are used effectively for the benefit of the community. Despite our limited resources, we are very pleased to have been able to provide grants to a number of local groups and organisations during the year. Supporting community initiatives remains an important part of the Council's work, and we would encourage other local groups to apply for funding where eligible in the future.

The Council has also been pleased to continue supporting Kerry Football Club and recognises the important role the club plays within the community. The football club's lease is now due for renewal, and the Council hopes to complete this process in the coming months, helping to provide greater security and enabling them to move forward with their future plans and development ambitions. We look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of the club in the years ahead.

The Council's plans to move into the 21st century by digitising cemetery records will hopefully help ease the administrative workload when registering burials while also improving accessibility and making historical information much easier to search and manage.

This report would not be complete without mentioning the public toilets in Kerry. We are extremely fortunate to have such a conscientious caretaker who goes above and beyond in maintaining these facilities to a very high standard. Their dedication and pride in their work are greatly appreciated by both the Council and the wider community. It is therefore always particularly disheartening when the actions of a very small minority result in damage and vandalism. We would encourage everyone to respect these valued community facilities so they can continue to be enjoyed by all residents and visitors alike.

I would like to thank all councillors for their time, commitment, and professionalism throughout the year. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to both the Clerk and the Responsible Financial Officer for their continued hard work, dedication, and support, often carried out behind the scenes, helping to ensure the smooth and effective operation of Council business.

Finally, I would like to thank residents for their continued support and involvement in our community. By working together, we can continue to make our area a welcoming, safe, and vibrant place for everyone.

Chair of the Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Seal'.

Carmen Seal

May 2026