

Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting
4.35pm Tuesday 6th September 2022 at Ennistymon Digital HUB & Online

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:
Cllr Shane Talty

I Lathair:
Cllr Gabriel Keating, Cllr Joe Killeen, Cllr Joe Garrihy, Cllr Liam Grant, Cllr Cillian Murphy (online)
Cllr Ian Lynch, Cllr PJ Kelly.

Apologies: Cllr. Bill Chambers

Officials present:

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Service
Mr. John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Office & Meetings Administrator WCMD
Mr. Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer (Kilrush) (online)
Mr. Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer (Ennistymon), WCMD
Mr. Steve Lahiffe, Senior Staff Officer, WCMD

Cllr. Talty convened the Meeting at 4.35pm (It had been suspended immediately at 4pm in accordance with standing orders).

At the outset, the members and the executive offered their sympathy to the family of Chris Smith (RIP), Project Lead for the 2040 Cliffs of Moher Strategy.

1. Minutes of the July Meeting held 6th July 2022 of the West Clare MD.
The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Keating and seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.
2. Section 38 - Traffic Calming Measures Carrowkeel West, Inagh, Co. Clare
Proposed by Cllr. Garrihy and seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

Rural Development, Planning & Economic Development, Social

3. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

That due to the popularity of the Wild Atlantic Way tourist route and in particular the thousands of visitors that frequent the village of Carrigaholt during the summer season, I am calling on Clare County Council to provide toilet facilities similar to those provided in Doolin car park.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from Alan Kennelly Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush LEA):

While Carrigaholt may not have the visitor numbers of Doolin, the village is becoming increasingly popular with tourists, helped by its location on the Wild Atlantic Way and its Green Coast beach.

I would see some challenges in replicating the Doolin toilet facilities in Carrigaholt –

- Cost. There is currently no funding in place to build such facilities.
- Consents. As Carrigaholt is adjacent to both an SAC and SPA, Part 8 planning permission and environmental consent will be required.
- Lack of sewage collection and treatment infrastructure in Carrigaholt. Therefore, either a large irrigation area, a chemical toilet or a large holding tank will be required. These options may not be suitable – or environmentally desirable – in Carrigaholt.

- Cleaning and maintenance. If permanent toilets are built, or temporary “portaloos” placed, in Carrigaholt resources will be required to ensure that they are cleaned and serviced to the required standard.

I have outlined some of the challenges facing the provision of public toilets in Carrigaholt. However, given the increasing popularity of Carrigaholt, perhaps an initial assessment of possible types of public toilet and perhaps some locations could be carried out in conjunction with Councillor Keating.

4. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:

I request the WCMD to work with tidy town organisations to identify suitable areas to develop wildflower meadows. Once identified and agreed that the WCMD in conjunction with CCC gardening section will plough and seed suitable pollinator wildflowers, this will assist the local authority grass cutting requirements, promote biodiversity and pollination as well as enhancing the visual appearance of towns and villages. A pilot project should be developed in conjunction with Kilrush Tidy Towns ahead of 2023 season.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD:

The cost and time of cutting green areas and the shortage of community volunteers and CE Scheme participants is becoming an issue right across the County. Some Tidy Towns groups have adapted a managed wilding or wildflower meadow approach as it addresses certain categories within their Tidy Town application of 'Sustainability - Doing more with less' and 'Nature and Biodiversity in your locality'. This involved reducing mowing to two cuts a year. There is ongoing small maintenance works required with this. This is a more achievable solution based on the resources available but needs a developed biodiversity plan for the area involved.

A pilot project with the Kilrush Tidy Towns on the green space on the Cooraclare Road in Kilrush and the Active Kilrush Sports Field was completed in 2020.

Identification of suitable areas to develop wildflower meadows (usually nutrient poor soils already showing signs of species richness) is a good idea and once identified these areas should then be managed as traditional hay meadows, where the wildflowers in the soil seed bed are encouraged to flourish of their own accord or assisted by sowing Yellow Rattle for example. Not all grasslands are amenable to this approach and may need to have the soil depleted over time by the removal of grass clippings for example.

It is accepted that an overall plan on this approach is required which will involve looking at the green spaces and Green Infrastructure in Kilrush. This is something that could be undertaken with the community next year and I will work with our Rural Development Officer and Heritage Officer, who have both fed into this response, in progressing this.

Cllr. Lynch believed that this was a matter not just for the West Clare MD, involvement from the Gardening Section and the Housing Department is needed.

5. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:

I request that the WCMD in conjunction with the Housing Department commence a public consultation process for the development of Kilrush actively to provide an indoor sports facility with universally accessible toilets and changing rooms that will facilitate a basketball centre of excellence for the WCMD and county. The outcome of the public consultation process will inform the layout of the overall facility for future projects as well as input into Vision Kilrush.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD:

The West Clare MD will work with our Social Directorate on this public consultation process for the Active Kilrush proposed indoor facility. It is recognised that there is a need for an overall consultative phase to be completed to engage with all interested parties in developing this facility for the region. This consultative process will direct the next phase of development of a plan to be brought forward for planning and future funding applications and to tie in with Vision Kilrush.

Cllr. Lynch applauded the work of the basketball community in Kilrush, working without access to a full size court.

6. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Liam Grant:

A number of bus operators are using unsuitable roads to travel to tourist attractions in North Clare. I call on Clare County Council to write to the National Transport Authority and request stricter enforcement of the allocated routes. I would also request that the Cliffs of Moher consider not allowing bus operators, who do not take the allocated routes, park at the visitor centre.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD:

The NTA regulate the licensed coach tour operators that visit the County. A large number of coaches that use the roads in North Clare are not required to apply for a licence under the Public Transport Act, 2009 as they are exempt from the Act as private hire services. If there is evidence that licensed tour operators are not complying with their licences on the routes that they are taking this should be highlighted to the NTA and Clare County Council.

The Cliffs of Moher are responsible for managing their facility. Similarly licensed tour operators are required to comply with their licences and where issues are highlighted this is communicated to the NTA. Not all coaches that visit the Cliffs are licensed due to the nature of their operations.

The members highlighted the need to address the speed limits on some of the roads, there needed to be a co-ordinated approach, it would be helpful for a map highlighting suitable roads for coaches.

Enda Mac Namara advises that Clare County Council advises the NTA where they believe that an operator is now adhering to their license – not sticking to designated route. The NTA's can check operator's licenses.

The members felt it would be beneficial if it was outlined how the public can report directly to the NTA.

Leonard Cleary advised that the MD would write directly to the NTA with the motion and outline how the public can report directly to the NTA.

Physical Development

7. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

That an assessment be undertaken of all works required at "Johnny Mac's Cross", the junction of the L2016 and L60521-0, to make it safer for all road users.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply from Alan Kennelly Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush LEA):

An assessment can be undertaken of all works required to bring the junction up to current design standards, should the councillor wish. It appears to me from a cursory inspection that a lot of issues at the junction would be resolved if the shed and trees at the southwest corner and trees at the southeast corner of the junction were removed. Visibility sightlines would be greatly increased and overall junction safety much improved.

8. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

That footpaths be installed along the Main St in Kilmihil from the entrance to the Peoples Park up past the HSE health centre.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply from Alan Kennelly Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush LEA):

There is a footpath in place on the southern side of Main Street Kilmihil, between the People's Park and the HSE health centre. The footpath lacks definition in places as there are several accesses crossing, and houses / premises are of differing set back distances. There is also an ESB pole right in the middle of one narrow section of the footpath – which impedes access.

9. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

That a driver feedback sign be erected on N67 approach to Kilkee from Doonbeg.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from Alan Kennelly Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush LEA):

While the West Clare MD does not have a budget in 2022 to procure driver feedback signs, we are happy to work with Councillor Murphy to source funding to install a driver feedback sign on the N67 approach to Kilkee from Doonbeg.

I believe that Clare County Council's Roads and Transportation department are to prepare a Tender seeking a contractor to maintain the current signs and provide new signs is now being appointed.

10. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

To ask Clare County Council (if not already done so) to request T.I.I. to carry out a safety audit on sections of the N68 between Lissycasey and Knockerra Cross to include all junctions, road surface and any other safety concerns. If this audit has been completed, when will the work commence to carry out the improvements.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from John Gannon, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design:

I have asked the TII to include this section of the N68 when they are completing the next round of Safety Inspections. The TII have yet to confirm when this work is programmed to be carried out.

11. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

To call on Irish Water, TII and Clare County Council to resolve the longstanding frequent bursts and outages due to the poor condition of the asbestos watermain situated in the raised bog rampart on

the N67 south of Doonbeg Village. This section of road is identical to a similar section which was lowered at Caherfeenick. The existing N67 south of Doonbeg Village is deteriorating and is a Health & Safety hazard, and a regular inconvenience to the residents of the area due to the frequency of bursts over a number of years.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Water Services Department:

The Notice of Motion has been forwarded to the relevant funding authorities and are awaiting reply.

The members expressed their extreme dissatisfaction with the response received. The responses or rather lack of response from Irish Water is a continuous issue. The councillors called on the Council, the TII and Irish Water to come together to address the problem now. John O'Malley acknowledged that all parties needed to be brought together and committed that the MD will endeavour to do this.

12. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty:

Request a comprehensive update on the status of the plans to upgrade/replace the Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant. What is the preferred site, commencement date for works & timeline for completion?

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

Reply from Ann Cronin, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services Department:

A Feasibility Study has been completed looking at the requirements and potential solutions to upgrade both the Lahinch WwTP and Ennistymon WwTP. A single WWTP at a new site between Ennistymon and Lahinch was determined to be recommended solution. The report is currently going through final approval and work on the detailed design, including land acquisition, marine modelling and a planning application will commence in early 2023. As part of this phase a detailed site selection study will be undertaken to determine the most suitable site and pipeline routes.

Cllr. Grant asked could the feasibility study be seen – John O'Malley advised that a briefing session could be arranged.

The members emphasized the need for the County Development Plan to have adequate Wastewater infrastructure. The pressure needs to be kept up in regards same, more urgency needs to be brought to it to allow developments to go ahead.

At 5.45pm Cllr. Talty proposed that standing orders would be suspended and this was agreed.

13. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

We call on Clare County Council to examine the situation and make alternative arrangements for the caravans and camper vans using the fishing harbour pier in Ballyvaughan as an over-night parking area.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Enda Mac Namara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Ennistymon LEA):

The area office has previously consulted with the community and local fishermen to try resolve the issues occurring with caravans and camper vans at the pier. Unfortunately, agreement could not be

reached with all parties. The area office will engage with all stakeholders again to try resolve the problem.

The members discussed the need for parking facilities to be encouraged. Leonard Cleary advised that Failte Ireland currently are an "accommodation audit" in Clare. A briefing session with the members will be arranged once the report is available.

14. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

Call on Clare County Council to undertake the road hedge-cutting programme and raise awareness of the grant towards the cost of private contractors.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

Reply from Enda Mac Namara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Ennistymon LEA):

Clare County Council will carry out hedge-cutting in the coming months in accordance with our hedge-cutting policy. The Community Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme is available to local communities to apply for funding towards the cutting of hedges and is advertised each year. The closing date for receipt of applications this year is 30th September and further details can be found on Clare County Council's website www.clarecoco.ie at [Community Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme | Schemes and projects - Roads | Roads and Transport | Services | Clare County Council \(clarecoco.ie\)](#)

15. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

Call on Clare County Council to upgrade and renew the surface of the tourist route into Temple Cronan in Carron Village.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Reply from Enda Mac Namara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Ennistymon LEA):

The area office will send our patching crew out to carry out localised repairs on this road. This is a local tertiary road so is unlikely to be fully resurfaced in the near future due to funding restraints with the roadworks programme. This road would be suitable for the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) if the local residents were willing to apply.

16. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Garrihy:

I call on the West Clare MD to allocate additional on the ground resources for general upkeep of Doolin from Roadford to The Pier.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Reply from Enda Mac Namara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Ennistymon LEA):

The area office carry out regular checks around Doolin especially during the busy summer months. Full time resources are provided at the pier from March to October each year. Visitor numbers continue to increase in Doolin. Additional resources for Doolin are included in the workforce plan and will be required to ensure high levels of service are provided in the area.

17. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Garrihy:

I call on West Clare MD to include Doolin Road from the Wood Cross to The Church in Doolin on the Road Work Program 2023.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Reply from Enda Mac Namara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Ennistymon LEA):
This section of local road will be put forward for consideration under the 2023 roadworks programme.

18. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Garrihy:

I call on the West Clare MD to carry out a feasibility study on creating a Cycling and Walking Lane linking the twin settlements of Lisdoonvarna & Doolin as part of mobility planning in the area.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

Reply from Enda Mac Namara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Ennistymon LEA):

The area office will assess the extent of works that would be required to carry out a feasibility study for a cycling and walking lane. A funding source would then need to be identified in order to proceed with the study. Significant studies and surveys would be required to assess possible routes over a 7km distance between the two settlements.

19. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:

Due to the continued issues around sat nav guidance choosing the shortest route from A to B resulting in traffic being directed along unsuitable roads I request that the WCMD erect signs stating "Local Access ONLY - Do not follow GPS Navigation" along these routes.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush LEA):

It is acknowledged that GPS navigation systems or "sat-nav" directs users along roads that are not always suitable for volumes of traffic. When using the Killimer – Tarbert ferry, I notice tourist's cars using some of the smaller roads around Killimer. I assume that they are being guided by "sat-nav". I sometimes encounter bursts of ferry traffic coming against me on these smaller roads, and it can be difficult for cars to pass safely.

If the councillor would be kind enough to supply me with a list of the roads where "sat-nav" directions cause an issue, the West Clare MD will look at erecting suitable signage along these roads, if appropriate to do so.

20. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

That the speed limit at Caherea National School would be reduced to 60 kilometres per hour.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply from John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department:

A National Speed Limit Review is initiated every 5 years by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). The last Speed Limit Review in Clare was completed in 2018.

The Road Design section have asked TII to carry out a review of the speed limit at this location and TII have committed to doing so. The Roads and Transportation section will revert when a response from TII is received.

21. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

That the link road to Moyralla from the Cranny/Coolmeen Road be brought up to an acceptable level of repair.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush LEA):

The L-20661-0 is a local secondary road and as such carries relatively low volumes of traffic. It is in a reasonable state of repair currently.

The road is on the DRAFT 3-year MD roadworks programme for 2022 – 2024. 1,200m is due for reinstatement in 2024. There is a slight caveat, in that the 3-year plan is subject to change.

I believe that the velocity patcher was assigned to this road recently and carried out all necessary pothole repairs.

22. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

That the footpaths be repaired at Abhainn Sleibhe Lissycasey in the interest of public safety.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush LEA):

Having visited the Abhainn Sleibhe development recently, I feel that the footpaths are in a good condition. There was a small section of footpath near the entrance to the estate where tree foliage has grown out to obstruct footpath use. I will ask the roads sGSS to cut back this greenery.

23. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty:

Request an update from the Roads Design Office on progressing a plan for a traffic management solution at the square in Miltown Malbay.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from John Gannon, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design:

Concept designs have been discussed with the TII and these will be progressed to design options for further discussion and review with the TII over the next number of months.

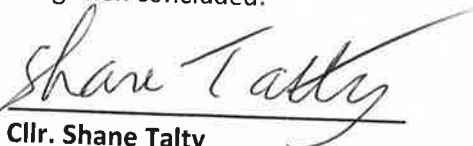
24. Any other business.

Cllr. Lynch highlighted that 2022 was the 40th anniversary of Kilrush's twinning with Plouzane in France. It is the right time to revive the twinning and asked that the Council's Twinning Committee would be written to start this process.

Cllr. Lynch asked that in recognition of the outstanding work carried out by the Beach Lifeguards this summer, that each individual lifeguard would be written to with a special letter of thanks.


The meeting then concluded.

Signed



Cllr. Shane Talty
Cathaoirleach

Signed



John O'Malley
Meetings Administrator

Dated this 11th November, 2022