

Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District

held on Wednesday, 21st of May 2025 at 09:30 a.m.

Meeting held in Meeting Room, Killaloe Municipal District Offices

In attendance: Cllr. Pat Hayes, Cathaoirleach Killaloe MD
Cllr. Pat Burke
Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan
Cllr. Tony O’Brien
Cllr Conor Ryan.

Officials: Mr. Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Meetings Administrator
Ms. Ann Reynolds, A/Director of Services
Mr. Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Olive Mulconroy, Staff Officer

Members of the media attended.

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Pat Hayes chaired the meeting.

Cllr. P. Hayes Cathaoirleach welcomed all.

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held 26th of March 2025

The minutes of the Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on the 26th of March 2025 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. A O’Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. C Ryan

Item 2 Matters Arising

Referring to Item 15 (Killaloe MD Meeting 26th of March 2025) Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan thanked Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer for his response and welcomed the Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme works in 2026. Cllr. Conor Ryan added that this was most welcome as he is very familiar with the issues caused by poor sight lines.

Referring to Item 16 (Killaloe MD Meeting 26th of March 2025) Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan conveyed his disappointment with the lack of progress on installing CCTV monitoring on illegal dumping sites due to GDPR legalities. This is a reoccurring issue that needs to be addressed and gave Tulla Recycling Banks as an example of this. Cllr. Pat Hayes in supporting the motion, expressed frustration with the volume of dumping at the Tulla site and other locations across the Municipal District.

Referring to Item 14 (Killaloe MD Meeting 26th of March 2025) Cllr. Pat Hayes noted the non-attendance of Waterways Ireland to update the members on the Limerick to Scarriff Greenway project. Following receipt of correspondence from Waterways Ireland he noted that a Senior member of the team from Waterways Ireland would be in attendance at the next MD meeting in July.

Referring to Cllr. Hayes’s previous requested for a Special Meeting with the Superintendent of the Community Policy Unit from Ennis and Killaloe, Cllr. Hayes advised the meeting that he had spoken with the Superintendent who attended a public meeting on the issue in Scarriff just days after the MD meeting invite was forwarded to his office. The Members reiterated their requirement for An Garda Síochána attendance at the MD meeting.

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

Community Group	Amount
Ballycar National School	€5,000
Sliabh Aughty Drama Group	€500
Whitegate Mountshannon Community Games	€500
Feakle GAA	€5,000
Bodyke Community Together	€5,000
Tulla Town team	€5,000
Killanena GAA	€5,000

The Allocation by Killaloe MD Members to Community Groups for the promotion of the interests of Local Communities was proposed by Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan and seconded by Cllr T. O’Brien and approved by all the members.

Item 4 Report dated 14th May, 2025 regarding Cluain Fia, Crusheen, Co Clare and the Making of an Order declaring a road to be a Public Road, under Section 11 of the Road Acts 1993, as applied by Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended was circulated with the agenda. The Members noted the report, as presented, and adoption of the resolution was proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes, seconded by Cllr. P. Burke and agreed by all the members.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Tony O'Brien

5 “That Clare County council install a footpath and a cycle lane from Bridgetown village to O'Briens Bridge and incorporating Upper Ardnataggle the R463. This necessary piece of infrastructure would enable the community to access their local amenities such as school, church, community playing field.”

Proposed by: Cllr.T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

As per a previous Notice of Motion, a footpath and cycle lane from Bridgetown village to O'Briensbridge and incorporating Upper Ardnataggle will require significant design, land take, road drainage and a funding resource.

This significant scheme will require resources through the National Transport Authority (NTA) Active Travel Grants Programme funds, however it should be noted that to date, projects that have received Active Travel funding have generally been located within existing speed limit zones, i.e. 50km/h or 60km/h. Notwithstanding, in the absence of another viable alternative funding solution, Killaloe Municipal District will refer this request to Road Design Section of Clare County Council for submission to the NTA for consideration under the Active Travel funding.

It's important to note that Killaloe M.D. have not received any allocation of Active Travel in the last few years, with key infrastructural projects being focused on the larger urban centres. We have a number of key projects that require funding within the Municipal District, we will keep this project on the agenda and await future Active Travel announcements.

Cllr. O'Brien highlighted the uniqueness of the villages, with the school and church in Bridgetown while other services and amenities are located in O'Briensbridge. Villages need this infrastructure; it's part of our strategic plan and is an important part of attracting people to live in our villages. Cllr. P. Burke fully supported the motion, adding that it's not practical for residents to be continually crossing a regional road to access services, these communities need to be connected. Cllr. P. Hayes added that the lack of Active Travel funding must be bought up at the next SPC meeting.

6 "That traffic calming measures be put in place on the R466 at Bridgetown primary school and at Abbey Street in Killaloe serving the Boys and Girls primary schools "

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. C. Ryan

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

We would encourage all National schools and Secondary Schools to be registered for the Safe Routes To School (SRTS) programme, which is a successful scheme designed to encourage as many pupils and students as possible in primary and post-primary schools to walk, cycle and wheel.

The key aims of the SRTS scheme are:

- To provide "front of school" treatments which will enhance access to school grounds and create a safe space for students at the front of school.
- To accelerate the delivery of walking, cycling, and wheeling infrastructure on key access routes to schools.
- To expand the amount of cycle and scooter parking available at schools.

To date, a number of schemes have been delivered and completed on round 1 of funding, the Boys N. S. in Killaloe is listed as round 3 for funding, our Road Design Team has surveys carried out on the school and draft plans ready for the funding allocation for round 3.

On the SRTS, the Girls Primary school is listed on Subsequent round on the SRTS Programme. The Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Strategy also includes for the provision of a new pedestrian crossing at the Boys N.S. and an RRDF Funding Application has been submitted to enhance a number of public realm and mobility management projects.

Bridgetown National School is not yet registered for SRTS and the programme is not currently open for new schools to apply. Any reopening of the programme will be decided together with the Department of Transport and National Transport Authority. In the interim, schools not registered will be assessed for potential traffic calming measures.

Arising from this Notice of Motion, Killaloe MD will commit to progressing plans and options in collaboration with the schools, for improved pedestrian accessibility and traffic management solutions and in front of the schools themselves.

All the members fully supported the motion and recognised the importance of sourcing funding to address the safe access to school on a busy road, particularly due to the limitations of the existing SRTS funding scheme. Cllr. Hayes welcomed the commitment but cautioned the availability to source adequate funding.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Conor Ryan:

- 7 “Calling on Clare County Council to install streetlights in Tulla on the L8148, between Cuinne An Bhroic housing estate and Bright Sparks Montessori in the interest of road and pedestrian safety.”

Proposed by: Cllr. C Ryan

Seconded by: Cllr. P Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

An Active Travel Scheme was delivered on the Doonane Road in Tulla to construct and extend a new path to the Tulla United FC grounds back in 2021, following successful funding approval by the National Transport Authority.

The scheme included the setting back boundaries, the provision of new paths and lighting to future proof Tulla and provide a safe route for pedestrians. Since this project has been completed, the new housing development in Cuinne An Bhroic has been developed with lighting on a new public path. This has left a section of footpath between the new housing development and Tulla United FC with circa. 180m section of public path without public lighting.

To provide lighting on this section of Footpath, the existing path will need replacement and underground cables laid along with a design for new public lighting columns. A funding stream will need to be identified to deliver this scheme.

Cllr. Ryan commented on the necessity of the streetlights in the area for safety and to discourage anti-social behaviour. Cllr. Ryan questioned the reasons for two separate approaches, leaving 180m without lighting. In response, Declan Flanagan – SEE explained that these were two separate projects, Active Travel scheme do not cover public lighting and these works were completed before the housing development public footpath with public lighting commenced. In supporting the motion, Cllr. Hayes remarked that a new public lighting design was necessary.

8. “Calling on Clare County Council to conduct a traffic survey and to install traffic calming measures if required in O’Callaghan’s Mills, in light of the high volume of traffic and alleged speeding through the village.”

Proposed by: Cllr. C Ryan

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

Arising from this Notice of Motion, Killaloe MD carried out a traffic survey on the R466 in O’Callaghan’s Mills village adjacent to the National School and the Church from the 14th May to the 19th May 2025.

The results for the survey, which included school term with drop offs and a busy weekend period during the recent hot weather spell, yielded the following data:

- The 85th percentile speed yielded speeds between 65km/hr and 68km/hr which is circa. 33% over the current default speed of 50km/hr.
- The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) came in at 1124 Vehicles per day
- HGV traffic was 7% volume.

The concerning factor is of speeding through our villages. To resolve this broad issue of speeding throughout the Municipal District, a combination of Traffic enforcement by An Garda

Siochána and traffic calming measures will be required. We will be reviewing a number of towns and villages across the District for potential traffic calming schemes and may include this area into the schemes.

Cllr. C. Ryan remarked on the survey findings as a significant issue that needed to be addressed and welcomed the review of villages. In supporting the motion, Cllr. A. O’Callaghan stated that the figures is *frightening* in a village with a high volume of traffic. Cllr. P. Buke added that these results were very concerning, drivers need to slow down, and driver behaviour needs to change.

Cllr. P. Hayes fully supported the motion, reflecting on the figures of 33% of vehicles are over the speed limit and highlighted the importance of meeting the Gardaí to tackle this issue.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Burke:-

9. “Calling on Clare County Council to include the L80781 at Derroran West, Mountshannon in future roadworks programme”

Proposed by: Cllr. P Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

As part of the 2025 Road Works Programme, we have completed 1.8km section of the L-80781 road from Derrycon lower to Derrycon Upper, Mountshannon. The remaining 1.6km section of the L-80781 from Derrycon Upper to Derroran Upper isn’t currently part of the 2025 to 2027 Road Works programme for the Killaloe Municipal District.

We note the Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) of this road is rated as 2. From the Department Guidelines, roads rated as PSCI of 2 suggests *roads are severely deteriorated and need reconstruction. Very significant quantities of alligator cracking, rutting or very poor patching present (over 50% of surface). Severe rutting (over 75 mm deep). Extensive patching in very poor condition. Many potholes. Very difficult to drive on. Road needs full depth reconstruction with extensive base repair.*

Accordingly, this L-80781 road will require significant Restoration Improvement works.

This road in its nature is a local tertiary road with low traffic volumes, a large quantity of forestry and limited dwellings on this road. It is anticipated that this road will be identified as part of future Road works programmes.

Cllr. P. Burke was appreciative of works completed this year, he highlighted the need for further works to be done on the links roads, top of Derrycon. Cllr. P Hayes supported the motion and reiterated the necessity for works to be completed.

10. “Calling on Clare County council to improve the road surface at Moynoe on the R352 on the acute bend known locally as ‘Sean Buglers’ corner”

Proposed by: Cllr. P Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. C. Ryan

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

Killaloe MD can confirm a review of this section of the R-352 will be carried out on this junction of the R-352 with the L-80621 better known as “Sean Bugler’s Bend”. As part of our review, we will be considering advance warnings signage and chevrons at this junction.

The current PSCI rating of this road is rated as 7 which suggest the road condition is quite good. In the long term a detailed review is required for the junction in the interest of road safety, in the near term, we will commit to carrying out works to a localised section of the road.

Cllr. P. Burke added this road experiences high volume of traffic; remedial works is required and welcomed the review and additional signage. Cllr. C. Ryan supported any additional road safety improvement works, particularly at this bend.

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

11. “In light of all the work carried out on the sewage scheme for village of Kilmurphy and huge shortage of housing. That this council would call in Irish water to take it in charge once and for all.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Reply from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Meetings Administrator

On foot of this Notice of Motion a response from Irish Water was sought, however to date none has been received. I set out below for information, a response from Cyril from the November 2022 MD Meeting

Reply from Cyril Feeney Senior Engineer Water Services and Environment: “The roads, footpaths, street lights and green area of the Ballymulcashel estate were taken in charge by resolution of the Killaloe MD on the 1st February 2017. However there are still outstanding land ownership matters to be resolved with third parties before any decision can be made regarding the taking in charge of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Clare County Council continues to positively engage with all parties in that regard”.

In expressing his disappointment with the lack of progress, three years on Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan reiterated the need for Kilmurry to be rezoned, the infrastructure is in place, but the village is losing critical development because of this issue.

In supporting the motion, Cllr. T. O’Brien expressed his frustration with the process. The members debated the issue with Ann Reynolds A/Director of Services agreeing to raise it at the CCMA group and all the members agreed to invite a Senior Representative from Uisce Éireann to attend an MD meeting.

12 “With parking spaces in the village of Quin scarce, and lands available owned by OPW. That we as a council would progress these and making them available to the village.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. P Burke

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

Clare County Council acknowledges the ongoing challenges regarding parking provision in the village of Quin, and recognises the impact this has on residents, businesses, and visitors alike. Killaloe MD is aware that lands in the village in proximity to Quin, under the ownership of the State, may offer potential to address this issue.

Following meetings and engagements over the last number of months with local tidy towns groups and Elected Members, Killaloe MD contacted the OPW to commence discussions on the possibility of utilising a section of the area for parking. It emerged, and it should be noted, that the OPW have indicated that whilst they manage the site, they are not in the ownership of all the area.

In that regard, Killaloe MD subsequently contacted the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, to continue our discussions regarding the potential appropriate use of State lands for parking, whilst also enhancing access to the Abbey. This Notice of Motion is timely.

Any such parking proposal would require careful assessment in terms of archaeology, planning, environmental considerations, and funding opportunities and be subject to agreement and engagement with the relevant Department and the OPW, who continue to manage the Abbey.

Killaloe MD is open to exploring all viable options to enhance parking capacity in Quin in a sustainable and sensitive manner. The MD is committed to continuing to work with local stakeholders and relevant State agencies to develop practical solutions that support the ongoing vitality of Quin village and its surrounding area.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan thanked Brian McCarthy – Senior Planner / Killaloe MD Coordinator for his comprehensive response, adding the importance of car park for the continued development of the village, which is a ‘hive’ of activity and key location, with the Abbey and Knappogue Castle. In supporting the motion Cllr. P. Burke highlighted the need for parking in this busy village.

Brian McCarthy further assured the members that this is progressing following recent engagement with residents. Cllr. O’Callaghan thanked Mr. McCarthy for his hard work on this.

Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Hayes

13 I am asking that speed controls be put in place on the road leading down to Waterways Ireland building in particular the section passing Riverview Housing estate.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. C. Ryan

Response from Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer:

We can confirm that a speed survey was previously carried out on this section of road back in 2019. The results demonstrated compliance with the default speed limit of 50km/hr with the 85th percentile speed coming in at 43km/hr.

The 85th percentile is used nationally across Ireland as the speed at or below which 85% of all vehicles are observed to travel under free flowing conditions past a nominated point.

Use of the 85th percentile speed concept is based on the theory that the large majority of drivers, are reasonable and prudent; do not want to have a crash; and desire to reach their destination in the shortest possible time.

Arising from this motion, we will commit to carry out another traffic survey to review driver behaviour on the L-4020 from Riverview Estate to Waterways Ireland Western Regional Office in Scarriff

Cllr. P. Hayes commented on the difficulty proposed by introducing traffic calming measures to the Harbour which is a key tourist location. He suggested to design a plan around reducing the speed limit from 50 to 30 km as the speed on the road is a serious concern for the residents. Cllr. C. Ryan welcomed the survey results and emphasized the need for changes in the interests of safety.

14 “I propose that Clare County Council recognize the ongoing and concerning decline in population across many towns and villages in the Killaloe Municipal District, and that this Council agrees to develop and implement a targeted rural regeneration and population retention strategy specific to this district, which would include:

- Prioritizing the delivery of serviced sites and affordable housing schemes in many of our key towns and villages to attract young families.
- Promoting our area through a new localized marketing campaign focused on quality of life, community, ease of accessibility, and the natural beauty of East Clare.
- Engaging with relevant stakeholders including schools, sports clubs, local businesses and community groups to co-design a sustainable future for these areas.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

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

In January, 2025 Killaloe Municipal District published a Socio-Economic Profile for the Municipal District one of the first of its kind in the country. The profile provides a comprehensive overview of the district and draws from the latest data available from the Census 2022 and a range of other authoritative datasets. The report indicates that overall, the inter-census population growth in the MD is 8.8% which is higher than both the county and the national rate, and that most Electoral Divisions (E.D.'s) (which include towns and villages and also surrounding rural hinterlands) have in fact experienced net population growth.

Rural towns and villages have long served as the social, economic and cultural heart of local communities. Notwithstanding the overall positive population growth in Killaloe MD, in light of existing and emerging challenges there is always need for consistent, targeted, forward looking and place-based planning to support vibrant and connected communities; ensuring that the rates of population growth are spread across the entire MD and that any areas of population decline in the MD are addressed.

Killaloe MD is committed to assisting with our colleagues in Rural Development, Social Directorate etc to developing and implementing a Local Authority response a targeted rural regeneration and population retention strategy for the Municipal District, as requested in the Notice of Motion. This could build on ongoing work under the *Clare Rural Development Strategy*, the *County Development Plan 2023–2029*, and the objectives of the Town Centre First and Our Rural Future national policies.

In particular the *Killaloe MD - Elected Members Workplan and Strategy* sets out a clear and focussed strategy specifically focused on Killaloe MD, which reflects the ambition and priorities set out in this Notice of Motion. Working with colleagues across the Local Authority this targeted MD strategy includes the following key actions, which are relevant to this Notice of Motion

- **Prioritising Housing and Serviced Sites:**

The MD Strategy and Workplan seeks to continue to progress the delivery of serviced sites and affordable housing schemes in key settlements to help attract and retain young families and key workers. Specific objectives in the plan include:

To develop a Pilot-Project for serviced sites, and the acquisition and provision of private housing in our serviced rural settlement with a focus on Feakle and Whitegate.

To advocate nationally for a range of initiatives and pilot schemes for the re-use of vacant and derelict properties as housing solutions in Killaloe MD settlements.

- Localised Promotion Campaign: Working in partnership with local stakeholders and leveraging the successful “Visit Clare” and “Live the Life” campaigns, and the opening of the Killaloe-Bypass and new bridge Cross there may be opportunities through the development of a bespoke marketing campaign showcasing the area’s quality of life, strong community identity, natural assets, and enhanced connectivity to Limerick, Galway, and beyond.
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement: Clare County Council continues to proactively engage with schools, sports clubs, community organisations, local businesses, and young people to co-design practical, community-led actions that strengthen resilience, economic opportunity in the towns and villages in the MD

In conclusion, Killaloe MD recognises the sentiment as set out in the Notice of Motion for the need for a strategic and place-based response to support the long-term sustainability of all the towns and villages across the MD. It is considered that the *Killaloe MD - Elected Members Workplan and Strategy* is the basis on which to implement such a strategy specific to this MD. Moreover, it requires the Local Authority, community and other agencies to assist. Killaloe MD looks forward to working with our Elected Members of the MD, communities and relevant partners to enhance the vitality of our towns and villages of East Clare.

Cllr. P Hayes thanked Mr. Brian McCarthy for his response and commented on the census data of Feakle / Whitegate looking at the marked decreasing numbers in the schools and GAA, the lack of developed when there is capacity. He reiterated the importance of Affordable housing and getting business back into the communities.

In supporting the motion, Cllr. P Burke remarked that this was a County wide challenge, West Clare are also experiencing the same decline, Ennis in the middle and surrounding villages growing. The only growth is in ‘one-off’ housing, we need the government to step in and look at Affordable Housing and zoning land.

Cllr. T O’Brien fully supports the motion, adding that huge investment is needed to attract people to our communities and this needs to be raised at a national level.

Cllr. A. O’Callaghan reiterated the 8.8% population growth impacting on the school and GAA numbers decline and without one-off houses there wouldn’t be any growth.

Cllr. C. Ryan also reflected on the 8.8% growth in the MD, the importance of investment and the provision of wastewater infrastructure to attract developers.

Cllr. P. Hayes thanked the members for their support and added the emphasis of a strategic plan in relation to our towns and villages and continued investment in waste treatment plants and the need to think differently. Brian McCarthy – Senior Planner / Killaloe MD, remarked that Killaloe MD have one of highest population growth in county and settlements are growing, we have a Killaloe MD Strategic Plan in place and with a new Programme for Government, there is an emphasis on enhancing the role of the Local Government in providing innovative approaches to housing solutions in our villages and towns, and in the MD we will continue to work towards it.

A.O.B

Cllr. T. O’Brien advised the meeting of the serious volume of illegally parked cars at the Ballycuggeran in which Garda issued several penalty notices and remarked that this is an on-going issue. This was reiterated by Cllr. P. Burke. In response, Brian McCarthy said that a Masterplan for Ballycuggeran would be sought in the near future to address a wide range of issues including carparking facilities, it’s not an easy solution but all options will be looked at.

Cllr. T. O’Brien wished all the students sitting the Junior & Leaving Certification examinations the very best.

Cllr. Pat Hayes led the members congratulations of Ann Reynolds appointment to Director of Service and Declan Flanagan’s appointment to Senior Executive Engineer which was welcomed by all the members.

Votes of sympathy

The family of the late Kevin Flatley, R.I.P., a serving Member of An Garda Siochana, who died tragically whilst on duty in Dublin.