

# **Minutes of January Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 14th January, 2020 at 4 p.m. in the Board Room, Kilrush Municipal District Office**

## **Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:**

Cllr. B. Chambers,

## **I Láthair:**

Cllr. S. Talty, Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. J. Killeen, Cllr. J. Garrihy, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. C. Murphy, Cllr. PJ Kelly

## **Apologies:**

Cllr. R. Garvey,

## **Officials present:**

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Area Co-Ordinator & Director of Service  
Mr. J. O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District  
Mr. M. Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District  
Mr. S. Lenihan, Senior Engineer, PMO  
Ms. G. Reddan, A/Executive Engineer, PMO  
Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.

Cllr. Chambers convened the Meeting.

### **1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 14th November 2019**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Lynch & seconded by Cllr. Keating & agreed.

Cllr. Lynch referred to the Business Incentive Scheme which he indicated needed to be marketed in Kilrush. L. Cleary indicated that the Rural Development Team would work with the Chamber of Commerce and the Finance section regarding same.

### **2. Minutes of Budgetary Plan Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 4th November 2019**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Lynch & seconded by Cllr. Talty & agreed.

## **Planning and Economic Development**

### **3. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Talty**

**"I request that Clare County Council commence the process to take in charge the estate "Station Court" at station road, Lahinch."**

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy

*Reply*

Clare County Council cannot commence the process to take in charge "Station Court" as the access road of approximately 400 metres which serves Station Court housing development and a number of different developments including a mobile home park is not in the charge of Clare County Council. This access road was advertised for Taking in Charge by the Transportation Department of Clare County Council early in 2017. A report was put before the March 2017 West Clare MD meeting but the Members deferred making a decision on it indefinitely. If this access road is declared a public road, the Planning Department will consider the matter further.

*Response Ends*

Kieran O' Donnell, Administrative Officer, Planning and Economic Development

Cllr. Talty indicated that he had meant his Motion to address the section of road that had previously been considered for taking in charge by the West Clare MD a no of years previously but which had been deferred.

He amended his Motion to read:

"I request that Clare Co Council commence the process to take in charge the access road to Station Court at Station road Lahinch".

This amendment was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy and agreed.

J Corry indicated that he would re-advertise the proposal.

#### **4. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Murphy**

***"How many casual trading licenses have Clare Co Council issued in 2019 for the market in Kilkee?"***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

I wish to reply as follows:

Clare County Council issued five casual trading licences for the market in Kilkee during the year 2019. The markets are held in Kilkee on Saturdays and Sundays during the months of June, July and August.

*Response Ends*

Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer, Planning and Economic Development

### **Social Development**

## Rural Development

### **5. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch**

***“That the Council carryout a feasibility study to ascertain the economic impacts and benefits of developing a water based tourism strategy for the Shannon Estuary to include development of existing natural amenities, inclusion in the "Blueway", sailing and cruising Trail ways, enhanced recreational facilities and cruise ship tourism for West Clare.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy

*Reply*

The draft of the county-wide Clare Tourism Strategy will be available for final public consultation during the first week of February, with the finalized version expected during the Spring of 2020.

This Strategy will identify a comprehensive assessment of the current situation in Clare providing the context for its strategic direction to include capitalizing on the existing strengths of Clare such as the Estuarine Waterways and trails as well as the Coastal and Inland water-way islands.

The action plan associated with the 10 year strategy will be implemented and used to measure performance of products and collateral delivered for Clare. In this regard, consideration will be given to the development of water based tourism for the Shannon Estuary and surrounds.

*Response Ends*

Deirdre O’ Shea, Acting Head of Tourism, Rural Development

Cllr. Lynch indicated that he felt that the Tourism Strategy would not cover what was required. He felt that there was great potential in the estuary and that same needed to be explored further.

### **6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Garvey**

***“I wish to propose the motion that the West Clare MD unanimously ask the County Council to ask the powers that be to put Miltown Malbay, that is the real gateway to West Clare, on the Wild Atlantic Way route by erecting Wild Atlantic Ways Signs.”***

As Cllr. Garvey was not present she had agreed to defer this Motion to the next MD Meeting.

## Physical Development

### **7. Presentation on West Clare Greenway**

G. Reddan gave a Presentation on the findings from the recent Greenway Development Study Visit & Workshop to the Waterford Greenway which was attended by a number of Elected Members from the West Clare MD. She highlighted that in 2004 Waterford County Council commenced plans to develop a Greenway along the old railway between Dungarvan and Waterford. She outlined that there was initial resistance from local landowners however this was overcome and Planning Permission granted for the

Greenway in 2014 and 46km of Greenway opened in March 2017. She added that there were 250,000 visitors to the Greenway in 2018 increasing to 280,000 visitors in 2019. She highlighted some of the economic benefits to the Greenway in Waterford namely:

- Waterford now had a Major Tourist Attraction which encourages longer visitor stays
- Kilmacthomas Town (Pop. 800) – 1 Cafe to 7 Cafes in 2 years
- 120 People from Kilmacthomas employed as a result of the Greenway
- 12 Bike Hire companies established along the Greenway
- Dungarvan #1 Spot for biggest growth in Air BNB customers in 2017 at 541 per cent
- Establishment of additional restaurants in Dungarvan ( low to high end )
- Increase in evening entertainment to cater for overnight visitors

Regarding the initial concerns of the landowners she added that a Charter of Accommodation Works was agreed with each landowner. She also indicated that the fencing of lands and public liability were concerns initially however none of these concerns subsequently materialised and there were no disruptions to farming practices.

S. Lenihan indicated that there was far more potential with the proposed Greenway in West Clare to that in Waterford. He added that the Greenway in Waterford was only 46km in length while the proposed Greenway in West Clare was 85km along a very scenic route. He added that it was important to learn from what had been achieved in Waterford.

G. Reddan indicated that they were receiving very positive feedback from landowners in Kilrush and Kilkee about the proposed Greenway between Kilrush and Kilkee.

The Members thanked G. Reddan for the Presentation and emphasised the importance of preparing a Plan to apply for funding.

L. Cleary indicated that this project was one of three projects countywide for which funds would be sought under the RRDF grant scheme.

### **8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch**

***“In the interest of safety that the engineer would undertake a review of the traffic management at Limekiln Junction and the N68 with a view to enabling traffic access Vandeleur Street from Griffin Road avoiding the need to access the Limekiln intersection.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy

*Reply*

This junction from The Glen L2522 onto the N68 was altered and the Glen was made one way due to a deficiency in visibility to the right towards Ennis for traffic emerged from The Glen. For this reason the Road Design Office is not in favour of a reinstatement of two way traffic on The Glen. The alterations were approved by the TII Road Safety Engineer and were the subject of a Road Safety Audit. A Section 38 public consultation took place.

*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design

Cllr. Lynch indicated that he felt that traffic should be able to access Vandeleur Street from Griffin Road. J. O' Malley indicated that he would further examine and that he would raise the matter with Road Design.

### **9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch**

***“That additional safety measures to include interactive speed signs, build outs, signage and road marking are constructed on the Cooraclare road approaching the second level school and sports complex.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty

*Reply*

A speed and volume survey will be undertaken to determine if additional measures are required on the road approaching the school and sports complex in Kilrush.

*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design

### **10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Killeen**

***“We call on Clare County Council to facilitate further opportunities , at local level , for local people to meet with Irish Water to be kept up to date on progress on the , very welcome, various wastewater treatment projects in the North /West Clare area.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

We forwarded the request for more local community engagement with Irish Water and they have replied as follows;

“Irish Water, working in partnership with Clare County Council, is progressing with plans for proposed new sewerage schemes in Ballyvaughan, Liscannor, Kilkee, Kilrush and Clarecastle.

These projects will eliminate the discharge of raw sewage from these five locations, protecting the local environment and supporting future growth and development. To date we have held information evenings in each of these communities to allow local people find out more about what is being proposed. As the projects progress, we will update the public via the local press, online and social media updates ahead of key milestones.

In the meantime, members of the public can contact the project team at [clareuww@water.ie](mailto:clareuww@water.ie) and our team would be happy to answer any queries that the communities may have on these essential projects.

Elected representatives will also be given updates via the Local Representative Support Desk and at our regular Councillor Clinics. To see more projects in Clare visit our Project and Plans section.”

*Response Ends*

Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Environment and Water Services

L. Cleary suggested that the Council would try and arrange a meeting with Irish Water to update the Members on wastewater treatment projects.

**11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Killeen**

***“Now that the Ruan to Corofin road falls under the remit of West Clare we ask for an upgrade of the surface, road edge and cutting back of protruding vegetation on this road.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy

*Reply*

Clare County Council will survey the road from Ruan to Corofin which comprises of the L-1098 & L-4162. This survey will look at Surface Condition, road widths and vegetation. On completion of the survey, we will consider elements of works for inclusion in the 2020 SMDW.

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE , West Clare Municipal District

**12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Talty & Cllr. Garrihy**

***“With reference to Motion 17 of the January 2019 meeting, we request that Clare County Council Roads Design office would commit to re-visiting the bridge at Kildimo Graveyard at a time of low water during 2020 in order to assess structural weakness at foundation level in the river”***

*Reply*

I refer to the January 2019 NOM and reply. The bridge at Kildeema South townland is not the responsibility of Clare County Council as it is not on a public road.

In response to the January 2019 NOM a site inspection took place to be of assistance. Clare County Council had no safety concerns based on that visit. However to continue to be of assistance the Road Design Office will carry out an inspection when water levels are low enough.

*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design

J. Corry further added to the reply that this bridge could be considered under the LIS scheme if further grant funding was made available and it was deemed sufficiently prioritized.

**13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Murphy**

***“That Clare Co Council undertake the works necessary to move the Bus Eireann stop from its current location outside a derelict building to an appropriate location in the square in Kilkee.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

Clare County Council have been engaging with the NTA in relation to providing a new location for the Bus Eireann stop in Kilkee and have agreed details on this. There is a need to carry out some Civil works to allow for the proposed new shelter. Funding for this work has also to be identified and the West Clare MD

are currently in consultation with the NTA on this. This work will be progressed in the coming months subject to funding being secured.

*Response Ends*

John O' Malley, A/SEE , West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Murphy indicated that there was an urgency with this matter being resolved.

Cllr. Lynch sought an update on the provision of a bus stop in Kilrush and J. O Malley indicated that he would follow up re same.

#### **14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating**

***“To request that Clare Co Council complete the following roadworks in Kilkee in order to fulfil the objectives of “Towards a Better Kilkee”- a Town Improvement and Economic Development Strategy 2014-2024***

- a) To resurface Circular Road from its junction with the Kilrush Cross (N67) to its junction with Ministers Cross and to include the provision of a roundabout at Ministers Cross where land was previously acquired by the Council at the Garda Station, designs completed but the works were not carried out to date.***
- b) To resurface the Well Road Kilkee from its junction with Marine Parade to the grotto and in conjunction with these works to resurface the Well Road car park. The car park has fallen into disrepair and is a totally underutilised asset situated on the Wild Atlantic Way.***
- c) To carry out resurfacing works in Merton Square as the existing surface is ravelling away”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy

*Reply*

I wish to reply as follows:

- a) Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) are responsible for National Roads and the roundabout is not currently identified for funding. There was improvement works carried out to this area in 2018 and a revision of the layout of the junction. Circular road is not on the current Roadworks Programme.
- b) This area is currently affected by flooding and is subject to the current CFRAMs plan which is with Consultants for detail design. There have been previous Motions in relation to resurfacing of the Well Road Car Park and this is being considered as part of an overall plan for the town. The plan for this area will be expanded on once the decision on flood remediation works is decided on during the year by the Project management Office and OPW.
- c) There was a previous Motion to resurface Merton Square in 2019. It was noted at the time that this is not on the current Roadworks Programme and the cost of carrying out works would be significant as it is a very large area. There was communication in 2019 with residents re a possible Community Involvement Scheme (CIS).

*Response Ends*

John O' Malley, A/SEE , West Clare Municipal District

L. Cleary further added that Clare Co Council were presently actively pursuing an option for public toilets for Kilkee and he indicated that he would further brief the Members as soon as there was any update regarding same.

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating**

***“To carry out a safety assessment at Lynch’s Cross, Mullagh (N67 junction) with a view to providing a Low Cost Safety Scheme”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty

*Reply*

Consultants working for TII have carried out an inspection of the junction. The junction is on the list of N67 locations for which the Road Design Office will be preparing a Feasibility Report and funding application to TII. This scheme if granted would be classed a Road Safety Remedial Measure as it is on a National road not a Low Cost Safety scheme.

*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating**

***“To provide a preliminary update on the provision of a footbridge at Cree Village over the river to safely connect the Luí na Gréine housing estate to the village due to the high volumes of traffic and absence of a footpath on the bridge.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty

*Reply*

Funding for a Low Cost Safety Scheme for 2020 has been applied for at Cree bridge CL-R483-003.00 and approaches. Proposals for a formal yield system, signage, lining and an extension of the footpath were included in the application. If funding is granted we will proceed to the design stage.

A pedestrian bridge was not included in the application as the costs would be outside the scope of a Low Cost Safety Scheme. Funding for these types of schemes is allocated on a priority basis from the DTTAS and there was no data on accidents involving pedestrians at this location.

*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly**

***“That TII be requested to realign the N68 at Caherea in the interest of public safety.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

*Reply*

We understand that this relates to the section of the N68 just north of Caherea School. The Transportation Section will liaise with TII in relation to progressing this scheme.



*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design

It was suggested that a friction test be carried out on this bend.

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly**

***“That immediate repair works be carried out on the L2148 at Clondrinagh, Lisseycasey, starting at a point approximately one quarter of a km south of the junction to Clondrinagh NS.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

*Reply*

This section of road is not on the current Roadworks Programme. Consideration will be given to including a section of the road near the junction with the National School in future Roadworks Programme. Any immediate repairs that are considered necessary will be carried out subject to resource availability.

*Response Ends*

John O’ Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly**

***“That improvements on the surface of L6322 north and south with the junction L3222 at Lanna, Lisseycasey be carried out.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

This section of road is not on the current Roadworks Programme. There is approximately 1km of road surface that needs improvement works and can be considered once the current programme is complete.

*Response Ends*

John O’ Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers**

***“That the road surface in Cooraclare village be overlaid as it is in a poor condition.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

This section of Regional Road is not on the current Roadworks Programme. The cost of this will be significant and needs to be considered when planning for future programme. Also needed is confirmation on the status of the sewerage scheme before any works commence.

*Response Ends*

John O’ Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers**

*“That improvements be carried out on the L2100 from Clonina Cross to Knocknahilla graveyard as it is in a very poor condition.”*

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

Work on the L2100 is included in the current 3 year Roadworks Programme. Plans are currently being finalised for the works in the Municipal District that will be carried out in 2020 and 2021 as part of this programme and this section will be considered as part of this.

*Response Ends*

John O’ Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**22. AOB**

Cllr. Lynch sought an update on the appointment of the A/SEOs to the Municipal Districts and as to how this would affect the West Clare MD. L. Cleary indicated that the Chief Executive would be making a decision on this matter and this decision was due to be announced by the end of next week. L Cleary commended the work of all the team presently working in the West Clare MD.

Cllr. Lynch indicated that it would be essential that Clare Co Council were in a position to cover the workload presently performed by the Job Initiative team in Kilrush as he advised that the Supervisor of this scheme was due to retire in August. L. Cleary acknowledged the great work that was taking place and he confirmed that it would need to continue and that arrangements would be made in this regard.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the West Clare MD would take place at 4pm in the Ennistymon Hub on 3<sup>rd</sup> March next.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed :**

**Cllr. B Chambers**

**Cathaoirleach**

**Signed :**

**J. Corry**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Dated this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2020.**