

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District

held on Wednesday, 15th May, 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: Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service

Mr. Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Meetings Administrator

Mr. Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

Ms. Pauline Costelloe, Staff Officer

Members of the media attended.

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

Cllr. T. O'Brien opened the meeting, welcoming all in attendance and referring to the upcoming local elections highlighted this MD Meeting as the last of the current term of Killaloe Municipal District Members.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held 20th March 2024.

The minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held 20th March, 2024 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. P. Burke and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

Item 2 Matters Arising

Referring to Item 16 Cllr. P. Burke sought an update on line marking works to be carried out in Scarriff. D. Flanagan replied boxes at the Credit Union and Medical Centre as well as some marking at junctions will be carried out in the next week or two.

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. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan with Cllr. P. Hayes absent from the room for this item.

Item 4 Section 38 – Proposed traffic calming measures on the R352 in the townland of Lakyle, Whitegate, Co. Clare. (report attached)

Report, dated 10th May, 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 in the townland of Lakyle, Whitegate, Co. Clare in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994:

- Installation of uncontrolled pedestrian crossing
- Installation of raised table
- Tactile paving and 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. P. Burke, seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney and agreed.

Item 5 Update on the Killaloe Bridge and Bypass Project. - Project Management Office, Clare County Council, RPS Consultants and SISK representatives.

Cllr. O’Brien welcomed members of the Killaloe Bridget and Bypass Project team.

Padraic Cullen, A/Executive Engineer, Project Management Office, Clare County Council provided an overview of the project to date and introduced members of the team in attendance: David Cawley, Project Resident Engineer RPS Consulting Engineers
Mark Ryan, Project Manager, SISK

D. Cawley provided recent drone footage of the scheme and outlined some of the main project features as well as challenges faced by the contractor. He informed Members the Bypass

element of the project is due to reach completion in Quarter 4 this year and it is expected the River Crossing will be completed in Quarter 1 2025 with the overall project completed in full by mid 2025. D. Cawley highlighted elements such as safer roadways, segregation for cyclists and pedestrians and biodiversity.

Cllr. T. O'Brien thanked the team for the presentation and also for their engagement with Elected Members throughout the project. Following request from Cllr. T. O'Brien, P. Cullen advised the council web page is regularly updated with drone footage and he will circulate this most recent version to the Members.

Cllr. T. O'Brien sought clarification on the widening of the junction at Hill Road/Creeveroe to 6.5m. P. Cullen advised change orders for 6.5m have issued to Sisk and works will be completed prior to new section opening in Quarter 4, 2024.

Cllr. T. O'Brien outlined representations he received from residents at Shantraud Woods regarding the elevation of the road and road safety implications. Cllr. T. O'Brien outlined four main areas of concern and passed on a signed petition from the residents. P. Cullen acknowledged the PMO have been contacted by the residents and the matter has been referred to the consultants. Cllr. T. O'Brien requested the P.M.O. that a meeting be arranged with the residents representatives and the Project Management office.

Cllr. P. Hayes asked that signage on the motorway be examined to ensure ease of access and promotion of the tourism product particularly in East Clare. He requested development of appropriate signage be raised with Fáilte Ireland. P. Cullen stated the responsibility for motorway signage lies with the TII and he will refer the matter to the PMO office to seek recommendations from the consultants.

B. McCarthy thanked the team for their update and referred to the importance of this project in the Killaloe MD Members Strategy and Workplan. The completion of the project is fundamental element of the implementation of the *Killaloe Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan* will also open up opportunities for tourism development and wider socio-economic development in Killaloe and East Clare.

The Members thanked the team for their presentation, congratulating them on progress to date and emphasized the importance of the project to future development in the Killaloe MD.

Item 6 Update on Tourism Initiatives in Killaloe Municipal District, including the Inis Cealtra – Holy Island Project and Shannon Heritage Sites.

It was agreed by members to defer this item to the end of the meeting.

Cllr. T. O'Brien welcomed the Clare Tourism East Team

Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism

Theresa Hughes Lannon, Tourism Officer

Stephen Hanley, General Manager, Clare Tourism East

Adreienne O'Flynn, Sales & Marketing Manager

T. Hughes Lannon gave an update on the Inis Cealtra – Holy Island Project. She informed Members the Rectory project is on target to open Quarter 1 2025. With regard to Inis Cealtra a Part 10 application to an Bord Pleanala is currently being prepared. The public realm works tender will be published in the coming weeks.

S. Hanley provided an overview of each of the sites taken over from Shannon Heritage - Bunratty Castle, Craggaunowen and Knappogue Castle. He referred to the development of the tourism products and ensuring benefits to the local communities. He highlighted the target of making Bunratty Castle and Folk Park No. 1 visitor attraction by 2027.

Cllr. T. O'Brien thanked the team for their presentation and their engagement with the Members on this project. He referred to the importance of signage particularly coming off the motorway, the need for good road access to bring visitors to Inis Cealtra and the need to invest in other infrastructure along the way ie. Ballycuggeran and Tuamgraney.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan praised the increased volume of visitors to Craggaunowen and made reference to the need to improve local road access to the site. He asked if Quin Abbey could be considered for similar development and if this could be discussed with the OPW.

Cllr. J. Cooney acknowledged the huge progress being made with Clare Tourism East and thanked Leonard Cleary recently promoted from the Tourism Directorate to CE, Galway City Council and recent retiree John Moylan, Chief Technician for all their work in the tourism area.

Cllr. P. Hayes referred to his earlier comments on signage from the motorway to East Clare He also referred to need for investment in the R352 route and while creating tourism products

stated the council need to look at the overall benefits to the area and rural recreation i.e linking in such areas as Lough Greaney.

Cllr. P. Burke commended the marketing of the four tourism products and commented on the potential benefits to the area, he stated however this will be impacted by the shortage of accommodation available to visitors. Cllr. P. Burke sought an update on public realm works and stated if the carpark could be in place prior to works commencing this would alleviate concerns about the works being carried out during the busy summer season. He sought clarification regarding access from Rectory to the Aistear and Harbour area.

A. Haugh acknowledged the significant work done by the Clare Tourism East team in a short period of time, and Killaloe MD would welcome regular updates from the team. B. McCarthy referred to the significant brief across East Clare and the benefit of this spend to the area. He highlighted how these products are a key deliverable in *The Elected Members of Killaloe MD Strategy and Workplan* targets such as Ballycuggeran amenity area and Quin Village, the Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan, local education and transport.

Cllr. T. O'Brien thanked the team for the very positive presentations and commended the collaborative hard work and joined up thinking involved in bringing this together.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Burke:-

7. "I'm asking Clare County Council, what plans are in place for the Summer months to maintain the footpath from Tuamgraney to Killaloe "

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

The Killaloe Municipal District can confirm maintenance works will be carried out to the Amenity Trail from Tuamgreaney to Killaloe from the 24th of June to 5th July 2024 inclusive.

Works will involve minor drainage works and trimming of existing hedges in the best interest of promoting East Clare as a Tourism Destination along with providing a safe trail from a Health & Safety perspective.

In reply to Cllr. J. Cooney, D. Flanagan advised Killaloe MD are awaiting a response from the Department on a recent OIRIS funding application to complete the pathway into Tuamgraney village.

8. “Following the recent announcement by Government of increased funding for the LIS scheme, what is the plan in the Killaloe MD for dealing with applications “

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Response from Liam O’Connor, Administrative Officer, Roads Department:

The Department of Rural & Community Development published the annual funding allocations under the Local Improvement Scheme for 2024 and 2025 on April 24th, 2024.

The allocations for Clare are:

2024	€1,209,821
2025	€869,901
Total	€2,079,722

It should be noted that the funding allocation in 2023 was €1.368m, which facilitated works on 22 roads. As funding for 2024 has reduced by €158k, it is anticipated that works will be carried out on a reduced number of approximately 20 roads throughout the county. Roads are currently being surveyed and costed by each Municipal District and over the coming weeks a decision will be made on what roads will be completed this year. As the members are aware the scheme is currently significantly oversubscribed. The 2024 LIS Scheme Outline also changed the criteria for the scheme, whereby eligible roads now only have to serve one agricultural landholding. Previously to be eligible a road had to serve a minimum of two agricultural landholdings. As a result previous applications which were deemed ineligible have now been added to the waiting list. There are currently 171 eligible applications awaiting funding. 97 of these applications were received prior to 2023, some dating back to 2018. In terms of the Killaloe Municipal District there are currently 17 applications awaiting funding, 3 of these were received prior to 2023, when new applications were invited. As outlined above over the coming

weeks a decision will be made on what roads will be completed this year, a number of which will be in the Killaloe MD

Cllr. Burke noted the reduction in funding for Clare County Council in 2024 in contrast to the national headlines of €40m for LIS currently being circulated. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan also expressed disappointment in reduced funds considering the increase in costs to carry out such works.

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

9.“That traffic calming measures be put in place in Millstream Estate Killaloe.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

Killaloe Municipal District will be reviewing Millstream Estate for proposed Traffic Calming Measures. This housing development is located within a key locus of Killaloe between shopping centres and local schools in the area. A Speed survey will be conducted over the coming weeks and an assessment will be conducted. The provision of traffic calming if warranted will also require a funding stream.

10.“That an update on the works and completion date of the wastewater treatment plant in Ballina be presented.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Derek O’Toole, Uisce Éireann

Uisce Éireann, working in partnership with Tipperary County Council, is progressing works to deliver upgrades to Ballina WWTP, Co. Tipperary. The area is currently served by overloaded and outdated wastewater treatment infrastructure and therefore plant and network upgrades are required. The project will improve the wastewater treatment quality and capacity and ensure

compliance with wastewater discharge regulations. Ward and Burke are delivering these works on behalf of Uisce Éireann.

This project includes:

- Upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant at Ballina, which will serve a population equivalent of approximately 8,000.
- A new forward feed pumping station, a new inlet works, new inlet flume and new stormwater storage tank
- Provision of secondary treatment including final settlement tanks.
- Construction of a new above ground sludge Picket Fence Thickener
- Construction and relocation of the existing outfall pipe to safely discharge treated wastewater into the Lough Derg.
- Installation additional MCC and upgrade the SCADA system to facilitate the new works

Current programme of works:

- Works commenced in early 2023
- Uisce Éireann anticipates that these works will be completed by late 2024.

Cllr. T. O'Brien welcomed the response and referring to the impact on housing development he requested that Uisce Éireann be requested to issue letters for planning permissions subject to works being completed.

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

11. "With Broadford now been awarded the pilot scheme for a sewage plant, ask for an update on what is happening next?"

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Cyril Fenney, Senior Engineer

Clare County Council were officially notified by the Department of our successful applications for Broadford and Cooraclare under Measure A8 of the Rural Water Programme on the 7th February 2024.

In that correspondence the Department requested additional programming, technical and project governance information from Clare County Council regarding the schemes.

The Council are currently preparing this information which must be returned to the Department this week. Upon receipt of this information, the Department have indicated that they will then arrange a dedicated meeting to work through the steps required to successfully deliver these projects. It is premature at this stage to provide an outline timeframe for the project delivery until further discussions have taken place with the relevant stakeholders which include Uisce Eireann. We will revert to you in due course when we have agreed the overall project delivery timeline with the Department.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan welcomed response but expressed disappointment that there is no timeframe in place and requested that the Killaloe MD continue to prioritise this matter and Members are kept updated. The Members concurred, expressing disappointment at the delay in this project and it’s negative impact on housing development in the area.

12. “With Craggaunowen Castle in full swing and heading into a busy time, that a plan would be put in place on the road leading to it?”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

Killaloe Municipal District has reviewed the L-3000 road from Craggaunowen Castle to the R-469 Quin to Kilmurry road. We plan on carrying out hedge cutting works on this route in the next few weeks. We have also identified some overhanging branches along this route which, in

the interests of road safety, will be cut back for Buses and Tourism traffic leading to Craggaunowen castle and provide safe access.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan requested Killaloe MD examine if a passing bay could be constructed near the bend at this stretch of busy road. Cllr. J. Cooney supported the motion and stated a major upgrade is required on this roadway to support the increased traffic volumes between the regional road and the Castle.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Joe Cooney:-

13. “I call on Clare County Council to implement traffic calming measures to the Cluain Na Laoi Estate, Kilkishen where recently new housing has been introduced. This is in the interest of road safety and the safety of residents in the estate.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

Arising from this Notice of Motion, A speed survey will be undertaken by Killaloe MD in the coming weeks. Arising from the survey an assessment will be conducted and the location reviewed for potential traffic calming measures – if necessary - whilst taking into consideration the location of open space and green areas and potential locations where speeding may be an issue. Any traffic calming measures, if required, will need a Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 to be passed along with a funding stream to deliver this project.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan commented that such works should be incorporated into planning applications from the start to avoid additional costs to the council at a later stage.

14. “I call on Clare County Council to carry out major road improvement works to the Clounloun Road, O'Callaghan's Mills as it is impassable at the moment.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

The L-30061 Clounloun Road in O'Callaghan Mills is a quiet Local Tertiary Road which also forms part of The East Clare Way. This road isn't on our 2024 Restoration improvement programme. Killaloe MD can confirm maintenance works will be carried out this road in Mid-June 2024 following the completion of our surface dressing programme.

Cllr. Cooney welcomed reply and asked if some signage could also be put in place.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Hayes:-

15. "I am proposing that Clare Co Council start the process of taking in charge the section of road between R463 Scariff to Killaloe linking it to Belkelly L4128. A section of this road is already under Council control (L81922), there are at least 20 householders and land owners that use this link road on a daily basis."

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

The L-81922 at present is in charge from the R-463 for a length of 337m, the remaining section of road leading to the L-4128 is current a private road. This private road does service several land holdings in addition to serving a relatively significant number of people in this rural area. Accordingly, taking this road in charge would be of benefit to this area.

Section 11 of the 1993 Roads Act pertains to Declaration of Public Roads. In order for this road to be taken into charge, a detailed survey will be required and this section of private road will have to meet the requirements in Clare County Council Taking in Charge Policy.

Cllr. P. Hayes welcomed reply and added that it is not viewed as a private road by the general public and is used as a through road, he asked if signage could be put in place to identify it as a private road and the process of taking in charge commence as soon as possible. The motion was supported by the Members. In reply to a number of clarifications sought D. Flanagan confirmed there is a Taking in Charge policy in place since 2015, under this policy the road will need to meet certain criteria i.e. drainage, surface, width etc. Cllr. J. Cooney asked if the residents could seek assistance under LIS to carry out such works. Cllr. P. Hayes requested that Killaloe MD liaise with the residents to identify a means of bringing the road up to the standard required.

Cllr. P. Hayes enquired if the L-4128 junction onto Belkelly Road just outside Tuamgraney could be examined to improve safety. D. Flanagan advised line-marking can be carried out and new signage erected.

16. "I am asking for an update into proposed traffic control measures in Tulla, from the Gort road down past the national school right down to St Joseph's Secondary school. It is particularly challenging now at the junction leading to Miltown following the development of a new housing scheme and needs to be urgently addressed."

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

You will be aware that a new housing development is under construction on the Miltown road in Tulla. As part of the conditions attached to the permitted planning permission, the Local Miltown road is currently being widened at present to allow safe access and egress. The works also involve a new path linking to the village along with build outs with the R-462 to create traffic calming.

Killaloe MD are also working with An Taisce's Safe Routes to School programme to assist with the preparation of a preliminary plan for additional Traffic Calming on approaches to St Joseph's Secondary School, with the key focus on promoting safe access to the school along with introducing traffic calming measures.

Cllr. P. Hayes expressed concerns regarding road safety, that estates being developed with no pedestrian crossings or traffic calming measures in place and asked if there is an overall plan for the area. Cllr. J. Cooney and Cllr. A. O’Callaghan supported the motion and agreed that a Masterplan should be in place for the town. Cllr. J. Cooney requested that some traffic calming be put in place.

In reply D. Flanagan outlined a number of traffic calming and footpath projects completed in Tulla in the past two years. He referred to meetings with developers regarding footpath widening at Miltown, meetings with An Taisce regarding traffic calming works at the National School and works to be completed later in the year at the Secondary School. Killaloe MD also have input into planning applications for new developments in the town.

Cllr. P. Hayes expressed disappointment in the progression of road safety projects in Tulla and made reference to development levies in Tulla and the need to “bite the bullet” on this issue. He requested Killaloe MD engage with the Schools programme and the Miltown junction be prioritised.

17. Correspondence

Notification of successful RRDF Funding Application

B. McCarthy read out letter, dated 13th May from Department of Rural and Community Development confirming the awarding of €8,765,000 to Clare County Council for the Category 1 Scarriff RRDF project. B. McCarthy indicated that Clare County Council will match fund this to bring the total project value to €10,956,000. This is a significant funding announcement for Scarriff and East Clare.

He acknowledged input from the Elected Members, residents and council colleagues in progressing the project to this stage and commented on the benefits the planned project will bring to Scarriff and the surrounding area. Cllr. T. O’Brien praised the engagement of Scarriff Community Council and Town Team in progressing the project, he also acknowledged the work of Killaloe MD and Clare County Council staff. Cllr. J. Cooney concurred and requested outline of timeframe.

Cllr. P. Hayes referring to his association with the Town Team commended the of work carried out by the community representatives, he added while not all concerns may have been fully addressed continued engagement with the community representatives is required going forward. Cllr. P. Hayes thanked Brian McCarthy and his team, John Moylan and his Design office team and Urban McMahon and the DigiClare team for their role in bringing the project to this stage.

Cllr. P. Burke concurred with previous comments and added approval of this project shows the commitment of this Government to rural Ireland. He referred to previous commitments that the carpark be developed prior to public realm works.

A Haugh welcomed the confirmation of funding from the Department and referred to the recent ministerial visit to the area. She congratulated the Elected Members and B. McCarthy and his team and acknowledged that it was a difficult road to get to this stage of approval.

AOB

Cllr. J. Cooney requested update on Fáilte Irelands Platforms for Growth development at Ballycuggeran. B. McCarthy advised the project is being overseen by the Tourism Department and agreed an update would be provided at the next MD meeting.

Cllr. P. Hayes sought update on traffic calming measures for the bend at the bank in Scarriff. B. McCarthy replied the Design office are working on a plan for this site to include traffic calming and enhanced connectivity to the Market Square. Temporary measures for this site are not available under road regulations.

Cllr. P. Hayes requested DOS seek review on Choice based lettings scheme, in particular it's impact on anti-social behaviour issues arising in the MD.

Cllr. P. Burke referred to the shortage of manpower on the ground in Killaloe MD. A. Haugh replied this issue has been the subject of much debate and was raised by the Members at the time of the budget. HR Department are in the process of reviewing and consulting with MD's on this matter and hope for a positive outcome in due course.

B. McCarthy reminded the Members of the upcoming re-naming of the Scarriff Library to the Enda O'Brien Library, and welcomed all to this event to take place on Tuesday, 21stth May, 2024.

Cllr. T. O'Brien thanked all the staff Killaloe MD for their assistance and hard work over the duration of the current council and referred to the *Elected Members of Killaloe MD - Strategy and Workplan* targets and goals acknowledging the good work and achievements over this period. He thanked the media for their attendance and coverage. He thanked his colleagues, the Elected Members, and wished them all every success in the upcoming election.

A Haugh, on behalf of the executive, wished the Elected Members well in the upcoming elections. She commented there has been huge progress in the Killaloe MD over this past five years and thanked the Members for their contribution. B. McCarthy echoed these comments and added the range of projects that have progressed over the tenure of this council are a testament to the vision, commitment and work of the Members to the betterment of East Clare.



Brian McCarthy,

Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Meetings Administrator