

**Draft Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting  
held at 11am Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in the Miltown Malbay  
Community Centre & online via Microsoft Teams**

**Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:**

Cllr. Cillian Murphy

**I Láthair:**

Cllr. Shane Talty, Cllr. Gabriel Keating, Cllr. Joe Killeen, Cllr. Ian Lynch, Cllr. Joe Garrihy, 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

Mr. Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. Enda MacNamara, SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. David Ryan, Staff Officer, West Clare Municipal District

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

Cllr. Murphy convened the Meeting.

**1. Minutes of the adjourned July meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July.**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Keating and seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

**2. Minutes of the July Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July.**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Talty and seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

**3. InPLACE - Ennistymon- Lahinch, Brendan O'Keeffe and Karen Keaveney**

Presentation was given online as by Mr. O'Keeffe and Ms. Keaveney. Unfortunately, technical difficulties prevented discussion with the presenters after the presentation. The presenters were subsequently thanked on behalf of the members.

**4. Section 38 – Low-Cost Safety Scheme proposed at the Junction of R476 and L5260, Kilnaboy. - Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD.**

Proposed by Cllr. Killeen and seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

**5. Section 38 - Pedestrian Crossing & Speed Ramps proposed at St Flannan's NS, Inagh. Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD.**

Proposed by Cllr. Killeen and seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

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

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

That CCC undertake develop a dedicated air ambulance landing location in Kilkee to service the town, the Loop Head Peninsula, and the wider West Clare communities.

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

The West Clare MD will open discussions on this with the coastguard and the community ambulance to consider their requirements and look at potential options in the area.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Discussion was had by the members that a dedicated landing zone was needed. Cllr. Murphy noted that there were four instances during the summer where helicopter was required. John O'Malley advised that there was a necessity for a suitable location in Kilkee to be identified and the West Clare MD will proceed to do that.

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

In context of Clare's Wild Atlantic Way fully along the coastline of the West Clare MD and the location in our MD of some of the most marketed and popular visitor destinations and attractions in the country I call for an increased and improved parking, mobility plan and accompanying implementation funding for as a matter of urgency in advance of 2022 visitor season & that necessary staff / manpower to manage & oversee is also provided.

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

Following what was once again an extremely busy and positive tourist season in the West Clare MD the focus is now on further improving on the current experience in terms of parking and mobility. The current parking Bye Laws are to be reviewed in numerous key areas. Resources are key to ensuring that this work is completed as there is a significant body of work involved in the wide-ranging number of key destinations in the MD. The West Clare MD are working with our Roads and Finance Sections to ensure that this progresses.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Cllr. Garrihy stated that lack of funding being the issue is not good enough. We need to be unified across the MD and the necessary resources are needed.

Cllr. Talty asked that a review of 2021 would be presented to the elected members before the end of the year.

Leonard Cleary, DOS, first of all thanked the outdoor staff who did an exceptional job during the summer. He stated that a special briefing session can be arranged, and John O'Malley had undertaken a review.

The elected members also wished to thank the staff for their work during the summer.

Cllr. Murphy that when an issue was raised all the work asked for was done. Although one issue that needs to be addressed is the current parking bylaws which are not sufficient.

The members asked that before the briefing session they would receive a map of the area and agenda with the topics for discussion.

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

I call on West Clare MD to develop a safe quality walking and cycle route linking the North Clare Towns and Villages across the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geo Park and on to the proposed Greenway Route.

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

Developing safe walking/cycle routes linking towns and villages in the West Clare MD, including the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geo Park is part of the vision of the West Clare MD Strategy. There are many challenges associated with an area of this size and contained in an environmentally sensitive location. Currently the focus is on developing pathways and safe access points within the towns and villages mainly through Active Travel funding. The focus will turn to key links between towns/villages in the MD once this work is complete. Planning for this is currently ongoing. The MD will work with our Rural Development Officers, MD Councillors and communities to explore options related to the use of minor roads and pathways where this is appropriate and feasible.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Cllr. Lynch observed that a strategic document was needed for the West Clare MD.

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

That the West Clare MD establish what is the critical mass of population to sustain existing T&V services, schools, and communities along with giving a baseline target for reversal of decline experienced over the last 30 years or more along the MD.

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

The West Clare MD will work with our Planning Section to explore the principles of this Motion. The new County Development Plan engagements are key here. Significant resources are needed to ensure that this matter is given its required attention.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

Cllr. Kelly spoke of the National Framework Plan brought in plans for population in areas. Local councillors for the common good must oppose this. In his mind it is a "County Non-development Plan".

The members wished to know how the population figures for an area inputted into the County Development Plan are arrived at, is there some formula used? What is the empirical evidence to back up the figures?

The members felt that West Clare MD is impacted far more than the other MDS. There is huge concern in respect of the population projection for the West Clare MD.

The members asked that there would be a timeline for a response need to develop a submission.

## **Physical Development**

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

That parking by laws at Kilkee be reviewed as a matter of urgency to ensure access for emergency services to the slipway in Kilkee.

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

- a) Following a recent medical event, where the fire brigade could not access the pier / slipway area in Kilkee, I would like to reiterate that the maintenance of emergency access to the slipway at Kilkee at all times is a key priority for Clare County Council. A draft traffic-layout proposal for the pier & slip area at Kilkee is being prepared. Once available all stakeholders such as –
- i. An Garda Síochána;
  - ii. Ambulance Service and Fire Brigade;
  - iii. The Coast Guard;
  - iv. The local Boat Club
- will be consulted, and a final layout decided upon.

A key component in ensuring that the traffic-layout proposal can be successfully implemented and enforced will be incorporating the revised traffic layout into the Kilkee parking bye-laws.

- b) Parking bye-laws in Kilkee currently apply to the East End car park. It is hoped to begin a review of the current bye-laws shortly. It is envisaged that revised bye-laws will apply to more areas of Kilkee town – for example the town centre and the Diamond Rocks car park. Any review will require the preparation of a traffic management plan to ensure the free-flow of traffic. Public consultation will be an essential and vital part of the review process.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Cllr. Murphy stated that it is not acceptable that one year later we are having the same conversation in respect of parking bylaws.

Leonard Cleary, DOS, advised that a Briefing session with the Roads Department can be arranged.

Cllr. Lynch asked at this point that the CRM system for Notice of Motions that had already be requested would be put in place.

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

Can I be advised if there are any plans to upgrade the culvert at Clohaninchy beach.

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

On the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021, in accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (*as amended*) and Part VIII, Article 80 & 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (*as amended*), Clare County Council gave notice that they intend to carry out the following development at Lough Donnell, Cloonnagarnaun, Doonbeg & Cloughauninchy, Quilty, Co. Clare.

- i. The reinstatement of a 1,500 mm concrete surface water drainage culvert from Lough Donnell for a distance of 45 m to the sea.
- ii. All ancillary site works associated with the reinstatement of the culvert.

In accordance with the Habitats Directive, Appropriate Assessment Screening has been carried out and has determined that a full Appropriate Assessment is not required in respect of the project.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening determination has been made and concludes that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development.

Plans and particulars of the above development were made available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the –

Planning Department,  
Clare County Council,  
Áras Contae an Chláir,  
New Road, Ennis,  
Co. Clare.

– during normal working days from 9 am to 4 pm for a period not less than four weeks beginning on the date of publication of the notice.

Some submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development were made in writing to the Senior Planner, Planning and Enterprise Development, Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare up to and including 20th August 2021. The Part VIII process is ongoing.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

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

That Clare County Council provide wheelchair access to Glasheen Beach Doonaha.

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

I would like to acknowledge that unimpeded access for all (& *wheelchair access where necessary*) to our public areas is a standard that Clare County Council aspires to. However, there are issues at Glasheen beach that complicate the provision of wheelchair access.

- iii. The beach is located within the Lower River Shannon SAC & the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA. A number of environmental consents are required before planning consent may be sought.
- iv. There is a relatively large difference in level or elevation between the road and the beach. I believe that the successful provision of wheelchair access will require a number of wheelchair ramps in series. This complicates the construction process, and the cost of the project may become relatively expensive.
- v. Glasheen beach is neither a Blue Flag nor a Green Coast Award beach. Therefore, visitor numbers are not very high. If we are to allocate money to improve wheelchair access at our beaches, perhaps a greater number of wheelchair users might be accommodated at busier beaches for the same outlay (*for example by providing beach wheelchairs and / or beach mats on an already accessible beach*).

The West Clare Municipal District does not have funding at present to provide wheelchair access to Glasheen beach. However, if a funding source is identified in the future, it may be possible to provide wheelchair access.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Cllr. Keating expressed his disappointment with the reply, requested that a costing for a zigzag path would be provided. Alan Kennelly, SEE, said that he could be looked at, but funding is the issue.

Cllr. Talty stated that we need to look at a county wide approach similar to Kerry is required.

Cllr. Murphy stated that we do need to look at our less popular beaches. John O'Malley, advised that each individual case can be looked at.

### **13. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:**

That restoration works be carried out on L6084 Moyasta and L6083 at Moyasta.

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

Forestry trucks, carrying felled trees from a nearby forest plantation, used both the L-6083-0 & the L-6084-0 to access the N67 (*and thus transport the felled trees to their destination sawmills*) last year. More forestry works are due to commence in this area shortly. It would not be prudent to carry out restoration works on either road until all forestry works in the area are completed.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

### **14. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:**

That a footpath be provided on L6051 at Mount Charles Terrace, Kilkee and the road be surface dressed.

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

Clare County Council did apply to the National Transport Authority's "Active Travel 2021" grant scheme for funding to construct a new footpath at Mount Charles Terrace. On this occasion, our application was unsuccessful. We will continue to seek funding for a new footpath at Mount Charles Terrace, and if funding should become available, we will construct the requested footpath.

The L-6051-0 is not included for surface dressing or restoration improvement works on the recently adopted 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works. It can be considered for inclusion on the 2022 Schedule.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

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

That Clare County Council would install additional lighting at the pedestrian crossing on Henry Street towards the Kilkee Road Roundabout to increase pedestrian safety.

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

The pedestrian crossing in question is adjacent to public lighting standards on Henry Street. I have spoken with the engineer in charge of public lighting, and he informs me that these decorative standards are due for upgrade from sodium lamps to LED lamps in the near future. This should improve the overall standard of lighting in the area of the crossing and eliminate the deficiency in question. If the problem persists after the lighting upgrade, we can revisit the issue with a view to installing additional lighting.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

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

That Clare County Council would carry out resurfacing works to the car park at Place de Plouzane and erect additional signage directing people to avail of the free parking.

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

Clare County Council will erect the "*free parking*" fingerpost signposts – advising motorists of the ample available parking at Place de Plouzane – as requested.

Place de Plouzane is included in the Kilrush Masterplan, which is currently being developed by the Kilrush Town Team in partnership with Clare County Council. Clare County Council has no plans to resurface the Place de Plouzane prior to the publication of the Kilrush Masterplan.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Cllr. Lynch asked that it would be looked at now as it could be 18-24 months before masterplan is enacted.

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

That Clare County Council installed additional road safety measures including:  
Interactive Speed Signage - Killimer Road and Kilkee Road, Kilrush  
Traffic Calming - Crawford St, Pella Road and Cappagh Road.

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

Clare County Council will install the interactive speed signs as requested on both the Killimer Road and the Kilkee Road, Kilrush.

I have forwarded the request for additional traffic calming measures at Crawford Street (*or Grace Street*), Pella Road and Cappagh Road to our Road Design section for their consideration. I will forward any reply received.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

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

That road no. L2066 at Ballyhea be brought to an acceptable level of repair.

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

The L-2066 is a relatively long Local Primary Road. From West to East it begins at a 3 crossroads junction at Prospect (*Clonderalaw*) & runs for approx. 11km through Coolmeen before terminating near Killadysert. It has five sections, the L-2066-0, L-2066-10, L-2066-26, L-2066-52 & L-2066-67. PSCI scores are quite good, and the road is generally in a very good state of repair.

If there is a particular section that has fallen into disrepair, please tell me & I will bring it to the attention of the Area Engineer and the Roads Senior General Services Supervisor.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

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

That a report be made on the progress of improvement works on the wastewater system at Cluain Ard, Kilmaley.

**Reply from Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Water Services:**

The Cluain Ard - Cluain Iseal Housing estate, Kilmaley was taken in charge by resolution of the Ennis Municipal District Councillors on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The taking in charge included the wastewater treatment plant.

At that time improvement works were undertaken in the waste-water treatment plant consisting of the following;

- The rectification of a backfall in a section of sewer leading into the plant.
- Fencing to secure the site.
- Mechanical and Electrical works to repair and replace pumps and secure power cables.
- Health and safety works involving replacing of manhole covers, clearing pathways and removing vegetation.

- The plant was also de-sludged and cleaned.

The plant continues to be de-sludged biannually and inspected on a regular basis by water services staff. The plant has not been taken in charge by Irish Water.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

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

That parking spaces be reserved for senior citizens adjacent to the Post Office, Main Street, Kiladysert.

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

If An Post is agreeable, we will delineate some “*Age Friendly*” parking spaces at the Post Office, Main Street, Kiladysert.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

**21. Any other business**

- Cllr. Garrihy asked for a timeline in respect of the Rural Development Forum. Leonard Cleary advised that next meeting due to held before the end of September and work substantially complete by the end of the year.
- Cllr. Lynch asked that the John Paul Estate Resource Centre would be re-opened. John O’Malley advised that he look into the matter.

**Signed: Cllr. Cillian Murphy,  
Cathaoirleach**

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

**Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2021**