

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District

held on Wednesday, 4th September 2024 at 4.00pm

Meeting held in Meeting Room, Crusheen Community Centre

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

Mr. Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

Ms. Pauline Costelloe, Staff Officer

Ms. Deirdre Sampson, Clerical Officer

Apologies: Ms. Bernie Haugh A/Director Service

Members of the media attended.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Joe Cooney chaired the meeting.

Cllr. J. Cooney opened the meeting, welcoming all in attendance at the new location for the September meeting. Cllr. J. Cooney complimented the Community Centre Committee and the wonderful facility now in place.

Cllr. J. Cooney paid a special tribute to Ms. Anne Haugh, recently retired Director of Service.

Cllr. J. Cooney thanked her for all her assistance in the MD and wished her a happy retirement.

Cllr. P. Hayes concurred in wishing Ms. Anne Haugh well in her retirement.

Mr. B. McCarthy, Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Co-Ordinator also wished Ms. Anne Haugh well on her retirement on his own behalf and on behalf of all the staff in the Municipal District.

Mr. McCarthy mentioned it was a pleasure to work with Ms. Haugh as Director of Service of Killaloe MD where she achieved a significant amount in her time and was of significant support to all the staff in the MD.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan also thanked Ms. Anne Haugh for her support in the MD and wished her a happy and healthy retirement.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held 17th July 2024.

The minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held 17th July 2024 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. P. Burke and seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes.

Item 2 Matters Arising

Cllr. P. Hayes queried the traffic calming from Tuamgraney through to the Mountshannon Road. Cllr. P. Hayes indicated that this issue had been on the agenda on many occasions, and it was necessary to see where this was at. Cllr. P. Hayes said the visit of Superintendent Alan Cussen may bring some clarity; that traffic controls were necessary in every town and village and there needed to be a measure adopted to implement traffic calming.

Cllr. P. Hayes also requested an update on the start date for Tulla footpaths.

Cllr. P. Burke mentioned that he was contacted again since the last MD meeting, regarding Item No 9 at the July meeting referring to the issue of speeding in Quin village adjacent to the playground. Cllr. P. Burke requested that the red slow signage be placed in more locations, as it has good effect on the Quin Road in Ennis.

In reply, A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan said regarding traffic calming from Tuamgraney to the Mountshannon Road told the meeting that both he and Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-Ordinator Mr. B. McCarthy were working on the area, consultant were engaged, and it would take time to get the plan for the area right as the situation was not straight forward.

In response Cllr. P. Hayes said both areas required action.

In response to Cllr. P. Burke regarding the speed in Quin Village, A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan said these slow red boxes were not planned for being everywhere as their impact would be reduced if the number of boxes was increased. Mr. Flanagan said these boxes were placed at specific dangerous junctions. Mr. Flanagan said this would be reviewed and it would require a meeting with Gardaí. Plans for these signs in villages would be adjudicated on a case-by-case scenario.

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

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

Item 4 Section 38 – Consideration and adoption of Proposed Specific Improvements on R463, 240 meters north of the junction R463/L82045 to the junction of R463/L82045 at Ogonneloe, Co. Clare (report attached)

Cllr. J. Cooney welcomed this proposal and complemented the staff involved in getting the Section 38 before the meeting.

Cllr. P. Hayes requested more information be given to the members regarding Section 3 proposals prior to being brought before the Municipal District meetings.

Cllr. J. Cooney replied saying that all the information was contained in the reports circulated prior to the meeting but perhaps a briefing prior to the MD meeting for Section 38 proposals may be appropriate.

Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-Ordinator confirmed the adoption of the Section 38 and that this report was the final draft.

This proposal was proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Brien.

Item 5 Attendance of Superintendent Alan Cullen, An Garda Síochána Clare Tipperary Community Engagement Division

(Note: Briefing held following Item 6 and 7 due to time pressures.)

Superintendent Alan Cussen was welcomed to the meeting by Cathaoirleach Joe Cooney. A discussion was held between the members and Superintendent Alan Cullen. The members put forward various situations and queries on behalf of the public in Killaloe Municipal District. Topics raised included excessive speed in villages and towns in the Municipal District. The number of speed checks undertaken was also discussed among other topics as discussed with all the members of the MD.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Joe Cooney:

Item 6 “That Clare County Council improves the site line at the junction where the L3042 exit onto the R465 on the Broadford-Limerick Road in the interest of road safety”.

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. T. O’ Brien

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

“Arising from this Notice of Motion, we have reviewed the Junction of the L-3042 and R-465 on the Broadford to Limerick road. The Junction off the R-465 is at a slight angle and is elevated in level. From the initial inspection, the sightlines are particularly poor to the south side of this Junction. Minor embankment and vegetation removal would improve the Junction, however long term more detailed works will be required.

Consent and cooperation from the adjacent land owners will be required prior to drafting up a design to achieve sightlines at this Junction. This project will be reviewed by Killaloe MD when resources are available”.

Cllr. J. Cooney told the meeting that there was genuine concern regarding this junction. Cllr. J, Cooney welcomed the response and looked forward to engagement with the land owners and an update from A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan.

In response to Cllr. J. Cooney, Mr. Flanagan Clare County Council and Uisce Eireann were landowners and there was one other land owner in question at this junction. A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan said immediate works would be undertaken for a short term fix and indicated that he was aware of the situation regarding alignment at the junction.

Item 7 “I am calling on Clare County Council to put speed ramps in the village of Kilkishen to slow traffic in the interest of road safety.”

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, Killaloe Municipal District carried out a speed survey on the Main Street, Kilkishen in the past week. The 85th percentile speeds are in line with the

adopted speed limit of 50Km/hr in the center of the Village. On the approach roads to the village, there are issues regarding speed of traffic.

In early 2023 new gateway signs and line marking were introduced as a measure to slow down vehicles entering the Village. On foot of this Notice of Motion over the next few weeks we will be installing 50km/hr text on red circle backgrounds on the road surface throughout the village as a reminder to drivers to comply with the speed limit and we will monitor to see if this will be effective over the course of the next few months.

On a long term perspective, we have engaged with a consultant to review the entire village, we had a recent site meeting to discuss appropriate measures to reduce speed with build outs, tree lined landscape, the possibility of raised tables at Junctions and road narrowing in places. This is a long term plan which will be focused on measures to reduce speeding. A funding stream will need to be sourced following approval from the local community and elected members”.

Cllr. J. Cooney highlighted the fact that this had been on the agenda previously. However, Cllr. J. Cooney wished to reiterate the genuine concern and fear amount the community of Kilkishen regarding this issue. Cllr. J. Cooney welcomed the fact that there was a community meeting on this issue in the near future and said that he is aware of the criteria regarding speed ramps but the fear in the community is very real. Cllr. J. Cooney said that now is the time to take action on the matter.

In seconding the motion Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said that this issue was ongoing and mentioned that the data display and gateway sings now had no effect on driver behaviour. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said there were seven ramps in total in Newmarket on Fergus to great effect. Cllr. O’ Callaghan said the ramps in Killaloe had no effect. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan accepted the change would be a slow process going forward. However, it was highlighted that a plan was needed to be worked through.

Cllr. J. Cooney said the raised table in the village of Kilkishen is not fit for purpose and queried if the speed surveys were a true reflection on driver behaviour.

Cllr. T. O’Brien supported the motion and indicated he would comment further following Superintendent Alan Cussen’s briefing.

Cllr. P. Hayes supported the motion and highlighted this was mentioned at the previous MD meeting and again at this meeting. Cllr. O’ Hayes said in wonderful speed reducing

methodology was used in other counties for example Cork and this policy needed to be brought to Clare. Cllr. P. Hayes said the issue was county wide and very prevalent at the moment.

Cllr. J. Cooney queried if ramps the appropriate course of action for the village of Kilkishen.

In reply, A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan said there was a consultant engaged and there were measures to be taken into consideration like width of the street and landscaping requirements. A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan said a plan was needed to put to the community in conjunction with the development plan and then seek funding.

Cllr. J. Cooney reiterated the serious situation at hand and looked forward to the meeting happening sooner rather than later.

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

Item 8 “That Killaloe Municipal District would commence the process of preparing a submission for funding the implementation of the Killaloe Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan. This should be a priority project for Clare County Council and include significant input from Tipperary County Council.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

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

“The Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan (2022) was prepared and adopted by Clare and Tipperary County Councils to drive the economic, tourism and social enhancement of Killaloe, Ballina and the wider area. The plan provides opportunities to capitalise on the towns’ assets to collectively expand the tourism product, attract increased visitor numbers and maximise local economic benefits, whilst enhancing the public realm. The plan identifies several key opportunity sites in Killaloe to reinvigorate the town area, as well as substantial and significant public realm enhancements in Killaloe.

In line with the spirit of cooperation and collaboration between the two Local Authorities of Clare and Tipperary in the preparation of the plan, there is significant merit in continuing the collaborative approach in implementing the Killaloe-Ballina Plan together.

Due to the ambition and level of detail in the Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan (2022) and the consequent scale of funding anticipated for the overall project, it is likely that this will require significant funding in particular Rural Regeneration and Development Funding (RRDF). On foot of this Notice of Motion, Killaloe MD will commence the process of liaising with our colleagues in Nenagh MD preparing a funding application jointly with colleagues in Tipperary County Council, with a view to advocating that a joint RRDF funding application would be submitted at the next available opportunity”.

Cllr. T. O’Brien thanked Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Co-Ordinator Mr. B. McCarthy for the response. Cllr. T. O’Brien said that post by pass works he hoped the Town Centre Enhancement and Mobility Plan would not be left on a shelf as Killaloe was now a gateway to East Clare. Cllr. T. O’Brien welcomed future planning with Tipperary County Council.

Cllr. P. Hayes supported the motion and commented that engagement need to be to the forefront for the project.

Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Co-Ordinator Mr. B. McCarthy said he was in contact with his colleagues in Tipperary County Council with a view to coordinating an RRDF application when the next funding call was made.

Item 9 “That a programme of works be drawn up for the enhancement of our towns and villages with a view to getting extra staff for work programmes. We have a serious problem with maintenance and upkeep and are overly reliant on the voluntary groups within our MD.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

“Killaloe MD has a planned schedule in place for our Roadsweeper to keep our towns and villages in the Municipal District clean, whilst additional assistance is also carried out at weekends when festivals or other such events take place. It is generally acknowledged that this appears to be working quite well.

In compliance with various environmental requirements, weed spraying is no longer carried out and thus we acknowledge some issues regarding weeds are present in some of our towns and villages. As our outdoor staff number has been depleting over the last number of years, the laborious task of removing weeds manually is becoming a challenge. By way of a response Killaloe MD will soon take delivery of a battery self-propelled weed remover which will assist our outdoor workers and reduce the workload also on our community groups

Over the last 6 months and following from your previous Notice of Motions on staffing issues, Clare County Council is currently recruiting to provide Killaloe MD with an additional SGSS, foreman and G.O.'s for the Municipal District which will assist in the provision of sufficient resources to carry out the required maintenance works”.

Cllr. T. O’ Brien wished to say at the outset that this motion was no reflection on the staff of Clare County Council. Cllr. T. O’Brien highlighted that staff numbers were depleted in the KM and that the team in the MD had large areas to cover. Cllr. T. O’Brien said that there was a heavy reliance on voluntary groups to maintain all villages and town in the MD. Cllr. T. O’Brien said his intention is to be able to assist these groups in a practical way. Cllr. T. O’Brien said the Inis Cealtra was a jewel on Clare and needed serious investment, Ballycuggeran also needed investment. Cllr. T. O’Brien accepts staff numbers are restricted in the MD, however the workload is too much on volunteers in the area. Cllr. T. O’Brien highlighted that it is the same people in every town and village who do all the work be it GAA or Tidy Towns and they need assistance from the County Council.

Cllr. P Burke in seconding the motion highlighted this motion was similar to one he had brought to the meeting also. The issue is volunteers are under incredulous pressure and need assistance.

Cllr. P Burke also accepted the shortage of GOs in the MD.

Cllr. A. O’ Callaghan supported the motion and complemented the work volunteers do throughout the area. Cllr. A. O’ Callaghan also highlighted biodiversity and the lack of weedspraying as an aid to volunteer groups.

Cllr. P. Hayes also supported the motion, and added there is merit in establishing a work group solely to aid groups including graveyards and playgrounds. Cllr. P. Hayes enquired for further detail on the weeding machine mentioned in the reply. Cllr. P. Hayes also acknowledged that our staffing numbers were down and highlighted this was a national issue regarding recruitment.

Cllr. J. Cooney also supported the motion and the staffing issue. Cllr. J. Cooney complemented the work of volunteers and local groups. Cllr. J. Cooney acknowledged the shortage of workers in the MD due to various reasons. Cllr. J. Cooney said with the weeder and an added SGSSS with additional staff the situation was positive going forward. Cllr. J. Cooney also reiterated the heavy reliance on the community groups in the area.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Burke:-

- Item 10** “Calling on Clare County Council to explain what the following signs mean and why are they not enforced where they are erected in amenity areas.
- ‘Clare County Council NO CAMPING OR OVERNIGHT PARKING By Order
- ‘ Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke
- Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

“Clare County Council have “specific bye-laws in place for managing of Camping and No Overnight parking at our Blue Flag beaches. In the Killaloe MD, the specific bye-laws pertain to Mountshannon and Ballycuggaraun blue flag beach’s. One such condition is the provision of no overnight parking within specific areas. Signage is in place to inform the public, QR codes are available with the beach byelaws also for visitors to our beaches. The extract below from the 2021 Beach laws is as follows:

No person shall do any of the following:

3.3.1. *drive, bring to, place on, leave or park any motor vehicle, motorcar, motorbike, van, trailer, campervan, caravan, mobile home, off-road vehicle, carriage, truck, wagon, lorry, all terrain vehicle, quad bike or other mechanically propelled vehicle on the beach or dune system appurtenant to the beach, with an exception provided for launching or retrieving of a craft at a designated launch area as identified on the individual maps in Schedule 3 of these bye-laws.*

3.3.2. *encamp, place, erect or cause to be placed or erected on the beach, or dune system appurtenant to the beach, any tent, caravan, campervan or other temporary dwelling.*

Enforcing of these bye-laws is a function of our Environmental Section, complaints can be made through the Killaloe MD office or through Environment if an issue arises”.

Cllr. P. Burke highlighted that this had been raised previously. Cllr. P. Burke was aware that there were specific bye-laws. Cllr. P. Burke said that the issue was especially prevalent in Mountshannon, leading to anti-social behaviour and debris being left behind also. Cllr. P. Burke mentioned occurrences of this in Clonrush and Dromaan in Whitegate also to a lesser extent. Cllr. P. Burke said the added asset of public toilets and showers in Dromaan were a huge attraction. Cllr. P. Burke said it was often the case that at weekends the locks on the toilet doors were taped over to keep them open 24 hours. Cllr. P. Burke said the issue was one of annoyance for flouting of the law. Cllr. P. Burke also mentioned the signs indicating “no overnight parking” being covered over deliberately. Cllr. P. Burke was aware that the Environment Section were responsible for the bye laws but it wasn’t acceptable to him to contact them over a weekend. Cllr. P. Burke accepted the reply given but was not satisfied and said this was not what these amenities were for. Cllr. P. Burke said the signage is in place but appreciated the reply.

Cllr. P. Hayes in seconding the motion said this highlights the bigger issue of little amenities for campers in East Clare. Cllr. P. Hayes said there needed to be dedicated sights in place going forward. Cllr. P. Hayes said it is unorganised chaos during the year. Cllr. P. Hayes said there is huge opportunity to make this a positive for East Clare. Cllr. P. Hayes said the Feakle Festival was an annual opportunity for a camper site.

Cllr. P. Burke mentioned that festivals are an annual event, but the repetitiveness of weekend use is a different issue. There are also issues with Clare Co Co introducing barriers on amenity areas also.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said that the Camper sites are a huge attraction and there should be foresight to explore an appropriate site.

Cllr. J. Cooney said a designated site would be great, but the season is short and there are high costs involved.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said it was a growing business.

Item 11 “Calling on Clare County Council to carry out a clean up of the Harbour area in Mountshannon namely the removal of vegetation and painting of the crash barrier as these are quite unsightly.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

“We wish to confirm a clean-up of the harbour will be carried out the next few weeks, as resources are allocated to hedge cutting and road improvement works until mid to late September.”

In the overall context of the harbour, Killaloe Municipal District are working with our colleagues in Tourism to promote Mountshannon and the Harbour Area a pleasant and welcoming amenity to visit and enjoy the beach and views of Lough Derg, whilst also enhancing visitor numbers to Holy Island as the visitor centre at the Rectory will be completed”.

Cllr. P. Burke welcomed the reply. Cllr. P. Burke said that the CE schemes would have completed such work in the past and with the opening of the Rectory in the spring the Harbour needed a lot of work.

Cllr. J. Cooney supported the motion and welcomed the news that work will commence.

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

Item 12 “In the interest of safety ask that old staircase be taken down at Ard Na Mainistreach estate in Quin as they serve no purpose.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

“I am advised that the staircase at Ard Na Mainistreach has been present since the development of the estate. It was envisaged that the provision of this access point to the school grounds would provide safe access to school and limit numbers entering at the front of the school.

Arising from this Notice of Motion, we will be engaging with our Taking in Charge Section of the Planning Department along with the school before considering further works. From a safety perspective, the stairs have been closed off and signage in place to restrict access”.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan thanked A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan for the reply. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said the staircase had been installed as an access point to the National School and it now needs to be blocked off as there is no access to the school via the stairs. The National School have now said that access via the stairs will not be possible in the future also. There is also a fear if future access was gained via this entrance, it would attract a flood of cars to the estate to access the school. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said there was great forward planning in installing the staircase. Cllr. J. Cooney seconded the motion and welcomed the reply.

Item 13 “Ask this Municipal District that no parking double yellow lines would be put outside a gate on Church Street Tulla next to the church as it's often blocked and residents can't access.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

“We have reviewed this location and will be providing yellow hatching line markings at the gate entrance to prevent cars blocking this entrance. This work will be carried out over the

next few weeks. The importance of having this access left clear will lead to a reduction of vehicles parking on Main Street Tulla”.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said the resolution of the issue is very simple and thanked A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan for his reply. Cllr. A. O’Callaghan said there was an increase in traffic and in particular in parking resulting in the area being blocked.

Cllr. J. Cooney seconded the motion and welcomed the reply.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Hayes:-

Item 14 “Having had a previous motion accepted regarding the extension of the 50km speed limit in Clooney village with full support from all councillors, I now wish to see it implemented immediately.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’ Callaghan

Response from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:

“As per previous notion of motion and correspondence, the Municipal District as an entity cannot submit a speed limit appeal in this manner. We can confirm that no appeal has been submitted to Clare County Council to review the existing bye-laws for the 50km/hr speed zone in Clooney Village.

The existing speed limit at Clooney Village on the R352 is 50km/h. Speed limit reviews are initiated by the TII, rather than Local Authorities and usually every 5 years. The last speed limit review in Clare was completed in 2018 and came into force in 2019. No date has been fixed for the next speed limit review.

A member of the public can object to and appeal an existing speed limit contained within the Local Authority’s current Speed Limit Bye-Laws. The appeal is made to Clare County Council Roads Authority Appeals Panel. If speed limits are to be amended, as a result of appeals, they will go before a Council meeting once a year for consideration”.

Cllr. P. Hayes thanked A/SEE Mr. D. Flanagan for the reply and commented he found it strange Elected Members could not propose a speed limit. Cllr. P. Hayes said it was a strange, arche system. Cllr. P. Hayes said it was incredible that an Elected Member would have to engage the assistance of a member of the public to start the process. Cllr. P' Hayes said feedback signs alone cannot work and signage won't work as seen. Cllr. P. Hayes highlighted that applications for Active Travel had not been approved in the Killaloe MD.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan in seconding the motion said he had only witnessed one speed review in his tenure as an Elected Member and that there was no imminent date for a review.

Cllr. J. Cooney supported the motion and highlighted to the meeting that this motion had the full support of all five Elected Members of the Killaloe MD.

Item 15 “I propose that Clare County Council put in place a comprehensive programme to upgrade the R352. With removal of dangerous bends and the upgrading of junctions a necessity as no major investment has been given to this road in many years. In particular, I would request that the section from Tuamgraney to Tulla be prioritised as a matter of urgency.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Response from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Coordinator

“The R352 Ennis - Scarriff – Portumna Regional roads provides an hugely important function in accessing East Clare from Ennis/the M18 Motorway Network to a number of towns and villages in the Municipal District, including the service center of Scarriff and onwards to East Galway. Along the route the R352 provides access and carries a large volume of traffic, including HGV's, to a number of significant employment centers and industry as well as to tourism attractions and Lough Derg.

The R352 is one of a number of regional roads in the County which have been designated by the Council as strategic routes in the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 based on the volumes of traffic that they carry on a daily basis. It is an objective of Clare County Council: a) To seek funding for the delivery of and to upgrade and improve, where necessary,

the [Strategic] Regional roads in the county” and “To preserve the carrying capacity of strategic Regional roads and safeguard the investment in such infrastructure”.

Killaloe MD is in full agreement with the sentiments in the Notice of Motion. Due to the strategic importance of the route, its location across 2 Municipal Districts, the volume of traffic it currently takes and the strategic employment, tourism and social centers in East Clare it serves, as well as the issues raised previously by Members along certain sections and junctions of the R353 there is merit and it is preferable a comprehensive strategy and programme for improvements of the total route from Ennis to Whitegate is undertaken by the Roads Authority.

There are however National guidelines and funding criteria that affect how it is considered.

I am advised that in the context of seeking a comprehensive approach the Department of Transport “Memorandum on Grants for Regional and Local Roads” (January 2024) states that for Strategic Regional and Local Roads (SRLR) Capital Projects that are outside of the Department’s Bridge, Safety and Pavement, Restoration and Rehabilitation programmes will be considered on a case-by-case basis under three criteria including “Projects which would have a significant and quantifiable economic impact, particularly as regards employment and on industrial, tourism, agricultural, rural development, urban regeneration and provision of Climate Adaptation and resilience of the network.” (page 35). Only projects with an estimated cost in excess of €5 million (including VAT) are eligible under this programme. On foot of my queries following receipt of this Notice of Motion, I am advised that the process will prove timely and lengthy to prepare and may not be successful having regard to funding pressures for the Department nationally.

Alternatively, it appears that, whilst not the preferred method as per the sentiments of this Notice of Motion, there is the option of seeking individual sections of the R352 road to be improved under a Specific Improvement Grant for elements up to €5 million”.

Cllr. P. Hayes thanked Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-Ordinator for the reply. Cllr. P. Hayes said this route was the spine of the MD. Cllr. P. Hayes highlighted Cllr. C. Wiley’s efforts in the past and the major works carried out on the R352 as a result. Cllr. P. Hayes said junctions like Henchys Cross required immediate investment. Cllr. P. Hayes said the condition of the road deteriorates from Ballinahinch to Whitegate. Cllr. P. Hayes said it

should be a strategic responsibility for this to happen. Cllr. P. Hayes said in the grand scheme of things €5 million upgrade was not significant and would improve a good stretch of the road. Cllr. P. Hayes said that with employment levels up in Beckman Coulter right through to Senyco in Whitegate and through to Killaloe the R352 needed urgent upgrade. Also Cllr. P. Hayes highlighted the increase in campervans and lorries on this road from the new bypass.

Cllr. J. Cooney seconded the motion and supported Cllr. P. Hayes' comments adding that the R465 was also in poor condition.

Cllr. P. Burke said he has difficulty with the motion, solely on the basis as the R352 stretched all the way to Whitegate and didn't just apply to Tuamgraney to Tulla. Cllr. P. Burke welcomed the reply and highlighted the level of manufacturing related traffic and milk lorries also travelling the route.

Cllr. J. Cooney added that he welcomed hedge cutting works commencing also.

Cllr. P. Hayes said he was disappointed with the amount of hedge cutting completed but agreed the project had to start somewhere.

Item 16 Confirm date for next meeting.

The date for the next meeting of Killaloe Municipal District is November 13th 2024.

Item 17 AOB

Cllr. P. Hayes wished to express his thanks to the Crusheen Community Centre for hosting the MD meeting and complimented them on the facility. Cllr. P. Hayes requested an update on the planned works for Crusheen.

Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-Ordinator replied saying there was a meeting planned in relation to the reopening of the railway station and a mobility plan for Crusheen. Mr. McCarthy said that there would be public consultation regarding the mobility plan.

Cllr. J. Cooney commented that the facility in Crusheen was of high benefit to the school and the general Crusheen area.

Senior Planner & Killaloe Co-Ordinator wished to reiterate his invite the Elected Members to the Launch of the Socio Economic Report in to the reopening of the Crusheen Railway Station following the MD meeting. Mr. McCarthy also wished Ms. Pauline Costelloe well on

her planned career break and thanked her for all her assistance in co-ordinating the MD meetings.

Cllr. J. Cooney thanked Ms. Costelloe also and wished her the best for her career break.

The meeting closed at 6pm.