

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District
held on Wednesday, 13th of November 2024 at 09:30 a.m.
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

Officials: Mr. Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-Ordinator
Ms. Ann Reynolds, A/Director of Services
Mr. Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Olive Mulconroy, Staff Officer

Members of the media attended.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Joe Cooney chaired the meeting.

Cllr. P. Hayes as Deputy Cathaoirleach, pending Cathaoirleach Cllr. Joe Cooney’s anticipated late arrival opened the meeting and welcomed all, in particular Ann Reynolds as Acting Director of Services.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held 4th of September 2024

The minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held 4th of September 2024 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. P. Burke.

Item 2 Matters Arising

Cllr. P. Hayes referred to item 5, attendance of Superintendent Alan Cullen, An Garda Siochána Clare Tipperary Community Engagement Division, expressing his concerns on the new

policing model, in particular the lack of Gardai presence in the Municipal District area. This was particularly evident during the Halloween nights events when no Gardai were available to respond to Anti-Social Behaviour incidents. Cllr. P. Hayes requested that the Council invite the Superintendent again for discuss the new policing model.

Referring to Item 8 Cllr. T. O'Brien, Killaloe - Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan between Tipperary and Clare County Council and the proposed RRDF funding would be of huge benefit to the community.

Cllr. T. O'Brien referred to Item 9, a programme of works for the enhancement of our town and villages, he acknowledged that Clare County Council is very proactive in community but there was a lot of 'heavy lifting involved'. Cllr. O'Brien would like to see a Mobile Unit to go into towns to assist communities with the clean-up.

Senior Planner and Killaloe Municipal District Brian McCarthy recognised the huge merit of a joint Clare and Tipperary RRDF grant application to progress Killaloe Town Enhancement and mobility plans.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan welcomed Ann Reynolds A/ Director of Services. Cllr. O'Callaghan acknowledge that item 13 in relation to double yellow lines in Tulla was completed and the motion was achieved.

Item 3 Approval of Allocation by Killaloe MD Members to Community Groups for the Promotion of the interests of Local Communities.

Community Group	Amount
Ballinruan Development Association	€800
Feakle Community Council	€500
Killaloe Ballina Active Retirement	€1,000
Bridge Celtic AFC	€7,300
Quin Foroige Youth Club	€1,350
Killaloe Community Development Company	€5,700

Proposed by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Brien

It was noted an amendment was made to the list prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Item 4 **Section 38** - Proposed Traffic Calming Measures at Coolready, Bodyke, Co. Clare
(report attached)

Proposed by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes

Declan Flanagan A/Senior Executive Engineer briefed on the report. He advised one submission was received and no objections, recommending it for approval by Members.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan complimented the team in getting this Section 38 before the meeting. Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-ordinator, Brian McCarthy confirmed the passing of the Section 38 and said it was very welcome for the village of Bodyke.

Item 5 Presentation on Community funding schemes from Rural & Community
Development Officer (RCDO)

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Joe Cooney welcomed, Darren Carroll, Rural & Community Development Officer and Catherine O’Hara, Rural Development Administrator Officer to the meeting.

Darren Carroll presented a comprehensive overview of Rural Development funding streams, eligibility criteria and snapshot of several successful projects completed across the county.

Cllr. J. Cooney complimented Darren Carroll, Catherine O’Hara and the Rural Development team for their work, acknowledging the big demand for funding and work done by voluntary groups.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan concurred with Cllr. J. Cooney’s comments and remarked that after the major work completed, the on-going maintenance is posing a challenge for community groups.

Cllr. T. O’Brien, agreed with previous comments and highlighted that demand for funding is very competitive and community groups could be waiting a couple years to get funding.

Referring to previous motion (item 9), Cllr. T. O’Brien emphasised the requirement for a mobile unit to help communities, with the physical demands of weeding and general upkeep of the towns.

Cllr. P. Hayes welcomed Catherine O’Hara back and thanked Darren Carroll for his work in supporting various communities in the MD area. Cllr. P. Hayes highlighted the capacity issues faced by the volunteer sector, the administration challenge of applying and drawing down grants and replacing long standing members. Therefore, the training and support that Darren Carroll (RCDO) provides is a critical resource for community groups to gain access to financial funding.

Cllr. P. Burke, Thanked Darren Carroll and Catherine O’Hara on an excellent presentation, which provided a good refresher on the funding available, and the work completed by community groups.

Cllr. P. Burke also welcome Ann Reynolds A/DOS & Catherine O’Hara – Administrative Officer.

Cllr. J. Cooney – Thanked Darren & Catherine.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Burke:-

Item 6 *“Calling on Clare County Council to provide an update on the plans for the grazing and maintenance of Inis Cealtra going forward”.*

Proposed by: Cllr P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

The Killaloe MD have engaged with our Property and Tourism departments on the grazing and Maintenance of Inis Cealtra. Inis Cealtra is in Clare County Council's ownership and the maintenance of the island, once operational, is under the remit of Clare Tourism Development DAC (East).

The Burial Grounds on Inis Cealtra are managed by Clare County Council with maintenance under the remit of the OPW. There is currently a grazing agreement in place for the overall island through the property management section of Clare County Council. In relation to grazing, there is a need for grassland management on the island and the lands has been grazed by sheep in recent years.

The Burial Grounds Unit has been in receipt of complaints of ingress by the sheep to the Burial Grounds and have been actively engaging with all parties on identifying a satisfactory solution in the context of the overall management of the island through Clare Tourism Development DAC (East) and future grassland maintenance. The number of sheep on the island was reduced at the end of September and will be further reduced in January 2025.

The future management plan for the island is in development by Clare Tourism Development DAC (East) of which the future grassland maintenance and grazing will be a key consideration

Cllr. P. Burke Thanked Declan Flanagan – A/Senior Executive Engineer for the reply and all the council staff involved. Cllr. P. Burke commented on the value of utilising over 40 acres of land for grazing, keeping the grassland under control naturally by allowing Sheep to graze it. Thus, avoiding the requirement for a Contractor to be employed to maintain the long grass. The first graveyard near the Round Tower where Edna O’Brien is buried, is fenced off by the OPW but the second burial ground is not and should be fenced off by the Council, OPW or other agencies to prevent animals from entering the burial ground.

Cllr. P. Hayes agreed that the land needs to be managed properly, either the MD, Council or OPW to improve the connectivity to the land, improve walkways and prevent sheep entering the burial ground.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan also highlighted the importance of keeping the sheep on the island to prevent overgrowth and unnecessary use of a mulcher.

Cllr. P. Burke added that fencing off the shoreline would provide a good walking trail for Tourist.

Cllr. Hayes requested Ann Reynolds, A/Director of Services to engage at a national level to address this issue having regard to the special area of conservation.

7. “Calling on Clare Co. Co. to engage with Coillte with a view to renewing the amenity at Woodpark Forest Park, Mountshannon”.

Proposed by: Cllr P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

Killaloe Municipal District are in engagement with Coillte on the much admired and hidden gem in Woodpark Forrest, which are in the ownership of Coillte. From a recent review of the trails within the Park, it appears some sections of trails flood in periods of heavy rainfall. Following correspondence with Coillte arising from this Notice of Motion, we expect a positive response from Coillte to submit a funding application for the park in 2025 to upgrade the park and look at long term issues. An update will be provided by Coillte in early 2025. The positive benefits from delivering this scheme will enhance the park and be of huge importance to the area from a social, economic and wellbeing perspective.

Cllr. P. Burke, thanked Declan Flanagan – A/Senior Executive Engineer for his response and engagement with Coillte on this attractive 70 acres of woodland which has been neglected over the years. There is potential to create a looped walk for families and tourist, if funding was forthcoming and Coillte undertook the necessary tree felling.

Cllr. P. Hayes on supporting the motion also agreed on a potential wonderful asset which has fallen back due to lack of maintenance.

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

8. “That Clare County Council get the public lighting in Ard Na Deirge housing estate Killaloe between houses number 37 and 46 turned on”.

Proposed by: Cllr T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

Arising from receipt of this Notice of Motion, we have engaged with our Public Lighting and Taking in Charge teams; and have been advised that this section of the housing development from houses 37 to 46 at Ard Na Deirge currently is not under the charge of Clare County

Council. Accordingly, the responsibility for maintenance and public lighting is under the remit of the developer of this estate.

The following map below demonstrates the public lighting under charge of Clare County Council.



Cllr. T. O'Brien Thanked Declan Flanagan – A/Senior Executive Engineer for the response and explained that the public lighting is gone between houses 37 – 46 for over five years. This is leaving the area in complete darknesses which is dangerous for kids coming home from school and other pedestrians.

Cllr. T. O'Brien acknowledges that this is the responsibility of the developer, but the Council has a responsibility towards residents too. While Cllr. T. O'Brien is aware that this developer is still constructing houses at the other end of the estate and he directs that Council Planning enforcement should engage with the developer.

Cllr. J. Cooney supporting this motion noted that this development was taken over by another developer with the assistance of the Council. Cllr. J. Cooney calls on the Council to engage with the developer to resolve this issue.

Declan Flanagan – A/Senior Engineer agreed to contact the Taking in Charge and Public Lighting section on this estate.

9. “That a plan to properly mark out car parking spaces on the road from the boys national school in Killaloe to the Graveyard be put in place”.

Proposed by: Cllr T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

Killaloe Municipal District have identified a number of projects which are to be completed in this location, ranging from a ‘Safe Routes to School’ project at the Boys National School to increasing visibility and provisions of a Zebra Crossing along with upgrading the Junction between Crossroads and the Boys N.S.

The section of road between the Boys N.S. and Killaloe has a pavement Surface Condition rating of between 4 and 5 and requires upgrading. At present the parking bays have an unsuitable surface for line markings. This particular section of road linking to the Killaloe Bypass has potential for a future Active Travel Scheme. Subject to budget allocation, we can review our Restoration Improvement budget allocation to carry our works to this location in 2025.

Cllr. T. O’Brien said that this is the main road into the town from the new bypass and an upgraded entrance to the town is required. This needs to be addressed as there is a shortage of car park spaces.

Cllr. J. Cooney agreed that this was an important addition.

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

10. “Works would be carried out on the trees at the back of Plunkett Drive housing estate in Kilkishen in the interest of safety”.

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

Killaloe Municipal District have recently inspected this location, the rear entrance to properties at Plunkett Drive, Kilkishen, is registered to Clare County Council. The existing trees and overgrown vegetation is from the property boundary with the adjacent landowner.

We can confirm that a Killaloe MD roads crew will carry out maintenance works on this lane over the coming weeks to provide enhanced access and egress to this lane.

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan welcomed the response and clarified that the trees are large, and the area is wet and muddy which is impacting on residents back gardens.

11. "Drainage work to take place on the R462 outside Kilmurry Castle where ponding occurs regularly".

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

We can confirm that a site inspection will be carried out on the R-462 Kilmurry to Sixmilebridge Road. Pending a review, CCTV surveys and flood relief works will be carried out as required. We will engage with landowners and residents affected by this issue.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan noted that the landowner is co-operative, and this will address the surface issue for road users.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Joe Cooney:-

12. "That Clare County Council give an update on the progress of the Scariff town project, is there a contractor appointment to carry out the works, and when is it hoped to commence?".

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Response from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-ordinator

In May of this year following the preparation and successful application led by Killaloe MD, the Department of Rural and Community Development awarded €8,765,000 for our Category 1 Scarriff RRDF project. Clare County Council will match fund this to bring the total project value to €11million.

The Scarriff Town Regeneration project is located in the Market Square and comprises of 3 elements, all integrated.

i) The renovation of an existing vacant derelict 2 story building and rear premises in Scarriff Town centre and their conversion to a Community & Enterprise Hub

ii) The development of a greenfield site to the rear of the building to use as a carpark associated with the Community & Enterprise Hub and for car-parking use as part of wider enhancements to Scarriff Town Centre.

iii) Enhancement of public realm of Market Square (town centre) of Scarriff

Since May, Killaloe MD have assisted with the Department's due diligence process which culminated with the formal agreement of the funding, signed in September at a similar time to other projects around the Country. In parallel, the procurement of the contractor to construct the car-park and Community and Enterprise Hub has been undertaken with a preferred contractor now awaiting appointment.

Whilst the submission of the successful RRDF application and completion of due diligence since May was led and managed by Killaloe Municipal District, it is anticipated that the Project Management of the construction and oversight of the overall €11million RRDF public realm and Digi-Clare project will be managed by a designated project unit within the Council. I am advised that this decision will be confirmed shortly, thus enabling the appointment of the contractor and the commencement of construction works immediately thereafter.

In line with agreements with local stakeholders and the RRDF application, the development of the car-park and enterprise/community hub will be completed first, with the market square public realm commencing after.

Cllr. J. Cooney thanked Brian McCarthy Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-ordinator for his response and for bringing Scarriff to this stage and asked when a Contractor would commence work and if a Project Manager to be appointed before going to construction?

Cllr. P. Hayes expressed concerns on the slow progress and called on Ann Reynolds A/Director of Service to address this issue.

In response, Ann Reynolds – A/Director of Services outlined details of a Capital Delivery team to address this gap, this is a cross-section approach and the recruitment for this team is on-going.

Cllr. P. Hayes questioned the details of the team, if it comprises of staff from Rural, General Design, MD funded by Rural Development, recruitment progress, no one appointed yet as Project lead.

Cllr. P. Burke, asked for clarification, if Project lead for each Rural Development scheme or overall schemes and if a Project lead for each within the Capital Delivery Team.

Cllr. J. Cooney concluded that once the contractor is appointed, and the contract signed, works will commence in the new year.

13. “Asking that Clare County Council carry out road improvement works on the bad section of the L-8056 immediately in the interest of road safety”.

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

The L-8056 at Coolreagh, Bodyke has a short section of road which has suffered from recent deterioration of the road surface due to a combination of difficulties associated with maintaining roads over peat. In general issues commonly arise because peat provides a poor foundation for a road pavement as it is frequently weak and highly compressible compared with normal subgrades such as boulder clay.

From our recent review of this road, no potholes are present, however a short section has become undulating due to poor supporting ground conditions. Killaloe MD roads crew will carry out maintenance works on this road in the interim.

Cllr. J. Cooney asked for work to be done ‘sooner rather than later’ as cars were getting damaged. Declan Flanagan A/Senior Engineer confirmed its part of next year’s road works programme.

Cllr. P. Hayes seconded this Motion and, in support, added this was the first road works programmed confirmed.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Hayes:-

14. "I am proposing that a comprehensive plan be put in place for the town of Tulla to take into account the growing population in particular traffic movements, parking and connectivity and all other associated issues. "

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-ordinator

Tulla is a significant service centre for East Clare offering a range of retail, commercial and community facilities for the town and hinterland with the potential to expand these services for the benefit of residents and visitors. There has been significant development in Tulla in recent years, and a number of residential sites have the benefit of planning permission and the location of the settlement provides significant opportunities for sustainable development of the settlement.

This fact and the issues raised in the Notice of Motion is recognised by Killaloe Municipal District and in particular two initiatives by Clare County Council's Economic Directorate.

Members will be aware that Tulla has been identified and awarded funding to commence the establishment of a Town Team. The Town Centre First Officer and team are currently working with the community of Tulla to establish a Town Team and structures to enable the preparation of a Town Centre First Plan for Tulla. In addition to the Economic Directorate's Town Centre First initiative, the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 sets out the Planning Authority's objective that "Within the life of the plan it is an objective to prepare a Local Transport Plan for Tulla". The Development Plan sets out a number of placemaking opportunities and connectivity enhancements that such a plan could address.

In that regard, there is obvious merit in the issues raised in the Notice of Motion being addressed by the Planning Department and Town Centre First Team in their preparation of

any such Local Transport Plan or Town Centre First plan for Tulla. Killaloe MD will provide all necessary assistance and arising from this Notice of Motion will highlight these issues to assist the preparation of any such plan(s).

Whilst acknowledging the response Cllr. P. Hayes expressed concerns in relation to the village's connectivity to services. Traffic calming measures are needed, and this needs to be addressed through RRDF funding or overall co-operative approach via Road Design and Town Team. Cllr. Hayes requested Ann Reynolds to look at Traffic Movements, connectivity and growth.

Cllr. J. Cooney supported this motion and the requirement for facilities and infrastructure within villages to improve connectivity and traffic movement.

15. "I am asking for an update into the proposed traffic and mobility plan for Crusheen Village, with the large growth of housing in Crusheen it is imperative that a plan to upgrade connectivity be put in place as soon as possible.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Response from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-ordinator

Arising from relatively significant number of developments in Crusheen and on foot of representations from the Elected Members, Killaloe MD are overseeing the preparation of a Mobility Plan for Crusheen. The Mobility Plan will set out how to enhance the footpaths, streets, public lighting in Crusheen and make sure we provide for new infrastructure e.g. pedestrian crossings, cycle paths, bus shelter, pathways to ensure Crusheen is a pleasant and sustainable village for everyone of all ages and abilities to safely walk, cycle and travel from homes to the school, the shop and other community and recreational facilities.

It is envisaged that the mobility plan will guide the coherent, plan-led, cost-effective development and investment by Killaloe MD of public infrastructure in the settlement and guide future funding applications.

Significant public consultation has taken place and over the last number of months our consultant team are finalising a number of layouts and options for enhanced connectivity within Crusheen, responding to the feedback and requests from the community and stakeholders. The draft layout options includes a number possibilities regarding footpaths and the insertion of

cycle lanes, pedestrian crossing points, car-parking, bus set down areas, and enhanced pedestrian access to community facilities including the future Railway Stop – the subject of a separate initiative by Killaloe MD.

In line with the spirit of engagement with the community during this project and due to the need to arrive an agreed option with stakeholders on a number of key elements, it is envisaged that draft options will be presented to the community and property owners in the coming weeks to ascertain their views on a preferred approach. Subject to agreement of the options, it is anticipated that in early 2025 the plan can be completed relatively quickly after. In the meantime, a potential funding application is being considered for elements of the emerging mobility plan.

Cllr. P. Hayes thanked Brian McCarthy for his reply, and this demonstrates what the council is good at. We need a similar approach for Tulla, to co-ordinate the services, to support small businesses and infrastructure, this merits further development.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan supported this motion. The Killaloe MD is proactive in progressing villages where there are housing developments but there is limited scope for other villages such as O’Callaghan’s Mills where there is limited building opportunities. More resources are required for our towns & villages to promote growth in the MD area and encourage the use of local services.

Cllr. P. Burke concurred, Tulla, Quin, Crusheen, might have a chance for growth with increased development but the lack of development in other villages is not attracting younger generations to stay and therefore support the local schools and communities.

Cllr. J. Cooney emphasised the infrastructure requirements to support our communities.

Cllr. T. O’Brien concurred with other members view and acknowledged that Killaloe is in a better position.

Brian McCarthy responded that the MD will be looking at a community consultation event in Crusheen prior to Christmas with a view to finalising plan and commencement of implementing key works in 2025.

Item 16 Confirm date for next meeting.

The date for the next meeting of Killaloe Municipal District is January 15th 2025.

Item 17 AOB

Cllr. J. Cooney wished to congratulate the Feakle Hurling Team on becoming County Champions, and to Adam Hogan achieving young hurler of the year and Mark Rogers for his achievements.

Cllr. P. Hayes concurs with congratulations to Feakle Hurlers, the whole management team and positive media coverage it brought to the community.

Cllr. P. Burke Ash Tree at Portumna junction, urgently needs to be addressed in response

Declan Flangan confirmed a survey would be conducted.

Cllr. T. O'Brien wished to Cllr. J. Cooney well in the upcoming election and all members agreed.

Votes of sympathy

Cllr J. Cooney requested a minute's silence be observed the recent passing of Local Parish Priest Fr. McMahon and former president of Flanagan College who fulfilled the clerical needs of the East Clare and his sympathies to his family.

Cllr. P. Burke extended a vote of sympathy on the passing of Fr. McMahon and the valued service he provided to the community.