

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District

held on Wednesday, 22nd March 2023 at 9.30am

Meeting held in Meeting Room, Killaloe Municipal District

In attendance: Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan
Cllr. Joe Cooney
Cllr. Tony O’Brien
Cllr. Pat Hayes
Cllr. Pat Burke

Officials: Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service
Mr. Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Meetings Administrator
Mr. Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer

Members of the media attended

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan chaired the meeting.

Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held on 18th January, 2023

Cllr P Hayes requested the Draft minutes of January 2023 Meeting be amended to reflect it was he who raised the issue of reopening the station in Crusheen and not otherwise as stated in the Draft minutes. This was duly undertaken.

The Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 18th January, 2023 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. Tony O’Brien.

Item 2 Matters Arising

Cllr O’ Brien asked for an update on the charging points for the Killaloe MD. A/SEE Derek Troy replied to say prices had been obtained, approximately €100k for hi speed charging point and approximately €30k for a standard speed charging point. It is proposed to install a standard charging point adjacent to the creche and tennis courts in Killaloe. Cllr O’ Brien welcomed this information.

Cllr O'Brien wished to give credit to the works completed on footpath reinstatement at Crossroads, Killaloe. Cllr O'Brien however highlighted the issue of cars being parked on the footpaths causing issues for residents. Cllr O'Brien did commend the work to date. Cllr O'Brien commented that perhaps the Gardai should be consulted in relation to this illegal parking. Cllr. J Cooney highlighted the urgent necessity for works to be carried out on the footpath adjacent to Scariff GAA grounds and the requirement for a pedestrian bridge over the adjacent river to the GAA facility. Cllr Cooney requested an update since the last meeting.

A/SEE Derek Troy replied saying there was no further update on this issue. Mr Troy indicated there had been 8 Active Travel Applications made including this and none were funded. Mr Troy added that works on this area were funds dependent. Active Travel funding to be more focused on cycle lanes and not footpath reinstatement. Cllr Cooney responded saying this needed to be done due to the high volume of pedestrian usage of the area with the GAA facility, National School, Church and housing developments all in close proximity. Cllr Cooney requested that other forms of funding be looked at for this project.

Item 3 Set date for next meeting

It was agreed the next Killaloe MD meeting be arranged for 9:30am Wednesday 17th May 2023 in the Killaloe MD Offices, Scarriff.

Item 4 Review and update of Elected Members of Killaloe MD Strategic and Work Plan

This was deferred to the Killaloe MD meeting to be held on 29th March 2023 in the Council Chamber.

Item 5 Schedule of Municipal District Works 2023

This was deferred to the Killaloe MD meeting to be held on 29th March 2023 in the Council Chamber.

Item 6 Section 11 – Roads Act 1993 (as amended) - Declaration of Public Road at Ard na Deirge , Killaloe (houses 12 – 19)

This was proposed by Cllr. T O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. P Burke.

Item 7 Update on Lough Derg Greenway Project

Brian Treacy, Damien McWeeney and John Jones of Waterways Ireland joined the meeting and gave a presentation and update on the progress on the Limerick to Scariff Greenway project.

The Elected Members were given an update on the status of the proposed Greenway. A meeting is to be held in early April with the ESB to further clarify details.

Cllr P Hayes wished Waterways Ireland well in the project, welcomed ongoing public engagement and looked forward to the wonderful opportunity it will be and looked forward to enhancement of our natural scenery.

Cllr J Cooney thanked the visitors and was pleased to hear there will be continuous liaison with all landowners involved.

Cllr T O' Brien credited the engagement to date and questioned if it was true that the ESB were delaying matters. John Jones informed the meeting this was not the case at all and welcomed the opportunity to inform the meeting that the ESB were fully engaging with the process at all times. Mr Jones said it needed to be accepted that the ESB has operational issues to conform to also. Cllr O' Brien asked if there was any plan to link the Greenway with the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR) in the future.

Cllr P Burke welcomed the team to the meeting and questioned where the start point was. Waterways Ireland informed the meeting that the start point was an old lock adjacent to the top of O' Connell Street in Limerick City. Cllr Burke also asked if the Greenway would in any way be extended to incorporate the proposed development at Inis Cealtra. Again, Waterways Ireland replied in the negative that this project was only Limerick to Scariff. Cllr Burke also asked about incorporating walks though the adjacent mountains, this was not an option as per Waterway Ireland as the walkway needed to be accessible to all.

Cllr P Hayes asked if there was a possibility of linking this project to the already existing Galway Greenway which is in close proximity. The meeting was informed this was a possibility in the future. Cllr Hayes requested an update on the timescale involved, the meeting was informed that it was hoped the preferred route would be finalized in Quarter 3 of 2023.

A/SEE Derek Troy queried the end point of the Greenway in our area. The meeting was informed the end point was at this stage to be Regional Headquarters of Waterways Ireland

in Scariff. It is also proposed to have a loop walk in the Scariff Tuamgraney area as an end to the Greenway.

Director of Service Anne Haugh queried the governance situation and that all necessary member were on the steering group in place. The meeting was informed that representatives of both Killaloe MD and Shannon MD were on the steering group.

Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Coordinator welcomed the project and advocated that settlements along the route would be linked, accessed or otherwise incorporated into the proposed Greenway to enhance opportunities for our towns and villages along the route.

Waterway Ireland thanked the meeting for the invitation and the involvement from the Elected Members and staff. The meeting was informed there would be further communication once the preferred route was finalized.

Item 8 Notice of Motion from Cllr. T O'Brien:-

“That speed control ramps be installed on the approach to Bridgetown national school and church on the R466, and also on the approach to Killaloe boys national school and on both approaches to the Killaloe community creche and playground.”

Proposed by Cllr. T O'Brien

Seconded by Cllr. J Cooney

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“On foot of this request, Killaloe MD will undertake traffic speed surveys at the locations requested, to establish traffic volumes and extent of vehicular speeds. Killaloe MD will also undertake an assessment of the existing infrastructure, at the locations requested, such as flashing school lights, warning signage and driver feedback signage. Based on the results of the surveys, and if it is established that excessive speed is occurring at certain locations, this information will firstly be communicated to An Garda Síochána, who have responsibility for enforcement of the legal speed limits. Secondly, in consultation with Clare County Council Road Design Section, a funding request will be submitted to the Department of Transport under Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads. Finally, if funding is granted, a draft traffic calming scheme will be produced in order to begin the approval process under Section 38 Road Traffic Act, 1994, where ‘A road authority may, in the interest of the safety and convenience of road users, provide such traffic calming measures as they consider desirable in respect of public roads in their charge.’ ([Road Traffic Act, 1994, Section 38 \(irishstatutebook.ie\)](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1994/section-38))

Regarding the Killaloe community creche and playground location, the Members will recall that following a Notice of Motion in September 2022 regarding traffic calming in the vicinity of the creche, tennis club and Benson Box factory, a traffic speed survey was undertaken by Killaloe MD to establish actual traffic speed over a four-day period. Using the survey results, Killaloe MD successfully advocated that funding would be sought by Clare County Council under the 2023 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads for this area. I wish to confirm that the said application was successful and funding of €20,000 has been approved as announced recently within Circular RW 02/2023 - Clare Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations 2023”.

Cllr O’ Brien thanked A/SEE for his reply. Cllr O’ Brien indicated it was however past time for surveys to be carried out due to the high level of traffic on the road concerned and the speed at which the traffic moves. Cllr O’ Brien feels urgent action is needed. Cllr O’ Brien appreciates the lights in place however the situation is still very dangerous. Cllr O’ Brien indicated that perhaps ramps similar to those at Tierneys Shop in Ennis and adjacent to Dalys Cross near Castleconnell in Limerick. Cllr O’ Brien also requested a pedestrian crossing to be included in this proposed works. At a minimal Cllr O’ Brien requested the traffic survey be carried out as soon as possible due to the volume of traffic on the road. Cllr O’ Brien indicated that he appreciated there was a process that had to be followed also.

Cllr J Cooney in seconding the motion said that speed was an issue in many areas and funding was needed to enable Local Authorities take measures to slow down traffic. Cllr Cooney said that several measures will be required in order to slow traffic in many areas.

Cllr A O’ Callaghan in supporting the motion queried if the speed surveys were a true reflection of the situation. In reply to the query A/SEE Derek Troy said the speed survey was undertaken over three or four days and over a twenty-four-hour time period. Mr Troy told the meeting the surveys were an accurate measure of the speed. Cllr O’ Callaghan thanked A/SEE Troy for this clarification.

Cllr T O’ Brien queried the timing of the surveys to catch peak times and speeds at peak times. However, given the surveys were over a twenty-four hour time period as indicated by Mr Troy, Cllr O’ Brien was happy this was satisfactory. Cllr O’ Brien highlighted he had a close

encounter near the creche/tennis courts in Killaloe due to excessive speed of motorists in the past number of days.

Note: Item 15 Notice of Motion from Cllr. A O' Callaghan taken with Item 9

Item 9 Notice of Motion from Cllr. T O'Brien:

“That information and warning road signs under Clare County Council control would be washed and cleaned particularly signs within our towns and villages.”

Proposed by Cllr. T O' Brien

Seconded by Cllr. A O'Callaghan

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“In recent years, due to restriction on available funds and resources, the cleaning of signs has primarily focused on directional signage on Regional Roads and regulatory signage. I wish to confirm that Killaloe MD will endeavour to increase washing and cleaning of information and tourism signage and directional road signs, in line with the resources available. Killaloe MD will also work in partnership with community council and tidy towns groups to achieve improvements to general signage in the vicinity of our towns and villages”.

Cllr O' Brien offered thanks A/SEE Troy for the response. Cllr O' Brien said that due to the heavy investment in Tourism in East Clare it was incumbent on the Municipal District to ensure correct, clean, visible signage was in place. Cllr O' Brien said that both road signs and information signs in the MD needed urgent upgrading. This should happen in collaboration with local Tidy Town and Community groups Cllr O' Brien urged. Cllr O' Brien also said this MD needs to be up to speed given the development of Inis Cealtra and the progress of the Killaloe/Ballina By pass. Cllr O' Brien said that first impressions were vital for tourism in the locality.

Cllr A O' Callaghan in seconding the motion indicated that Tulla Tidy Towns has engaged in order to replace signage and that signage in the Tulla area in particular needed huge upgrading. Cllr O' Callaghan also said that local information temporary signage needed to be removed from junctions once events were held. Cllr O' Callaghan also said that road signage needed to be cleaned on a regular basis.

Cllr P Hayes said road signage was very important in the area and it was great to see works would be undertaken to improve the situation. Cllr Hayes said replacement signage would be very welcome and a necessity in the MD.

Cllr J Cooney supported the motion and said that A/SEE Derek Troy had great discussions with Community groups. Cllr Cooney acknowledged there were funding constraints also. Cllr Cooney did however point out that the signage in the general Tulla was very poor.

Item 10 Notices of Motion from Cllr. J. Cooney:-

“That Clare County Council explore what options can be put in place to improve the sight lines on the L4082 where it exits onto the R352 and pedestrian movement to the GAA facilities from that junction, and upgrade road markings in the interest of road safety.”

Proposed by: Cllr J Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr P Hayes

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“I wish to confirm that this request will be forwarded to Clare County Council Road Design Section, to review the existing road layout at this junction, including sight lines, pedestrian facilities, vehicular turning movements. This assessment will also take into account the operational speed on the R352 in both directions and its strategic importance as a transport corridor. Killaloe MD team will contribute to this review and, if deemed appropriate, a funding request for measures will be submitted to the Department of Transport under Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads”.

Cllr J Cooney thanked A/SEE for the reply. Cllr Cooney indicated this was a repetition of a previous motion. Cllr Cooney said works needed to progress urgently. Cllr Cooney said great credit was due to Tulla GAA for the upgrade of their facilities. This would however inevitably lead to larger games and larger crowds attending. Cllr Cooney said in the interest of patrons attending and road users works needed to be progressed. Cllr Cooney asked that this project not be left to sit with the Road Design Team.

Cllr P Hayes seconded the motion. Cllr Hayes said he had met with the GAA club in relation to the matter. Cllr Hayes said there were regularly people walking from the village to the GAA

facility. Cllr Hayes said that even though speed control camera were regularly there, speed continued to be an issue at this location. Cllr Hayes said it was a dangerous stretch of road and not suitable for walking. Cllr Hayes commended the excellent carpark facility at Tulla GAA and queried if a pedestrian crossing would be appropriate.

Cllr J Cooney queried if public lighting could be looked at for this stretch also.

A/SEE Derek Troy replied saying he would follow up closely with Road Design. Mr Troy indicated there was no funding as of now for this project. He said that a footpath to the GAA facility would prohibit parking on the road adjacent to the facility. Mr Troy said there was an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing in place. Mr Troy indicated sightlines at the junction were not ideal however there were a number of factors at play including road markings.

Cllr J Cooney agreed road marking upgrades would help and perhaps a speed limit similar to at the Two Mile Gate would be suitable.

Cllr P Hayes said a footpath was not in question and concurred with Cllr Cooney on the introduction of a 50km/hr speed limit outside the GAA facility.

Cllr J Cooney proposed a 50km/hr speed limit on this stretch and Cllr P Hayes seconded this.

Cllr J Cooney added that hard shoulder improvements would also be beneficial to the junction/stretch of road.

Item 11 Notice of Motion from Cllr J Cooney:

“That Clare County Council give an update on the road works schedule and the funding for 2023 in the Killaloe Municipal District.”

Proposed by: Cllr J Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr P Hayes

Reply from John Leahy, Senior Engineer Roads, for response.

“The draft Schedule of Municipal District Works/Roadworks Programme funding for 2023 will be presented by John Leahy, Senior Engineer at the March Meeting of Killaloe MD and an update can be provided on the detail as necessary to the Elected Members”.

Cllr Cooney acknowledged the reply from SE J Leahy. Cllr Cooney highlighted the bad weather and reduced funding were going to have a huge impact on the condition of roads in the MD. Cllr Cooney said the allocation for footpaths and drainage in the MD were very poor and inadequate. Cllr Cooney said drainage was imperative to maintain the condition of the roads. Cllr Cooney acknowledged the work the Engineers do but that funds were becoming a huge obstacle. Cllr Cooney also highlighted the increased cost involved in each job now also being restrictive in the amount of work that can be carried out.

Cllr Hayes seconded the motion and said there would be further discussion on the matter at the adjourned elements of the meeting on the 29th March.

Item 12 Notices of Motion from Cllr. P Burke:-

“Calling on Clare County Council to install traffic calming measures on the Drewsborough Road particularly from the entrance to Kerry Agri over to Scariff Community College.”

Proposed By: Cllr P Burke

Seconded By: Cllr J Cooney

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“Arising from this Notice of Motion, Killaloe MD will undertake a traffic speed survey at this location, to establish traffic volumes and extent of vehicular speeds. Based on the results of the survey, and if it is established that excessive speed is occurring, this information will firstly be communicated to An Garda Síochána, who have responsibility for enforcement of the legal speed limits. Secondly, in consultation with Clare County Council Road Design Section, a funding request will be submitted to the Department of Transport under Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads. Finally, if funding is granted, a draft traffic calming scheme will be produced in order to seek approval process under Section 38 Road Traffic Act, 1994”.

Cllr P Burke welcomed the reply. Cllr Burke said the exit from the local co-op Kerry Agri was now extremely dangerous. Cllr Burke indicated it was a 50km/hr zone but the adherence to this was non-existent. Cllr Burke highlighted it wasn't unusual to see overtaking on this stretch of road. Cllr Burke acknowledged driver behaviour was uncontrollable and said it was a hard

issue to solve. Cllr Burke was aghast that many more accidents hadn't occurred on this stretch especially given the proximity to the secondary school also.

Cllr J Cooney concurred with the motion. Cllr Cooney said traffic calming of some form was required at this location. Cllr Cooney suggested calming measures like the raised area adjacent to the Finsa Factory may be appropriate.

Item 13. Notice of motion from Cllr P Burke:

“Calling on Clare County Council to carry out repairs to ‘Mickey Two Tailors’ bridge north of Mountshannon.”

Proposed by: Cllr P Burke

Seconded by: Cllr J Cooney

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“Derroran Bridge or ‘Mickey Two Tailors’ bridge, is located on the L80781 on the Clare-Galway border and spans a stream that flows eastwards to Lough Alewnaghta and onwards to Lough Derg at Rinbarra Point. The bridge will be forwarded to Clare County Council’s Roads Department for inspection. It will be considered for repair works under the Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads programme, as part of the annual Department of Transport Grant Allocations”.

Cllr P Burke gave a history of the bridge and the historical local name attached to it. Cllr Burke said the river over which it crosses runs to the Dereeny River. Cllr Burke commended the work on the adjacent Derrycon Bridge and commended that the same was needed in the situation. Cllr Burke told the meeting the bridge was on the popular East Clare Way and that the wall have fallen on one side. Cllr Burke commented on the heritage of the bridge also. and that great work had taken place in the area of Slieveanore in recent times.

Cllr J Cooney seconded the motion and commented that great work was taking place on bridges across the county and this was to be commended. However Cllr Cooney pointed out there was more work to be carried out and it was imperative to maintain the natural stone in these local bridges.

Cllr P Hayes concurred with the comments regarding this motion and that great work had taken place in the area of Slieveanore in recent times. Cllr Hayes accepted these were on quieter roads however with walking and hiking ever popular these roads were growing in foot and cycle traffic.

Item 14 Notice of Motion from Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan:-

“With a lot of forestry tree felling in process in the Ballykelly, 12 O’Clock hills, Cloontra area, more consultation is needed with Coillte in regards of roads for the haulage of timbers.”

Proposed by: Cllr A O’ Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr J Cooney

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“I wish to confirm that there is regular communication between Killaloe MD and all forestry operators, including Coillte, regarding the condition of the public road haulage routes. Applications for tree felling licences (gov.ie - [Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)), are made to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, who refer the application to Clare County Council Planning Department for comment. Killaloe MD are requested to comment and can recommend conditions regarding the repair and maintenance of the public roads, that are identified by the applicant as haulage routes. Conditions can consist of financial contributions to cover the costs incurred by the MD to maintain such roads. The contribution amounts are agreed following joint inspections by the forestry operators and Killaloe MD team. Inspections are undertaken before, during and after forestry operations have taken place, in order to assess the deterioration of the road surface caused directly by the forestry operations.

Killaloe MD will commit to continued liaison and consultation with forestry operators to ensure that all conditions of felling licences are complied with, in order to preserve the quality of public roads impacted by the forestry operations”.

Cllr A O’ Callaghan welcomed the reply from A/SEE Derek Troy. Cllr O’ Callaghan commented that regular communication was taking place. Cllr O’Callaghan commented there was huge concern regarding damage to minor roads. In particular he mentioned the Ballykelly/Clontra area. Cllr O’ Callaghan mentioned this area had works completed under at LIS scheme and this was now being undone due to the large volume of timber being transported in the area. Cllr O’ Callaghan commented that perhaps winter months were not the best time to be undertaking such a large amount of transport of heavy timber on unsuitable roads. Cllr O’ Callaghan commented that trucks were now gone from double wheel to a super single wheel and perhaps this was causing more damage to the roads. Cllr O’ Callaghan commented that people who had paid into LIS Schemes were extremely concerned their money had now gone

to waste. Cllr O' Callaghan suggested smaller loads be carried on the smaller roads may help also.

Cllr J Cooney seconded the motion. Cllr Cooney said that it was imperative that the roads are maintained. Cllr Cooney said it was good to hear that there was constant consultation with Coillte, given that funds were scarce in the current situation.

A/SEE Derek Troy told the meeting the contact between KMD and Coillte would be maintained> Mr Troy also indicated that KMD engineers would ensure the roads were maintained. Mr Troy said that the road at Clontra was subject to financial compensation by Coillte and discussions were ongoing regarding this issue.

Cllr A O' Callaghan said that the influx of machinery could be due to a number of issues and may not be the fault of Coillte. Cllr O' Callaghan told the meeting of the bat issue in one plantation and the time constraints involved as a result.

A/SEE Derek Troy told the meeting reinstatement was part of the Road Opening License application approval process so KMD were in a position to ensure this happened to a high standard.

Item 15. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan:-

“That this council would replace signage in Tulla where they are badly faded and needs to be changed, primarily the directional signs at the 4 crossroads to Kilkishen and the promotional brown signs that have Tulla on them.”

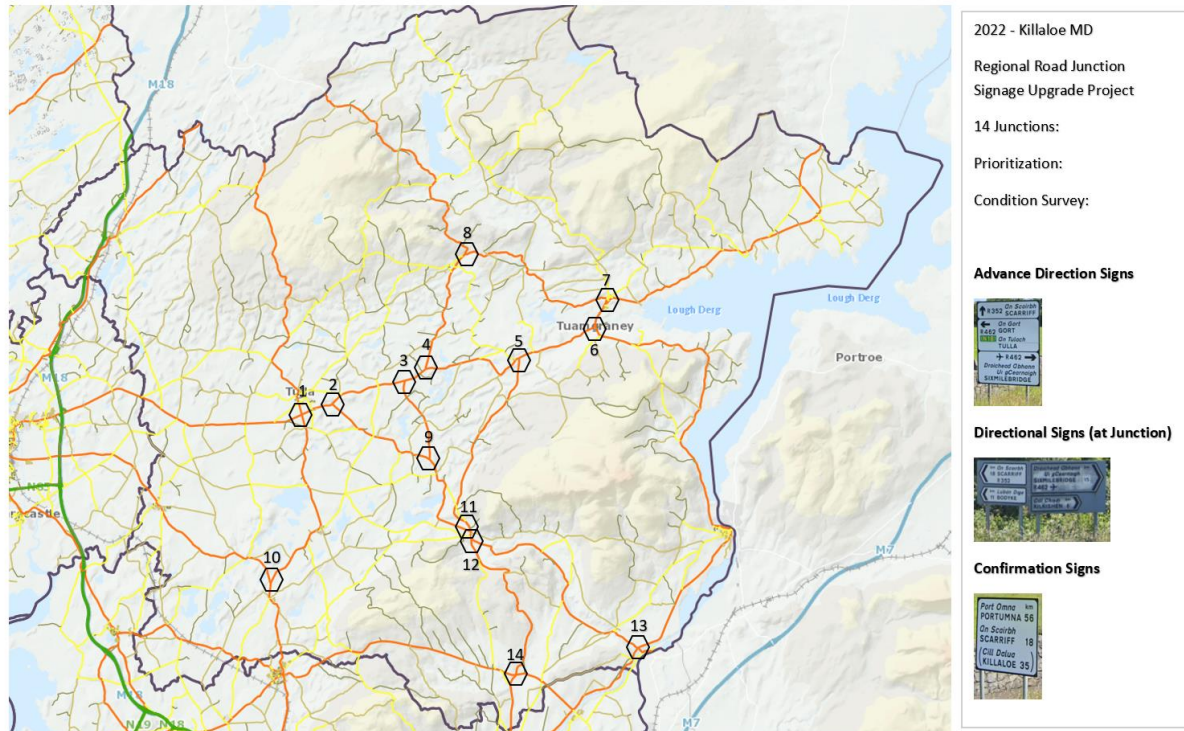
Proposed by Cllr A O' Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr T O'Brien

Reply from Derek Troy, Acting Senior Executive Engineer:

“I wish to confirm that earlier this year, I arranged a condition survey to be undertaken of the directional signage, on all regional-regional junctions within Killaloe MD. A total of 14 junctions are being assessed, as per map below, to generate a replacement programme, prioritised on both condition and estimated traffic volume. It is expected that the junction of the R352 and R462 will be included in the first batch of sign replacements, subject to funding availability.

I also wish to confirm that Killaloe MD are in discussions with the Tulla Tidy Towns regarding a review of the tourist signage for Tulla, on its approach roads. Killaloe MD will commit to collaboration with the Tidy Towns members on the design and placement of updated signs. The removal of any illegal signage, or signage clutter which may cause driver distraction, in particular at busy junctions, will also be considered as part of the review”.



Note: This item was taken in conjunction with Item no 9 by agreement of the meeting.

Item 16. Notice of Motion from Cllr. P Hayes:-

“I am asking that Clare Co Council would take immediate action to secure a new Graveyard for Crusheen parish and surrounding areas, Presently local graveyards in the Crusheen area are deemed to be full and only available to family members. I would that the Council would engage with the community to progress this issue as a matter of urgency.”

Proposed by: Cllr P Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr J Cooney

Reply from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Coordinator

“I am advised that the Rural Development’s Burial Grounds Unit previously engaged and carried out a number of investigations - including trial hole and archaeological investigations on a site identified by a community representative in Crusheen for the purposes of a Community Burial Ground. Having completed extensive site investigations, the Burial Grounds Unit were subsequently advised that the transfer of the site to the Community did not materialise. The Burial Grounds Unit remains available to work with the Community in Crusheen where a potential site has been identified in order to assist and advise on the development of same as a future burial ground”.

Cllr P Hayes thanked Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Coordinator Brian McCarthy for his reply. Cllr Hayes indicated that a previously planned green field site did not work out in the area. Cllr Hayes commented that Crusheen and various surrounding burial grounds were now deemed full and it was the situation that there was no available plot for many residents. Cllr Hayes informed the meeting that residents were now being advised that their nearest burial ground with availability was Drumcliff. Cllr Hayes outlined the upset and angst this was causing for many people in the locality. Cllr Hayes requested that every effort be made to alleviate the situation at the earliest opportunity. Cllr Hayes suggested the possibility of a regional graveyard in the area. Cllr Hayes said there were many people with no family ties to the area and were therefore did not have family plots in the local graveyards. Cllr Hayes informed the meeting that the local community were very upset at the situation to hand. Cllr Hayes requested that efforts be doubled in order to find a satisfactory resolution as soon as possible. Cllr Hayes called for a request to landowners to see if there would be an offer of suitable lands for new graveyard. Cllr Hayes indicated the onus and responsibility was on Clare County Council to provide this service to the local community of Crusheen.

Cllr J Cooney seconded the motion and said that due to the previous plan falling through, funding needed to be found to assist in alleviating this situation. Cllr Cooney said a green field site need to be sourced in the locality to provide an adequate service. Cllr Cooney said there was a great community spirit in the area in relation to the issue and Clare County Council needed to work with local landowners to find a resolution.

Cllr P Burke indicated to the meeting that the issue was serious in Crusheen but was one which would no doubt unfold in other areas in the near future, Cllr Burke highlighted the same issue in Clonrush Graveyard in Whitegate. Cllr Burke informed the meeting he was waiting 18 months for funding for trial holes to be dug on lands that were provisionally acquired for an

extension to Clonrush Graveyard. Cllr Burke indicated that he was continually informed by Rural Development that there was no funding available. Cllr Burke accepted cremation was now very popular however many families wished for ashes to be buried also. Cllr Burke asked Cllr Hayes as sitting Chairperson on the Rural Development SPC to know if he had any knowledge of future funding or resolutions to the ongoing issue regarding many burial grounds.

Cllr P Hayes replied saying Clare County Council had Bye Laws and there were National guidelines to be complied with also. Cllr Hayes said the SPC did indeed see the requirement for funding as urgent. Cllr Hayes said funding need to be diverted to Burial Grounds and there was a need for this to happen urgently. Cllr Hayes said a site in Crusheen was required immediately.

Item 17. Notice of Motion from Cllr. P Hayes:-

“I am asking the Municipal District in collaboration with Coillte and other agencies to investigate the possibility of marketing, signing and utilising the existing network of woodland, forest and public roadways and laneways to create a cycle track/ trail from East Clare, via the Slieve Aughties, Lough Graney, Maghera to the Burren National Park. With the spectacular scenery and safe and quiet lanes for cycling on the route this would become a tourist and recreational route adding to existing Lough Derg Greenway proposals.

Proposed by: Cllr P Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr T O’Brien

Reply from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Coordinator.

“Quality cycle friendly trails and facilities that can be enjoyed by everyone across all ages and abilities in our community are not only of health and wellbeing benefit to the cyclists and families who use them, they also have a range of economic, social, environmental, cultural and health benefits to the communities and areas along on the route. Cycle tourism, which East Clare has a long tradition of, is becoming an increasingly important aspect of our tourist product.

Unlike some large urban areas across Ireland where significant investment is required to provide safe, accessible means of cycle access to segregate cyclists from heavy traffic, in contrast, this proposal set out in the Notice of Motion to utilise existing public and semi-state private trails and local road networks - subject naturally to discussions, agreement and

collaboration with all relevant stakeholders and landowners - has potentially significant advantages and benefits for relatively low cost.

In particular, the proposal linking Lough Derg, East Clare and the planned Lough Derg Greenway onwards to the Burren, via the Slieve Aughties, would provide connectivity between two key areas of Clare's Tourism product and in particular provide cyclists, tourists and all who would use the route get a unique, safe and highly scenic perspective on the landscape, communities and culture of East Clare.

The proposal set out in the Notice of Motion aligns with a number of national and regional objectives. In collaboration with Coillte, Failte Ireland and all relevant stakeholders, Killaloe MD will investigate it's possibility".

Cllr P Hayes thanked Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Coordinator Brian McCarthy for his reply. Cllr Hayes said in advance of the briefing on the Limerick to Scariff Greenway, that KMD needed to look at this in a way to enhance all of the MD area. Cllr Hayes indicated the scenery, rivers and mountains needed to be enhanced. Cllr Hayes gave Ballyhoura in Co Limerick was an excellent example of use of facilities. Cllr Hayes said the MD and Elected Members need to be proactive to enhance our natural resources and enhance them in conjunction with the Greenway.

Cllr T O' Brien in seconding the motion said we need to add to the products we have and encourage visitors to our area. Cllr O' Brien acknowledged the benefits seen in other areas and fully supported the motion.

Cllr A O'Callaghan fully supported the motion also and considered a map of cycling trails and facilities in the area would be of benefit.

Cllr P Burke also supported the motion and indicated the need for a long term objective and that possibilities were endless for the MD. However Cllr Burke did highlight that care needs to be take not to over commercialise our local area, Many of the proposals were on quiet rural roads and people were drawn to these because of the peace and tranquillity. Cllr Burke mentioned the number of visitors enhancement would bring.

In reply Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Coordinator Brian McCarthy said the MD were working with Cycle Ireland and there was an National Downhill cyclingevent planned for 2nd April in Moylussa, where the MD were assisting with. Mr McCarthy also indicated that the

MD were working with Coillte to make plans for the future, however the property in question did belong to Coillte so the MD and Elected Members need to be cognisant of that.

Cllr P Hayes added that we need to tap into the potential quickly and start a plan now.

Cllr J Cooney also supported the motion and indicated we need to be proud of our natural resources and enhance East Clare Walk Ways also.

Any Other Business:

Due to the briefing on the Limerick to Scariff Greenway there was no other business discussed.

The meeting concluded at noon following the briefing, detail of which are recorded under Item Number 7 herewith.

Brian McCarthy,

Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Meetings Administrator

22nd March, 2023