

**Minutes of September Meeting of West Clare Municipal
District held on 15th September, 2015 at 11.00 a.m.
Community Hall, Inagh Co. Clare.**

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. C. Curtin,

I Láthair:

Cllr. P.J.Kelly, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. M. Hillery, Cllr. B. Chambers, Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. B. Slattery

Officials present:

Ms. A. Haugh, Area Co-Ordinator & Director of Service,
Mr. G. Dollard, Director of Service,
Mr. C. Feeney, A/Senior Executive Engineer ,West Clare Municipal District
Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.

At the outset Cllr. Curtin welcomed all present & in particular the representatives who were visiting from Clare , South Australia

1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 14th July 2015

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Chambers & seconded by Cllr. Keating.

J. Corry advised the members that following a review that 1 additional Clerical Officer was being assigned to the Municipal District offices in Ennistymon. Cllr. Nagle welcomed the news and he also indicated that because of the size of the Municipal District area that the appointment of a second Senior Executive Engineer should be progressed. Cllr. Slattery agreed.

2. Minutes of Meeting with Scattery Island Group held on 14th July 2015

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Keating & seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

Cllr. Keating queried if there was any progress on meeting with the OPW re Scattery Island. A. Haugh advised that she was waiting for Frank Sharkey, OPW to come back to her regarding setting up a meeting with the Working Group.

3. Address from Cathaoirleach of Clare Co County Council

Cllr. Breen thanked Cllr. Curtin for the opportunity to address the West Clare Municipal District. He commended the facilities provided by the community of Inagh. He also

welcomed the representatives from the Clare District in South Australia to Inagh and to the meeting. He welcomed the press and all the executive members of Clare County Council.

4. Address from Frank Gunther , Inagh Housing Association

F. Gunther, Secretary of Inagh Housing Association then made a presentation. He referred to the wonderful facilities in Inagh, i.e. Creche, Community Centre, Voluntary Housing, School, etc. He recognized the importance of public funding for the provision of these facilities and the role of the local community in helping to see these projects being progressed. He indicated other projects which they hoped to see introduced, i.e. the harnessing of hydroelectrical power to run these facilities & he suggested that they would be seeking the assistance of Clare County Council in trying to secure Public Funding for this project. He concluded by referring to a couple of projects in Inagh which he was hoping that Clare County Council could assist with, i.e. the provision of capping on the wall of the cross roads car park, the need for traffic calming at the junction of the N85 and the R460 and the provision of a pedestrian crossing between the Voluntary houses/Church and the school. He thanked the members for their time.

5. Briefing on Local Economic & Community Plan

G. Dollard provided an update on the Local Economic and Community Development Plan. He mentioned that the preparation of the Plan was part of the Local Government Act 2014 and the Local Government Reform Programme. He advised that there were two elements to the Plan :

- 1) The Community element led by LCDC
- 2) The Economic and Enterprise element led by the SPC.

He advised that both elements of the plan would come together at the end of the process and would come before the full council for approval. He indicated that there were two stages to the process; the first being the preparation of a Socio Economic Statement setting out high level goals and the second stage would detail the actions. He advised that they were still at the first stage and that they had held detailed public consultations. He advised that it was also necessary to consult with the Municipal Districts which they were now doing. Following this the plan would go before the LCDC and the SPC for consideration by early October before moving to the next stage and the preparation of the actions. The members emphasised the importance of the public consultations and the preparation of the actions. They also indicated that funding would be required and that it would be essential that this would be secured. G. Dollard advised that the LECP was a separate process to LEADER and that it would be essential that there would be a buy in from supporting agencies, e.g. Fáilte Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, etc. He concluded by saying that he hoped to be back before the end of the year to update the members on the actions.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“That this District Authority would arrange to a meeting with Kilrush Tidy Towns to discuss current projects such as Turret Lane and future required works, in order establish how this authority can be of assistance and maintaining the good working relationship that exists between both parties.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

Clare Co Council has historically had a close working relationship with Kilrush Tidy Town. Such a meeting can be arranged if agreed by the Municipal District.

Response Ends

John Corry, Meetings Administrator, West Clare Municipal Districts

Cllr. Lynch acknowledged the hard work and commitment of Clare County Council in supporting Kilrush Tidy Towns. He advised that without this assistance that Kilrush Tidy Towns would not be able to continue. A. Haugh agreed with Cllr. Lynch and said there was an extraordinary community spirit in Kilrush as was seen for Entente Florale and previously for the National Famine Commemoration. She indicated that Kilrush was very positively showcased this summer.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“That this authority would adopt a policy on public - private partnerships that will enhance the facilities, lives and rejuvenate communities within West Clare. In doing so, commence a public consultation process inviting suggestion for suitable projects. As part of the public consultation process a public meeting inviting communities to show case their pro activeness and initiative, inviting council management planners and engineers as well as guest speakers from "Westport Experience" who would give a presentation on how they have successfully rejuvenated Westport over the last number of years.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

Clare County Council is always open to considering a public-private partnership that will enhance the facilities, lives and rejuvenate communities within the West Clare area. The Loop Head Lighthouse project is a typical example of what can be achieved through collaboration with other agencies and the local community.

The Council is at present preparing a Local Economic and Community Plan with the initial stage of consultations having been completed. A further public consultation will take place in relation to the specific actions to be included in the Local Economic and Community Plan. Simultaneously, it is intended to also consult in relation to a Local Development Strategy as part of the LEADER programme 2014-2020.

The above two processes will yield an action plan for future years, in addition to providing the framework for funding for various projects under the LEADER programme.

Response Ends

Gerard Dollard, Director of Services

Cllr. Lynch indicated that Kilrush and West Clare needed jobs. He gave the example of the “Westport Experience” which he felt worked very well and covered all remits and not just tourism. He indicated that he was disappointed with the response to his Motion as he felt it was being dismissed. Cllr. Lynch referred to previous meeting between West Clare Municipal District and representatives of Kilkee Chamber of Commerce and he sought an update on the dog foul bins which were to be erected in Kilkee and provided by Kilkee Chamber. C. Feeney indicated that this was a matter for the Environment Section. A. Haugh felt that in her opinion that the response dealt with the Motion.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“That this authority review the access to the slip way at Kilkee with the view of creating unrestricted access for boats to the slipway by erecting an additional height restriction barrier at the dive center and creating a new access road after the coast guard station. “

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

We are currently reviewing alternative options to facilitate boat access to the slipway in Kilkee without the requirement to negotiate the existing car park and overhead barrier. We are also looking at the overall arrangement of boat launching, retrieval and long term boat parking which pertains in the vicinity of the slipway. However there is currently no funding stream available to progress any developed solution.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Lynch suggested that the existing barrier at the East End car park was having an affect on the fishing and boating communities in Kilkee. He suggested that a solution would be found for the problem for the next summer season. C. Feeney indicated that he was looking at a couple of options :

- An automated mechanisation of the existing barrier;
- A new access between the public toilet and the Coast Guard Station and again to have a mechanical barrier for this access.

He advised that there was a problem with boats being left in the car park, etc. and that this needed to be resolved as part of this solution. He concluded by saying that he estimated that the second option could cost €35k.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

“That Clare County Council would extend the current two hour free parking in Kilrush beyond September 2015 indefinitely”.

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

The members supported the introduction of the trial parking incentive scheme introduced in Kilrush which commenced effective from June 1st. & will continue until 30th

September 2015. The Council has monitored the impact of the trial incentive scheme from the point of view of income & parking enforcement & I wish to report as follows:

Income:

For the months of June, July & August 2015, compared to the same period in 2014, there is an average monthly loss in parking disc income of €3.5k. If you were to assume such a loss over a 12 month period it would equate to €42k. Clare Co Council budgeted €44k in respect of parking disc income for Kilrush for 2015 so if you were to apply the proposed parking incentives indefinitely beyond September 2015 you are likely to lose out on almost all the income budgeted for parking discs together with a large chunk of the €10k budgeted in 2015 for traffic fines & parking permits.

Enforcement:

It seems to be a trend that most visitors to the town are parking for less than two hours. Most parking fines issued over that period have been for illegal parking, i.e. Parking on Double yellow lines, disabled persons bays, Loading bays, Bus bays, etc.

As I previously advised Members will need to have regard to the financial implications when considering any extension of the parking incentive on a permanent basis in accordance with S69 of the Local Government Act 2001.

I wish to advise that Ennis MD are arranging a Workshop with the Businesses in Ennis on 23rd September next to discuss the parking incentives introduced in Ennis & to use this as a mechanism to inform the Council before any further decisions are made regarding parking incentives. I would suggest that a similar exercise would take place in Kilrush to consider the impact of the incentives on the businesses in Kilrush.

Response Ends

John Corry, Meetings Administrator, West Clare Municipal Districts

Cllr. Chambers indicated that since the introduction of the recent parking incentives in Kilrush from 1st June that businesses had reported a 30% increase in business and that greater life had been returned to the town centre. Cllr. Lynch agreed but he indicated that the level of parking enforcement in Kilrush needed to improve as the visible enforcement presence in Kilrush had significantly reduced in recent months. He suggested that the existing parking incentives would remain in place to the end of December 2015 and that the level of parking enforcement would improve. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Chambers. A. Haugh indicated that the level of enforcement should improve as the existing Community Warden was needed to fill in other positions in recent months but that this would be regularized going forward. She also advised that the proposed extension of the incentives would need to be considered further as part of the Budget for 2016.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

“That Clare County Council carry out essential repairs to road number L6096-12 at Tullabrack, Cooraclare.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

We are currently reviewing the condition of this and other roads in the vicinity of the recently extended windfarm in order to check compliance with planning conditions. In any event we will be carrying out repairs in the coming weeks on the L-6096-12.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Chambers indicated that he was happy enough with the response.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

“That Clare County Council carry out immediate repairs to Cree Village adjacent to the church, on the R483-35 as this is a health and safety issue.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

We are currently assessing the most cost effective solution to repair the road pavement in Cree. The road is in a 50km/h zone and we will continue to monitor and carry out temporary repairs as necessary until a permanent solution is developed.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Chambers indicated that he was very concerned with the condition of the road pavement in Cree. C. Feeney indicated that he was aware of the problem and that there was no discretionary funding available for this project in 2015. He advised that there would be a substantial cost involved as there would be substantial excavation required. He advised that he would cost the project. Cllr. Chambers indicated that he hoped that the project would be included in the 2016 Roadworks Programme.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That the problem of roadside Japanese Knotweed in the area be addressed”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Reply

Unfortunately the issue of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed is not unique to County Clare and it will require a national multi annually funded programme to successfully address the problem.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Kelly indicated that this was a significant problem particularly in rural areas and that it was affecting road infrastructure and footpaths. A. Haugh agreed and indicated that it was something that was coming up for discussion regularly at County Council level and that only last week that a submission was forwarded by Clare County Council to both the LUTS Committee and the Environmental Committee of the CCMA seeking a national approach and a fund in order to deal with this matter. She further advised that she sat on the Environmental Committee herself so she would be able to report back to the Members. She advised that the National Parks and Wildlife Service were in the process of setting up a working group to look at a protocol for dealing with same particularly for regional and local roads. She also advised that the NRA were doing a pilot study in two counties re same.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That the remainder of the village signs in Ballynacally village be completed”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

Reply

We have replaced all the signs which were in need of replacing in Ballynacally village. It is not our intention to replace perfectly functional signs on the basis of minor wear and tear / weathering.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Kelly suggested putting up sponsored signs in Ballynacally as Tidy Towns reports indicated that a number of signs needed upgrading. C. Feeney indicated that if road signs were needed to be replaced that same couldn't be replaced unless they were the correct standard, size etc and details of sponsors could not appear on same. It was suggested that SEE would look at signs in village with a view to replacing signs in need of replacement

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That a red light/stop provision be put at pedestrian crossings”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

Based on current pedestrian crossing demand there is no requirement to install red light/stop provision at pedestrian crossings in the District.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Kelly referred to the pedestrian crossing outside the church in Lissycasey, where he indicated that over 600 vehicles an hour passed through this crossing. He said that traffic eastbound stopped whereas traffic westbound didn't stop. He suggested that this should be brought to the attention of the NRA. Cllr. Curtin suggested that Cllr Kelly would forward his sentiments in writing re Motions 12 and 14 to the meetings convenor so that same could be forwarded to the T.I.I.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That the 80 kph speed limit near the Mullagh Community Centre be extended west in the interest of safety.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

We will include this area in the upcoming county wide speed limit review.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Hillery indicated that he had indicated in error on the motion that it was an 80kph speed limit when actually it was a 50kph speed limit and he was suggesting that the speed limit be extended westward.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That a progress report be presented to the West Clare meeting on the provision of coastal protection works at Cloughaninchy, Quilty.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

Clare County Council engaged specialist marine Consultants Ove Arup and Partners Ltd (Ireland) in December 2014 to conduct a coastal erosion and flood risk management study for the area around Cloughaninchy and Seafield, Quilty. The completion date for the study was July 2015. However due to unfavourable weather conditions for in March to carry out a Bathymetric Survey and the broadening of the brief the completion of the study was delayed. The brief was broadened to include a survey of possible fluvial flooding by the Ballymackay River. This possibility was identified during the study. The final report will be completed by the end of September. On completion the report will be submitted to the Office of Public Works. The office of Public Works will consider the report and will decide on the allocation of further funding to project.

Response Ends

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Hillery indicated that no works would take place in Cloughaninchy in 2015 even though the storms took place in very early 2014. He indicated that he hoped that the OPW would approve strengthening works to commence in early 2016. Cllr. Curtin also

referred to the recent fluvial flooding in West Clare. He suggested that the West Clare M.D. Members would receive regular updates with regard to progress on the storm damage projects from S. Lahiffe.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“What criteria will be used in the allocation of the extra funding recently announced for local / minor roads “

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery

Reply

The allocation referred to in the Notice of Motion was notified via Circular Letter RW13/2015 headed “Additional Funding under the Restoration Improvement Programme”. Clare County Council was allocated a sum of €1,056,700. The letter stipulated that the Council’s proposals in response to this allocation should be submitted to the Department by August 14th. This requirement was complied with and, therefore, the additional funding is now allocated across a total of 29 roads/road segments across the county totalling 11.2 km in length. 18 of these roads/segments are in the West Clare MD and their total length is 7.2 km – they are all Local Primary or Secondary routes and are located at Danganella, Shragh, Ballydunneen, Carrownacalla, Carrownacalla South, Clohanbeg, Knocknahilla, Moymore North, Ballycotteen, Dysart, Carhoo and Dysart.

All of the funding was allocated in respect of Restoration/Strengthening requirements with the exception of a sum of €79,118 which was allocated to top up the allocation of €325,000 previously allocated in respect of Community Involvement Schemes under the Schedule of Municipal District Works Programmes approved in March of this year.

The criteria used to determine which roads or road segments should be facilitated under this supplementary allocation included:

- *Condition rating as determined using the newly evolving PMS Condition Rating system*
- *Traffic demand and strategic significance.*

Response Ends

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, Transportation

Cllr. Hillery welcomed the recent allocations. He sought clarity as to the actual roads that were approved for funding under the additional funds made available in August. He also suggested that it was very important that the LIS Schemes would be restored. A Haugh indicated that even though discretion was available for local authorities to invest in LIS Schemes that priority had to be focused on public roads. Cllr. Kelly sought clarification as to whether or not the elected Members were precluded from making a decision regarding the allocation of the additional funds for specific projects. A. Haugh indicated that as part of the consideration of the schedule of Municipal District Works for 2015 that the Members were afforded the opportunity to comment on same at the time. A discussion then ensued on the insufficient level of funds being made available to local

authorities in recent years for the repair of public roads which had resulted in the cessation of the LIS Scheme in Clare for the past number of years.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“I am requesting the Senior Executive Engineer to carry out necessary dredging at the old pier in Doolin to facilitate the speedy access for the Doolin Coastguard unit to launch their boat in the event of emergencies. I understand that the cost involved in carrying out this work is approximately €110k”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Reply

The area in question is outside of the site boundary which facilitated the development of the new pier. It is also outside of the boundary pertaining to the foreshore lease which was necessary for the same project. Therefore, assuming that the required dredging would be in the vicinity of the existing old pier/slipway, we are unfortunately not in a position to facilitate anything in that regard. While we would be willing to assist in any way we could to ensure that the lifeboat can be launched successfully in all circumstances I believe that a formal planning application, an ancillary foreshore lease agreement and the required funding would be required to accommodate this work.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery indicated that Doolin Rescue were not able to launch their vessel from the Old Pier in Doolin at low tide and that it was indicated to him by the Minister who opened the Pier that if an application together with planning permission was forwarded to him for funding (costed at €110k) that he would make funding available. Cllr. Curtin suggested that Cllr. Slattery would therefore reword the motion request so that the meetings convenor could forward to the relevant Minister for clarification of funding.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“To ask the Senior Executive Engineer to liaise with Bus Eireann with a view to providing a much needed bus shelter at the bus stop at the junction of Liscannor road in Lahinch”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Reply

I have written to Bus Eireann requesting that they provide a bus shelter at this location.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery emphasised the importance of having a bus shelter in Lahinch. C. Feeney indicated that he had written to Bus Eireann but he hadn't received a response. Cllr. Keating also referred to an application made for a bus shelter in Kilkee and he suggested that this should be followed up also.

It was agreed to take Items 20 and 27 together

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“In view of the recent decision by Clare County Council not to proceed with the part 8 planning application to back fill the steps at Blake's Corner and in light of the traffic gridlock which brought the town of Ennistymon to a virtual standstill over the last three months, I am proposing that a special meeting of the West Clare Municipal District be convened at the earliest opportunity with this issue as the sole agenda item. I am further proposing that all relevant parties with responsibility in resolving this impasse attend this meeting including Senior Management of Clare County Council, the Consultants retained to advise on the options being considered and Transport Infrastructure Ireland, formerly known as the National Roads Authority.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“That I am requesting an update on the Consultants Report on Blakes Corner.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery

Reply

The planning application proposing to infill the steps at Blakes Corner was withdrawn by the Transportation Department arising from the fact that the recommendation of the planning authority in respect of the application was to refuse it – for a no. of reasons including that the proposed development would be in contravention of the Council's own Development Plan. This issue is separate to the more significant matter pertaining at Blakes Corner i.e. the need to resolve the ongoing traffic issue which pertains in particular during summer periods.

I take it that the meeting suggested in this notice of motion is intended to facilitate discussion on both issues – the steps and the overall ongoing traffic problems with the primary focus being on the latter.

With regard to the options being considered to deal with traffic problems in the vicinity of and along the approaches to Blakes Corner, Councillors will recall that a public consultation event was held in the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, on June 10th last and that a period of 1 month was given thereafter to facilitate submissions from the general public in relation to the options exhibited at the event and any other aspect of the issue they wished to comment on. Well over 70 submissions were received and the Project Consultants have been considering the content of same. Out of respect for the extensive local knowledge, comment and opinions which was imparted on foot of the public consultation event, the Consultants have been asked to consider all points made very carefully with a view to ensuring that whatever is recommended to be the subject of a formal planning application is the one which delivers the greater good for the benefit of Ennistymon and the North Clare Area in general.

At present it would not be beneficial to the process if it were to be discussed as suggested in the notice of motion. The Consultants need the space to complete the current stage unhindered so that they can present whatever their recommendation is in a

clear and concise manner and be in a position to demonstrate clearly why their conclusions emerge as such. In short, Councillors will be updated when the time and circumstances are right to do so – at present it is envisaged that this will be the case in approximately 2 months from now.

Response Ends

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, Transportation

Cllr Slattery called for a Special Meeting to be held on this matter to report on the submissions received from the public consultation and to advise on progress on the project. Cllr. Nagle indicated that he was very disappointed with the response. He added that there was no point in calling a Special Meeting if there was nothing to report on. He asked the Director that the Consultants would be requested to have a report before the Members for the November meeting. A. Haugh advised that she would endeavour that such a report would be prepared for the Members. She reminded the Members that the public consultation on 10th June was a non statutory public consultation. She confirmed that she would seek clarification from the consultants and update the Members accordingly.

As it was now 2 hours since the meeting commenced it was proposed by Cllr. Keating and seconded by Cllr. Hillery to suspend Standing Orders and to extend the meeting by half an hour.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That re-surfacing works be carried out on the L6106-0, L6212-0, L6212-10 road network at Clohanbeg, Cree as it provides critical links to Clohanbeg National School & Cree Village”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

Reply

We will be carrying out restoration improvement works on the L-6106 in the next 3-4 weeks. We will continue to maintain the L-6212 with the resources available.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the road -side drain on L21002-0 at Carrowlagan (Carhuligane) Mullagh be piped to improve the road carriageway width & the fingerpost sign for Kilmihil at the adjoining cross be restored”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

We will pipe the road side drain on the L-21002 over the worst of the affected area and replace the missing signs in due course.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Curtin referred to the fluvial flooding of 11/9/2015.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the Senior Engineer report on any road safety issues on the R478 Lisdoonvarna/Doolin/Cliffs of Moher road & possible remedial measures to rectify same”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Reply

Unfortunately I do not have the resources to carry out a road safety audit on the stretch of road detailed in the motion. However in the 2015 schedule of municipal district works we are implementing a low cost safety scheme at the Doonagore Castle junction and we will continue to maintain the road and deal with any safety issues as they arise.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle indicated that further west of the junction to Donogroge Castle, that there would be a sign put at a tertiary road which comes out below the castle requesting motorists to slow down as the road is very narrow and there are a lot of houses on this road

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare County Council outline the timescale for the remaining storm damage infrastructure Strandline Wall following the successful completion of phase one of Thomond Section.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

Phase 1 of the restoration works at Kilkee is substantially complete. It was not possible to complete phase 2 of the works as part of the contract as the scope of the works changed dramatically following a further deterioration of a section of the seawall. The failure of this section of wall required a complete redesign of the restoration works required. Clare County Council are currently in negotiations with the Contractor to reconstruct this section of wall in accordance with the amended design. The outcome of the negotiations will determine the timescale of the project. In any event it will be substantially completed before the 2016 summer season.

Response Ends

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, Transportation

Cllr. Keating suggested that the project should be pushed to have completed for the tourist season in 2016.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare County Council install moorings on Kilbaha Bay following the success of same at Carrigaholt & Labasheeda”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

The provision of visitor moorings at Kilbaha is not included in the schedule of municipal district works for 2015. Prior to committing to installing additional visitor moorings we need to establish the usage of the existing moorings and likely demand for any new visitor moorings at Kilbaha.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

C. Feeney indicated that he would like to see that the moorings provided in Labasheeda and Carrigaholt were being used for what they were provided for before investing in further moorings at Kilbaha. He added that there was the capital cost of installing them together with the annual maintenance costs which needed to be considered.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“Following the success of the Loophead Lighthouse project & in view of the continued increase in visitor numbers & now the added attraction of the (W.A.W.) Wild Atlantic Way can Clare Co Council outline its tourism orientated projects over the next two to three years in order to maintain & develop the huge interest that the opening of the Lighthouse has created in the Peninsula & to the County of Clare over 5 years ”.

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

Reply

The Loop Head Lighthouse project has been a tremendous success since its inception in 2011. It is one of the signature discovery points along the Wild Atlantic Way and the project is still very much a “work in progress”. The Council would hope to add to and improve the attraction over the coming years.

The Council has a range of tourism products either under consideration or advancing at various locations throughout Clare. In relation to the West Clare Municipal District, in addition to the Loop Head Lighthouse project, the following proposals are also relevant:

- *a new visitor services building at Doolin Pier following on from the completion of the €6m pier project.*
- *major upgrading at Lahinch promenade.*
- *work with the OPW and others in relation to improvement and promotion of Scattery Ireland.*

I have no doubt that other tourism orientated projects will emerge as the LEADER programme 2014-2020 is rolled out.

Response Ends

Gerard Dollard, Director of Services

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Nagle

“I am again requesting that the Main Street in Kilfenora be tarmaced.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery

Reply

The main street in Kilfenora is not in the current schedule of municipal district works for 2015. We will continue to maintain the road with the resources available.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle asked that this work would be included in the 2016 Road Works Programme. C. Feeney indicated that if the road was to be tarmacked It would cost approx €250k before any drainage etc. He added that he would not be able to include in the 2016 RWP unless extra funding was made available from the DTTAS. He added that the road was not included in the Co. Development Plan as a strategic route.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“I am again requesting that Clare County Council contact the N.R.A. to obtain funding for a pedestrian crossing from the Church in Inagh to the school ,shop & housing estate”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery

Reply

I have forwarded this request again to our Road Design office who liase with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formerly the NRA) for low cost safety improvement works on regional and local roads.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle asked that this would be prioritized. Cllr. Slattery queried as to whether or not flashing lights could be put here.

30. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted

31. A.O.B.

C. Feeney briefly referred to the fluvial flooding which had taken place on September 11th. He added that they were presently compiling a list of damaged roads etc & the estimated cost of repair.He added that the primary concern was Clonbony bridge which had been temporarily closed & that a structural investigation was being carried out on same.

Cllr. Lynch proposed that the November MD meeting would take place in Moneypoint at 4pm on November 17th.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed :

**Cllr. C. Curtin
Cathaoirleach**

Signed :

**J. Corry
Meetings Administrator**

Dated this the 15th day of September 2015.