

## Minutes of Special Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District

held on Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at 9.30am

*Meeting held in Council Chamber, Áras Chontae an Chláir*

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

**Officials:** Mr. Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Meetings Administrator  
Mr. Derek Troy, A/Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer  
Mr. Conor McDonagh, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Pauline Costelloe, Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service

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

---

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan opened the meeting. He advised of 3No. agenda items;

1. Item No. 5 “Schedule of Municipal District Works 2023” deferred at Killaloe MD Meeting, held 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023
2. Item No. 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Joe Cooney “That Clare County Council give an update on the road works schedule and the funding for 2023 in the Killaloe Municipal District.” deferred at Killaloe MD Meeting, held 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023
3. Elected Members of Killaloe MD Strategy and Work Plan.

### **Item 1 & 2 Schedule of Municipal District Works 2023**

John Leahy, Senior Engineer attended to present main elements of the Schedule of Municipal District works for 2023. He thanked the team in the Roads Department and Killaloe MD for their contribution to the preparation of the programme.

J. Leahy advised the total fund available is €52,053,750. This is an increase on 2022 but includes an increased allocation for Killaloe Bridge/By-pass, most grants for existing road network remain unchanged, with the exception of a 5.7% increase in the Restoration Improvement grant. However, this increase must be viewed in the context of rising inflation rates.

The sources of this funding are:

- €5,869,840 from the TII in respect of national roads.
- €38,784,600 from the DoT in respect of Non-national roads
- €1,801,400 from the Council’s own resources.

- €4,500,000 from National Transport Authority
- €597,910 from Department of Rural & Community Development
- €500,000 from IPB for footpaths

The Schedule provides for the following roads funding the Killaloe Municipal District for 2023:

• Restoration Improvement Grant	€ 3,163,709
• Restoration Maintenance Grant	€ 823,555
• Discretionary Grant	€ 170,000
• Drainage Works	€ 204,300
• Regional Road Maintenance	€ 220,000
• Local Road Maintenance	€ 580,000
• Bridge Rehabilitation Works	€ 200,000
• Safety Improvement Works	€ 102,000
• Strategic Regional & Local Road (Shannon Crossing)	€15,000,000
• IPB	€ 120,000
• Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works	€ 263,000
• Active Travel	€ 296,513
• Greenways	€ 780,000

Cllr. J. Cooney thanked J. Leahy for the presentation and stated that while accepting there are budget constraints there are many local roads in disrepair and referred to roads impacted by forestry activity. He complimented works carried out under the LIS & CIS scheme, referring to the backlog of applications he asked if the LIS applications could be considered on an MD basis. J. Leahy replied that MD cannot be singled out, but applications may re-open this year. Cllr. J. Cooney expressed disappointment with reduction in funding allocated to footpaths and drainage.

Cllr. P. Hayes sought clarification on expected output for non-national roads in 2023 of 5.7%, reduced from 6.5% in 2022. J. Leahy replied this is a cross county figure and the increase in restoration improvement only partially compensates for current hyperinflation rates. Cllr. P. Hayes commented in the past an output rate of 10% was sought and a reduction in the overall programme to this level should be debated in the districts.

In reply, J. Leahy stated that in the last three years Clare County Council has benefited from 10% increase each year. He added that the programme includes a target of 10% and in addition to government funding own resources funding needs to be considered as this has not kept pace with the allocation. J. Leahy advised he has discussed the matter with the Department, and he is satisfied each county is being treated the same.

Cllr. P. Hayes expressed disappointment on the allocation for drainage works and also referred to complaints he had received on the quality of some of the road surfacing finishes.

Cllr. P. Hayes queried the level of funding received for Active Travel in County Clare and how it is much lower than that received by neighbouring counties Limerick and Galway. C. McDonagh replied that urban locations are treated differently with regard to Active Travel funding. €8.1 million was sought by Clare County Council following consultation with the municipal districts in November, 2022. The Department decided the maximum funding available to rural authorities is €4.5 million. More than 50% of funding was allocated to the greater Dublin area. Clare County Council allocation was assigned to the Tulla Road Rapid Implementation Active Travel Scheme, safe routes for school and the balance to the municipal districts.

In reply to Cllr. P. Hayes, C. McDonagh clarified that previous allocation have been expended over a multi-annual programme.

Cllr. T. O'Brien, accepted programme is restricted by budget and would like to see additional roads included. Considered spread of works across the municipal district to be equitable.

Cllr. P. Burke referred to limited works listed for heavily trafficked roads such as the R352 and would like to see more sections of this regional road included. He agreed with earlier comments by members that many more roads appear to be falling into disrepair this winter following the poor weather. Cllr. P. Burke complimented works recently carried out on Carrowena Road, Ogonnelloe.

Cllr.P. Burke referred to allocation for Killaloe Bypass asked if Tipperary County Council are in receipt of further monies for this project. J. Leahy replied there is a Section 85 Agreement in place and Clare County Council manages and finances the project.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan referred to reduction in CIS funding. He expressed concern regarding forestry traffic on minor roads and possible impact of applications for windfarms on road network. Cllr. A. O'Callaghan also referred to the standard of finish on some roads and referred to R469 near Knappogue Castle, he has also observed more potholes on minor roads in recent months following bad weather.

In reply to the standard of finish on a small number of roads, D. Troy provided the example of Slievanore, a long stretch of road in a remote location, a single seal was put in place at the end of the year, and this road will be further-surface dressed this year. He stated road strengthening and surface dressing is reviewed regularly by the roads engineers.

**The Scheduled of Municipal District Works was proposed and adopted unanimously.**

### **Item 3 Elected Members of Killaloe MD Strategy and Work Plan.**

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Cllr. A O'Callaghan thanked B. McCarthy for the updated document and said it was a good foundation and established a strategic vision for the members.

B. McCarthy gave an overview of the document indicating that the strategy sets out a shared vision between the Elected Members and staff of Killaloe Municipal District, setting out strategic objectives and priorities for East Clare and the supporting projects and mechanisms required for implementing and achieving those objectives. This new plan has responded to updated national policies and guidelines such as *Best Practice Recommendations for Local Authorities on the Operation of Municipal Districts* – November 2022, the *Climate Action Plan 2023*, and the new *Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029*. Strengthening local democracy and the enhancement of services delivered to the people at Municipal District level is a key consideration. The strategy and work plan also reinforces the critical role that the Killaloe

Municipal District Office in Scarriff and all Local Authority staff play in the planning and delivery of services at the local level for the betterment of East Clare and the county.”

The members welcomed the plan. Cllr. O’Brien queried the inclusion of O’Briensbridge, Mr. B. McCarthy replied it is included under the heading of Enhancement Plan. Cllr. J. Cooney asked for an update on the public realm in Scarriff and Mr. B. McCarthy replied he would meet with the councillors to brief them on the project. Cllr. Pat Burke welcomed the plan noting the reliance on funding being made available. Cllr. P. Hayes welcomed the quality of the plan and asked if the strategy could be reviewed on a regular basis at MD meetings.

AOB

Mr. B. McCarthy advised the Killaloe Bypass project manager from SISK and PMO has been invited to attend the Killaloe MD May meeting. He stated he is awaiting confirmation of a date for meeting with Irish Rail regarding Crusheen Train Station. He added that pre-planning service will commence in the Killaloe MD office in April.

**The meeting then concluded.**

---

**Brian McCarthy,**  
**Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Meetings Administrator**  
**29<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**