

**Minutes of West Clare Municipal District Meeting Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 at 4pm  
in Council Chamber, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare**

**Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:**

**Cllr. Joe Garrihy**

**I Láthair:**

Cllr. Susan Crawford, Cllr. Shane Talty, Cllr. Gabriel Keating, Cllr. Joe Killeen, Cllr. Ian Lynch, Cllr. Cillian Murphy, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. Bill Chambers.

**Officials present:**

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Area Co-Coordinator & Director of Service

Mr. John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer & Meetings Administrator, West Clare Municipal District

Ms. Siobhán McNulty, SEO, Housing

Mr. Adrian Headd, SEE, Housing

Mr. Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. Enda MacNamara, SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. Steve Lahiffe, Senior Staff Officer, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Garrihy convened the Meeting.

At the outset Cllr. Gabriel Keating proposed a vote of sympathy for former councillor Mr. Cyril Nagle and agreed by all.

1. Minutes of September meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.  
Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Chambers & seconded by Cllr. Keating & agreed.
2. Minutes of Special Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020.  
Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Talty & seconded by Cllr. Garrihy & agreed.
3. Proposed Taking in Charge of Road at Smith's Gardens Kilkee – report attached  
The Motion was proposed by Cllr. Murphy & seconded by Cllr. Keating & agreed.
4. Update on Housing Developments in Doonbeg – Adrian Headd, SEE, Housing

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

**5. Notice of motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:**

That the West Clare MD partner with the Kilkee Sustainable Energy Community, and undertake the necessary steps with any other relevant authorities, to create a small 1MW community owned solar farm at the former Kilkee Town dump at Lisdeen.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

**John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD, replies as follows:**

The West Clare Municipal District recently setup as a Sustainable Energy Community in order to localise the benefits of the Energy Transition in the West Clare MD and add value to existing SECs. This occurred following numerous engagements with the

SEAI, Community Power and our local representatives. The West Clare MD have had initial discussions around the possible use of the site in Lisdeen as a start-up SEC project within the MD and are willing to partner with the Kilkee Sustainable Energy Community to further investigate and progress this project with the relevant authorities to determine its viability.

**6. Notice of motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:**

That CCC engage with the county walks Officer, Failte Ireland, the NPWS and most importantly, the landowners at Loop Head, to complete the considerable work previously undertaken on a coastal pathway by Loop Head Tourism.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

**John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD, replies as follows:**

Initial discussions have taken place around the coastal pathway in house between the West Clare MD, Rural and Tourism Departments. It is accepted that a lot of work has been carried out previously around this proposal and Clare County Council through the West Clare MD and Tourism section plan to progress to the next stage in the coming weeks. It is planned to engage with the NPWS, Failte Ireland and the County's Rural Recreation Officer as part of this process to ensure a properly planned project is set out. The local landowners will have a major role to play in this and they will be contacted at the earliest stage once the vision for the route is agreed between Council departments.

**7. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:**

A plan would be drawn up to develop commercial activity at Cahercon Pier.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

**Helen Quinn, A/Senior Planner, West Clare MD, replies as follows:**

The *Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary* (Vol 7 of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied) is a land and marine-based plan which was initially launched in late 2013 by a multi-agency steering group comprising Clare County Council and member organisations from throughout the wider region.

During the preparation of the SIFP land-use, infrastructural, energy, areas of deep water and environmental considerations along the estuary were examined and resulted in the identification of lands at six sites across the estuary which have been zoned for marine-related industry in Regional and Local statutory plans. These sites include the deep-water areas at Moneypoint and Innismurry / Cahiracon in Co Clare.

The economic development objectives for this site within the Clare County Development Plan, seeks to encourage the sustainable growth, development and appropriate diversification of this Strategic Development Location (SDL) for Marine Related Industry.

In 2017 Clare County Council secured Enterprise Ireland funding and commenced a feasibility study in relation to the potential development of the site at Cahiracon including the pier.

The feasibility study established what projects might have commercial viability at this location in the medium to long term. For example within the renewable sector projects such as tidal energy, offshore wind or off shore wave energy all have potential for utilising such a site in terms of research and development, servicing and/or monitoring. The availability of the pier and deep waters at this location were central in the development of this plan. Gkinetic are currently in the final stages of seeking approval for the testing of 2 tidal energy devices in Cahiracon in line with the findings of the feasibility study which, if successful, could lead to a number of jobs locally through the provision of training on the utilisation of such devices to a global market.

It is clear that the existing plan-led approach to the preparation of the SIFP, its incorporation as a key economic objective in the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and our subsequent and sustained marketing and promotion of the estuary together with the drive and commitment shown by all stakeholders in County Clare to the Shannon Estuary has us ideally positioned to capitalise on any opportunities for marine and port related industry in County Clare and in particular at Cahiracon pier.

In this regard it is not considered necessary that any further plans be commissioned at this point in time with regard to potential commercial activity at Cahiracon Pier.

**8. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:**

To request the Directorate of Rural Development and Economic Development & Planning to pay a site visit to Coláiste Uí Comhrai Carrigaholt to examine the possibility of developing the Coláiste as a multi-purpose centre and in addition to the Residential Summer Course for students to include education and skills apprenticeships, languages, tourism cultural and sports facilities i.e. swimming water polo, kayaking and tennis by taking this direction it would provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to come on board. Funding to refurbish to Coláiste to be sought through various government departments. The Coláiste should then remain open all year round with the potential to create 41 Jobs.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

**John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD, replies as follows:**

A site visit took place on 15<sup>th</sup> October following the Councillors request with Directors of Rural Development and Economic Development along with other staff from Rural Development and myself in attendance. This was a very worthwhile visit and a lot of information was passed over in relation to the Irish college and the various facilities that are available. The potential for the site was visible to all present and the Director of Economic Development is working on the next step in this potential project. The Rural Development Directorate and West Clare MD will be working closely with him on this project into the future where it is hoped that funding will be available through the relevant Government Departments to realise the potential of the site.

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

Can the Director of Service provide a report on the works to upgrade the 2 KM stretch of Cliff walk either side of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience Centre. Also, can you commit to a regular programme of maintenance for this renewed stretch of the walk?

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

**Leonard Cleary, Director of Service, Rural Development & West Clare MD replies as follows:**

Clare County Council owns and operates the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre and has invested its own generated resources in the visitor experience and services. In 2019, it attracted 1.6m visitors and is a national iconic tourism product. In 2020, visitor numbers were impacted in a major way due to Covid 19 as experienced by the entire tourism sector. A path to recovery is planned. Over the past two years, the Council has brought together a subsidiary expert Board to advise on strategic direction and policy. Members of the Cliffs of Moher Centre Ltd. are drawn from sectors including business, tourism industry, statutory bodies, Elected Members, Executive and the community. The Board is chaired by Mr. Bobby Kerr. A Cliffs of Moher 2040 Strategy - co-funded by Fáilte Ireland and Clare County Council - is currently being researched to guide the strategic direction over the coming decades.

With specific reference to this motion, along the 2km stretch of the Coastal Walk where the Visitor Centre is located the need for some repairs and upgrade was identified. This followed some preliminary discussions with IFA/landowners, CLDC, Fáilte Ireland and the Council about this need. This investment was viewed as important to the national tourism product. In response, the Council has recently invested its own resources of €500,000 (*including surveys, design & construction*) on a once-off basis into the repair of the coastal walk in this 2km zone adjacent to the visitor centre. This followed very positive discussions with local landowners and the IFA. Attached please find the images of ‘before’ and ‘after’ the repairs. These repairs provide a useful demonstration project for the need for further investment in the full Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk. It is the intention of the Council to explore a model to provide a regular programme of maintenance for this renewed 2km stretch. There is of course a longer stretch north and south of this 2km stretch worthy of consideration also.

Clare County Council would welcome the opportunity to have a round-table open discussion with key stake-holders involved in the full stretch of the Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk including Government Department, landowners representative/IFA, Fáilte Ireland, Clare County Council, Cliffs of Moher Centre Ltd., CLDC (*Clare Local Development Company*). At present a number of discussions are occurring locally by one to one engagement. However a broader discussion is needed. The following context outlines the need for such an inclusive discussion.

- There is a need for the Government National Walking Trails Scheme to be re-configured to facilitate greater investment in walking trails of this entirely larger scale of a national iconic tourism product. The National Walking Trails Scheme finishes in December 2020 and a consultation process on a new National Scheme is underway.

- The Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk differs substantially from smaller local walking trails in villages and towns led by local voluntary groups and needs a different model. There is a need to continue the Rural Recreation Walks work programme in the many emerging walking trails in local towns and villages. The current model, led by CLDC, has strong local knowledge and experience in this area. It can be supported by various stakeholders and organisations including Clare County Council.
- There is an appetite amongst stakeholders in Clare for a new model to invest in repairs along the full Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk. This needs National Government support due to the scale of the investment required.
- At the recent September 2020 Board meeting of the Cliffs of Moher Centre Ltd, this expert group raised their concern about the need to explore a new model on the future operation of the full Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk. It was acknowledged that due to the numbers of visitors overflowing from the Visitor Centre onto the 2km stretch that there is a difference between that 2km stretch and the different standard needed for what is described as a more rough terrain of the remaining walk. This new model would require considerable discussion across a number of organisations, agencies, with landowners and community.
- At the September 2020 meeting of Clare County Council, the Elected Members proposed that the Council would lead the Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk going forward and keep communication channels open with CLDC, as the current operators of the walk up to the end of 2020, while the new model is being explored together by all parties.

They say “a picture tells a thousand words”. The attached images of the repaired 2km stretch of the coastal walk presents a vision for repairs along a 2km stretch. The Council is very satisfied with the excellent work of the contractor Guerin & Considine and wishes to thank the local landowners for their cooperation and support for access to undertake the repairs. As above, the key to the future of the full Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk is a round-table open discussion with all key stake-holders.

**10 Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty, Cllr. Joe Killeen & Cllr. Susan Crawford:**

We call for an immediate full reinstatement of over the counter Motor Taxation services at the Ennistymon Area Office. This service should be returned to the level of service available at the beginning of 2020.

**Fiona Mooney, Administrative Officer, West Clare MD, replies as follows:**

See attached PDF document reply from Ms. Mooney.

**11. Notice of motion from Cllr. Joe Garrihy & Cllr Joe Killeen**

I call on West Clare MD to assign a mobile Park/Beach ranger resource to deal with the negative impacts and upsurge in wild camping and visitors to the west and north Clare area at high season and to implement bylaws and protective barriers where necessary to discouraging wild camping, parking and vehicular access to precious and sensitive environments in our MD such as Fanore, Ballyreen, the Burren national park area and west coast seaside locations.

**John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD, replies as follows:**

The West Clare MD are working with our Human Resources department to ensure that resources are assigned to the areas in the MD that require attention. I am working with the UNESCO Burren Geopark staff in identifying the best method of protecting facilities contained in the Geopark area. There are also plans in place that there will be a designated crew to deal with these type of issues at our beach locations and other sensitive locations in the area from next year. This will include for the introduction of Bye Laws where necessary to deal with parking and other issues such as wild camping. An educational programme is required also in relation to how people who visit these sensitive locations are informed and the West Clare MD will work with the Geopark and Environmental Awareness Officer in this regard.

**12. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Garrihy**

I call on West Clare MD to hold specific engagement with elected members over the period of County Development Plan with regard to specific issues relevant to our MD with particular reference to the recently agreed strategic plan for the MD. In light of dereliction issues and many of our towns and villages dying slowly a very significant focus and resource allocation to reverse is necessary – focused engagement in context of the county development plan is a critical opportunity for this to begin.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

**Helen Quinn, A/Senior Planner replies as follows:**

The preparation of the Clare County Development plan 2022-2028 commenced on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and the public consultation stage associated with this commencement runs until 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Members of the public, elected members and the Local Authority itself are invited to make submissions on the plan. To date 5 workshops with the elected members have taken place with the Planning Authority. It is intended that additional workshops will take place in February 2021 following the circulation of the first Chief Executives Report (late December 2020) and in advance of the March 2021 County Council Meeting. Additional workshops will be facilitated throughout the plan making process at key stages where the elected members across the county will have an opportunity to input into the development of key policies on issues such as addressing dereliction in our towns and villages. However, should the West Clare MD require any additional assistance or workshops with the elected members throughout the two year plan making process over and above those planned, staff from the Planning Department will be available to facilitate and assist as required.

**13. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Garrihy**

The West Clare MD establish a strategic project development working group to identify, prioritise and resource the development of key projects from our Strategic Plan to aligning with Ireland 2040 objectives and funding programs such as RRDF, T&V Renewal , Large Scale Sports Capital ect.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

**Leonard Cleary, Director of Service, Rural Development & West Clare MD replies as follows:**

In recent months the Elected Members of West Clare MD researched, prepared and adopted a “Plan of Priority Strategic Projects for the West Clare Municipal District”. This followed a series of workshops involving the Executive and Elected Members at a strategic level. This Plan is a policy statement of priorities and vision. Following its adoption the Executive team of staff have been progressing aspects of the different projects to align with National Government funding opportunities. There is currently a number of senior staff from various departments collaborating to progress these projects. The approach envisaged to-date is that the Executive would brief the Elected Members on key milestones achieved through this collaboration of staff.. My view is that there is a clear role for the Elected Members and function in defining policy (the M.D. Plan) and re-shaping it as the social economic environment changes. I would also see a clear role for the Executive function in implementing policy (the M.D. Plan) once agreed.

I am hearing clearly in the motion an appetite for involvement of Elected Members in discussions, as appropriate. While the Municipal District comprises nine Elected Members and an Executive Team, which is the largest MD in the county, I view the Municipal District Committee and Executive as a Working Group similar to that proposed in the Motion. It is important to keep all nine Elected Members equally involved in this Plan and programme. A sub-committee could result in the exclusion of some Elected Members. On a related point, there are a series of structures and procedures already established and in place to achieve prioritisation and distribution of project grant applications across the four Municipal Districts. At any point, our M.D. Committee and Executive can go into workshop mode for the tasks proposed in this motion. Therein, may lie a solution.

*An example of the current Rural Development grant opportunities /projects may be useful:*

*There is a comprehensive process already established to engage with Management Team, Elected Members, MD offices etc for scoping of priority projects. This is a wide net for the whole county. Directors of Service are asked to reflect Elected Members local views on projects for a Management Team discussions on direction. This preliminary step takes account of Councillors proposals, community proposals and various strategies. Then the process continues with staff analysis of how shovel-ready projects actually are. Many projects are not shovel-ready and thus need more work before prioritisation for grants. Before submitting, there are a series of cross-Directorate engagements to analyse projects.*

*At a political level, the Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Development is appointed by the full Council (with 2 reps from each MD including West Clare MD). It has a key role in balancing the spread of all grant projects across the county. Finance Department has a role in financial analysis. Management Team has a key role in decision making as have the full Council in adopting their recommendations.*

As above, the solution may be in occasional moving of the Municipal District to ‘Workshop Mode’.

## **Physical Development**

**14. Notice of motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:**

That Clare County Council undertake an assessment of what range of low cost safety measures are available and could be delivered at the “Creamery Cross” on the R483 to reduce traffic speeds through this junction, to make it more pedestrian friendly and to determine the implementation costs and timeframes for delivery.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

**Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush area) replies as follows:**

The West Clare MD (Kilrush) hopes to carry out some works to improve pedestrian access at this junction in the near future. The operation of this junction – from a traffic safety perspective - may then be reviewed once these works are complete.

Applications for funding for low cost safety improvement works on regional and local roads (*to be completed during 2021*) have already been submitted to the DTTaS. However should further works be required at this junction, it may be possible to include it as a “standby” project. It is also possible that funding for traffic calming measures will be available from the DTTaS Active Travel measures scheme in 2021.

**15. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Bill Chambers:**

That Clare County Council would provide ramps at Labasheeda Village in an effort to slow down traffic.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

**Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush area) replies as follows:**

While traffic-calming measures would be beneficial in Labasheeda village, speed ramps may not be the most appropriate measure.

Funding for traffic calming measures may be made available by the DTTaS Active Travel measures scheme in 2021. The 2020 scheme made specific mention of funding for “*improved crossing facilities in towns and villages including raised surfaces, zebra crossings and signalised crossings*”.

Should funding become available an application to install one of the listed measures can be made.

**16. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Bill Chambers:**

That Clare County Council would do some hedge cutting in the Lisadeen Road in Kilmurry McMahon.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

**Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush area) replies as follows:**

We would encourage local landowners to avail of the Community Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme. This scheme encourages a joint approach with communities, groups of local residents and landowners for the cutting of hedges & trees which need attention. The scheme provides a grant of €50 per km of roadside hedge and overhanging trees (*which are then attended to by the affected landowners*).

If the protruding hedgerows and overhanging branches are causing a road safety issue, Clare County Council may provide additional assistance.

**17. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Bill Chambers:**

That Clare County Council provide street lighting at Nora Malone's House in the Coast Road, Labasheeda, Co.Clare.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

**Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush area) replies as follows:**

This Notice of Motion is requesting that the current street lighting is extended along the R473 towards Killadysert. Clare County Council will examine the location to ensure that erecting an additional streetlight does not compromise traffic safety. If it is safe to do so, an additional street light will be provided, as requested.

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

That Clare County Council would take in charge Cappa Drive Upper, Kilrush.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

**Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer, Planning Department replies as follows:**

Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 sets out the statutory process in order to take housing developments in charge. Subject to certain conditions as outlined in the Act, the Council can initiate the process in two circumstances :-

- (1) If it receives a request from the developer,
- or
- (2) If it receives a request from the majority of the owners of the houses of the development

The Taking in Charge Team has very little information on Cappa Drive Upper, Kilrush but if we receive a request under Section 180, a more detailed assessment of the development can take place.

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

That Irish Water would provide details of what works have been completed, what works and/or acquisitions are now remaining, with detailed timelines to complete the enhancement of the Kilrush Town Sewerage works.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

**Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Water & Environment replies as follows**

Irish Water have advised that it has acquired the land required and planning permission has been granted for the new wastewater treatment plant in Kilrush and expects to commence works in 2021. I have sought further information and will revert once received.

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

That a detailed listing of all funds allocated for footpath works in Kiltrush Town is provided, alongside details and costing of works completed for the years 2014 to 2020.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

**Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kiltrush area) replies as follows:**

Cost of Works completed in Kiltrush - January 2015 to October 2020				
Account Job	Job(T)	Period outstanding commitment	EURO	Committed
22703093	2016 M88 OVERLAY ENNIS ROAD KILRUSH (INCLUDES FOOTPATHS)	0.00	28,856.85	28,856.85
23215	BACK ROAD CARPARK KILRUSH	0.00	14,499.59	14,499.59
24503003	DISCRETIONARY MAINTENANCE KILRUSH AREA	595.62	180,005.21	180,005.21
28803015	WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - South (GMA)	595.62	91,210.52	91,210.52
28803022	2018 IPB PUBLIC LIABILITY WORKS KILRUSH	595.62	97,831.02	97,831.02
		1,786.86	412,403.19	412,403.19

Please see Agresso printout above from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 to present day (*Town councils were abolished in 2014 & so records are only available for July – December 2014*)

The above expenditure relates to the Kiltrush LEA – and not just Kiltrush Town. I would like to note that only a portion of GMA will have been spent on footpath works. It is difficult to obtain records relating specifically to Footpath works in Kiltrush town. Agresso records expenditure in the LEA – rather than in one specific area.

The West Clare MD will have carried out other footpath works, which are not recorded above. For example, footpaths which were built or repaired simultaneously with a road resurfacing project.

At present, as part of the Governments active Travel measures, a new footpath / cycleway is under construction in Vandeleur Gardens and parts of the existing footpath / cycleway are being upgraded. Total cost of this project is in excess of €120,000.

Approx. 100 linear metres of footpath on Lower Moore Street will be relaid as part of this year's Schedule of Municipal District Works – at an approx. cost of €20,000.

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

That the embankment on the upstream side of the bridge on the R473 immediately west of Kildysert Village be raised in order to prevent flooding to two adjacent houses.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

**Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District (Kiltrush area) replies as follows:**

The embankment in question is located between the river and a private roadway. The OPW are the government department who have responsibility for funding minor works flood relief scheme projects, and fund a number of small flood relief schemes in County Clare.

I will bring this Notice of Motion to the attention of Mr. Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, of our Capital Projects Management Office to see if this area is suitable for a minor works scheme. If it is suitable, an application can be made to the OPW for inclusion in the relevant minor works scheme.

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

That Transport Infrastructure Ireland is requested to reduce the speed limit on N68 from 80km to 60KM on the approaches to Carrowreagh National School.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

**John Corry, Administrative Officer, Transportation replies as follows:**

I have taken on board the observations of the Councillor & will bring to the attention of the TII as part of the next Speed Limit review.

**23. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:**

That Clare County Council re-surface the road from Labasheeda to Kilkerrin so that it may be used by all (visitors & locals alike) and also to promote the Kilkerrin Napoleonic Battery: this important monument on the shores of the Shannon Estuary, which was accepted into the Heritage Council's "Adopt a Monument Scheme" 2019. It also form part of a national cycling trail with the routes having being mapped and agreed with the Rural Recreation Officer, to capitalise on the tourism potential of the area and are currently in the process of securing funding way making interpretive signage and a brochure to enhance the routes. Signatures of residents and landowners have been obtained on a petition signed by 42 persons, together with a letter of support from "Adopt a Monument Scheme" addressed to Clare County Council on 28/08/2020.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

**Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush area) replies as follows:**

Kilkerrin Napoleonic Battery is located at Kilkerrin point and access from Labasheeda is via the L-2064 and the L-6293. The aggregate length of both roads is approximately 7 kilometres. Generally, the road surface is in good condition, but the roads (& particularly the L-6293) are narrow.

Measures in addition to resurfacing may be required (*provision of lay-bys, widening the narrowest parts of the road or other measures*) to ensure that the road is safe for all road users – pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles – to use simultaneously.

Both roads can be considered for inclusion in the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works when the schedule is being prepared.

**24. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:**

That an assessment be carried out on the Rahona river from Bella to Carrigaholt in order to alleviate the continuous flooding in the area.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

**Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush area) replies as follows:**

The West Clare MD do not have the resources available to complete an assessment of the hydrology of large surface water courses and / or rivers.

I will bring this Notice of Motion to the attention of Mr. Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, of our Capital Projects Management Office to see if the requested assessment might be funded by the OPW.

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

Can we have a report on the status of the new footpath & wall from Lahinch to Liscannon? Works there have been stalled for a number of years.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

**Steve Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Capital Projects replies as follows:**

Following a decision by An Bord Pleanala Clare County Council applied for substitute consent for the road improvement scheme at Ballyellery, Liscannon. An Bord Pleanala in its decision, granted permission for the works that have been completed to date but did not grant permission for the completion of the outstanding works. Clare County Council is currently consulting with our legal advisors to understand the implications of the decision of An Bord Pleanala if any and will decide on the appropriate course of action to progress the works following legal advice.

**26. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen**

Propose the taking in charge by Clare County Council of a road at Abbey West Belharbour Co Clare.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

**John Corry, Administrative Officer, Transportation replies as follows:**

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 proposals and will come back before the West Clare MD for consideration.

**27. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen**

Call on Clare County Council to provide an update on flood management in Belharbour.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

**Steve Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Capital Projects replies as follows:**

The N67 and a number of houses at Mortyclogh, Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare are liable to flooding with the public road having to be closed and detours put in place regularly. The N67 is a National Secondary Route and is the responsibility of Transport

Infrastructure Ireland. The source of flooding is from the Ballyvelaghan Lough and the local groundwater table. Ballyvelaghan Lough is considered to be a turlough which virtually dries out except for a small section of permanent lake each summer and which generally peaks gradually in the winter flood period coinciding with the elevated groundwater table. This Lough is generally found to be slow to rise and slow to recede. Ballyvelaghan Lough is a turlough and is an Annex I priority habitat is part of the Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268).

Following representations from public representatives, Clare County Council engaged Hydro Environmental Ltd to carry out a feasibility study in 2016. Two possible solutions were identified. We then engaged Malachy Walsh & Partners to design the scheme and prepare an application to An Bord Pleanala. We submitted an application for approval under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in accordance with plans and particulars including a Natura Impact Statement to An Bord Pleanala in April 2018. An Bord Pleanala approved the proposed development subject to conditions. Clare County Council submitted an application for funding under the Minor Works Scheme to the Office of Public Works in February 2019. The Office of Public Works have indicated to Clare Co Council that they will provide funding for the element of the scheme that relates to the flooding or risk of flooding to dwelling houses. Clare Co Council are currently investigating securing a suitable source of funding to advance the scheme.

**28. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen**

Call on Clare County Council to install lighting between the Village and School in Ruan Village to enhance a safe walk area.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

**Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush) replies as follows:**

The MD office will prepare a cost estimate to install the lighting and investigate possible sources of funding.

**29. Any other business**

Nominations to the Burial Ground Review committee:

Cllr. Garrihy proposed the nomination of Cllr. Talty, this was seconded by Cllr. Crawford and agreed.

Cllr. Murphy proposed Cllr. Chambers this was seconded by Cllr. Lynch and agreed.

The DOS suggested that a briefing session could be held with Geraldine Enright from the Cliffs of Moher.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:** Cllr. Joe Garrihy,

Cathaoirleach

**Signed:** John O'Malley,  
Meetings Administrator

**Dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**