

# **Minutes of November Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 14th November, 2019 at 4 p.m. in Ennistymon Hub, Ennistymon**

## **Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:**

Cllr. B. Chambers,

## **I Láthair:**

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

## **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  
Ms. C. Greene, SEO, Economic Development  
Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.

Cllr. Chambers proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to defer the commencement of the meeting until 4:15pm. This was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

The meeting commenced at 4:15pm.

L. Cleary welcomed all to the Ennistymon Hub. He acknowledged the team that were involved in the provision of the Multi Service Centre in particular U. McMahon, J. Moylan & A. Andreucetti. He also acknowledged the support from Minister M. Ring's dept that had provided over €1m in funding for the building. He added that the centre included a Digital Hub, a Social Services Centre upstairs, Incubation units, Business Pods, Hot Desks & a hospitality centre. He added that future meetings of the West Clare MD to be held in Ennistymon would be held in the Moher Room. He concluded by saying that Minister Ring would officially open the building in December.

## **1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 3rd Sept 2019**

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

## **Economic Development**

### **2. Section 183 Disposal of Property at Liscannor, Co. Clare**

The disposal of the lands was proposed by Cllr. Talty & seconded by Cllr. Garrihy & agreed. It was proposed that the €20k disposal be used to reinvest in the Liscannor area. C. Greene indicated that she would bring the matter before the December meeting of Clare Co Council for consideration.

### 3. Proposed Lease of Kilkee Dive Centre

C. Greene indicated that there was a proposal to lease the dive centre as it had become vacant. The lease was proposed by Cllr. Keating & seconded by Cllr. Murphy & agreed.

## Social Development

### 4. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

*“That the following Social Housing details within the WCMD be provided:*

- *current housing stock, occupancy rate, size status and plan for unoccupied houses,*
- *number of inspections completed, overview of results of inspections, number of repairs completed, overview of repairs and repair costs.*
- *number of HAP approved properties, number of HAP tenancies, number of HAP inspections, Overview of results of inspection, average rental rate.*
- *number of housing applications, number of HAP applications, number of applicants actually requiring a property (some applicants on housing list are happy in rented accommodation), number of applicants homeless.*

*Could the information be presented in tabular format per location within the WCMD”*

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy

*Reply*

These are property figures for West Clare:

West Clare MDC	Bedroom Size					
		1	2	3	4	5
Total stock owned by LA	862	119	217	493	31	2
Current Vacant	47	7	10	25	4	1
Occupancy rate is	95%					
Leasing / RAS Arrangement	85					
Current Vacant	2					
Occupancy	98%					

There are 36 vacant properties in the West Clare MD, 23 casual vacancies, 3 recent acquisitions and 10 long term voids. The average vacancy period for the casual vacancies is 70 days. There are a number of long term voids in Kilrush which have been vacant for a period however there are two projects namely St Senan’s Terrace and Nagles Terrace which are going to tender (St Senan’s Terrace) and to site (Nagles Terrace) in the coming weeks.

In relation to applications, there are currently 2,698 applicants qualified for social housing support of which 1,365 are HAP accommodated and a further 185 are approved for inclusion on transfer list, some from leasing/RAS arrangements.

All applicants can select 3 areas of preference, all with equal priority, and 798 applicants have included at least one of their areas preference in the West Clare Municipal District.

It is assumed that all qualified applicants are seeking a LA property, and all on HAP have signed applications to be included on our transfer list. We have no measurement or capability of measuring the number happy to remain in their current rented accommodation.

*Response Ends*

Siobhan McNulty, SEO, Social Development (Housing, Culture and Sport/Recreation)

Cllr. Lynch indicated that he required further information but he added that he would follow up directly with Siobhan regarding same. He added that he had received numerous queries from HAP tenants about the condition of the tenancies so as a result he was anxious to get the information regarding HAP tenancies. He said it was a serious problem that persons on the Housing List were being accommodated in such substandard HAP accommodation. He also made reference to property in Nagle Tce which he had recommended at the time that it not be purchased because he was familiar with its condition etc. and now some 5 years later the Council were investing significant funds in refurbishing this property before letting same.

Cllr. Murphy indicated that there were 114 people looking for social housing in Kilkee and there were only 7 houses available. He added that this showed the pressure that the Housing section were under.

Cllr. Lynch indicated that to bring 36 houses up to an adequate standard would cost a lot. He suggested that with continuously improving building standards that it would be useful to find out the average cost of bringing a house up to an adequate standard 5 years ago vs the cost now.

L. Cleary indicated that S. McNulty would be invited to a Briefing of the West Clare MD to address the queries raised.

## **Rural Development**

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

***“Could the Director of Rural Development detail the efforts that have been made for the county and in the West Clare MD to publicize the rates reduction scheme for vacant properties”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty

*Reply*

Clare County Council operate the following incentive schemes to aid commercial rate payers in county Clare:

1. **Early Payment Incentive Scheme**- the purpose of this scheme is to encourage the early payments of commercial rates and also to mitigate the impact of harmonisation adjustments, post 2014, town council elimination, for all rate payers who pay promptly. In respect of Kilrush town this equates to the lower of 12 % of the commercial rate demand to a maximum of €600 and for the wider West Clare MD it equates to the lower of 3% of the commercial rate demand to a maximum of €100.

2. **Vacant Properties** – All properties vacant at the date of the making of the rate and advertised for letting can qualify for a Vacancy Credit where the property remains vacant for the entire year. Information on the scheme and application forms are issued to rate payers on an annual basis. The Account Manager, for a specific area, will engage with the property owner to facilitate the administration of this scheme.
3. **Long Term Vacant Property Scheme** – the purpose of this scheme is to encourage new businesses to occupy commercial premises which were previously occupied and have been vacant for over two years. Relocation from one property to another does not qualify unless the business is expanding and moving to a bigger Unit which has been vacant for two years or more. Occupation of a property of less than one year does not qualify for this scheme. Customers who do satisfy the qualification criteria can avail of:
  - 75% refund of rates, subject to a maximum payment of €3,750, in year 1,
  - 50% refund, subject to a maximum payment of €2,500, in year 2
  - 25% refund, subject to a maximum payment of €1,250, in year 3.

The rates payable on the property must be fully discharged within the year of occupation before any grant is payable.

All three of the above schemes are available throughout county Clare and each scheme was advertised when rates bills were issued having been first approved at Council level. Information on the above is also published on the Clare County Council website.

Staff from the Rates section engage with customers on an ongoing basis and endeavour to raise awareness of incentives available to commercial rate payers.

For example Rates department management met with Mr Jack Kelly, Kilrush Chamber of Commerce, on Wednesday, 4th September 2019, at his request to discuss rates incentives available to help with the growing number of vacant properties in Kilrush. At this meeting the full details of the Long Term Vacancy Scheme were explained to Mr Kelly who was very happy with the terms and the incentives available under this scheme. Mr Kelly was also advised that Rates staff were available in the future if required following discussion Mr Kelly's with the chamber.

#### *Response Ends*

Trina Rynne, Financial Accountant, Clare Co Council

Cllr. Lynch indicated that the response was not what he requested as his query related mainly to what publicity Clare Co Council had used to raise awareness of the rate reduction scheme. He said he was not aware of any publicity surrounding same as the public were not aware of same. He said it was crucial to have such a scheme publicized effectively to bring life back to these towns.

L. Cleary indicated that T. Rynne would be invited to a Briefing of the West Clare MD to address the queries raised once the Budget process was concluded. He agreed that the rate reduction scheme was needed to revitalize town centres. It was suggested that the Briefing would be held before Christmas in Kilrush together with a Briefing on Housing & the GMA & that J. Corry would revert to the Cathaoirleach about finalizing same.

Cllr. Garrihy suggested that a future meeting of the West Clare MD should be held in the recently reopened Community Centre in Miltown Malbay.

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

**“Can I be provided with the exact wording of the changed access policy for new coach tours being implemented at the Cliffs of Moher since the beginning of 2019”**

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

Visitor management, safety management and environmental management measures implemented over the 2019 season have yielded results. The combined measures have had a positive effect on the visitor experience, visitor safety, traffic movements, queuing times etc.

Peak time at the COMVE is 11am-4pm June to August and at the holiday weekends. 2019 efforts to spread activity into the off-peak time stands at 15% moved out of peak times.

There was 1 day in 2019 when the carpark closed for 1 hour due to being full, in 2018 there were 19 days, in 2017, there were 36 days.

**Group Bookings Spread**

8am -11am	29%
11am – 4pm	59%
4pm- Close	12%

2019 measures include

- Capacity Management - limit on number of coaches per time slot
- Advance group booking- 100% group book in advance
- Advance FIT Booking – 11% of all FIT’s book online, 85% book for off peak times
- Dynamic Pricing – off peak pricing and increased pricing for peak time for all customers
- New license criteria – Co. Clare specific conditions
  - (a) *Overnight in Co. Clare*
  - (b) *Visit another fee paying attraction/visitor experience*
  - (c) *Visit outside of peak times*
- Extended Opening hours – Streamlined 8am-9pm June-August
- Advance marketing communications - VMS signage, social media, web
- Increased online digital activity and sales conversion
- Assisted Parking –additional boots on the ground in the carpark and coach park
- Shuttle Service to local towns – Operates 7 days from 8am – 9pm (June-August)
- Carpooling – Staff incentivized to travel to work together
- Traffic Wardens on R478 – safer roads and improved relations with local community
- Deliveries Plan – mandatory for deliveries to come outside peak hours
- Increased focus on wider Co. Clare product marketing onsite and off site

*Response Ends*

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development and West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Murphy sought clarification that the specific conditions for licenced coaches visiting the Cliffs of Moher was that each of the following conditions needed to be satisfied :

- (a) Overnight in Co. Clare*
- (b) Visit another fee paying attraction/visitor experience*
- (c) Visit outside of peak times*

L. Cleary clarified that each of these conditions needed to be satisfied. He further added that there was an accommodation deficit in certain parts of the county for hotel bed nights and that revenue was being lost outside the county as a result of this. He added that the Tourism Strategy, which was presently being finalised together with the Cliffs of Moher Strategy, recognized this fact. L. Cleary indicated that Clare Co Council corporately were pro hotel development. A discussion ensued regarding pitching this need for hotels to hotel developers.

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

***"Following a review of the bus services in place to the Cliffs and the National Park, I call on Clare Co Council to continue to link up and integrate with other service providers, including Clare Bus, and hopefully extend the routes available for 2020 for tourists and locals alike."***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

### *Reply*

Clare County Council will work closely with NPWS and Cliffs of Moher both of whom operate summer shuttle bus services to tourism sites. A review of these services is due before the end of 2019. The national park shuttle bus has been operational for seven years and has been moderately successful although the number of persons using it has not grown in the past three years.

The Council also liaises with Bus Éireann and Clare Bus on their services. There are several opportunities to link up and integrate these services. Clare Bus provide a valuable service to rural communities and its extension would be welcomed. Rural Transport and Tourism are important targets of the Clare Rural Development Strategy and are likely to emerge as part of the imminent new "Clare Tourism Strategy 2020-2030" and "Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040". Setting a service up for the Burren and County Clare as whole would be a big undertaking and probably a financial challenge and would need tourism industry investment in such a service as well as the Council's current investment.

The NTA as the regulator of transport bus stop licenses has a key role in this area and further investment in this inspectorate would benefit sustainable tourism.

### *Response Ends*

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development and West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Killeen suggested that there needed to be an established trail of public transport linking tourist sites to make it easier for tourists to access these sites and that such public transport routes needed to be publicized & promoted.

L. Cleary suggested that this was a great idea. He added that a review would be carried out on the Cliffs of Moher shuttle service at the end of the year and he would update the Members re same.

A discussion then took place regarding the lack of Bus Eireann services to and from Kilkee & Lahinch and it was also indicated that there was no service between Kilkee & Lahinch or to the Shannon Estuary. It was

suggested that these matters be raised with Bus Eireann as well as the fact that the last bus from Limerick to Ennis leaves 5 minutes before the last train.

## **Physical Development**

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

***“That Clare Co Council would take in charge road at Darragh, that intersects with N68 at coordinates E528985, N672115.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

*Reply*

If agreed to consider the taking in charge of this road in accordance with the Roads Taking in Charge Policy, Clare Co Council can commence this process where the intention will be put on public display. A report will subsequently be prepared on the proposal and will come back before the West Clare MD for consideration.

*Response Ends*

John Corry, AO Transportation & Meetings Administrator West Clare MD

It was agreed by the Members to commence the process of advertising the intention to take in charge this road.

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

***“That Clare Co Council provide a Pedestrian Crossing on the N85 from “Good House” to the car park across the N85.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

I have engaged with Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to the proposed provision of a crossing at Inagh Village. They seek Pedestrian Counts which if falling within certain parameters would render the proposal viable. I believe that the numbers needed to make the proposal viable will not be evident in Inagh. That said, if Clare County Council were to fund the project from another stream ie CLAR or similar, the same justification would not be necessary.

We will carry out the survey in high tourist season 2020 & liaise subsequently with TII in relation to a funding stream for this work. However, very limited numbers of Pedestrian Crossings have been funded in the recent past.

As the crossing would be on the National Road, the design is subject to passing the Road Safety Audit process.

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

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

***“That Clare Co Council construct a footpath from the graveyard to the Star of the Sea church, Quilty.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

*Reply*

This footpath would encroach on private property on into areas used to park private vehicles. There is not enough available space to build a footpath outside the parking area. Building a footpath across the road would not be wise as it would introduce two additional crossings of the road.

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

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

***“That the Physical and Rural Directorates would update the members of the West Clare MD in relation to planned, approved and on hold coastal protection works within the West Clare MD and what the joined up strategy of both Directorates is to protect our coastal, farm, business, environment and communities.***

***I would ask that they include an overview of any restrictions that may apply to farmers where lands are zoned as SAC.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Garvey.

*Reply*

The Office of Public Works is the lead state body for the coordination and implementation of Government Policy on the management of flood risk in Ireland. To that end they have responsibility for the implementation of the EU Directive on Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC) which was transposed into law by the EU(Assessment and Management of Flood Risks)Regulations SI 122 OF 2010. The Catchment based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAMS) Programme was designed to meet the requirements of the EU Flood Directive. It identified communities around the country including Clare at risk from flooding and carried out a detailed engineering assessment of each location. Flood Risk maps were produced and a flood risk management plan identifying preferred options. It also included non structural measures like public awareness and preparedness, flood forecasting and warning and flood emergency response. OPW also carried out the Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study in 2013 which provides strategic information about current and future erosion rates and flooding around the coastline. All this information has been used by Clare County Council and incorporated into the Development Plan which sets out our Planning Policy. Clare County Council also updated the members monthly on progress of the various schemes around the County.

CFRAMS Schemes

**Shannon Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme.** This scheme is estimated at €20m and is currently going to tender for the appointment of Consultants

**Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme** Consultants Appointed

**Kilrush Flood Relief Scheme** €125K Tender documents being prepared.

**Bunratty and Springfield (Clonlara)**are also included in these works

Following the storms of 2014 a number of repairs were carried out to coastal Infrastructure at 43 sites across the county but mostly located in the WCMD. They included Kilbaha, Rineville, Kilkee, Lahinch, Quilty, Whitestrand Miltown Malbay, Spanish Point, Cappagh, Carrowdotia, Doonmore Doonbeg, Cloughaninchy and many more. Works were also carried out on Piers at Liscannor, Ballyvaughan, Doolin and New Quay. A total of €19.1m was invested in repairs.

For locations where repair works were not enough to protect the area the OPW agreed to carry out Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Studies. The purpose of the studies is to identify solutions that were technically, environmentally and economically viable. Only if a solution is identified that meets the criteria will it advance to detailed design and planning. These schemes and their current status are as follows

**Kilbaha** Completed but further investigations were requested on the study by OPW

**Mal Bay** Spanish Point element has moved to a minor works application. Decision on funding pending. White Strand Miltown Malbay Has also moved to a minor works application. Application submitted for funding to go to detailed design and planning. Decision pending. Quilty. Additional information required from the OPW. Further sediment transportation modelling to be incorporated into report.

**Flaggy Shore and Aughinish Island** Study completed. No economic option identified.

**Doolin** Study completed and sent to OPW.

**Cloughaninchy** Study completed. Scheme identified but proved difficult to implement. Alternative scheme being considered at the moment.

**Liscannor Bay** Study completed. Additional information requested from OPW with regard to cost benefit assessment and erosion rates. Being amended by Consultants at present.

Most Coastal Protection Schemes are done under the OPW coastal erosion and flooding minor works scheme. Currently we have a scheme commencing at Aughinish Island,

We have a number of minor flood relief schemes:

**Ballycorick, Ballynacally** Construction commencing in the new year.

**Miltown Malbay** Planning received. Application with OPW for section 50 and funding.

**Ballyvaughan** FRS At Design stage.

A meeting has been arranged with regard to Lough Donnell involving all the statutory authorities with an interest in the scheme. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Clare County Council and Fisheries Ireland. Clare County Council propose to restore the culvert that provided connectivity between Lough Donnell and the sea. The area is a very sensitive coastal lagoon habitat (Annex 1 habitat), a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area. We are hopeful of progress. There are still a large number of smaller repair projects on the Shannon Estuary that we are hoping to progress. The rich habitat the Shannon Estuary provides is proving challenging.

I have only included schemes that are relevant to the WCMD in this report and other schemes are taking place in other parts of the county.

Clare County Council continue to invest in coastal protection and flood Risk management through the various multi annual programme of capital investment in flood relief schemes delivered by the OPW. New and innovative measures like managed realignment and individual property protection are being considered along with the tried and trusted. It is not possible to protect the entire coastline and difficult decisions will have to be made where it doesn't make economic sense to spend public funding for little return.

*Response Ends*

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE , Project Management Office

Cllr. Lynch acknowledged the work that was being done by S. Lahiffe. He said that it would be very useful if a colour co-ordinated map of the West Clare coast could be produced showing the areas where funding was applied for in respect of coastal protection works, areas where funding was approved, areas where works carried out etc. He also suggested that he was looking for a more strategic response from Clare Co Council as to how the West Clare coast could be protected.

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

***“That Clare Co Council would provide Driver Feedback Display signs at Ballycorruck and at Carrigaholt.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

*Reply*

Driver feedback lights can be provided in Carrigaholt with the assistance of the Councillor. The signs requested in Ballycorruck are in an 80km/hr speed limit area. Alternative speed safety signage is being considered for this location, with the supplier contacted and a site meeting arranged to agree the most appropriate solution.

*Response Ends*

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

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

***“To ask Clare Co Council to provide additional laybys on the N68 in view of the extra speed limits in place.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

The Road Design Office was made aware of this proposal and subsequently contacted the TII Regional Road Safety Engineer to ask if similar schemes had been implemented elsewhere. We were informed that a scheme will be considered if we prepare a Feasibility Report based on overtaking type collisions along the route. Accident data would have to be checked. The route would have to be examined to check for possible locations where adequate length, width and visibility would be available which would not impact on the visibility splays of adjacent junctions.

The Road Design Office has placed the project on the work list and will progress it when resources allow.

*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design

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

***“To provide an update on the provision of new Public Toilets for Kilkee.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

*Reply*

Clare County Council is researching a range of property options to improve the delivery of this service in Kilkee. Negotiations are at an advanced stage, but not yet finalised. When the most beneficial property is secured, the Property Unit will lead the project with input from Environment Department and West Clare Municipal District Office. The Council will brief Elected Members shortly. It is acknowledged that this service is urgent to meet visitor needs.

*Response Ends*

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development and West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Keating emphasised the importance of these toilets. Cllr. Murphy indicated that the right location was critical to the provision of public toilets.

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

***“That a report be made available indicating how the Council intends to improve the open space green areas at Cluain Ard and Cluain Iseal, Kilmaley.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

This estate was taken in charge by Clare County Council in early 2018 and all available Bond Monies were spent on priority works within the development. Any further maintenance or improvement works to the open space and green areas in estates such as this that are taken in charge, are generally for the residents to maintain with the assistance of community grants etc.

*Response Ends*

John Corry, AO Transportation & Meetings Administrator West Clare MD

Cllr. Kelly indicated that there was an onus on the Council to assist.

L. Cleary suggested that a meeting be arranged with N. Wiley Rural Development Officer to discuss options surrounding community grants.

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

***“That the link road at Ballycorick linking R473 and L-2148be brought up to an acceptable level of repair.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

*Reply*

Maintenance work will be carried out on this section of road.

*Response Ends*

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

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

***“That indication be given as to when proposed works on the road immediately east of Connolly village will take place.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

A tender has been accepted for this 300m length of roadway in Connolly. This represents the final piece of reinstatement works post Windfarm construction. Drainage works were also undertaken in late Summer. Clare County Council is engaging with a number of Windfarm Developers in respect of their responsibilities to meet conditions stated in their Planning Permissions and in particular their responsibilities regarding the part financing of reinstatement works which arose as a result of building the Windfarms. Subject to a satisfactory outcome in this regard, works will then commence.

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe , A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

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

***“That the West Clare MD would begin the process of taking in charge the car park to the rear of Smiths Gardens, Kilkee, Co Clare”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

If agreed to consider the taking in charge of this road in accordance with the Roads Taking in Charge Policy, Clare Co Council can commence this process where the intention will be put on public display. A report will subsequently be prepared on the proposal and will come back before the West Clare MD for consideration.

*Response Ends*

John Corry, AO Transportation & Meetings Administrator West Clare MD

It was agreed to commence this process.

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

***"We call on Clare Co Council to remove and renew the sod margin at the narrowest sections of the Ruan/Corofin road and cut back the protruding sections of hedging in the interest of health and safety."***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

*Reply*

The Ruan to Corofin Road is approximately 5km in length and consists of the Road Sections L-4162 (4km) and the L-1098 (1km). Whilst the Ruan to Corofin Road is within the West Clare Municipal District, 4km of the total of 5km are managed via the Killaloe Electoral Area until January 2020.

Hedgecutting did occur on the majority of the road within the North Clare Engineering area in September 2019. I am also satisfied regarding road widths in general along this 1km section of road.

We will also review the management of the Ruan to Corofin Road in terms of our hedgecutting policy and also drainage when the road falls under the Municipal Districts remit in 2020.

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE , West Clare Municipal District

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

***"That the Ballycashan Road (Kilnaboy) be included in the Roadworks Programme for strengthening and sealing and that routine repairs be carried out in the meantime."***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

*Reply*

Repairs will be carried out to the Ballycashan Road Kilnaboy (L-5260) . This road is not currently on the Schedule of Municipal District Works but will be considered for future programmes.

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE , West Clare Municipal District

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

***"I request that Clare County Council take in charge a road in Carnane Doolin off the R479 at 53.0074399, -9.3506326"***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

*Reply*

This road does not meet the requirements of the Councils Taking In Charge Policy. Funding is available through the Local Improvement Scheme should the locals seek to be considered for an upgrade to the road.

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE , West Clare Municipal District

Following a discussion it was agreed that Clare Co Council would advertise the intention to take in charge this road and subsequently a detailed report would be prepared on the proposal to take in charge which would be further considered by the MD at a future meeting.

**22. AOB**

It was agreed that the Briefings on Housing, Rates Incentive Scheme & GMA should take place the West Clare MD offices in Kilrush on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec at 2pm

It was further agreed that the January meeting of the West Clare MD would take place at 4pm on 14<sup>th</sup> January in the West Clare MD offices in Kilrush.

The Cathaoirleach wished everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Health and Happy New Year.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed :**

**Cllr. B Chambers**

**Cathaoirleach**

**Signed :**

**J. Corry**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Dated this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020.**