

Minutes of November Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 30th November, 2018 at 10a.m. in Culturlann Sweeney, Kilkee, Co. Clare

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. I Lynch,

I Láthair:

Cllr. P.J.Kelly, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. M.Hillery, Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. C. Curtin, Cllr. B. Chambers, B. Slattery,

Officials present:

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

Cllr. Lynch convened the meeting & welcomed those in attendance.

1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 21st September 2018

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

2. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 30th October 2018 to consider Budgetary Plan

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

3. Presentation from Shannon Group

Ms. Caroline Kelleher from Shannon Group attended and updated the members on work being undertaken by Shannon Group. She updated the members on visitor numbers at the airport & marketing being undertaken to continuously improve the product at Shannon Airport. She added that Shannon Group were working closely with Clare Co Council to develop the Tourism Strategy. She added that there were 46,000 jobs supported from infrastructure provided by Shannon Group and from a tourism perspective there were 250,000 bed nights provided from Shannon Heritage and the tourism bodies coming in from the airport.

The members raised a number of questions regarding the recent increase in service charges for companies in the Shannon Free Zone. Ms. Kelleher pointed out that prior to the establishment of Shannon Group in 2014, there had been considerable under-investment in property and infrastructure at Shannon Free Zone. She added that the Group's property company Shannon Commercial Properties immediately set about addressing this legacy issue and to-date had invested over €40 million in delivering 60,000 sq ft of property solutions for new and existing clients. She further added that in tandem with this, Shannon Group had committed to delivering a €1 million annual infrastructure investment programme at Shannon Free Zone to upgrade roads, footpaths, public lighting and landscaping. She pointed out that as a commercial semi-state company, service charges enabled them to make these continuous improvements for the benefit of existing owners and tenants

in the estate and to attract new businesses to the Shannon Free Zone for the benefit of the region. She indicated that Shannon Commercial Properties operated one of the lowest service charge rates of other commercial business parks in Ireland. The 38 cent per sq ft charge proposed is approximately 50% of the average service charge for commercial business parks across Ireland.

There were questions raised by the Members regarding a flight recently cancelled by Aer Lingus and Ms. Kelleher added that she couldn't comment on why an individual carrier might make such a decision. She emphasized that the role of Shannon Group was to ensure that passengers had the best experience possible while in Shannon Airport.

A question was raised by the Members regarding the Marina Field in Kilrush and whether or not same could be disposed of to the local community. Ms. Kelleher added that she would review this property but she added that as Shannon Group were a commercial company that they had to dispose of any lands in a competitive manner and on a commercial basis.

L. Cleary thanked Ms. Kelleher for attending and acknowledged on behalf of the Management Team of Clare Co Council the strong relationship which existed between Clare Co Council and Shannon Airport. He added that the airport would be promoted as the airport of 1st choice for the upcoming Irish Open in July. He also added that Clare Co Council would regularly use the airport for Major Emergency exercises to help be prepared for major emergencies should same arise. He also acknowledged the role of Shannon Group in developing a Tourism Strategy for the county.

The members thanked Ms. Kelleher for attending and invited her back to update the members on a more regular basis.

4. Section 183 Disposal of Property – to Mary Murrihy, Danganella, Cooraclare, Co. Clare.

The disposal was proposed by Cllr. Chambers & seconded by Cllr. Curtin & agreed

5. Update on recycling Bins in West Clare MD

J. Corry referred to the report prepared by William Freney, SEE Environment. He indicated that Clare County Council had a network of 27 permanent bring bank locations in the West Clare MD and an additional 3 seasonal bring banks (June to September) where Glass (Clear, Brown and Green), Cans and in some instances textiles and plastic bottles could be deposited free of charge. He added that a nationwide campaign of bring bank rebranding was underway with County Clare's bring banks due to be rebranded in the coming weeks. He indicated that this initiative would ensure consistency nationwide and highlight facilities as well as ensuring that members of the public could clearly see what waste stream should go into each receptacle to minimise cross contamination. He concluded by indicating that Clare County Council had two Civic Amentiy Sites within the West Clare MD, one at Lisdeen and one at Ballyduffbeg near Inagh .

6. Taking in Charge – Declaration of Roads in the following estate to be Public Roads in accordance with S11 of the Roads Act 1993

- **Abhainn Sleibhe, Lissycasey**

- **Gairdini Cluain Buinne (Clonbony Gardens), Miltown Malbay**

It was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Curtin and agreed to declare the roads in Abhainn Sleibhe, Lisseycasey to be public roads. Cllr Kelly said that he would seek further clarification from Planning as to what else it was proposed to take in charge within the estate. J. Corry indicated that the map which was attached to the report for Abhainn Sleibhe showed the areas coloured in that the Council were taking in charge and this included the green areas.

Cllr. Hillery proposed that the proposed taking in charge of roads in the Gairdini Cluain Buinne (Clonbony Gardens) estate in Miltown Malbay would be deferred pending the relocation of the Pumping Station.

7. Set date for January Meeting of West Clare MD

It was agreed that the January meeting of the West Clare MD would take place at 3pm on 30th January in the Ennistymon MD Offices.

8. Permission to use funds set aside by Kilrush Town Council

It was proposed by Cllr Keating and seconded by Cllr. Lynch and agreed that funds ringfenced by Kilrush Town Council for Shanakyle Graveyard extension (€20k) and for Fahys Rd Pedestrian Crossing (€20k) be used for these projects.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“That Clare Co Council calls on the OPW to immediately sanction the coastal protection works at Clahane, Liscannor”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery

Reply

RPS have completed a draft CFERM Study for the Liscannor Bay area including Clahane. The report is currently being considered by the Office of Public Works and it is expected that they will revert with their observations shortly.

Response Ends

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, Project Management Office

Cllr. Nagle commended S. Lahiffe for his work. He emphasized that it was essential that the OPW sanctioned these works as a matter of urgency.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“That Clare Co Council would contact the National Transport Authority to ensure that Bus Tour Operators use our primary and regional roads rather than our tertiary rural roads, which is what is happening presently, resulting in traffic chaos and disruption”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

I have communicated the concerns raised to the National Transport Authority to highlight the importance of licenced Bus Tour Operators being monitored to ensure that they are using the roads that they are licenced to operate on.

Response Ends

John Corry, AO Transportation & Meetings Administrator West Clare MD

Cllr. Nagle indicated that this was an issue which needed to be urgently addressed as he added that many of the routes being used by these coaches were not designed for coach traffic. He suggested that an invitation be extended to the NTA to attend a future meeting of the MD.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“That the remaining sections of the R478 from Liscannor to the Cliffs of Moher would be strengthened and black topped before the Irish Open takes place in Lahinch in July”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery

Reply

Clare County Council has programmed a further 1.2km of the R478 to be resurfaced in 2019. This takes in from the Rock Shop through Derreen and will be carried out after Irish Water have laid new Watermains along that section of the R478.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle indicated that it was very important that these works be carried out urgently because of the volume of traffic using this road.

L. Cleary indicated that he had recently discussed this with M. Lahiffe and that it was very important from a tourism point of view that this road was improved. He added that he would follow up with C. Kirby and J. Leahy on the matter.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That the bridge on the Miltown Malbay to the Hand road which was damaged recently following a road traffic accident be repaired”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

Caherogan Bridge on the R474 suffered parapet damage and will be repaired in early 2019.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That the pumping station serving the Clonbony Estate, Miltown Malbay be relocated before it is taken in charge to comply with planning permission granted for this development.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

There are a number of outstanding issues to be addressed in the Taking in Charge of Water and Wastewater infrastructure in Clonbony Estate, Miltown Malbay. The Water Services Section are currently compiling a programme of works to address these issues. The costs associated with these works have yet to be finalised, and the completion of any such works will be subject to the available remaining funding from the bond.

Response Ends

Maria Carey, EE, Water Services

Cllr. Hillery suggested that the proposed taking in charge of this estate be deferred until the pumping station was relocated.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“When will work commence which is included in the 2018 Roadworks Programme on the following,

A. Footpaths in Miltown,

B. Footpath from Miltown to Spanish Point,

C. Resurfacing of Church Street, Miltown Malbay.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

Works to Footpaths in Miltown Malbay/Spanish Point will commence December 3rd. Works to sections of footpaths on the Ballard Road. Resurfacing of Church Street, Miltown Malbay is complete.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Hillery thanked M. Lahiffe for the work that was done to date in Miltown and welcomed the news that footpath works would commence on December 3rd.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

“That Clare Co. Council would provide Public Lighting on the Ballynote Road from the Junction with the N68, three or four lights.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

The provision of public lighting at the junction of the N67 with the Ballynote road would need a lighting design to be carried out and funding sourced for this. Currently funding is not available to carry out this but our Public Lighting section will be consulted to determine if any future funding may be available to complete this work.

Response Ends

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

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

“That Clare Co. Council would seek funding to restore sections of the R483 from Kilrush to Cree.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

The West Clare MD have included for significant paving works along the R483 from Kilrush to Cree during 2019 and 2020 as part of the next 3 Year Roadworks Programme.

Response Ends

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

Cllr. Chambers indicated that there was a stretch of road in Tullabrack that was urgently in need of repair.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

“That the R484 be included in the 2019 Roads Works Programme

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply

The West Clare MD have included for significant paving works along the R484 at Leitrim, Sheeaun and Knockalough as part of the next 3 Year Roadworks Programme. This work is due to commence in 2019.

Response Ends

John O' Malley, A/SEE, West Clare MD

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare Co Council make an application under Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries & Marine (D.A.F.M) Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Programme for works to the outer Pier (Castle) in Carrigaholt. I would suggest that the works should include for the removal of the dilapidated and redundant old ice making plant which detracts greatly from the Wild Atlantic Way scenery and is an eyesore. Also, the pier would benefit with some additional lighting and the replacement of the damaged bollard which is used frequently by the Dolphin Watch boat among others. The access to the pier could also be looked at and whereas I am mindful of the historic and protected nature of the wonderful cobble surface it would also benefit from re-pointing and replacing the missing stone sets, similar to what was carried out in Gleninagh Pier and Liscannor Pier in recent times, subject to approval by the Conservation Officer.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply

Clare County Council will make an application for funding for upgrade works on the Outer Pier at Carrigaholt in 2019 under the Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme. The programme is used to repair, upgrade, and develop piers and harbours around the county. 75% of the funding is provided by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine with 25% to be funded by Clare County Council up to a maximum of €150,000. As the pier is a protected structure all works will require the benefit of a section 57 declaration. The removal of the structure at the end of the pier is a separate issue and there are legal and statutory processes that may be required before it can be removed. However, if the structure is removed the scheme can be used to finance the reinstatement of that area of the pier.

Response Ends

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, Project Management Office

Cllr. Keating emphasized that it would be important to have the old freezer removed to facilitate improvement works at the pier.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare Co Council would provide an update report on the proposal to provide new public toilets in Kilkee and the proposed location of same, as per correspondence and drawings received in April 2017”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

Clare County Council’s Environment section continues to deliver on planned improvements to our public facilities at beaches around the County and in particular at Spanish Point, Lahinch and Kilkee.

High quality facilities were delivered in Spanish Point for the 2018 bathing season, the works included upgrading the existing lifeguard building as well as extending the existing toilets (male, female and disabled) plus the addition of plant and storage rooms.

Clare County Council has just signed a contract with O’Brien Builders and Civil Engineering Contractors Ltd. of Miltown Malbay to provide an extended high quality block of toilets at the current location in Lahinch ahead of the 2019 bathing season. These facilities when completed will include increased toilet capacity (male, female & disabled), storage and plant room as well as a disability access ramp and pedestrian crossing of the promenade.

The third and final project in the current programme involves finalising an appropriate permanent solution for public toilets in Kilkee considering the nature and location of the existing facilities. This project will be progressed in conjunction with appropriate specialist consultants and local stakeholders. It is envisaged that the design development and planning requirements will be completed in 2019 with the current intention of constructing the project ahead of the 2020 bathing season.

Response Ends

William Freney, SEE , Environment

Cllr. Keating welcomed the response.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare Co Council install Driver Feedback signs in the villages of Kilmihil and Carrigaholt in the interest of health and safety.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply

Clar funding will be sought for these locations in 2019 to install Driver feedback signs in both locations. If this is not available alternative sources of funding will be examined.

Response Ends

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

Cllr. Keating indicated that Driver Feedback signs were an effective means of reducing speed.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That necessary improvements be carried out to the Shean Clonakilla road.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

Any necessary improvements to the Shean Clonakilla road will be carried out within resources available.

Response Ends

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

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That urgent repair work be carried out to the short section of the Cranny road which links on to the N68.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

Reply

This section of road is not included in the next 3 year Roadworks Programme but if there are localised repairs that are required this work will be carried out by the West Clare Municipal District.

Response Ends

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

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That a footpath be constructed on the western side of the funeral home in Lisseycasey.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply

The West Clare Municipal District office are aware of the section of footpath in question and are looking at how funding will be generated to carry out this work in 2019 under various grant sources.

Response Ends

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

Cllr. Kelly indicated that lorries were parking here overnight.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the following signage in Milltown Malbay be repositioned for maximum effect:-

- ***Car-parking and Driver Feedback signs on the Ennistymon rd to give adequate notice to motorists on the N67***
- ***Existing Statutory signs for markings at Bank Place for safety of all converging traffic and pedestrians using the junction.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

Reply

Clare County Council will review the positioning of both the Driver Feedback Sign and Parking signs on the Ennistymon Road. Bank Place signage will be referred to Road Design for analysis and comment.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Curtin commended M. Lahiffe for his response.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the Senior Executive Engineer update the Council on the schedule of works and timetable on the watermains replacement in the Milltown Malbay – Mullagh and Doonbeg – Bealaha areas .”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

I wish to respond as follows:

Irish Water is well aware of the on-going issues in the area and has approved funding for the following sections of watermain across the Milltown Malbay and Rockmount areas of County Clare:

- *890m of 110mm OD HPPE Watermain between the Rockmount WTP (located approx. 3.5km northeast of the town of Milltown Malbay) and Rockmount School.*
- *4,386m of 315mm OD HPPE Watermain along the Mullagh Road towards Ballymackea.*
- *230m of 355mm OD HPPE Watermain heading east from Ballymackea towards Doo Lough.*

Following the completion of the procurement/tender stage, the works were awarded to Guerin & Considine Ltd., Liscannor, Co. Clare in January 2018, with the contract being fully executed on Feb. 27th 2018.

It is very disappointing that on the 16th June 2018, the contractor withdrew from this project, citing issues with resources and staff shortages. This resulted in complicated contractual & legal issues needing to be resolved, before an Award Letter could issue to the 2nd placed contractor. The Award Letter has now issued and the contractor has applied for a Road Opening Licence. Allowing time for contract execution, Road Opening Licence approval, and in the absence of the contractor's programme at this stage, it is estimated that works would commence in Q1 2019. Allowing for a 36 week programme works would be complete in Q3 2019.

Design of the reservoir in Rockmount is being progressed. It is intended to submit a planning application to Clare County Council by the end of this year.

N-67 Bealaha

The Contractor (Healy Rae Plant Hire) completed the Phase 1 Works (Site Investigation) in September. They are currently preparing their final design for submission to us prior to a Value Engineering Workshop (VEW) to agree the final price/scope for the upgrade works. It is anticipated that this value engineering meeting will be held in the coming weeks and the Phase 2 works (installation of the new watermain and road resurfacing) will commence in early 2019.

Response Ends

Paul Cremin , Irish Water

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the Senior Executive Engineer update the Council on outstanding road re surfacing and car parking re surfacing for completion in Doonbeg ,Connolly and the Lane Miltown Malbay respectively with the support of 2018 GMA funding.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

The resurfacing work to the car park in Doonbeg will be carried out with the assistance of GMA funding over the coming days by Municipal District Roadworks crew, once they have completed other works that are ongoing currently.

Contractors have been engaged to carry out works in Connolly and on Hills Lane, Miltown Malbay. Resurfacing in Connolly will be carried out before Christmas and the Hills Lane Project will be carried out in January/February 2019.

Response Ends

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

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“While it is important to stop illegal encampments taking place at entrances to our beaches and beauty spots I am calling on the Senior Executive Engineer to put in place permanent structure alternatives to the unsightly rocks and boulders stopping the general public gaining access to the beaches ie Cregg Beach Lahinch on the N67 Miltown Malbay Road.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

It would be preferable if no actions had to be taken at entrances such as Cregg Beach, Lahinch but the reality is that without such actions illegal encampments will continue to occur. The entrance to Cregg Beach is adjacent to a National Secondary Road, therefore it is critically important that illegal encampments do not arise at this location. Whilst boulders were placed at this location, they are placed behind earthen embankments which were seeded at the time. These earthen embankments allow Pedestrian access past them. Clare County Council will commit however to strimming the area during the Summer months. It is also worth noting that Cregg Beach is not a blue flag beach, is not lifeguarded during the Summer months and is not an Amenity that Clare County Council promotes nor maintains.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery indicated that he had hoped that a more aesthetic solution could be found to stop illegal encampments.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“With the hugely increased popularity of the Cliff Walk at the Cliffs of Moher I am asking Clare Co Council to liaise with the CLDC for a progress report on the remedial works which need to be carried out on the walk making it safer for people using the walk.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

Clare County Council will engage with Eoin Hogan, Rural Recreation Officer with Clare Local Development Company and will report back to the Municipal District members at their next meeting

Response Ends

Monica Meehan, SEO, Rural Development

Cllr Nagle & Cllr Slattery indicated that as the CLDC had developed the walk that they were the body responsible for same. They indicated that it was a shame that no improvement works had been carried out. They suggested that there needed to be engagement with landowners to widen the walk. They also suggested that the surface and safety features of the walk needed to be improved. They suggested that L. Cleary engage with the Board of CLDC.

L. Cleary indicated that he would engage with CLDC on the matter. He also acknowledged the huge contribution of the local farmers.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“I am asking the Senior Executive engineer to repair the footpaths on Main Street in Ballyvaughan adjacent to the L’Arco restaurant and also the footpath on the R477 outside O Loughlins pub.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

Clare County Council has recently completed a new footpath on a section of Main St, Ballyvaughan. We have identified further sections of path to be reconstructed in 2019 at various different locations. The two areas mentioned are on the list of works to be carried out in 2019.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE West Clare Municipal District

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

"The Director to give an update on the multi agency meeting in relation to addiction and what steps have been taken to help people in West Clare to deal with current addictions and prevent further addiction"

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

A meeting of all key agencies was convened by the Mid West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum on 9th October and the purpose of the meeting was to discuss interventions for post addiction services in West Clare and in particular pathways for long term recovery and engagement in the community.

The organisations present at the meeting included the Mid West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum, Bushy Park Treatment Centre, the Probation Service, Clare Local Development Company, An Garda Siochana, Bedford Row Clare, Ana Lify Drugs Project Mid West, Clare Youth Service, Clare Sports Partnership, Southill Outreach, West Clare Family Resource Centre, Limerick Clare Education and Training Board, Youthreach and Clare County Council.

Each organisation provided an overview of the work they are involved in and the service being provided. It was felt that the starting point needed to be a recording of the extent of services and interventions currently being delivered. This information would then be the basis for determining the next steps in addressing the issue.

Response Ends

Monica Meehan, SEO, Rural Development

Cllr. Lynch indicated what he was looking for was a 5 Year Plan with short, medium and long term targets within same.

L. Cleary indicated that the LCDC and Clare Co Council were funding a study to map all the services that were there to help deal with those suffering from addiction and to try and develop a model of best practice where all of the agencies would work together in West Clare to address addiction issues.

31. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

"A review of the current areas area behind the new wall adjacent to the car park at the White Strand Doonbeg be undertaken with the view to identifying additional improvement works to enhance the facility, a possible partnership approach with Doonbeg Community Development or Doonbeg Tidy Towns to be investigated to identify a funding stream"

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

The West Clare Municipal District Office will develop this idea of an enhanced area at the White Strand with the Rural Development Section in partnership with Doonbeg Community Development and Doonbeg Tidy Towns. As part of this a plan will be developed to improve the area for visitors and sources of suitable funding applied for to ensure progress.

Response Ends

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

32. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

"That Clare Co Council review the current agreement with electric Ireland on street lighting to make provision for the inclusion of Christmas lighting as part of this agreement"

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

Reply

Christmas lights in Ennis are connected to the ESB through meters.

If Kilrush want to install Christmas lights then these connections to provide electricity to them would have to be done through ESB meters. They cannot be connected in a similar fashion to the public lights which are un-metered connections as per ESB requirements. The Christmas lights would not qualify to be connected in this manner.

Electric Ireland are responsible for metered ESB connections.

Response Ends

Pat Lynch ,EE, Transportation

Cllr. Lynch indicated that he had not specifically mentioned Kilrush in his motion. He said that it was costing more to have the plug for Christmas lights than it was to run the lights for the 6 week period of Christmas and he said that local communities cannot sustain them & he suggested that the recurring charge be abolished.

L. Cleary suggested that there might be some part of the Community Support Grant that might support communities around Christmas lights going forward but he mentioned that there was no Budget Provision for same in 2019.

33. A.O.B.

Cllr. Lynch indicated that he was aggrieved that there was a website and a facebook page set up to promote Christmas in one particular town in the county which was supported by Clare Co Council and not they were not supporting other towns in West Clare.

L. Cleary indicated that the Rural Development Strategy had an initiative to focus on strategic towns in rural areas. He added that it was the intention of the Economic Directorate to move to promote other towns in the county in due course. He added that they commenced with Ennis as it was the county town. He added that

that he had recently met with Kilrush Town Team and he was proposing that a Workshop be held in January with Kilrush Town Team to listen to their presentation on their Kilrush Community Strategy and to consider opportunities for Clare Co Council to work with them as partners locally with the aim of delivering on the 8 targets of the Rural development Strategy.

It was agreed that the GMA be included as a headed item for the January MD meeting.

Cllr. Keating congratulated Miltown Malbay on qualifying for the Munster Club Football final.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed :

Cllr. I Lynch
Cathaoirleach

Signed :

J. Corry
Meetings Administrator

Dated this the 30th day of January 2019.