

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District

held on Wednesday, 17th July 2024 at 9.30am

Meeting held in Meeting Room, Killaloe Municipal District Offices

In attendance: Cllr. Joe Cooney, Cathaoirleach Killaloe MD

Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan

Cllr. Pat Hayes

Cllr. Pat Burke

Cllr. Tony O'Brien (attended remotely)

Officials: Mr. Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Meetings Administrator

Mr. Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

Ms. Deirdre Sampson, Clerical Officer

Apologies: Ms. Anne Haugh Director Service

Members of the media attended.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Joe Cooney chaired the meeting.

Cllr. Joe Cooney opened the meeting, welcoming all in attendance both in person and remotely.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held 15th May 2024.

The minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held 15th May 2024 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. P. Burke and seconded by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan.

Item 2 Confirmation of Minutes of Killaloe MD AGM held 26th June 2024.

The minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Annual General Meeting held 26th June, 2024 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. P. Burke.

Item 3 Matters Arising

Referring to Item 2 raised under AOB, Cllr. P. Hayes sought an update on traffic calming measures for the bend at the bank in Scariff from A/SEE Declan Flanagan. Cllr. P. Hayes

requested progress on this matter following assessments. A/SEE Declan Flanagan replied indicating a report would follow and there would be a full update for the next meeting.

Item 4 Approval of Allocation by Killaloe MD Members to Community Groups for the Promotion of the interests of Local Communities.

The allocation by Killaloe MD Members to Community Groups for the promotion of the interests of local communities was proposed by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes.

Item 5 Section 38 – Proposed traffic calming measures on the R352/L-4066 in the townland of Coolready, Bodyke, Co. Clare (report attached)

Report dated 16th July, 2024 from Declan Flanagan A/Senior Executive Engineer was circulated with the agenda. The report states that it is proposed to carry out the following Traffic Calming measures on the R-352/L-4066 in the townland of Coolready, Bodyke, Co. Clare in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994:

Proposed works are as follows:

- Construction of a raised table through the Junction
- Construction of uncontrolled pedestrian crossing
- Construction of new footpaths and buildouts
- Tactile paving & all associated line marking and signage.

Referring to the report D. Flanagan clarified the proposal includes an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing.

The Section 38 for the proposed works was proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney, seconded by Cllr. P. Burke and agreed.

Item 6 Section 38 – Proposed Road realignment and pedestrian safety enhancements in the vicinity of Scariff National School at Fossabeg, Scariff, Co. Clare (report attached)

Report dated 16th July, 2024 from Declan Flanagan A/Senior Executive Engineer was circulated with the agenda. The report states that it is proposed to carry out the following road realignment and pedestrian safety enhancements in the vicinity of Scariff National School at Fossabeg, Scariff, Co. Clare in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994:

Proposed works are as follows:

- Construction of new footpaths and uncontrolled pedestrian crossing point
- Construction of build outs and new parking bays
- Tactile paving & all associated line marking and signage.

Senior Planner/Killaloe MD Co-Ordinator Mr. Brian McCarthy commented that this Section 38 followed a Notice of Motion from the September meeting. This would connect the National School to the GAA grounds in Fossabeg. It was highlighted that there were issues regarding landowner consent to pursue the project further at this point. Senior Planner/Killaloe MD Co-Ordinator Mr. Brian McCarthy added this would create a safer environment for the children attending the school right up to the Housing development at Fossabeg.

Cllr. P. Hayes sought clarification that this project was only pertaining to the front of the National School and did not refer to any works at the Bridge adjacent to MacNamaras Hardware shop. Brian McCarthy replied indicating this works pertained to adjacent to the National School in the direction of the Rugby club only as per the previous Notice of Motion put forward regarding same. Mr. McCarthy indicated again that there were issues regarding landowner consent and works were restricted to between the National School and the Housing Development currently.

Cllr. P. Burke welcomed the Section 38 and expressed his desire to have issues with landowners alleviated going forward.

Cllr. J. Cooney indicated to the meeting that the full works were not achievable at the moment and thanked Brian McCarthy and A/SEE Declan Flanagan for their work in getting the project to this stage. Cllr. Cooney also highlighted the co-operation of the Board of Management and staff of Scariff National School in working to get this project over the line and to have works completed before the school reopened.

Cllr. P. Hayes asked for detail as to how the works would improve the junction and aid the National School, as there was no increase in car parking and drop offs for morning and evening would continue to be an issue.

A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan highlighted that there is currently no pathway at the school and the works would provide for safe pedestrian access and recessed parking bays. Mr. Flanagan said the works would undoubtedly improve safety for the children and at the junction. Mr. Flanagan indicated the National School were very happy with the planned works and the long term focus was to follow on with improvements right up to the Rugby Club grounds, subject to obtaining consent from landowner.

Cllr. J. Cooney said again that the National School were very happy with the planned works to proceed.

Cllr. P. Burke said in the future perhaps an Active Travel application could be made for improvements on the L4016, to include a cycle lane etc.

The Section 38 for the proposed works was proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney, seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes and agreed.

Item 7 Section 183 – Notice under the Local Government Act 2001, disposal of land at Violet Hill, O’ Sheas Acres, Broadford, Co. Clare (report attached)

Noted and agreed. Proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Burke:-

8. “calling on Clare Co. Co. to revisit and make good the section of road has subsided at an alarming rate between he Ash Tree Cross and Dereney in Whitegate “

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

“Clare County Council carried out road improvement works on this particular section of road in 2021 through a Climate change funding stream. The overall project has been successful to date, however a short 40m section of road has dipped significantly.

At this stage it appears that this section of roadway will keep degrading unless some form of piling or alternative measures are implemented. In order to make a full and complete assessment, and resolve this issue, Clare County Council will need to carry out site investigations and review the substrata of this section of road. Following on from site investigations, a design will need to be carried out by an independent consultant.

In addition, on foot of this Notice of Motion, Killaloe MD will be putting this scheme forward for Climate Change scheme in 2025 and in the interim, will erect appropriate signage until a funding stream is provided”.

Cllr. P. Burke indicated the serious issue this was as a depth of up to one meter was now on this stretch of road. Cllr. Burke acknowledged the works already completed on this stretch of road and asked if more could be done to alleviate the situation.

A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan replied saying the stretch of road would be looked at and reviewed. Mr. Flanagan had concern regarding the speed at which the fall came on the road. However, Mr. Flanagan indicated that all options would be looked at.

Cllr. P. Burke reiterated how difficult the situation was.

9. “Calling on Clare Co. Co. to revise the current traffic calming measures on the R469 entering the village of Quin adjacent to the playground as the speed of traffic at this location is quite frightening

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

“Clare County Council received Town and Village Renewal funds for the village of Quin with traffic calming works carried out from the Church in Quin towards the Playground in 2022. Traffic Calming measures were carried out including tightening of junctions, tightening of road widths, provision of a new zebra crossing and enhancements to the village with flower beds and public benches.

In response to a previous Killaloe MD Notice of Motion regarding the playground, a new section of footpath was also constructed to link the playground back to the village thus enhancing pedestrian safety and connectivity.

Whilst Killaloe MD currently have no plans to implement further traffic calming at this location, we will commit to carrying out speed surveys and carry out line marking works on approach to the village”.

Cllr. P. Burke indicated that speeding in our towns and villages was the biggest issue on the ground. Cllr. P. Burke said he parked and observed the speed of motorists in the village notwithstanding there were three sets of 50km signs at this point of the road. Cllr. P. Burke said the first set is too far from the village, the second set is the feedback sign and within 5 minutes he observed cars travelling up to 86km/hr. Cllr. P. Burke went on to say that the installation of the playground in 2001 brought some traffic calming measures. However, he said the village of Quin lacks signage of any kind. Cllr. P. Burke said measures need to be undertaken and reiterated the total lack of signage in the village of Quin.

In seconding the motion Cllr. A. O'Callaghan complemented the resurfacing works in Quin village and highlighted the previous motion regarding traffic speeding. Going forward Cllr. A. O'Callaghan said the data display had worked once installed but road users are oblivious now. Cllr. A. O'Callaghan said physical traffic calming needed to be installed and reiterated Cllr. P. Burke's point that traffic slows on view of parked traffic. Cllr. A. O'Callaghan indicated traffic calming was needed in every town and village in our Municipal District. Cllr. A. O'Callaghan said that An Garda Síochána were aware of the situation and that the limit did not need to be reduced but the current speed limits need to be implemented urgently.

Cllr. P. Hayes supported the motion and indicated this was raised at many previous meetings. Cllr. P. Hayes said the standard response was not acceptable and requested a strategic plan be created. Cllr. P. Hayes said that many surveys were undertaken and to have surveys as a response was not sufficient. Cllr. P. Hayes said a solution for every town and village in the Municipal District needed to be found.

Cllr. J. Cooney supported the motion and said that motorists are total oblivious to all signage. Cllr. J. Cooney also highlighted that driver behaviour was a critical aspect of the issue to hand. Cllr. J. Cooney said a new Joint Policing Committee with representatives from the municipal district should be in a position to work together to find a solution. Cllr. J. Cooney complemented the Killaloe Municipal District on signage in place and for works completed. Cllr. J. Cooney said the Gardaí need to come on board.

Cllr. P. Hayes mentioned that the Gardaí do not have the numbers and that the Municipal District already had An Garda Síochána attend a meeting. Cllr. P. Hayes indicated that he felt it is now a Clare County Council issue in collaboration with the new JPC.

Cllr. J. Cooney agreed it was an issue for An Garda Síochána. Cllr. J. Cooney highlighted improvements had been made to slow traffic by Clare County Council and An Garda Síochána need to come on board. Cllr. J. Cooney agreed that ramps in different places were inconvenient for road users.

Cllr. P. Hayes said that the bottom line was that it was not a debate for Members of Killaloe Municipal District and that a strategic plan was needed. Cllr. P. Hayes said that the Gardaí will not be in a position to resolve the ongoing issue. Cllr. P. Hayes indicated that following the recent survey adjacent to the offices, no Gardaí were conducting speed checks. Cllr. P. Hayes also highlighted the issue of funding for ramps to be installed.

Cllr. T. O'Brien agreed that the Gardaí were there to enforce the speed limits. However, Cllr. T. O'Brien indicated the Members of Killaloe Municipal District has a responsibility to take action also.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Tony O'Brien:-

10. “That raised platforms be installed on the pedestrian crossings at New Line Killaloe and at Abbey Street Killaloe. Both crossings on the New Line are on a regional road and serve St. Anne's community college, the crossing on Abbey Street serves both primary schools and two shopping centres. Traffic speed in these areas are of a huge concern.

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

“There is merit in the provision of altering the existing crossing on Abbey Street, pedestrian movements at this particular existing crossing are high due to the proximity of commercial areas, residents in Millstream and a designated route for pedestrian movements to schools. Our General Design team are currently working on a review of the streetscape of Carrigs Lane with improvement works to Carrig’s Lane to tie in with the existing crossing in place on Abbey Street.

The existing crossing on the R-463 will require further improvements and design, as sightlines at this crossing need to be improved upon. We will require a design and funding stream for this crossing. Arising from this Notice of Motion, Killaloe MD will be adding this location for a proposed Low-Cost Safety scheme. As with any changes to traffic calming works, a Section 38 traffic calming process will be required

In addition, it is envisaged that subject to funding, the area around Abbey Street and St. Flannan’s Cathedral will be enhanced in the coming years in line with the proposals set out in the Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan”.

Cllr. T. O’ Brien told the meeting that this stretch of busy road is extremely dangerous. Cllr. T. O’Brien said the speed of motorist coming up the hill is excessive and driver behaviour needs to change urgently. Cllr. T. O’Brien indicated that the elected members had a duty of care to constituents and these improvements cannot be waited on. Cllr. T. O’Brien said there is now an urgent need to put the infrastructure in place. Cllr. T. O’Brien highlighted the effectiveness of the ramp at the creche in Killaloe and that there were plans for another ramp at Newtown.

Cllr. A. O’ Callaghan seconded the motion saying he agreed with all Cllr. T. O’Brien had said and that urgent action was required.

11. “That information signage and directional signage across the Municipal District be cleaned and made clearly visible”.

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

“Killaloe MD are finalising a road signage survey of the R-352 within the MD area. The existing directional signage in particular has faded very badly over the last 12 months and is in need of replacement. Killaloe MD will be procuring replacement signs over the next few weeks and aim have them installed by year end. In addition, arising from this Notice of Motion, our maintenance crews are working on cleaning road signage on the remaining sections of Regional road network, in areas where resources allow”.

Cllr. T. O’Brien thanked A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan for his reply and stated he was happy with the response. Cllr. T. O’Brien said the signage was not up to scratch and undesirable in efforts to attract business to East Clare. Cllr. T. O’Brien also said it was imperative for locals that signage was updated also, in support of Tidy Towns Committees and showing our community in a positive light. Cllr. T. O’Brien said he looked forward to commencement of works by contractors to clean the existing signage.

Cllr. J. Cooney seconded the motion and welcomed the upcoming works to improve the signage in the municipal district.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan:-

12. “With a lot of vegetation and grass growth over the last few weeks, that this MD would prioritise cutting junctions at least on our road network”.

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

“Hedge cutting works is ongoing at present with Junctions off our Regional road network cut back for visual road safety point of view. The funding allocation has been limited and unchanged over the past number of years, however contractor costs over the same period is up circa. 25%. At present we are hedge cutting junctions in the O’Briensbridge, and Coolycasey areas this week.

We are also cognizant of the bird nesting season, and the requirement to comply with Section 40 of the Wildlife Acts, which makes it an offense to destroy vegetation on uncultivated land during the bird nesting season, which runs from the 1st of March to the 31st of August each year.

Outside of the nesting season, it is the duty of the owner or occupier of land to take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on their land is not a

hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road.

Clare County Council also runs a community hedge cutting grant. This scheme encourages a joint approach with communities and groups of local residents and landowners for the cutting of hedges/trees which need attention. This scheme will be announced shortly”.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan offered thanks for the reply. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan highlighted that along with serious issue of speeding, overgrown hedges were becoming a major issue. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said there was a 25% increase in costs for hedgecutting but there was no increase in the budget allocation. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan suggested this was an issue for discussion at budget time. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said the matter could be put before the CPG also to get increased funds for the municipal districts. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said that junctions needed to be attended to as it was a safety issue for motorists. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan queried if the grant allocated to hedgecutting has been fully drawn down.

In seconding the motion Cllr. P. Hayes thanked Clare County Council for works completed. Cllr. P. Hayes queried why only on side of the road adjacent to Cragganowen was cut. Cllr. P. Hayes indicated that scrub was growing outwards in many places as hedgecutting hadn’t been undertaken by landowners. Cllr. P. Hayes highlighted that the Raheen Bus and Local Link bus had complained on numerous occasions regarding this issue. Cllr. P. Hayes said it was also a huge issue for silage contractors and safety must be a primary concern. Cllr. P. Hayes said the budget for hedge cutting could be increased 100%.

Cllr. P. Burke said that as per previous discussions where driver behaviour needed to improve, landowner behaviour needed to be improved where hedgecutting is concerned. Cllr. P. Burke said that hedgecutting did not appear to be an issue in some neighbouring counties and said the verges needed to be attended to urgently. Cllr. P. Burke highlighted that contractors were damaging their vehicles due to overgrown hedges. Cllr. P. Burke said some landowners can attend to their hedges correctly and more need to do the same.

Cllr. J. Cooney indicated that overgrown hedges are always a concern. Cllr. J. Cooney said it was unacceptable that vehicles are being damaged. Cllr. J. Cooney suggested a media campaign be undertaken and the end of August to highlight that it was a landowners responsibility to maintain their hedges.

Cllr. T. O’Brien highlighted the O’Briens Bridge cross/junction as another dangerous junction due to overgrown hedges. Cllr. T. O’Brien completed the work undertaken in the last month on many dangerous junctions.

13. “With speeding being an issue that this MD would revisit the area around Kilkishen national school by controlling speed using speed bumps”.

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

“Arising from a previous Notice of Motions, Killaloe MD constructed a new Zebra crossing on approach to Kilkishen National School in the last 2 to 3 years. The introduction of the Zebra crossing provides an awareness to the driver and appears to lower speed in this area. We will be conducting a review of speed in this area following the latest measure introduced in this area.

In line with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, a preference of horizontal and road narrowing measures are preferred over vertical road alignment and the use of speed bumps. We will be reviewing data from new speed surveys before considering additional measures for the section of road”.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan mentioned this not being the first time this has come to the attention of the members of Killaloe MD. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan indicated another format of calming is required and queried if the European model of liquid ramp could be piloted in the Municipal District.

Cllr. J. Cooney seconded the motion and reiterated previous discussion and necessity for urgent change.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Joe Cooney:-

14. “With the approval of funding to link the settlements of Scariff/Tuamgraney to the existing 12KM section of the Killaloe/Lough Derg/Ogonnelloe walking trail when will these works commence?”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

“Killaloe Municipal District successfully obtained €191,700 in funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) to link Tuamgraney village to the existing Amenity Trail.

A detailed site survey will be undertaken later this year along with consultation with landowners, key stakeholders and local community group. Regard will also be given to other proposed projects in the area. Following the consultation period, Part VIII Application for Planning consent may be required for the new section of Trail. Works are expected to commence in 2025”.

Cllr. J. Cooney thanked A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan for his reply. Cllr. J. Cooney told the meeting he had grave concerns that this development was being kicked down the road. Cllr. J. Cooney said there was €200,000 to be spent and queried why it was being delayed to 2025 and noted the previous reasoning.

In response A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan informed the meeting that original plans had not included this and there had been no previous engagement with landowners. Mr. Flanagan said

Waterways Ireland were due to announce projected trails. Delays were due to planning, procurement also and that the start date would be at the earliest early to mid-2025. Mr. Flanagan told the meeting that the funding had a 2 year timeframe.

Cllr. J. Cooney thanked Mr. Flanagan and indicated that he hoped the project would perhaps commence earlier.

Cllr. P. Hayes in seconding the motion welcomed the funding and highlighted the frustration at the delays. Cllr. P. Hayes said it would be good to get the project started and that the public need to be assured the funding will be used as they do not comprehend the delays.

15. “Arising from the update at the May Meeting of Killaloe MD on the progress of the pilot wastewater treatment system proposed for Broadford village, that Killaloe MD write to the Department and Uisce Eireann seeking to expedite the progress. With that in mind if a similar scheme is reopened in the future have we decided on a village in the Killaloe Municipal district for same.

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Response from Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer

“Clare County Council were officially notified of our successful applications for both Broadford and Cooraclare under Measure A8 of the Rural Water Programme in February 2024. Since then we have had a number of meetings with both the Department and Uisce Eireann to develop a pathway for the delivery of the projects. As per the original terms of the Measure A8 programme Uisce Eireann have a vital role to play in both the delivery and as the ultimate end user of the wastewater treatment plants and sewer networks. Uisce Eireann have now committed to working with Clare County Council to provide an up to date cost analysis for the schemes at the end of Q4 2024 which will give a better certainty of the financial commitment required for the delivery of the project.

During the compilation of the original Measure A8 application for Broadford and Cooraclare we have developed a good understanding of the infrastructural deficits of the unsewered towns and villages in the county. However, because the current Measure A8 scheme is a pilot project it is not clear if the same qualifying criteria and award marking scheme will be used in the next call for funding and therefore it is perhaps premature to carry out further assessment at this time. We will keep the situation under review and continue to liaise with the Department to ensure we are well positioned to avail of any future funding opportunities to address infrastructural deficits in the County”.

Cllr. J. Cooney highlighted the delay in further details and the genuine concerns of the people of Broadford and surrounding areas.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan seconded the motion and reiterated that the fear was the job would be kicked down the road. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said the works on both the Cooraclare and Broadfords schemes as announced were well advanced and Clare Co Co were shovel ready to commence works.

Cllr. P. Hayes indicated his disappointment that this required a motion as the scheme had been approved and announced. Cllr. P. Hayes questioned if the Government were not in a position to proceed. Cllr. P. Hayes also highlighted Uisce Eireanns reply as not encouraging. Cllr. P. Hayes said that Clare Co Co need to act immediately and if necessary for the Mayor and Cathaoirleach to travel to Dublin to meet with the Minister. The fear was genuine in the area that the scheme will not progress and this is a matter of urgency.

Cllr. P. Burke said he was disappointed to see “cost analysis” mentioned once again. Cllr. P. Bruke said there needed to be certainty regarding the progression of the scheme.

Cllr. P. Hayes asked if Uisce Eireann were managing the scheme why were Clare County Council involved.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said that the Local Authority needs to take action, the funding is in place and it must be used. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said that Clare Co Co have a lead role in this project.

Cllr. J. Cooney complemented the work already done by Clare Co Co but highlighted the pressure is on for progress. Cllr. J. Cooney told the meeting that Clare Co Co should go to the Department and bring the necessary Clare officials to meet with the Department. Cllr. J. Cooney said he was not happy with the reply and that the was genuine concern in Broadford that this project will not happen. Cllr. J. Cooney said that Clare Co Co and Killaloe MD have promised this to the people and it must be delivered.

Cllr. P. Hayes agreed on a delegation to the Department with officials also. Cllr. P. Hayes said it is not a blame game.

B. McCarthy Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Co-ordinator noted that a letter was sent on behalf of the Elected Members from the MD in January to the Department seeking to expedite the decision on Broadford and the month later the positive announcement was made.

Cllr. J. Cooney said it was necessary to seek to meet the Department.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Hayes:-

16. “I am asking for an update into proposed traffic calming measures from the Mountshannon road Scariff through to Tuamgraney Village, As the recent traffic survey indicates very high traffic speeds in these areas and needs immediate attention”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

“Clare County Council has recently carried out a detailed site survey of the existing road infrastructure, particularly on the Mountshannon road and the Scarriff Bridge. This 3D survey has just now been completed and will be reviewed to inform the preparation of draft traffic calming measures. It is anticipated the design of such measures will take a number of months concluding with the requirement for a Section 38 Traffic Calming process. As draft proposals are progressed these will be presented to the Elected Members.”

The issue of speeding and results of surveys have been provided to An Garda Síochána to request monitoring of speeding on this section of road”.

Cllr. P. Hayes indicated that this had been mentioned at previous meetings and the results of the survey carried out was an indictment of the situation. Cllr. P. Hayes said there needed to be a Development Plan created and no further surveys were required. Cllr. P. Hayes also highlighted the issue of the Bridge at the Bank of Ireland in Scariff as a serious issue and queried if the power was in the hands of the Killaloe Municipal District to do something urgently. The issues were ongoing and required a constructive plan. Cllr. P. Hayes said he felt the issue should be strategically planned. Cllr. P. Hayes said that a project of €12 million for the town of Scariff and there was no provision for traffic calming. Cllr P. Hayes highlighted the huge improvement in Clooney village and said that Scariff/Tuamgraney was crying out for immediate action..

Cllr. P. Burke seconded the motion and said a solution to the situation was needed and design was required urgently. Cllr. P. Burke highlighted a Section 38 would be required thus delaying this further and acknowledged this was not the fault of staff but an unfortunate delay. Cllr. P. Burke said both areas Drewsboro and the Mountshannon Road were of concern. Cllr. P. Burke said An Garda Síochána were not present at either location recently and overtaking was an issue also. Cllr. P. Burke said he would welcome the Section 38 to enable works to commence in the areas concerned.

Cllr. T. O’Brien said the issue was of huge concern and people were breaking the law on a continuous basis. Cllr. T. O’Brien proposed a pilot project be discussed with the Department of Justice for the East Clare area to have numerous cameras installed to combat speeding.

Cllr. J. Cooney commented that this was a serious issue in Killaloe Municipal District. Cllr. J. Cooney suggested that Senior Planner and KMD Co-Ordinator Mr. B. McCarthy invite the Chief Superintendent and member of the Garda Traffic Team to the next Municipal District meeting to see what can be done. Cllr. J. Cooney said that it was the serious topic on doorsteps in recent times when canvassing.

Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Co-ordinator Mr. B. McCarthy indicated to the meeting that all relevant parties needed to work together and agreed that speeding was a serious issue. Mr. McCarthy indicated it is a case-by-case situation due to resources available. Mr. McCarthy also indicated that Killaloe MD needed to advocate for an overall plan in a coherent manner regarding speeding, landscaping and signage in all villages. Mr. McCarthy said this issue needed to be part of a strategic plan and could not be self-resourced by Killaloe MD.

Cllr. T. O’Brien responded that a master plan is the best way to go a is in place in Killaloe.

Cllr. P. Hayes said surveys had been completed and the situation warranted entering to the design stage immediately.

Cllr. J. Cooney reiterated his call for a briefing from the Gardaí at the next Killaloe MD meeting.

Cllr. P. Hayes agreed with Cllr. Cooney highlighting the need for a comprehensive agenda. Cllr. Hayes said the current system is not working and Garda numbers were not sufficient and that it was felt that the Gardaí wanted to get away from speed check points and that there was a general decline in policing in the area.

17. "I am asking that the footpaths on Church Road Tulla be upgraded as a matter of urgency as parts of these are in very bad repair, with people reverting to walking on the public road instead".

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

"Clare County Council will commit to carrying out a site survey of Church Road, Tulla to inspect the condition of footpaths. Based on a review of this survey, immediate repairs will be carried out as required. Large scale footpath replacements will require a funding stream".

Cllr. P. Hayes informed the meeting that the paths from the old secondary school to the Church in Tulla were in very poor condition. Cllr. Hayes said that to get access to the town of Tulla from the estate and the Church Street it was required to walk onto the main road. Cllr. P. Hayes said he appreciated the reply and said it is repair that is needed and residents need the work to be completed.

In seconding the motion Cllr. A. O' Callaghan said he had previously sent evidence to A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan regarding this issue.

In response A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan said repair work would commence immediately around the trees and that the junction work was a separate project.

Cllr. J. Cooney said he supported the motion and praised the good work done and looked forward to an update at the next meeting.

18. Correspondence

A discussion was held regarding the upcoming Civic Reception in Killaloe MD. Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Co-ordinator Mr. B. McCarthy informed the meeting that the Civic Reception was an open invite to the general public, happening at 6pm on Friday the 2nd of August in the Edna O' Brien Library. Mr. McCarthy confirmed that all media would be invited to the reception.

19. Confirm date for next meeting.

The next meeting of KMD is 18th September at 9.30am.

20. AOB

Cllr. P. Hayes expressed sympathies to the Cooney Family on the passing of Cllr. J. Cooney's sister-in-law Helen.

Cllr. P. Hayes wished the best of luck to the Clare Senior Hurling Team & management in the All Ireland Final on July 21st.