

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District

held on Wednesday, 17th of September at 09:30 a.m.

Meeting held in Meeting Room, Killaloe Municipal District Offices

In attendance: Cllr. Pat Burke, Cathaoirleach Killaloe MD

Cllr. Pat Hayes

Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan

Cllr. Tony O'Brien

Cllr. Conor Ryan.

Officials: Ms. Siobhán McNulty, Director of Services

Mr. Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer

Ms. Olive Mulconroy, Staff Officer

Apologies: Ms. Ann Reynolds, Director Services

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-ordinator

Members of the media attended.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Pat Burke chaired the meeting.

Cllr. P. Burke Cathaoirleach welcomed all and acknowledged the presents of

Siobhán McNulty, Director of Services representing, Ann Reynolds, Director of Service.

Vote of sympathy

The members extended a vote of sympathy to Cllr. P Burke and the Burke family on the passing of Margart (Peggy) Burke RIP. A minute silence was proposed by Cllr. Tony O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan and all observed.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on the 16th of July were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. Tony O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan

Item 2 Matters Arising

Cllr. Pat Hayes referring to his motion (Item 14 Killaloe MD Meeting 16th July 2025) requested an update on the removal of overhanging and Ash Dieback trees which are now very visible on our roads.

Cllr. Tony O'Brien extended his compliments to the Killaloe MD staff for organising the temporary carpark at Abbey Street, in Killaloe. This was very proactive and hugely successful in accommodating additional car park spaces, particularly for the Bridges Run fund raiser for St. Ann's school and recent Quest events. Cllr. O'Brien also requested an update on (Item 10 Killaloe MD Meeting 16th July 2025) traffic calming measures on the R466 in Bridgetown.

Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer responded firstly to Cllr. Hayes, by restating his continuous engagement with Coillte, commitment to completing works on the R464 and the offer to assist Landowners with Traffic Management while undertaking tree and hedge cutting along roads. In response to Cllr. O'Brien's previous motion on Traffic Calming in Bridgetown, Mr. Flanagan advised that the pilot study being undertaken on the four villages will form a template for all villages across east Clare.

Cllr. Pat Hayes noted the non-attendance of Uisce Éireann and Waterways Ireland again as previously requested in May and July meetings. In response, Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer advised the meeting that due to unexpected leave the Senior Engineer was unable to attend today's meeting but made the commitment to speak at the November meeting. In relation to Uisce Éireann, a member's workshop is scheduled for the full Council in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Conor Ryan requested an update on motion raised by Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan (Item 13 Killaloe MD 16th of July 2025) in relation to drainage works in Broadford and bridge repair.

In response, Mr. Flanagan advised that drainage works is on schedule of works and Roads Design team will be completing the drawings for the bridge repair works, however, there will be delays due to lack of resources.

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

Community Group	Amount
Whitegate Community Council	€1,000
Moylessa Community	€1,000

The Allocation by Killaloe MD Members to Community Groups for the promotion of the interests of Local Communities was proposed by Cllr. Tony O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. Pat Burke and approved by all the members.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Conor Ryan;

4 “ That Clare County Council in consultation with residents and landowners design plans and secure funding for the construction of a footpath and associated lighting to link the two halves of O'Callaghan's Mills along the R466”.

Proposed by: Cllr. Conor Ryan

Seconded by: Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

The connection between the two halves of O'Callaghan's Mills is of huge importance to the local community in linking the existing housing developments to the National School, Community Centre, Church and GAA Grounds. A project of this nature will require a significant funding stream and detailed design. Approval will be required to dedicate lands to the project as land take will be involved.

As per recent meetings held with the Community with a primary focus on traffic calming, we acknowledge the request for a potential path connecting both halves of the village. As outlined to the community members, the beauty of entering the Village of O'Callaghan's Mills is the tree lined landscape with trees crossing the R-466 giving the area a sense of place and part and parcel of a sign that one enters O'Callaghan's Mills. Further consultation will be required with the local community and landowners in advance of detailed design. We will commit to drafting plans thereafter.

Cllr. Ryan acknowledged the response and reiterated the need for a footpath to connect the two halves of the village which is especially important coming into the winter months. While he acknowledges the beauty of the trees, a footpath is what is needed. Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan in supporting the motion, agreed with the scenic beauty of the trees but advised on the need to engage with the community, landowners to agree on the design to facilitate a footpath.

5 “That Clare County Council include in its future roadworks programme the Dooras East Road, Caher, by Tony Mcs pub “

Proposed by: Cllr. Conor Ryan

Seconded by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

The R-461 from Caher Cross to Tony McNamara’s Public House received significant funding as part of this the 2025 Killaloe Municipal District roads works programme, with a 1km section of the road network receiving Restoration Improvement Funding.

Following a recent inspection of this road, immediately adjacent to Tony McNamara’s Public House going Northbound towards Doorus will require approximately 700m of surface dressing works to improve this section of road. Some chip loss is evident; however, the road condition is in good shape and no potholes or significant defects are present. We will be including this particular section of road in our Regional Restoration Maintenance in our 2026 programme of works as it’s noted. The remaining section of public road to the Galway Border has three short sections of road of which require Restoration Improvement works of which will be reviewed as budgetary resources allow.

Cllr. Ryan clarified that this motion was referring to a local road behind Tony Mcs pub and not the regional road, referring to Loughgraney CIS completed a couple of years ago. While, residents are maintaining the hedgerows, there are road surfacing issues around the R461 Junction, with a pothole outside the old furniture shop.

Cllr. Hayes supported the motion, following Cllr. Ryan’s clarification and agreed that sections of the road need to be resurfaced, but this can be debated again.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Tony O'Brien;

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

Proposed by: Cllr. Tony O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

Clare County Council have been in engagement with the Local members of An Garda Síochána with regards to observations and changes in traffic flow following the opening of the Killaloe Bypass, the immediately correlation has demonstrated reduce traffic volumes driving directly through Killaloe but also increases on some other routes within the Town.

A review of traffic flow is currently being conducted to assess the changes in modal traffic and review where the possibility of higher speeds may occur. We have a number of traffic counters around Killaloe and in particular one at Royal Parade and one near Shantraud woods to monitor traffic flow including speeds. The traffic Counters will be in place until Friday the 19th September 2025. This data will be processed and reviewed where changes of driver behaviour has occurred.

We do see merit for the introduction of Raised Crossings on the L-4001 Formerly the old R-463 at New Line where students frequently use the crossings to attend school, with many using the crossings at Lunch time. Our Technical team will be drafting plans for these crossings later this year in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and our elected members

In response, Cllr. O'Brien advised that this was a repeat of the motion from over 12 months ago. Referring to a recent incident which resulted in the hospitalisation of a pedestrian, Cllr. O'Brien highlighted the need for infrastructure to reduce the speed in this highly populated area. Cllr. O'Brien spoke passionately about the need to protect vulnerable road users.

In supporting the motion, Cllr. Pat Hayes stated that we are the most traffic surveyed district in the county, but we're not getting the funding to support the survey results, which is the case across every town and village. Cllr. Hayes called on Ms. Síobhán McNulty, Director of Services to request funding.

Cllr. Burke, fully supported the motion, reflecting on the positive impact of traffic calming measures implement in Mountshannon funded through Tourism, the crossing in Whitegate GAA which was funded through GMA, calling on the same controls to be implemented in Scarriff and Tuamgraney.

Declan Flanagan – Senior Executive Engineer acknowledged the members frustration and highlighted that a number of speed ramps and raised tables have already been implemented but will prioritise Shantraud in Killaloe. Cllr. O’Brien spoke of the imbalance in funding between urban and rural areas, referring to the allocation of €7 million Thrive funding for the redevelopment of the Cloister refurbishment in Ennis, requesting that more Active Travel funding is needed to be allocated to rural areas. In response, Siobhán McNulty, Director of Services commented on the very welcomed funding for the redevelopment of a key building in our main town which will benefit the whole county, adding that Active Travel funding is at the discretion of the department.

7. “That this MD council engages with the National Transport Authority to erect additional bus stops in the Killaloe town area Clare”

Proposed by: Cllr. Tony O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. Pat Burke

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

Killaloe Town is currently served by the 345 Bus Service which links Killaloe with Scarriff and Limerick and provides a huge benefit to the area, evidence of Tourism has been noted with Connections from Killaloe to Limerick and linking Tourists to Shannon Airport. Clare County Councils hugely welcomes this service to bringing Tourism to East Clare and it has been noted by the National Transport Authority (NTA) of the increase in numbers using this service in the past few years

Our Road Design team, who have a good working relationship with the NTA have requested additional Bus Stop’s to be provided in Killaloe. We will look for a review of stops and will do a technical assessment for the viability of extra stops (GAA Field and possibly Convent Hill) and submit a request if they are feasible.

The service planning contact in the NTA for County Clare is currently reviewing the options for extra stops on the 345 in Killaloe.

Cllr. T. O'Brien acknowledged reply and highlighted the need for additional bus stop at the top of the town, Cllr. Burke concurred.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Burke

8. "Calling on Clare County Council to include the L8114 Derrynaneal, Feakle in the road-works programme going forward an"

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. Pat. Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

The L-8114 at Derrynaneal Feakle has been on our list of roads that required Restoration Improvement works. The current PSCI rating for a section of 600m of road network is at 4 which suggests the substantial pavement defects, including:

- Significant cracking (longitudinal, transverse, or alligator cracks)
- Surface ravelling (loss of fine aggregate)
- Rutting (deformation in wheel paths)
- Potholes or surface breakup

We will be considering this road to be included as part of the 2026 Restoration Improvement Works programme which is subject to budgetary allocations for next year.

Cllr. Burke thanked Mr. Flanagan for the reply and the consideration for inclusion in next years works programme, explaining that due to the low laying nature of the road it was prone to flooding.

9. "Calling on Clare County Council to carry out repairs to the Middleline South to Cooldorragha Road, Mountshannon"

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. Tony O'Brien

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

Our Maintenance crews are currently working on Hedge cutting works on the R-352 from Ballynahinch cross to the Galway County Boundary along with the installation of Junction Definition Bollards on roads off the R-352 as part of our current planned maintenance works

We are aware of outstanding drainage and patching works to be carried out on the L-40181 on the Middleline South to Cooldorragha road. Maintenance works are planned to commence on site in two weeks' time.

Cllr. Burke acknowledged the reply and looked forward to works being completed.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan

10. "With Irish Water pipe network upgrades on the R462. Works be done on the trench and it has subsided"

Proposed by: Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. Conor Ryan

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

We have highlighted this defect to Uisce Eireann following their lane width road reinstatement of the R-462 between Kilkishen to Kilmurry, the road defect occurred after the 2-year guarantee period which is now under the remit of the Local Authority to rectify the defect in the trench reinstatement.

We will be actively sourcing funding through our roads headquarters for funds collected through road opening fees to carry out repairs on this section of road, with plans to complete the road repairs before year end.

Cllr. O'Callaghan thanked Mr. Flanagan for his reply, noting that it has been over four years since Irish Water completed the works, and expressed disappointment that responsibility has now fallen back on the Council to reinstate the road. Cllr. Ryan concurred.

11 "Works be carried out on the road known locally as the bog road from Clooney GAA grounds to cross as it is in need of repair"

Proposed by: Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. Tony O'Brien

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

The L-8176 Road, better known as the Bog road from Clooney GAA, has suffered from degradation and settlement due to the poor nature of the existing terrain. This particular section of road is quite busy for traffic leading to the GAA grounds with Satellite Navigation

systems directing traffic to this Local Secondary road for those travelling from Ennis to Clooney-Quin GAA Grounds

The current PSCI rating is on average between 3 and 4, indicating the road is quite poor. We will be considering this road to be included as part of the 2026 Restoration Improvement Works programme which is subject to budgetary allocations for next year.

Cllr. O’Callaghan noted Mr. Flanagan’s reply and welcomed the road’s potential inclusion in next year’s programme.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Hayes:

12 “ I propose that that the Municipal district put in place a planned programme of works over the coming years to upgrade the R352 route which is the spinal route through East Clare. As it is one of our key items in our Strategic plan and that no major improvements carried out on this road it is imperative that we prioritise this action”

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. Pat Burke

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

As part of the Killaloe Municipal Districts Strategic work plan, the strategic importance of improvements on the R-352 is very much to the fore in the Plan. The R-352 is the main artery to East Clare, servicing industry, jobs growth and Tourism. The opening of the Killaloe Bypass recently has brought additional traffic and Tourism to East Clare which further adds to the provision of a safer Regional Road Network within The Killaloe Municipal District

In the interim, we have carried out a number of upgrades to sections of the R-352 such as recent projects completed in Clooney and Lisbareen near Bodyke which outline Clare County Council’s commitment to providing a safe and sustainable Road Network.

In the medium to long term vision under Clare County Council’s new Management has identified the Preparation of a strategic plan for investment in Clare’s National Secondary and Main Regional Roads which coincides with the vision of our Elected members in the Killaloe Municipal District.

Cllr. Hayes echoed Mr. Flanagan's response in relation to increased traffic volume on the R352 and its strategic importance to tourism and industrial growth while highlighting the need for specific investment in areas along the route. Ms. Siobhán McNulty, Director of Services concurred with Mr. Flanagan adding that improvement on the route would lead to greater connectivity which would benefit tourism and improve commuting for all. This is a key strategy for Clare County Council.

14 "I am asking that a revised action plan be put in place for the removal of invasive species of plants in our District, great work has been done in the past but now requires further attention. Working with landowners and other agencies are critical to the success of this programme."

Proposed by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

The Killaloe Municipal District has actively been working on the treatment of roadside presence of invasive species and in particular the treatment of Japanese Knotweed over the last several years. It's important to note that Funding has been very limited, we have recently procured a contractor to commence works in the next few working days to treat Japanese Knotweed at over 120 locations across the Municipal District. Treatment is through a mix of stem injection and spraying to all sites identified. Works on site is recorded through GIS Mapping mapped and signage erected. Further locations can be added as works progress if found in a nearby vicinity

It's important to provide landowners with information and the due care and responsible for invasive species on their own lands and encourage landowners to highlight issues that may be present along the public road network.

Any new invasive species located can be reported to the Clare County Council or through the website <https://invasives.ie/> This website provides awareness of Invasive species and how they pose a significant threat to our native wildlife and the functioning of our ecosystems. Through prevention, early detection, rapid response, eradication and control measures, we can reduce the risk of their introduction, establishment, spread and impact. This website has been

developed to provide information and resources to learn more about invasive species, report your sightings and record action taken on invasive species throughout Ireland.

Clare County Council also has led to the afore with a recent actions on our website <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/invasive-species-clare> on advocating to contact our Environmental Awareness Officer again with similar objectives with lots of information on Invasive Alien Species including how to:

- Identify
- Record and report
- Prevent their introduction
- Control their spread

The members agreed on the need for greater engagement with landowners and other agencies to control the growth of invasive species and protect local waterways. Reference was made to current control measures, including signage, treatment costs, and the risk of accidental spreading. The members also highlighted the importance of financial support for farmers in managing invasive species on their lands.

Item 15: Date of next meeting 19th of November 2025

AOB:

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Burke, advised the meeting that the official opening of Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience at 12 noon is this Friday 19th of Sept.