

**Minutes of West Clare Municipal District Meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 at Kilrush Town Hall &  
Online via MS Teams**

**Cathaoirleach**

Cllr. Ian Lynch

**I Lathair**

Cllr. Cillian Murphy  
Cllr. Joe Garrihy  
Cllr. Gabriel Keating  
Cllr. Joe Killeen  
Cllr. PJ Kelly  
Cllr. Shane Talty  
Cllr. Liam Grant (online)

**Apologies**

Cllr. Bill Chambers

**Official Present**

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Director of Service, WCMD  
Mr. John O'Malley, Senior Executive Officer, WCMD & Meetings Administrator  
Mr. Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD (Ennistymon)  
Mr. Alan Kenneally, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD (Kilrush)  
Mr. Liam O'Connor, Administrative Officer, Roads & Transportation  
Mr. Colm Linnane, Senior Staff Officer, Roads & Transportation  
Ms Carmel Carey, Staff Officer, WCMD

The meeting was convened by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ian Lynch.

1. Minutes of the May Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 of the West Clare MD.  
The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Gabriel Keating and seconded by Cllr. Joe Killeen
2. Minutes of the AGM of the West Clare MD held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023.  
The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Cillian Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Joe Killeen
3. Consideration of the of the following draft bye-laws before commencing public consultation:
  - a) Kilkee Parking Bye-Laws 2023
  - b) Lahinch Parking Bye-Laws 2023
  - c) Doolin Parking Bye-Laws 2023
  - d) Fanore Parking Bye-Laws 2023
  - e) Spanish Point Parking Bye-Laws 2023
  - f) White Strand, Miltown Malbay, Parking Bye-Laws 2023

Cllr. Killeen requested that Ballyvaughan Pier be considered for future bye-laws.

On the proposal of Cllr. Joe Garrihy and seconded by Cllr. Cillian Murphy, it was agreed to put the draft bye laws outlined above out to public consultation.

4. Consideration of submissions and decision of WCMD in relation to adoption of the County Council (Prohibition of Overnight Camping on Roads and in Public Places in Lisdoonvarna) Bye-Laws 2023.

5. Consideration of submissions and decision of WCMD in relation to adoption of the Clare County Council (Prohibition of Overnight Camping in Loop Head Lighthouse Car Park) Bye-Laws 2023.

6. Consideration of submissions and decision of WCMD in relation to adoption of the Clare County Council Doughmore Beach Car Park Bye-Laws 2023.

Agenda items 4, 5 and 6 were considered together. Cllr. Joe Garrihy proposed the adoption of the draft bye laws, with an amendment to the Lisdoonvarna Bye-Laws, that they extend to the speed limit signs on the approach roads. This was seconded by Cllr. Shane Talty and agreed.

7. Section 11 Roads Acts, 1993 – Declaration of a Public Road at Drumlesh, Inagh.  
Proposed by Cllr. Shane Talty and seconded by Cllr. PJ Kelly.

### **Rural Development, Planning & Economic Development, Social**

#### **8. Notice of Motion from Cllr Joe Garrihy:**

I call on West Clare MD to outline the proposals to integrate the West Clare Greenway with the most trafficked, visited, and popular area of the County North of Ennistymon and to the Towns and villages of Doolin, Liscannor, Lisdoonvarna, Corofin, Kilfenora, Fanore & Ballyvaughan and on throughout the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geo Park. The integration of one of the most visited and marketed / environmentally sensitive areas of our county with the Greenway plans is critical and should be actioned as a priority alongside the Greenway plans.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Ian Lynch

#### **Reply from Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, PMO:**

Members will be aware that Section 2 of the proposed West Clare Railway Greenway connects Ennis to Ennistymon and takes a route that will connect through or with Corofin. However, the link as currently proposed doesn't go north of Ennistymon but rather southwards to Lahinch, Miltown, Quilty and Doonbeg where it will join up with the Kilrush to Kilkee Section at Moyasta. That being said, the longer-term strategy is that our Greenways would link up with those in neighbouring Counties such as Limerick, Kerry and Galway so we will certainly consider the possibilities.

The TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) is now the Approving Authority for Greenways, and I would be happy to raise this request with the TII Regional Manager at our next Steering Group Meeting in a couple of weeks' time. I will also discuss the proposal with my colleagues in Road Design viz a viz any complementary Active Travel proposals for the area as well as identifying any shorter-term improvements that would add value to the existing Euro Velo route which essentially runs along the Wild Atlantic Way Coastline.

I will keep the Members informed of any further developments in this regard.

Cllr. Joe Garrihy expressed disappointment with the lack of connectivity with the greenway to places like the Cliffs of Moher and the UNESCO Geo park and felt the lack of investment in cycleways is impacting on managing visitor attractions to encourage all tourists other than those travelling in cars to visit our county.

**9. Notice of Motion from Cllr Joe Garrihy, Cllr. Joe Killeen, and Cllr. Liam Grant:**

In the context of the importance of the Cliffs of Moher 2040 Strategy to the future sustainability of the host communities of North Clare I call on Clare County Council to hold public engagements and workshops on the latest draft at 4 Town Hall meetings in the host Ennistymon LEA and the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geo Park with particular focus on how the strategy will affect and benefit the host communities where it is located.

**Reply from Leonard Cleary, Director of Tourism and West Clare MD:**

In preparing the draft Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040, Clare County Council engaged in two phases of detailed consultation workshops with stakeholders in the local community and business sector. This feedback shaped the Draft Strategy.

An inclusive communications plan around a third phase of public consultation is being prepared for the draft Cliffs of Moher 2040 Strategy that will allow for the public and stakeholders to engage further. Facilitated focus group and stakeholder public meetings in communities will be arranged for the public to participate. Also, media and digital resources will be made available to assist this process over the summer period.

Cllr. Garrihy welcomed the public consultations on the Cliffs of Moher Strategy saying that it's always a worthwhile exercise to engage with the public when undertaking this kind of work.

**10. Notice of Motion from Cllr Joe Garrihy:**

I call on the West Clare MD to resurface the main Town Car Park in Lisdoonvarna and to include EV charging points as part of the project.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Joe Killeen

**Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

The West Clare MD office has recently received estimate costs for the full resurfacing of the town car park in Lisdoonvarna. The area office is working with the Transportation section to try to identify possible sources of funding to allow this work to proceed.

The Department of Transport has established a department Zero Emissions Vehicles Ireland (ZEV). ZEV will guide Local Authorities and are supporting a standardised approach towards the development of EV charging policies, strategies and implementation plans to be taken by Local Authorities. Clare with the support of ZEV will be going to tender for consultants to carry out an assessment of needs, modelling, a strategy & implementation plan using standardised template documents & briefs (these are awaited from ZEV).

Lisdoonvarna will be included in the assessment of needs along with other settlements across the county.

Cllr. Garrihy acknowledged the reply stating that as the land for the car park was gifted to the local authority all efforts to develop it would be very welcome.

**11. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Liam Grant:**

Call on the West Clare MD to carry out a feasibility study on building a tidal swimming pool adjacent to the sea wall in Quilty village. We would also ask the MD to contact Mayo County Council and research the very tidal pool in Belmullet in order to learn from their success.

The motion was seconded by Cillian Murphy

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

Tidal pools at seaside locations are often popular attractions. A feasibility study into the possibility of providing one at Quilty will require a funding source. The scope of the feasibility study will also have to be defined clearly for potential consultants. Once a funding source is identified (*perhaps GMA, depending on the cost of the study*) & the study scoped, a call for consultants to prepare the study can be placed on e-tenders or supply.gov.

Coincidentally, I worked in Belmullet earlier in my career, and I am familiar with the tidal pool. It is in place for a long number of years and during the summer is very popular, particularly with families. It has a lifeguard patrol and a shallow section for toddlers & smaller children.

Cllr. Grant was supported by his fellow Councillors with the motion and all welcomed the positive feedback.

**12. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Liam Grant:**

Call on the West Clare MD to write to the EPA and ask them to carry out Audits of the water treatment plants in Ballymacraven, Corofin and Doolough. The Ballymacraven WTP is long overdue an audit. I would also ask that the MD request a tour of these facilities for elected members so we might better understand how they operate.

I would appreciate, if the Environment section could give a synopsis on the environmental impact of these plants in the adjacent waterways. Are they polluting rivers and killing wildlife?"

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Joe Garrihy

**Reply from Aidan O'Rourke, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services and Brendan Flynn, SEE, Environment:**

**Aidan O'Rourke, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services**

The EPA is the drinking water quality regulator for public water supplies. It carries out regular inspections of water treatment plants to ensure appropriate enforcement of the Drinking Water Regulations. The EPA last inspected the New Doolough Water treatment plant on the 04/04/22, the Corofin water treatment plant on the 26/01/21, and the Ballymacraven water treatment plant on the 10/05/23. The EPA publishes the results of its inspections publicly in report format on its website under its drinking water compliance and enforcement section. Uisce Éireann is the organisation responsible for the provision of public water supply and ensuring that water meets the standards set in the Drinking Water regulations. A request can be made by the West Clare Municipal District, to Uisce Éireann to facilitate a visit to a water treatment plant for any interested councillors.

**Brendan Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment**

*The 3 named Water Treatment Plants are operated by Uisce Éireann, which is the National Water Services Utility. Uisce Éireann is responsible for monitoring discharges. Uisce Éireann is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).*

*Receiving Waters should not be polluted if the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is operated correctly. When uncontrolled discharges occur from any Uisce Éireann Water treatment plant they have the potential to cause pollution in receiving waters. Such an event happened recently in one of the named plants at the Ballymacraven WTP which was subject to an EPA audit thereafter. The EPA would be best suited to provide a response in this regard. Most recently the Ballymacraven River was monitored by Inland fisheries Ireland who are empowered to enforce the Fisheries Acts 1959 to 2010 and the Water Pollution Act 1997 and 1990, following an alleged discharge by the Water Treatment Plant. Receiving waters may also be monitored by the Local Authority under the Water Pollution Act 1977, in the event of an incident.*

It was agreed that the WCMD would write to -

- Uisce Eireann to request a tour of the Kilrush Treatment Plant
- EPA to request them to brief the Elected Members to understand the process involved
- Inland Fishers to request a report on their proposals for work on the river

### **13. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:**

In the interest of public clarity, to ask for a written explanation of any and all the conditions and legislation, including but not restricted to that of the Kilkee Reefs SAC and the Blue Flag, that governs Clare County Council with regards to preventing or permitting the removal of seaweed from the Blue Flag beach in Kilkee.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Ian Lynch.

### **Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

During the summer season seaweed accumulates on Kilkee beach to the point where it becomes a nuisance, a hazard and a risk to public health. Clare County Council – as infrequently as possible – relocates seaweed from above the High Water Mark to below the Low Water Mark when seaweed accumulation reaches this point.

The award criteria for blue flag beaches state that  
*Algal vegetation or natural debris should be left on the beach.*

This is an imperative criterion that must be complied with. Algal vegetation is generally accepted as referring to seaweed. However, the explanatory notes for this criterion state –

*Vegetation should not be allowed to accumulate to the point where it becomes a hazard; however, only if it is absolutely necessary should vegetation be removed. This could include accumulation of seaweed in warm weather causing decay, which in turn produces odours that attract flies and their larvae. Rotting seaweed could also be slippery and become a hazard for people walking on the shoreline. It could also reduce access to the beach for recreational activities or for disabled users.  
& If vegetation accumulation is persistent on the beach, it is recommended that a seaweed management strategy is developed, as a part of the beach management plan.*

Kilkee Beach is located partially within the Kilkee Reefs SAC (Reference 002264). The Qualifying Interests for Kilkee Reefs SAC are

1160	Large shallow inlets and bays
1170	Reefs
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves.

Conservation objectives targeting the maintenance of the favorable conservation status of the listed qualifying objectives are stipulated in the SAC documentation and associated regulations.

Clare County Council has carried out an AA screening of the activity (*seaweed relocation*) and screened the activity out – i.e. the screening concluded that Appropriate Assessment is not required, as there are no potential direct, indirect or residual impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of Kilkee Reefs SAC due to the activity.

A key point to note in terms of the assessment undertaken is that the area in which the dried-out seaweed is located is predominately above the High-Water Mark, which is outside the boundary of the SAC, therefore the relocation of the dried-out seaweed will not impact directly on any of the conservation objectives.

The potential for impacts therefore relates solely to the movement of machinery used to accommodate the works which involves traversing the beach and therefore within the SAC. The assessment as prepared by Clare County Council concluded that there was no risk of significant effects on any of the qualifying interest features of the Kilkee Reefs SAC as a result of the works.

Kilkee is a Blue Flag beach. Clare County Council wants to ensure that all beachgoers – residents and visitors – have a pleasant and enjoyable experience when in Kilkee. The retention of the Blue Flag is a vital part of the attraction of Kilkee Beach to visitors, and thus key to the economic success of Kilkee as a seaside town into the future. Clare County Council relocates seaweed on Kilkee Beach on perhaps 4 – 6 occasions annually, during the summer bathing season. We do so to ensure the health and safety of all those who enjoy the wonderful Blue Flag beach in Kilkee, to prevent nuisance and in the interests of the common good.

Cllr. Murphy welcomed the reply.

**Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:**

To ask for a full list of the job initiative/ employment schemes in the Kilrush LEA, their location, numbers, sponsor and duties.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Cillian Murphy

**Reply from Steve Lahiffe, Senior Staff Officer, West Clare MD:**

In the Kilrush area there are two organisations sponsoring Community Employment (CE) Schemes. Participants in the CE scheme are employed part-time, working 19.5 hours per week. They are actively encouraged to pursue courses that can enhance their skills and increase their chances of finding permanent employment.

Firstly, Kilrush Amenity Trust CLG has twelve part-time participants employed on a CE Scheme fulfilling various roles. Nine of the participants work as general operatives/gardeners, responsible for maintaining and caring for the Vandeleur Walled Garden. Their tasks include upkeep maintenance, environmental cleaning around the garden's access roads and parking areas, undertaking landscaping projects, managing plant sales, and providing customer care etc.. One of the participants serves as an office assistant, handling bookkeeping and office-related tasks. The scheme also has two participants working in Cross village.

Secondly Kilrush Youth Centre Services CE Scheme is sponsored by Kilrush Youth Centre Services Ltd They have twenty-five participants on their scheme, some of them are involved in the maintenance of various properties and the grounds associated with them, such as the Graveyards, Church, Community Centre, Golf club and local nursing home. They have caretakers in the Youth Centre and Community Centre and Astro turf in Kilkee. This scheme also has a participant in the Kilkee parish office as a receptionist and two participants in the tidy towns in Kilkee. The scheme also has participants that work in the youth centre carrying out office duties photocopying and typing and poster design and general reception duties.

Kilrush Amenity Trust CLG is also the sponsor of the Kilrush Job Initiative (JI) Scheme. Those employed on the JI scheme are employed on a full-time 39 hour a week basis. No new participants have been eligible for the scheme since 2005. There are currently two participants remaining on the scheme in Kilrush and they work closely with the tidy towns in the general maintenance of the town.

Cllr. Lynch suggested that WCMD write to the Department of Social Protection to get an update on proposals to replace these Schemes.

**15. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:**

That a further request is made to Minister Jack Chambers for additional roads funding with a specific focus on local and housing estate roads.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating

**Reply from Ann O'Sullivan, A/Senior Engineer, Transportation:**

The Roads and Transportation Section will continue to engage with Minister Chamber's department officials in the Department of Transport regarding the provision of additional funding for the road network.

The Department of Transport grant allocations carries with them conditions which include, roads with higher traffic volumes and Regional roads be prioritised. Notwithstanding this if there is a road with a lower volume such as housing estate roads that are of concern then this should be highlighted to the Senior Executive Engineer in the Municipal District for consideration.

John O'Malley, SEO informed the meeting that the Department of Transport has sanctioned additional funding of €975,000 to the County which will be spent on further road improvements.

**16. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:**

I request that the economic directorate in conjunction with the WCMD develop a specific action plan to address the high vacancy rate within Kilrush town.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Cillian Murphy

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

Clare County Council's Economic Development, Social Development and Finance & Support Services Directorates are working on a number of schemes in Kilrush connected to addressing the high vacancy rates in the town. The West Clare Municipal District and Economic Directorate are working together to coordinate the developing works and to ensure clear communication between departments on works planned for the town.

Details of the various schemes progress in Kilrush are as follows:

#### **Derelict Sites –**

We have 19 active Derelict Sites files in Kilrush at present.

One CPO of a property is completed and will be refurbished as a social housing unit by our Housing Department. A further CPO is being progressed currently.

Five derelict sites files were closed in the last two years with works having been completed to bring the properties out of dereliction and into economic use. A number of the other sites identified as being derelict are being progressed up to either CPO stage or the Derelict sites levy will be billed on them. In this regard, some valuations are already underway.

#### **Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant**

With the expansion of the grants scheme in May 2023, we have numerous enquiries received and already have five grant applications on hands for properties in the town of Kilrush. In an effort to further promote the grants scheme, it is intended to hold further walk-in clinics around the County, one of which will be held in Kilrush. There are up to 14 properties currently for sale (as per daft.ie) in Kilrush and many of these may be eligible for the Vacant property refurbishment grant.

#### **Rates incentive scheme –**

Clare County Council operates a Long Term Vacant Property Incentive Scheme in order to encourage the use of vacant commercial premises in towns and villages in Clare. This scheme is designed to assist new commercial businesses to set up in the traditional social and commercial heart of each town and village. It is hoped that this scheme will reduce the number of vacant premises, stimulate commercial activity, promote retail diversity, and reinvigorate town and village centres. By encouraging the use of vacant properties, the scheme will support town and village regeneration, improve streetscapes, and lead to increased footfall for existing businesses. The Long Term Vacant Property Incentive Scheme compliments other regeneration and business support initiatives promoted by the Council as part of its ongoing work in these areas, including Local Enterprise Office services, Town & Village Renewal, Tourism promotion & development, and major economic and social infrastructure projects. The Long Term Vacant Property Incentive Scheme is separate to the other Commercial Rates support schemes. Businesses availing of this scheme cannot avail of other schemes until the term of this scheme has expired.

The link to the scheme is as follows

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/business/publications/long-term-vacant-property-incentive-scheme-22692.pdf>

While take up is low generally in Kilrush currently Clare County Councils Finance Section does advise and assist business owners on this scheme.

#### **Clare Maritime Economic Zone (MEZ) project –**

Rural Regeneration & Development Fund funding was recently granted towards the Kilrush Maritime Training Centre project. This project will help in the repurposing of a current vacant building in the Marina area in Kilrush. Our Economic Directorate are leading on this with assistance from various other departments including the West Clare MD.

#### **Mars Cinema**



The vacant Mars Cinema building has been purchased by Clare County Council through Town & Village Renewal Scheme funding. Plans for the future development of this site are being considered and it is planned that there will be significant progress on this over the coming year.

### **Housing Projects**

The Housing Dept. are actively progressing with the proposed delivery of social housing in Kilrush to meet our current needs.

In this regard CCC has to date received the following approvals relating to vacant / derelict properties in Kilrush from the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage:

- St. Senan's Terrace, Kilrush – Single stage approval - Refurbishment of 5 no. vacant / derelict units.
- Moore Street Kilrush - Stage 1 approval – Development of approx. 22 units on an existing vacant / derelict site.

We continue to be mindful of the opportunities of providing social housing from existing vacant / derelict properties, where we have need and we continue to engage with our colleagues in all other Dept's of CCC on same and we continue to support Approved Housing Bodies in their development of social housing, to include the development of vacant / derelict properties.

The West Clare MD continue to engage with the Economic Directorate on the developments related to the new Gaelscoil site and with our Town Centre First Officer on potential future funding developments for the town to deal with vacancy.

Cllr. Lynch welcomed the reply and referenced a recent communications piece on Clare FM. He suggested a meeting with the Director of Services, Economic Development be arranged to look at funding options in order to maximise the potential of Kilrush. It was agreed to get a rates update from Finance for the town.

### **17. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen.**

We ask Clare County Council for an update on plans for traffic management in the Burren Area, with particular reference to the National Park and overused/ unapproved roads bringing traffic away from our villages and towns.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Shane Talty

### **Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

The West Clare MD has ordered directional signs, following consultation with local stakeholders, to direct traffic away from unsuitable local roads in the Burren area. An assessment will be carried out following the installation of these signs to review their impact.

A number of traffic counts will also be carried out over this summer on busy tourist routes around North Clare. These counts will feed into the North Clare Mobility Plan which will progress later this year following the appointment of a senior member of staff in North Clare.

Cllr. Killeen was thankful for the response

### **18. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen.**

We call on Clare County Council to give an update on the timelines for the Corofin Streetscape Enhancement and the proposed development of safety measures near Scoil Mhuire Cora Finne.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Shane Talty.

**Helen Quinn, A/Senior Planner, Planning Department:**

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) are working in partnership to prepare an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. A multi-disciplinary design team led by Hall McKnight Architects have been appointed to prepare the strategy. The design team have finalised the Enhancement Strategy and this proposes improved pedestrian and vehicular mobility in the north-eastern part of the village. The design team are now working on developing the proposals to bring them forward to planning consent application stage. It is anticipated that planning consent will be sought for the proposed works in the coming weeks which will involve the statutory period for public consultation. Subject to all appropriate consents being in place funding opportunities for delivery will then be explored to realise the proposals contained within the enhancement strategy.

Cllr. Killeen was thankful for the response.

**Physical Development**

**19. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:**

That the private road, servicing a number of houses at Doughmore, Doonbeg, off the L6201 to Doughmore Beach, be taken in charge by Clare County Council.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

In accordance with Clare County Council's Document "taking in charge policy for private roads", which sets out the procedure for taking private roads in charge, as defined in Section 11 (Declaration of Public Roads) of the Roads Act 1993.

- 1.Process Initiation.
- 2.Public consultation.
- 3.Consideration of submissions received.
- 4.Engineer's report.
- 5.Municipal District Meeting.
- 6.Post consultation
- 7.Responsibilities of the Council thereafter.

If this motion is passed by the elected members of the West Clare MD here today, the process will have been initiated and the Roads Department can move to the public consultation stage.

Cllr. Murphy appreciated the response.

**20. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:**

That the West Clare MD office arrange a meeting with CCC roads department and a TII inspector to discuss measures that will address the blatant disregard by most motorists of the speed limit through Moyasta village.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Ian Lynch

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

The regulation of speeding, and the enforcement of legislation relating to speeding is solely a matter for An Garda Síochána. Clare County Council cannot legally apprehend or sanction speeding drivers.

I have forwarded your request to our Roads Department.

**21. Notice of Motion from Councillor PJ Kelly:**

That a public light be put in place close to Cree bridge on the Cooraclare side.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer West Clare MD:**

I will forward this request to Mr. Pat Lynch, who is the engineer responsible for public lighting. If it is possible to get a connection for a lighting standard and provided that the column & light does not compromise road safety, then it should be possible to erect a public light on the Cooraclare side of Cree bridge.

Cllr. Kelly acknowledged the positive response.

**22. Notice of Motion from Councillor PJ Kelly:**

That a realignment would take place on the R473 at Drumquin close to the Islandvanna Junction.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Ian Lynch

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer West Clare MD:**

Having discussed the Notice of Motion with the elected member, I am aware that a generous offer has been made, and that the landowner may be willing to make the necessary land available to Clare County Council for a nominal sum. The proposal would remove a noticeable bend from the eastern approach to Drumquin village. I discussed the proposal briefly with the Senior Engineer in our Roads Department, who informs me that the funding mechanism normally used to finance such road realignments is currently dormant. If a funding source can be identified, then we may be able to proceed with the design of realignment.

Cllr. Kelly welcomed the response and stated that he hoped work would progress.

**23. Notice of Motion from Councillor PJ Kelly:**

That the bridge at Lanna, Lissycasey would be repaired and the road re-opened.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Shane Talty

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

The bridge in question is located on the L-2156-0 local primary road – Lismorris to Lanna and Ballycloghessy. The bridge spans a tributary of the Owenslieve River and is located a short distance (< 2km) from the N68.

The bridge structure is a single span masonry bridge. Earlier this year the bridge suffered a significant collapse. It is no longer safe to traverse the bridge and the road is closed as a result. Due to the extent of the damage to the bridge arch and abutments, it is not practical to repair the existing masonry structure and a full replacement (*new bridge*) is required.

Services – a watermain (*definitely*) and overhead electricity wires (*possibly*) – may have to be rerouted with the consent of the utility owners.

Civil Engineering works involved in the construction of a new bridge replacement will involve the following works:

- Vegetation removal from the existing structure and embankments - Temporary watercourse diversion.
- Temporary watermain diversion.
- Taking down and storing of existing parapet and spandrel stonework for reuse in the new stone parapet walls.
- Excavation of the existing bridge structure, including stonework and backfill.
- Excavation of the riverbed to new formation level and installation of new sub-base.
- Installation of precast concrete culvert units and wing walls, waterproofing and backfill.
- Installation of new watermain.
- Removal of watercourse diversion and reshaping of embankments at junctions with retaining walls.
- New stone masonry parapets.
- New bridge surface including surface water drainage.

Prior to the commencement of bridge replacement various steps have to be taken and some consents are required –

- 1.Preliminary surveys and reports Completed.  
*(including ecological review & AA screening).*
- 2.Lodge Section 50 with OPW In progress.  
*(In effect planning permission for the project)*
- 3.Detailed DesignIn progress.  
*(Punch consulting engineers have been appointed)*
- 4.Tender Period & Contractor AppointmentTo commence.
- 5.Construction StageTo commence.
- 6.Certification & HandoverTo commence.

The process is overseen by the bridge rehabilitation team in our Road Design Department. While no date is available for reopening the road, I remain hopeful that it will be reopened in 2023.

Cllr. Kelly stated that this road is currently closed with traffic being diverted through a private road which was not sustainable.

#### **24. Notice of motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:**

While acknowledging the Schedule of Municipal District Works and the related roads programme, I am now proposing a more comprehensive review of the roads network for the West Clare MD:

- a)That time be set aside for engineers, overseers, and general workers to examine our network and to prepare a report and a plan in which to improve the road surface for safety of road users.
- b)To carry out any maintenance re gullies, grass cutting of the margins, and hedge cutting where necessary, in the interest of health and safety during the remainder of the holiday season.
- c)Due to climate change and recent weather patterns that Clare County Council now prepare a programme of works for our rural roads in advance of 2024.

There is a significant waiting list for Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) and Community Involvement Schemes (CIS). The Council needs to establish what additional investment is required to clear these waiting lists and not to rely entirely on national government grants as the mechanism to clear the waiting the lists.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Ian Lynch

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

Engineers, overseers, and general workers meet regularly to examine & discuss the road surface in West Clare MD. There are approx. 1,400km of public road in Kilrush engineering area of the West Clare MD. Each public road has been assigned a rating (*ranging from 1 poor to 10 excellent*) and we use these ratings to prioritise the roads that will be strengthened and / or resurfaced as part of the annual roadworks programme. The safety of all road users is always our main priority, and we try to maximise the number of roads that we remediate each year, but we must remain within allocated budgets also.

Maintenance of our road network is ongoing throughout the year. We have a velocity patcher and road sweeper assigned to the West Clare MD for 10 months of the year. Gully maintenance usually begins once the Roadworks programme has been completed. Grass cutting and hedge cutting is carried out in accordance with Clare County Council policy and as budgets allow. As before, there are approx. 1,400km of public road in the Kilrush LEA, and available resources do not allow for every road to be visited every year.

It is anticipated that climate change will cause significant damage to our environment and lead to an increase in severe weather events. Whether attributable to climate change or otherwise I would refer to – by way of example – the very cold spell of weather last December. It caused significant damage to road surfaces in the West Clare MD. We subsequently made a submission to our Roads Department. Roads – on behalf of all 4 Clare Municipal Districts – subsequently applied to the Department of Transport for additional funding to repair the damaged roads. A reply is awaited.

Cllr. Keating expressed thanks for the response.

**Cllr. Shane Talty proposed suspending orders and was seconded by Cllr. Cillian Murphy**

**25. Notice of motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:**

To extend the parking facilities at the East End car park in Kilkee to enhance the flow of traffic and address the provision of a pedestrian crossing adjacent to entrance of housing estate at the exit of the pathway inside the bank on the west side near the Golf Clubhouse.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Ian Lynch

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

New Kilkee parking bye-laws will be placed before the elected members of the West Clare MD at the July meeting. Hopefully the bye-laws will have a beneficial effect on traffic flow issues in the East End car park. Plans for a redesign of Ministers Place junction in Kilkee are being advanced by Clare County Council Roads Department and TII. A new Failte Ireland "Platforms for Growth" facility for beachgoers and water sports enthusiasts is proposed near the existing Kilkee Waterworld complex. It is anticipated that a pedestrian crossing will be provided to facilitate these developments.

It has been my experience that introducing pedestrian crossings – and in particular the associated yellow flashing lights – into residential areas can lead to complaints.

**26. Notice of motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:**

To request Clare County Council to provide road markings on the R487 to the lighthouse on the road recently resurfaced to provide a safe pedestrian way in the interest of health and safety.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Ian Lynch

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

When our road marking contractors are next in West Clare, I will ask them to provide the road markings requested. We will also provide a number of the “vulnerable pedestrians” signs together with the required supplementary information plates.

**27. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty:**

Request that Irish Water include an extension to include Spanish Point in the plans to upgrade the Waste Water Treatment System in Miltown Malbay.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Joe Killeen

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

Clare County Council Water Services have requested from Uisce Éireann (UÉ) that Spanish Point is included in plans to upgrade wastewater treatment infrastructure serving Miltown Malbay. This would require extension/construction of a Spanish Point sewer network, rising main and pumping facilities. This request to UÉ has been undertaken as follows, in the period since December 2022:

- At the four Miltown Malbay WWTP workshops held to date, by UÉ.
- In the May 2023 Submission by Water Services, Clare County Council to UÉ on the Consultation Paper in Advance of the Uisce Éireann Investment Plan Preparation 2025 to 2029.
- In the June 2023 submission by Clare County Council to UÉ regarding funding for projects in County Clare under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.

Cllr. Talty welcomed the reply adding that it was an opportunity to tie Spanish Point into the Miltown Malbay Treatment Scheme considering all the commercial business in the area and the recent bathing water restrictions at the beach.

**28. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty:**

Request that a road at Cahermaclancy, Doolin be considered for taking in charge. The road was recently upgraded under the LIS scheme & serves 4 dwellings.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Joe Garrihy

**Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

In accordance with Clare County Council’s Document “taking in charge policy for private roads”, which sets out the procedure for taking private roads in charge, as defined in Section 11 (Declaration of Public Roads) of the Roads Act 1993.

- a) Process Initiation.
- b) Public consultation.
- c) Consideration of submissions received.
- d) Engineer’s report.
- e) Municipal District Meeting.
- f) Post consultation

g)Responsibilities of the Council thereafter.

If this motion is passed by the elected members of the West Clare MD here today, the process will have been initiated and the Roads Department can move to the public consultation stage.

**29. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty:**

Develop plans for proper bus stops / shelters in Ennistymon. This should be progressed separate to plans for the new relief road.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Cillian Murphy

**Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD:**

The West Clare MD and the Road Design Office met with the NTA earlier this year to discuss potential bus stops/shelters throughout North Clare. Ennistymon was identified as a potential location. The NTA advised that they are not willing to invest in a bus shelter or relocating bus stops adjacent to Blakes corner until such time as the inner relief road is complete.

The Ennistymon Enhancement Strategy identified a possible bus stop location across from the Market House. The Planning department in conjunction with the West Clare MD is progressing with various elements of the Ennistymon Enhancement Plan subject to funding becoming available. The West Clare MD would hope that a new bus shelter could be incorporated into the development of the area around the Market House/top of Church Street.

Cllr Talty advised that a new bus shelter for the town would be most welcomed.

**30. Any Other Business**

It was agreed that Cllr. Joe Killeen would attend the Shannon Estuary report launch on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July at Ardnacrusha Generating Station Ballykeelaun Ardnacrusha.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed :



Cllr. Ian Lynch  
Cathaoirleach



John O'Malley  
Meetings Administrator

Dated : 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

