

**Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District**

**held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 9.30am**

***Meeting held in Meeting Room, Killaloe Municipal District Offices***

**In attendance:** Cllr. Tony O’Brien, Cathaoirleach Killaloe MD

Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan

Cllr. Joe Cooney

Cllr. Pat Hayes

Cllr. Pat Burke

**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 of Service

Members of the media attended.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tony O’Brien chaired the meeting.

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Cllr. Tony O’Brien opened the meeting, welcomed all in attendance and thanked all for attending.

**Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024**

The Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

**Item 2 Matters Arising**

Cllr. P Hayes brought to the attention of the meeting again the junction at the Bank of Ireland in Scarriff. Cllr. Hayes indicated that action needed to be taken as a matter of urgency due to the already highlighted excessive speed from the Mountshannon Road right through to Tuamgraney. Mr. Brian McCarthy replied that following the KMD meeting on the 17th January an RRDF Application for Enhancements to the public realm in Scarriff Town Centre had been submitted on February 8<sup>th</sup> and this would be significant investment for the town center with pedestrian connectivity and safety a priority. There is merit in including a redesign at this junction, which albeit did not form part of the application, has since been highlighted to our

Design and Roads Teams who will examine traffic calming and increased pedestrian mobility and safety at this area. There would be merits in undertaking improvements to this junction as part of the overall enhancement of the Market Square area, subject to funding. Cllr. P. Hayes appreciated the reply but said this would be a longterm solution and something was needed in the short term. Cllr P. Hayes suggested signage and road markings as a short term solution. Cllr. Hayes said the speed survey undertaken has highlighted the excessive speed and a solution needed to be found while retaining connectivity with Tuamgraney.

Cllr. T. O' Brien wished to acknowledge the EV charging point in Killaloe and requested a date on which the charger would be set up and in use. A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan replied saying he would revert to Cllr. O'Brien as our Road Design Team were in consultation with Enervo and the ESB and certification is awaited. Cllr. T. O' Brien thanked Mr. Flanagan for his reply.

Cllr. J. Cooney referred to item no 10 from the January meeting regarding the junction at Church Street and Main Street Tulla and requested an update on funding for this matter. Following the recent survey Cllr. Cooney said it was in the interest of safety that this work be carried out. Cllr. Cooney requested a copy of the new proposed design for the junction also. Mr. Brian McCarthy replied saying in line with various other project, there was a deficit in funding. Mr. McCarthy indicated that KMD were looking at other funding sources including Development Contributions for this and other projects.

**Item 3            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. P. Hayes and seconded by Cllr. A. O' Callaghan.

**Item 4            Consideration and adoption of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024**

SE Mr. Cyril Feeney joined the meeting and gave a synopsis of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024. Mr. Feeney highlighted an increase in funding was solely for the Killaloe bypass works and that the actual Killaloe MD funding had remained the same as 2023. Mr. Feeney acknowledged that the budget could be said to be decreased given inflationary costs

and rates. Mr. Feeney detailed the proposed spending for Killaloe MD including Local Improvement Schemes and Community Improvement Schemes.

Cllr. T. O'Brien thanked Mr. Feeney for his report and was indicated it was unfortunate that he had to respond by saying the proposed allocations was not at all pleasing. Cllr. O' Brien complimented the Killaloe MD staff and outdoor workers saying they had to stretch an already limited budget. Cllr. O'Brien welcomed the increase in the spending on the Killaloe Bypass but commented on the deterioration of the road conditions of the surrounding roads due the increased traffic including road works vehicles. Cllr. O' Brien said this is not thought of in budgets for larger projects and it regrettable that no funding is available for restoration of these roads. Cllr. O' Brien said the budget was reduced given inflation costs and Killaloe MD are simply firefighting. Cllr. O' Brien said the funding from national government is simply insufficient. Cllr. O' Brien said he appreciated the efforts of Mr. Feeney and the local engineering staff in such circumstances regarding budgets.

Cllr. A. O' Callaghan thanked SE Mr. Cyril Feeney and A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan for the work involved in producing the Schedule of Municipal Distract Works. Cllr. O' Callaghan said Killaloe MD would never get to repairing 10% of its road network given the budget allowed. Cllr. O' Callaghan asked if the LIS and CIS applications would open again in 2025. Cllr. O' Callaghan stated that inflation was a huge factor and that weather had created untold damage to the roads network. Cllr. O' Callaghan also highlighted short staffing for outdoors workers as an issue in the MD and Health and Safety regulations/constraints were also to be taken into account. Cllr. A. O' Callaghan proposed the adoption of the SMDW. SE Mr. Cyril Feeney replied regarding the CIS/ LIS applications and indicated there was nothing to say that these would not reopen in 2025 currently.

Cllr. J. Cooney thanked SE Mr. Cyril Feeney and A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan for great work done in completing the Schedule of Municipal District Works. Cllr. Cooney said there was a serious issue due to the decrease in funding and the inclement weather for almost ten months. Cllr. Cooney indicated to the meeting that there would be several impassable roads in the area next winter due to the decrease in funding. Cllr. Cooney said all minor roads required huge work in order to be maintained correctly. Cllr. Cooney enquired about the CIS application across the county and requested a breakdown of same from SE Cyril Feeney. Cllr. Cooney said there were many people willing to assist funding of restoration of roads should the schemes allow in due course. Cllr. Cooney welcomed the increase in spending on the Killaloe Bypass and requested a date for completion of the project. Cllr. Cooney also highlighted the serious

issue of the repair of the roads surrounding the Bypass works which were in grave repair. Cllr. J. Cooney seconding the adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024.

Cllr. P. Hayes thanked staff involved for the SMDW. Cllr. Hayes wished SE Mr. Cyril Feeney well in his new role and hoped he could bring innovation to the role. Cllr. Hayes thanked A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan for his role in producing the report and offered him sympathy in his role as there was simply not enough money. Cllr. Hayes acknowledged the increased budget for the Killaloe Bypass however indicated the funding for remainder of MD appeared to be a poor relation. Cllr. Hayes indicated that only 5.5% of the MD roads would be repaired in 2024, nowhere near the required 10% rate. Cllr. Hayes highlighted that many projects were omitted from the Schedule including Cranagher Junction. Cllr. Hayes highlighted that drainage funding was decreased largely and Killaloe MD, despite promises to the contrary, had no Active Travel project. Cllr. Hayes told the meeting the SMDW should not be accepted. Cllr. Hayes indicted the footpath funding was not nearly enough. Cllr. Hayes also highlighted that once again there was no planned improvements on the Tulla to Scariff road. Cllr. Hayes said looking to neighbouring counties our funding was very poor. Cllr. Hayes felt that all the Active Travel projects were between Shannon and Ennis. Cllr. Hayes said it was very difficult to continue to tell the public there was no funding when headlines were in social media indicating increases in funding. Cllr. P Hayes indicated he would not be supporting the SMDW.

Cllr. T. O'Brien replied to Cllr. Hayes saying there had been a team effort in producing the SMDW and the allocation issue was a national government issue and the funds needed to be increased from a national level. Cllr. O'Brien said not adopting the SMDW would not be conducive to a continuation of the roads programme in the area.

Cllr. P Burke thanked those involved in the production of the SMDW. Cllr. Burke queried the funding from the Irish Public Bodies (IPB). Cllr. Burke complimented A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan and indicated an increased quality in works completed notably at The Three Chimney Cross. Cllr. Burke indicated the funding was inadequate given the deterioration of roads in the MD. Cllr. Burke said the holding of water on roads now is causing huge issues and therefore a funding issue. Cllr. Burke indicated the hedge cutting funding allocation as also insufficient. Cllr. Burke asked of SE Mr. Cyril Feeney regarding funding for Ash Die Back as was discussed at a full Council Meeting recently. Cllr. Burke also highlighted staffing levels as a hindrance to completing works. Cllr. Burke indicated he supported the adoption of the SMDW. SE Mr. Cyril Feeney replied saying the IPB dividend had expired and no further IPB funds would be available going forward. Mr. Feeney also indicated to the meeting that no Department funding

has been made available in relation to Ash Die Back. SE Mr. Feeney assured the meeting that he had full confidence in the Killaloe MD engineering staff. Mr Feeney indicated that there may be Development Contributions available for footpath upgrades. SE Mr. Feeney acknowledged the short staffing in particular of outdoor workforce in the MD and highlighted that innovation would be required going forward.

Cllr. J. Cooney highlighted again that it was not right that other counties appear to be in receipt of a higher allocation of funding and proposed that our Oireachtas members be invited to a special meeting to explain the funding situation. Cllr. T O'Brien supported Cllr. Cooneys proposal.

Cllr. P. Hayes said he would not be supporting the SMDW and extra money needed to be found. Cllr. Hayes said IPB funding was gone, footpaths needed repair, KMD had no Active Travel projects approved and that he was very unhappy with the SMDW. Cllr. P. Hayes also said it appeared to be urban v rural in the county, when looking at funding across the county. Cllr. Hayes suggested this be brought to a full council meeting for discussion.

Cllr. T. O'Brien indicated that the motion was proposed and seconded and that it would be preferred to have consensus on the motion rather than a divided outcome. Cllr. T. O'Brien indicated that he was in agreement with Cllr. Hayes regarding the National issue of funding and acknowledged Cllr. Hayes' position but indicated that not adopting the SMDW was not the way forward. Cllr. O' Brien suggested convening a Special Meeting to further discuss the matter to avoid not adopting the SMDW as this would halt necessary works in the area. Cllr. O'Brien said not adopting the SMDW would halt works by maybe a month and works were needed urgently in the area. Cllr. O'Brien urged Cllr. J. Cooney as Cathoirleach of Clare to come on board and look at options going forward to acquire further funding. Cllr. O'Brien asked of SE Mr. Cyril Feeney again regarding the possibility of further funding especially given the ongoing Bypass works.

SE Mr. Cyril Feeney replied indicating that central funding was simply insufficient.

Cllr. T. O'Brien urged Cllr. P. Hayes to reconsider his position.

Cllr P. Hayes replied saying that it wasn't acceptable to let the situation go and not demand further funding. Cllr. Hayes requested the protocol necessary to acquire further funding.

Cllr. T. O'Brien indicated that it would be noted that Cllr. P. Hayes was not happy with the funding.

Cllr. J. Cooney indicated that extra funding would have to be sought for 2024 and acknowledged the work of SE Mr. Cyril Feeney in acquiring funding and indicated to the meeting he had spoken with Head of Finance Ms. Noleen Fitzgerald in relation to a suggestion to take out a loan in order to increase funding, given the situation the Council as a whole was in currently.

Cllr. P. Hayes accepted the situation as it stood.

Cllr. T. O'Brien indicated that it should happen that the Oireachtas members be invited to a Special Meeting to discuss the funding situation and to acquire increased funding. Cllr. O'Brien acknowledged that even though the SMDW was being adopted that the meeting was not happy with the level of funding. However, works cannot be halted and the Members needed to be realistic and had a duty to do to enable works to continue. A discussion took place regarding the merits of a meeting with Oireachtas members on deficient roads funding.

Cllr. P. Hayes indicated he was holding his position that he was not happy with the proposed SMDW.

Cllr. T. O'Brien noted the position and that the SMDW was passed and adopted by the meeting.

Cllr. T. O'Brien indicated to the meeting that a proposal to extend the meeting was required, Cllr. J Cooney proposed the extension of the meeting by 45 minutes and Cllr A. O' Callaghan seconded same.

#### **Item 5           Draft Local Economic & Community Plan 2023 / 2029 – for adoption**

Integration Support Co-Ordinator Mr. Brendan Boyce and Clerical Office Ms. Anita O'Loughlin joined the meeting and Mr. Boyce gave a report on the Draft LECP 2023-2029. Mr. Boyce highlighted that the draft was not fully finalized but due to time constraints needed adoption of the Municipal District at this meeting. Mr. Boyce detailed the plan to the members. Mr. Boyce said full adoption would occur at the April Council Meeting and then forwarded to the Minister for approval.

Cllr. O'Brien thanked Mr. Boyce and indicated that it was aligned to the County Development Plan and held the councils core values. The only negative Cllr. O'Brien had was that there was insufficient time for the members to go into the details of the plan and the document was not available to them for consideration. Cllr. O'Brien said the plan was

very proactive and commended the work of the team. Cllr. O'Brien said he was lucky enough to be Cathaoirleach when the preparation of the Draft plan was launched and it was great to see it come to fruition.

Cllr. J. Cooney spoke as Mayor of Clare and thanked the team for their hard work and complemented their diligence and time involved. Cllr. Cooney said it was a pity the members hadn't time to go through the draft plan in detail but that would happen in due course on receipt of the final draft plan. Cllr. J Cooney proposed adoption of the plan.

Cllr. T. O'Brien seconded the adoption of the LECP and echoed Cllr. Cooney's sentiments. Cllr. P Hayes thanked Mr. Boyce and his team involved in the creation of the Plan. Cllr. Hayes indicated it might have been more realistic to have the current census statistics used as the changes are significant. Cllr. Hayes highlighted the variants in young to older population figures. Cllr. Hayes hoped the plan would be implemented and that the key stakeholders would work together. Cllr. P Hayes complemented the engagement undertaken by the team involved in drafting the plan. Cllr. P. Hayes questioned the role of the Elected Members in adopting the plan.

Mr. Brendan Boyce replied saying that it was an onerous task to create the document and there had been amendments up to very recently.

Cllr P. Hayes highlighted the need for the correct implementation of the plan going forward. Mr. Boyce replied saying that there would be full implementation of the plan.

Cllr. P. Hayes sought clarification that the plan goes to the Minister, to which Mr. Boyce replied it did.

Cllr. P. Burke also highlighted the need for the plan now to be implemented and expressed thanks to Mr. Boyce and his team on great work.

Cllr. A. O' Callaghan thanked Mr. Boyce and his team and said it was a pity there had not been sufficient time to digest the report and absorb the details.

Mr. B. McCarthy thanked both Mr. Boyce and Ms Anita O'Loughlin for attending and delivering the briefing. He noted that Killaloe MD made a detailed submission during the course of the draft stage and trusted that the comments were taken on board.

Cllr. T. O' Brien also thanked Mr. Boyce and his team and complimented them on a job well done.

Cllr. J Cooney proposed adoption of the plan and Cllr. T O' Brien seconded its adoption.

**Item 6           Section 183 Notice under the Local Government Act 2001, disposal of  
Derelict Site: No 4, An Garrán, Mountshannon, Co. Clare**

Noted and agreed

**Item 7           Section 183 Notice under the Local Government Act 2001, disposal of land  
at Enagh, Kilkishen, Co. Clare**

Noted and agreed

**Item 8           Section 183 Notice under the Local Government Act 2001, disposal (by  
lease) of property: Quin Water Tower, Quin, Co. Clare**

Noted and agreed

Cllr. J. Cooney complemented the works completed by SEO Carmel Greene (in attendance for Item 6, Item 7 and Item 8) and her team and highlighted works to be undertaken at the water tower. SEO Ms C. Greene indicated that she was in consultation with A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan and the Gardening Section regarding same. Cllr A. O’Callaghan considered monies received from the leases should nbe assigned to the Killaloe MD for enhancements in the area of the property.

**Item 9           Presentation by Repucon Consulting on preparation of a Socio -Economic  
study on benefits of Reopening the Crusheen Railway Station on the  
Western Rail Corridor.**

Cllr. T. O’Brien welcomed Mr. Mark O’ Connell Repucon Consulting to the meeting,

Mr. B. McCarthy welcomed Mark to give details on the planned Socio Economic study on the benefits of reopening the Crusheen Railway Station which would be of benefit to Crusheen and a large surrounding area. The proposal to reopen the Crusheen Railway



Station was a long term objective of Killaloe MD and this initiative by the MD would provide an evidence base for advocating to Irish Rail, Government and relevant stakeholders.

Mr. M. O'Connell thanked the Elected Member for the invitation to the meeting and commended them on their vision to reopen the Station and the huge impact it would have on the area. Mr. O'Connell said it would be in line with rural regeneration to reopen the Station. Mr. O'Connell also said it would be a great deal of community support. Mr. O'Connell added it was a wonderful opportunity for people to commute to and from Crusheen. Mr. O'Connell did indicate that there was a tight timeframe involved in the report.

Cllr. T. O'Brien indicated that there would be community engagement and that the Elected Members would also engage at every opportunity.

Cllr. P. Hayes indicated the briefing was very informative and the reopening of the Railway Station was badly needed. Cllr. Hayes said the report is elaborating on facts and these facts are needed. Cllr. Hayes told the meeting that both he and Cllr. A. O'Callaghan attended an Inter Railway Committee meeting recently and there are increased numbers using rail travel. Cllr. Hayes said Crusheen was the youngest village in Clare and even for travelling alone, rail was a necessary mode of transport. Cllr. Hayes said it was a strategic aim of KMD Elected Members to reopen the Crusheen Railway Station.

Cllr. J. Cooney thanked Mr. M. O'Connell and said it was imperative that the upcoming visit from the Minister included a trip to Crusheen. Cllr. Cooney indicated how large a catchment the station would have. Cllr. Cooney also commented that there would be a huge student benefit to the reopening. Cllr. Cooney indicated how busy Sixmilebridge Station is and urged contact be made with the Minister to include a visit on his impending visit to the county.

Cllr. P. Burke said he was looking forward to the report and the gathering of facts. Cllr. Burke said the train was passing anyway so it would only be sensible for it to stop at Crusheen.

Cllr. P. Hayes indicated how important support was for the reopening to happen.

Mr. B. McCarthy thanked Mr. O'Connell and indicated how critical it was to get the station reopened. Mr. McCarthy said how it had been a long-standing objective of the Elected Members and that the delegation to Irish Rail in May 2023 had been a starting point. Mr.

McCarthy said he was looking forward to the report with the next step to undertaken community consultation.

**Item 10. The Limerick to Scariff Greenway – Presentation from Brian Treacy, Western Regional Manager, Waterways Ireland**

Cllr. T O' Brien welcomed Mr. Brian Treacy and Mr. Damian McWeeney to the meeting. Mr. Treacy gave an overview of the where the plans for the Greenway are at currently and indicated that public consultation would commence in April/May.

Mr. Treacy indicated there were plans for six Discovery Points in Clare for a project like the WAW. There are to be three meetings in Scariff, Killaloe and Limerick.

Cllr. T.O'Brien

thanked the team for joining the meeting and requested a copy of the presentation.

Cllr. P. Burke thanked Mr. Treacy and Mr. McWeeney who were here on foot of his motion at the last Killaloe MD meeting. Cllr. Burke said he was a farmer on the shores of Lough Derg and therefore had a vested interest in the project. Cllr. Burke said he was sorry that the Greenway was stopping short of Inis Cealtra and enquired to know would a connection be made. Cllr. Burke said there were two options to connect onto Mountshannon either on the main road or on the higher road.

Cllr. P. Hayes thanked Mr. Treacy for the update and indicated he was aware of a delay near Clonlara. Cllr. Hayes highlighted the huge potential in the Greenway and said it could eventually link to the Galway Greenway.

Mr. Treacy indicated that the Discovery Points were a cross county project, a replication of the Wild Atlantic Way for the Hidden Heartlands.

Cllr. P. Hayes indicated that the plans would impact on the farming community and when details were available to have the Elected Members included.

Mr. B. Treacy indicated that the preferred route for the Greenway would be known within five weeks.

Cllr. T. O'Brien highlighted how imperative collaboration with the public was for the success of the project.

Cllr. J. Cooney thanked both Waterways Ireland representatives. Cllr. Cooney also complimented the work of John Jones Engineer on the work he has done in the area. Cllr.

Cooney referred to the 158 submissions mentioned by Mr. Treacy and queried was this a large number, Mr. Treacy responded saying this was a small number of submissions compared to other projects. Mr. Treacy said consultation has been excellent on the project so far and many of the submissions were positive. Cllr. Cooney then queried the maintenance of the Greenway as this had posed as an issue previously.

Mr. B. Treacy responded saying the issue around maintenance was at consultation stage and that it would be of a high standard.

Cllr. J. Cooney said he was in favour of the project but requested further information on the maintenance issue. Cllr. Cooney congratulated WI on the project and said it was of huge benefit to the whole area.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan thanked the delegation for the presentation. Cllr. O'Callaghan said the leaders of the project needed to be aware of flood points on the planned project going forward.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan inquired would there be opportunity for start up business for the project.

Mr. B. Treacy replied saying that there would be engagement at phase 3 of the socio economic benefit stage.

Cllr. P. Hayes asked if there was a Clare County Council representative on the steering group, and also indited there was no farming body represented on the steering group and indicated consultation was needed.

Cllr. P. Burke said early engagement was required with the farming bodies.

Mr. McWeeney indicated that he had been involved in very early consultation with a majority of farmers and that the IFA had been involved in the public consultation and are very aware of the project.

Mr. B. McCarthy thanked Waterways Ireland for the presentation and indicated it was on foot of a Notice of Motion from Cllr. P. Burke that the presentation/update was requested.

Mr. McCarthy said that it would be important that all stakeholders afforded the time to be consulted and their comments taken on board and had no doubt that the project would be of significant benefit to East Clare.

Cllr. T. O'Brien again thanked the delegation for the briefing and looked forward to all information being available to the Elected Members.

**Notices of Motion from Cllr. Alan O' Callaghan: -**

11. "That this MD would revisit the on-going issue of the possibility of flooding at Ballycar railway track. Has there been a full survey and costing carried out to eliminate any further closure in the future."

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

***Reply from Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Rods, Environment, Water Services Transition:***

"The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Rural and Community Development requested that a technically feasible solution be developed for the flooding issue on the Limerick/Galway rail line at Ballycar, Newmarket-on-Fergus. Clare County Council were requested to act as facilitators with Irish Rail and the OPW. A steering group and working group were set up and these comprised of representatives from Irish Rail (IR), Office of Public Works (OPW), Clare County Council (CCC), Irish Aviation Authority (IAA), National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) & Geological Survey Ireland (GSI). As the main stakeholder and lead agency Irish Rail commissioned consulting engineers RPS to carry out a study and to review previous reports in relation to the flooding issue. A technical feasibility solution report is now being finalised by IR & RPS. The final report has not yet been issued.

The next steps would then be for IR to secure a funding source and the appointment of consultants to prepare a preliminary design. This then would be followed by detailed design, environmental assessments, land acquisition and statutory approvals including the planning process".

Cllr A. O' Callaghan wanted it noted that this motion was sent to the MD office on 5<sup>th</sup> March prior to the current flooding issue at Ballycar. Cllr. O' Callaghan thanked SE Mr. Cyril Feeney for his reply. Cllr. O' Callaghan said it was shocking to see the railway line closed once again. Cllr. O' Callaghan called for urgent action to rectify the situation as it was a long standing issue which need to be alleviated for all parties concerned. The issue required funding and suggested that Clare County Council take the lead in rectifying the issue at hand. Cllr. O' Callaghan said

our Chief Executive should be taking a role in the resolution of the issue. Cllr. O' Callaghan said that costing needed to be done and forwarded to Chief Executive of Clare County Council. In seconding the motion Cllr. J. Cooney said the situation was a disgrace and a let-down to have the line flooded once more and action was needed.

Cllr. T. O' Brien concurred with the previous speakers.

Cllr. P. Hayes said he fully supported the motion and asked why nothing had been done to solve the issue. Cllr. Hayes said he was aware the chaos it was causing in Ennis and Limerick Stations.

Cllr. T. O' Brien requested SE Mr. Cyril Feeney write to Irish Rail and the department and act as a lead on a resolution to the problem, Cllr. O'Brien said Cllr. O' Callaghan was seeking Clare County Council to be proactive regarding this matter and a solution needs to be found.

Cllr. J. Cooney indicated that the Chief Executive was in the department and the matter was to be discussed there.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan reiterated the Chief of Irish Rail has said the issue was outside of their power and it was now an issue for Clare County Council and the Office of Public Works. Cllr. O' Callaghan was aware of works undertaken by staff of Killaloe MD regarding the issue.

Cllr. O' Callaghan also requested the protocol for the height barrier at Sixmilebridge Train Station from SE Cyril Feeney.

**12.** "Ask this MD to propose an upgrade to waste water treatment plant in Kilkishen as a matter of urgency to help future development of the village."

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O' Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

***Reply from Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer Roads, Environment, Water Services Transition:***

"I have been advised by Uisce Éireann arising from this Notice of Motion that in terms of an upgrade to the WWTP in Kilkishen, it is not planned to carry out a Capital upgrade of this facility for the foreseeable future. However, in light of the recent planning applications, a request to consider an upgrade has been logged with Uisce Éireann's Asset Planning team".

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan indicated to the meeting there were a number of unsewered towns and villages in the area. Cllr. O' Callaghan said the situation in Kilkishen was at capacity and a

similar situation in Kilmurry. There was an urgent upgrade required according to Cllr. O' Callaghan.

Cllr. J Cooney seconded the motion and indicated there was a requirement for talks with Uisce Eireann and the Planning Department to alleviate the situation. Cllr. Cooney said progress was needed on the situation urgently given the current housing crisis.

Cllr. T. O'Brien also supported the motion.

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

13. "That traffic control measures be put in place at Newtown Killaloe on the R463 abd at Bridgetown on the R466 to slow traffic."

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. Cllr. O Hayes

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

"Killaloe MD carried out speed surveys on approaches to Newtown Killaloe from the 21<sup>st</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The results of speed survey are broadly in line with the current speed limit, with slightly higher speeds recorded at Ballyvalley side of Newtown. Data from this speed survey is being reviewed by the Local Authority to assess the requirement, if any, for further traffic calming in the area and will also be made available to An Garda Síochána. In that regard, we will be considering this section of road for Low Cost Safety Improvement works in 2025.

Over the 500m distance of the R466 at Bridgetown referenced in this Notice of Motion there are three dwellings, all located within the default speed limit of 50km/hr. Whilst we have not received reports of speed issues at this location, arising from this Notice of Motion we will commit to carrying out a speed survey at this location to assess the requirement, if any, for traffic calming in the area."

Cllr. T. O'Brien indicated that the speed at these locations was a serious issue located in high residential areas. Cllr. O'Brien said that people were living in fear of exiting their properties. Cllr. O'Brien disagreed with there only being 3 residents on the stretch of road in question at indicated that O' Briens Bridge and Bridgetown are all the same community adjacent to the Church and National School. Cllr. O'Brien told the meeting several pets have been killed on the Newtown stretch of road and works were required urgently for people to walk the are safely. Cllr. O' Brien expressed his disappointment at the reply.

In seconding the motion Cllr. P. Hayes agreed with what Cllr. O' Brien had said and fully supported the motion.

In response A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan said that two surveys had been undertaken on both sides, beyond the garage and on the garage side. Mr. Flanagan indicated that at Ballyvalley parked cars were posing a problem. Mr. Flanagan indicated that the issue had been flagged with Road Design but that there was no budget to carry out immediate works at Newtown,

Regarding O' Briens Bridge – Bridgetown survey on the R466, there were three houses in question on the area surveyed as requested. Mr. Flanagan indicated that Killaloe MD were aware of the proximity of the National School and had a traffic counter in place currently.

Cllr T. O'Brien replied in relation to the Newtown motion and said that parked cars were not an issue and that there was also a nearby residential estate. Cllr. O'Brien also told the meeting he was disappointed that An Garda Síochána would not get involved in the situation and were not seen in the location since covid. Cllr. O'Brien said the situation was not acceptable in a residential area and called for ramps. Cllr. T. O'Brien called for the Killaloe MD to be proactive in installing traffic calming measures.

Cllr. T. O'Brien in relation to the Bridgetown stretch of road said that there was a large community using this road between the school and church. Cllr. O' Brien said that Roadstone were to upgrade their quarry and perhaps the road would be upgraded as a result. Cllr. O'Brien said the matter was of serious concern and there needs to be more done. Cllr. T. O'Brien said while accepting the reply he was not at all happy.

**14. "That a new street light be erected at Church St., Killaloe"**

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Officer***

"The *Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility* plan seeks to enhance the public realm of Killaloe and improvements to public lighting will be a key element of the plan. As part of this plan, a comprehensive approach to the design of streetscape, surfaces and public lighting locations are proposed. In the interim, Killaloe MD has reviewed the public lighting at Church Street, Killaloe and consider an additional public light is warranted on Church

Street on approach to the Junction with Royal parade. We have raised the matter with our Roads Department’s public lighting team for their action”.

Cllr. T. O’Brien welcomed the response from A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan, however he highlighted there now five lights out in Killaloe and all had already been reported. Cllr. O’Brien requested this be made a priority.

Cllr. P. Burke indicated he had noticed the high number of lights out in the Killaloe area and in seconding the motion asked this be addressed as soon as possible.

**Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Burke: -**

**15.** “Calling on Clare county Council to provide an update on the proposed public realm works for the Main Street, Mountshannon”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

***Reply from John Moylan, Chief Technician***

“Clare County Council can confirm Construction Drawings are completed for the public realm works at Main Street, Mountshannon. We are currently awaiting a bill of Quantities and pricing document to be drafted with the tender being issued at the end of March. Following a review of tender documents, we expect an appointment of a Contractor to be made in May 2024”.

Cllr. P. Burke thanked Chief Technician Mr. John Moylan for his response. Cllr. Burke said local businesses and restaurants are engaged in the project and Cllr. Burke looks forward to appointment of the contractor in May. Cllr. Burke highlighted the impending tourist season and that works would be commenced post this season to lessen the impact on businesses.

Cllr. J. Cooney in seconding the motion said those involved needed to work together to bring it to fruition.

Cllr. T. O’ Brien also supported the motion.

**16.** “Calling on Clare County Council to upgrade/paint the road markings in the centre of Scariff Town including the disabled driver space outside the Scariff Medical Centre.”



Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

“In February Clare County Council applied for RRDF Category 1 funding for a significant town centre regeneration project which includes the upgrading of the public realm and car-parking provision in the town centre of Scarriff. Subject to the receipt of RRDF funding, works will involve new road and footpath surfaces, enhancements to parking arrangements and layout and improvements to pedestrian and Accessibility.

It is also noted that Uisce Éireann also have been permitted a Road Opening License for the installation of new water mains from The Market Square junction with the R-461 Feakle Junction to Church Street.

On both potential projects, line markings will be altered or changed. Whilst in general, there is merit in awaiting the completion of the public realm enhancements and water mains work prior to upgrading existing line markings, in the interim having regard to the medical and Accessibility issues raised in this Notice of Motion, Killaloe MD will commit to line marking works adjacent to the medical centre and STOP text and Line markings on approach roads at Market Square as soon as possible”.

Cllr. P. Burke acknowledged the response from A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan and the RRDF application. However, Cllr. Burke pointed out that the line marking was extremely worn and especially the disabled space outside the Medical Centre and the yellow box at the same location.

Cllr. J. Cooney seconded the motion and also highlighted the line marking for the yellow box outside Banes Shop and the dangerous access point to the car park at the rear of the Credit Union adjacent to Banes. Cllr. Cooney said the loss of Nilands had a huge impact on traffic in the town centre.

Cllr. P. Hayes concurred with Cllr. Cooney.

**Notices of Motion from Cllr. Joe Cooney: -**

17. “I call on Clare County Council to review and implement traffic calming measures on the R352 at Pappys Cross, Tulla in the interest of public safety.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer***

“The L4082 Junction with the R352 Strategic Regional Route better known as Pappy’s cross is a busy junction with a high volume of turning movements to Tulla Village. Clare County Council currently has no funding to carry out improvement works to this junction. We will be proposing to submit this junction to our Road Design Team for a potential low cost safety improvement scheme for 2025”.

Cllr. J Cooney thanked A/SEE Mr, Declan Flanagan for his response. Cllr. Cooney indicated how busy the junction was and that there were precious accidents at the junction. Cllr. Cooney said he hoped the junction would not be left on the long finger.

Cllr. P. Hayes said it was an important junction to get funding for.

**18.** “I call on Clare County Council to provide an update on the proposed safety measures and footpath works to be carried out at Scarriff National School and the Fossabeg Road and when it is hoped for these to commence”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

“Killaloe MD submitted this project, to connect by way of footpath Scarriff National School to the Rugby grounds, for 2024 Active Travel funding. Unfortunately, no schemes were approved in the Killaloe Municipal District in 2024.

Notwithstanding, in order to progress this project which will provide connectivity between a school, church, housing development and sporting and community facilities, Killaloe MD have progressed detailed designs. In addition, Killaloe MD have actively met with stakeholders on site including landowners, Scarriff National School, the ESB and Public Lighting contractors. With the design progressing well and positive engagement with landowners, we are now currently seeking an alternative funding mechanism to deliver this scheme”.

Cllr J. Cooney thanked A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan for his reply. Cllr. Cooney said it was very disappointing not to receive any Active Travel Funding in 2024. Cllr. Cooney commended the work of Brian McCarthy and A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan on this project. Cllr. Cooney highlighted that it was a busy junction/stretch of road and the serious safety issues associated

with a busy area. Cllr. Cooney welcomed the works done and looked forward to increased funding.

Cllr. P. Hayes fully supported Cllr. Cooney call for works and increased funding.

A/SEE Mr. Declan Flanagan replied saying there had been engagement with community members and landowners. There were plans for works including ESB, Enervo. Costings were being finalised and funding may be available through Development Contributions.

Cllr. J. Cooney agreed with A/SEE Mr. Flanagan.

#### **Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Hayes:-**

**19.** “This council urges Coillte and forestry owners operating in East Clare to engage in constructive dialogue with the Council to develop a comprehensive plan to compensate for the damage caused to the road network. This plan should include measures such as:

- Financial contribution towards road maintenance and repair.
- Implementation of road usage agreements to mitigate damage during timber transportation.
- Development of alternative transportation routes to minimize impact on heavily trafficked roads.
- Regular monitoring and assessment of road conditions to address any arising issues promptly.

That the Council will provide assistance and support to forestry owners in implementing sustainable forestry practices that prioritize minimizing the impact on local infrastructure and communities and that the Council will actively collaborate with forestry owners to ensure its effective implementation.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

“Forestry plays an important role in terms of rural development and diversification in County Clare and Clare County Council actively encourages and facilitates, where appropriate, the sustainable development of the forestry sector at a scale and in a manner that maximises its contribution to rural areas and protects our environment and amenities including our road network.

Whilst in common with a range of other issues there may be merit in a formularised plan such as that outlined in this Notice of Motion, it is considered any such plan would have to be undertaken at county wide level rather than an MD level. It should be noted however that Killaloe MD engages closely with private and semi-state forestry companies and all relevant stakeholders where all the important issues and considerations raised in this Notice of Motions are addressed. Structures are in place for the development of new forestry entrances and tree felling. All forestry agencies require to have Tree Felling licenses. Clare County Council is a consultative body in relation to applications to the Forestry Service for initial afforestation and in the context of East Clare, Killaloe MD submits observations to the Forestry Service on such applications, as appropriate, with conditions put in place from a roads and planning perspective. In addition, we regularly have engagement with Forestry companies with best interests of protecting our road infrastructure.”

Cllr. P. Hayes indicated Killaloe MD had the largest area of forestry and roads needed to be maintained correctly. Cllr. Hayes acknowledged repairs were costly and asked is there a policy on forestry related contributions to reinstatement costs. Cllr. Hayes said it was imperative that what we had was protected on an ongoing basis.

Cllr. A. O’ Callaghan said the damage being caused by lorries is huge. Cllr. O’ Callaghan enquired about the taking out of forestry in connection with Windfarms and thanked A/SEE Mr. Flanagan for his response.

Cllr. T. O’Brien highlighted the reinstatement costs.

Cllr. P. Hayes encouraged both B. McCarthy and A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan to engage in all Road Opening Licenses connected with forestry works.

Cllr. J. Cooney supported the motion.

**20.** “I propose that this council put in place a proposal that acknowledges the importance of connectivity and accessibility for the residents of Tulla Town to connect to community facilities in particular Tulla GAA Grounds and the Funeral home, located on the main Regional road.

This proposal is to enhance safety and convenience for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as to improve overall infrastructure in the area, I propose the following:

(1) Construction of a footpath connecting Tulla Town to the Dr Daly GAA Grounds and Funeral Home along the main regional road.

(2) Installation of public lighting along the footpath to ensure safe passage during the evening and nighttime hours.

(3) Associated works including signage, crossings, and any necessary adjustments to the existing road layout to accommodate the footpath.

(4) Review of speed limits on this section of road

This infrastructure development project aims should be to

- Enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- Improve accessibility to important community facilities.
- Encourage active transportation and reduce reliance on motor vehicles.

I ask that Clare County Council commits to seeking funding opportunities and engaging with relevant stakeholders to expedite the planning and implementation of this project.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

“Clare County Council promotes safe walking routes and has carried out a number of schemes in Tulla to promote active travel. We have introduced active travel Schemes linking Tulla to the Athletics track and linking Tulla village with a new public footpath to Tulla United FC. A Traffic Calming Scheme has also been delivered in 2023 adjacent to St. Mochulla's National School.

These projects, delivered successfully by Killaloe MD, are all within the 50km/hr speed limit zones and within the settlement boundary of the Tulla as set out in the *Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029*.

The Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 indicates that “*Within the life of the plan it is an objective to prepare a Local Transport Plan for Tulla*” and in that regard, there may merit in examining the issues raised in the Notice of Motion with the Planning Department during the preparation of such a plan.

In terms of the provision of a new public footpath crossing the R352 Strategic Regional Road to the GAA Grounds, Killaloe MD would have concerns particularly in relation to pedestrians, including children, crossing the heavily trafficked R352. Dr Daly Park is located in a rural area and within an 80km/hr speed limit. With reference to providing a pedestrian crossing, a number of factors are to be considered which include the following from Traffic Management Guidelines:

- Volume and speed of traffic
- Volume and age profile of pedestrians and cyclists
- Road, cycle track and footpath widths
- Difficulty in crossing the road
- Delay in crossing the road
- Road accident records
- Request for crossing facilities

Primarily Zebra Crossings and Pelican crossings are installed in urban locations where speeds are low (50 to 60km/hr). In this instance, the default speed is 80km/hr and doesn't meet the requirements. Due to the alignment, width, nature and high volume of traffic at this stretch of the R352 Strategic Regional Route and the rural nature of the area, it is unlikely that a speed reduction in this area to less than 80km/hr would be approved.”

Cllr. P. Hayes thanked A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan for his very detailed response. Cllr. Hayes said the issue is a major issue on the Main Tulla Road. Cllr. Hayes said Tulla is expanding at a huge rate and there needs to be a formula found to solve the issue. Cllr. Hayes said it is a major road with increased development at the GAA grounds also. Cllr. Hayes expressed his disappointment that there is no solution currently. Cllr. Hayes asked that a review of the speed limit at Tulla GAA pitch be undertaken as soon as possible. Cllr. Hayes called for engagement with Tulla GAA with a view to a solution and asked that A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan commence the process of reducing the speed limit. Cllr. Hayes said it was an accident waiting to happen and all involved need to be progressive to solve the issue at hand.

Cllr. J. Cooney seconded the motion. Cllr. Cooney complimented Tulla GAA on the work they had carried out and the associated upgrades to facilities. Cllr. Cooney also complimented their traffic management as late as Friday previous Cllr. Cooney said a night time colleges game with over ten buses in attendance was handled excellently by Tulla GAA. Cllr. Cooney

enquired if the hard shoulders were upgraded would this alleviate the situation. Cllr. Cooney said it was a difficult situation with a footpath impeding parking for the GAA grounds. Cllr. Cooney said speed was certainly an issue and more safety measures were needed.

Cllr. T. O'Brien supported the motion and said that like the O' Brien's Bridge issue already mentioned, all involved needed to be proactive to solving the problem.

Cllr. P. Burke acknowledged the situation and highlighted the increased population in the town of Tulla. Cllr. Burke also highlighted the pitch is used in both day and night times between matches and training.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan supported the motion and acknowledged how well Tulla GAA manage the situation within their control.

A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan indicated that the reality is that the speed limit is 80km/hour. Mr. Flanagan said that needs to be 50 or 60km/hour to consider a zebra or pedestrian crossing. A/SEE said the concerns would be taken onboard. Mr. Flanagan also said the presence of speed cameras adjacent to the GAA pitch helped reduce speed to a certain level.

Cllr. P. Hayes said all stakeholders needed to be on board for upgrades necessary. Cllr. Hayes said the increased volume of people was a serious safety issue. Cllr. Hayes asked for a seconder for the proposal to commence reduction in the speed limit. Cllr. J. Cooney seconded the proposal for commencement for the process of reducing the speed limit at Tulla GAA pitch. Cllr. Cooney reiterated his call for an upgrade of the hard shoulders to ease current parking issues.

## **21. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence for this meeting.

## **22. Confirm date for next meeting**

It was agreed the next Killaloe MD meeting be arranged for Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in the Killaloe MD offices, Scarriff.

## **Any Other Business**

Cllr. T. O' Brien thanked the press for attending the meeting.

Cllr. A. O' Callaghan sought clarification that SE Mr. Cyril Feeney would initiate correspondence between the Chief Executive and Irish Rail re a solution to the issue at Ballycar. This was confirmed.

Cllr. T. O' Brien presented a document signed by all five Elected Members of the Killaloe MD indicating no election posters were to be used by them in the forthcoming local elections.

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**Brian McCarthy,**  
**Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Meetings Administrator**