

**Minutes of West Clare Municipal District Meeting held online
on Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 4pm**

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. Carmel Greene, SEO, Economic Development

Mr. Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. Enda MacNamara, SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. Ciaran Collins, ASO, IT Department

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

Cllr. Garrihy convened the Meeting.

At the outset having being raised by Cllr. Talty, it was agreed that that the Mother and Baby's Homes report should be discussed following the Agenda.

1. Minutes of November meeting held on 3rd November 2020.
Following on from a discussion on NOMs that remained open and the introduction of a tracking system, the minutes were proposed by Cllr. Talty and seconded by Cllr. Lynch.
2. Minutes of Budget Meeting held on 10th November 2020.
The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Talty.
3. Minutes of Special Meeting held on 27th November 2020.
The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Lynch
4. Disposal of Land at Darragh, Co. Clare – Carmel Greene, SEO, Economic Development
Proposed by Cllr. Killeen and seconded by Cllr. Talty.
5. Disposal of Land at Crovraghan, Kiladysert, Co. Clare - Carmel Greene, SEO, Economic Development
Proposed by Cllr. Talty and seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

Rural Development, Planning & Economic Development, Social

6. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

That CCC make an application under the next relevant Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme to fund the much needed maintenance work required to ensure the existing Cliff walk in Kilkee is of a safe and suitable standard.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, WCMD

Maintenance works to the existing Cliff Walk in Kilkee will be commencing shortly. This work is included in the Programme of Works for the year and will be covered under the MD budget. The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund can be considered for other walks that are being discussed in the area in 2021.

7. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

That CCC consider including the newly created access path into Carrigaholt Castle under our IPB insurance policy.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, WCMD

I was in contact with Carrigaholt development re this path before Christmas and agreed that we will meet with them re reviewing the pathway and carrying out an engineering inspection of it to determine the next step in supporting this project, including looking into the possibility of including the area under the Councils insurance policy. This meeting and inspection will take place in the coming weeks allowing for Covid 19 restrictions.

8. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:

Social Housing: Can the members be presented with the following information on social housing for the WCMD:

- a) Number of applications for each local authority housing area (town/village)
- b) A breakdown of the housing needs for each area (bedroom requirements)
- c) Number of available properties and bedroom numbers for these properties per locations
- d) Number of vacant properties and bedroom numbers for these properties per locations
- e) Number of derelict properties and bedroom numbers for these properties per locations
- f) The social housing works programme, with estimated timelines, for the WCMD to include new builds, refurbishments and putting back in to use
- g) What efforts are been made to meet the housing needs of large families.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

The members also advised that a general presentation on Housing would be welcomed. The meetings administrator advised he would look at organizing same.

Reply from Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, Housing

- a. *Number of applications for each local authority housing area (town/village)*
- b. *A breakdown of the housing needs for each area (bedroom requirements)*

Tables A and B (attached) provide the breakdown requested in items a and b above. Table A is the gross need and includes those who are accommodated in HAP (370 households) and table B is the net need once the transfer applicants are removed.

- c. *Number of available properties and bedroom numbers for these properties per locations*
- d. *Number of vacant properties and bedroom numbers for these properties per locations*
- e. *Number of derelict properties and bedroom numbers for these properties per locations*

Table C provides the detail requested to answer points c-e, it provides the number of occupied and allocated LA properties by location and the number of vacant properties by location.

- f. *The social housing works programme, with estimated timelines, for the WCMD to include new builds, refurbishments and putting back in to use.*

The capital social housing work programme applicable to the MD is as follows:

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Quilty	18	Complete and allocated	Q2 2019	Q4 2020
Kilmihil	2	Complete and allocated	Q1 2020	Q4 2020
Milltown Malbay	27	Under construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Doonbeg Sites	2	Under construction.	Q4 2020	Q1 2022
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Design Team appointed.	Q3 2021	Q4 2022
Total	57			

All capital projects are stalled due to Level 5 COVID restrictions and this is impacting on delivery.

You will note there are 57 units of direct builds under construction/ near completion in the MD at the time of writing. In addition, we have applied to the DHLGH for approval for a 30-unit development on Council lands in Ennistymon, this development has not received approval to date.

In relation to voids and vacant stock, this Council has applied for funding to return the long-term voids in the MD to stock, this is an ongoing programme and at this juncture works have commenced or are shortly due to commence on most voids. The VOID programme can proceed even in Level 5 to ensure vacant properties are returned to stock to meet housing need. There will always be vacant properties to be upgraded and this annual programme is continuing.

g. What efforts are been made to meet the housing needs of large families.

In all new schemes this Council reviews the housing need in the area to match the need in the proposed development in this regard the greatest need is for 2 bed properties. That said as per the attached there are 31 households in need of 4/5 bed properties of these 14 households are accommodated through HAP and 9 are transfer applicants. A business case is required to secure funding for larger house-types from the DHLGH as the primary need is for 2 bed properties and this needs to be balanced to meet the permissible site density.

The provision of larger properties within social housing developments remains challenging but we continue to work with the DHLGH to meet housing need.

9. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:

Vision for WCMD - I request that the Director for the WCMD commence the development of a West Clare Municipal District Plan, a Vision for West Clare, to provide a road map to ensure a united and focused strategy for the Social, infrastructure and economic development of the West Clare MD. Due to the size of the MD I request that a single plan be developed identifying the distinctly different needs of West and North Clare while maximising and protecting the commonalities, that bind both areas together as one.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Cllr. Lynch advised that he was not satisfied with the response that the WCMD should have a similar plan like "Ennis 2040".

The Leonard Cleary DOS advised that he would talk with Liam Connelly.

Reply from Leonard Cleary, Director of Service:

This motion is very positive in its aspiration for an integrated and strategic approach to the development of the West Clare Municipal District as a united unit. Following the 2019 Local Government Elections, the expanded West Clare Municipal District now covers half of the geographical size of County Clare. As a single MD unit, it comprises for election purposes (of electing locally based representatives in North and West) the two Electoral Areas of Ennistymon and Kilrush. Of the 28 Elected Members of Clare County Council, 9 are representing the West Clare MD. The synergy within West Clare and North Clare creates an opportunity to move forward with projects that benefit the entire West Clare MD.

This motion is based on the solid business principle that business 'structure' follows 'strategy' and the development of a strategic vision. The approach embraced by the 9 Elected members and the Executive of the West Clare MD is to develop a Plan of Priority Strategic Projects for West Clare Municipal District. The Elected Members and Executive

participated in several workshops to research the needs of the area and to discuss a range of important projects. This adopted 'West Clare MD Plan of Priority Strategic Projects' sets out a strategic vision for the area. It also identifies which projects are to be prioritised for development in the MD over the five year term of this Council. These projects range across the following cross-directorate services: Economic, Social, Rural and Physical.

Traditionally Municipal Districts concentrated on the Physical services with roads and water projects. The restructuring of Clare County Council into four directorates in 2016 has sought to bring a renewed emphasis to these four strategic focus business areas. At Municipal District, the staff structures have been strengthened to create the opportunity for an expansion into projects in the areas of Economic, Social and Rural. This includes the appointment of John O' Malley as SEO West Clare MD as well as other key technical, administration and outdoor staff. The local MD projects in these service areas align with the objectives, strategies and projects of the parent directorates at the Áras.

Following a review workshop involving the Elected Members and Executive in December 2020, attached is a copy of the most recently updated 'Plan of Priority Strategic Projects for West Clare Municipal District' for the period 2019-2024. I am viewing this motion as a call to provide the financial and staffing resources for the implementation of this Plan. With reference to the aforementioned business principles, the structures are now in place to implement this strategy. The teams at MD and Áras will pursue all opportunities for National Government funding, of which there are many grant schemes, together with providing local match funding. Rooted in the sentiments of this motion is the importance now of ensuring that the priority projects in this Plan are developed to a shovel ready stage to avail of funding opportunities. The commitment to deliver on the roadmap outlined in the Plan is now firmly in place.

10. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Susan Crawford:

Can we have an update on the current status of developments of the West Clare Greenway please.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Leonard Cleary, DOS advised that he would ask the PMO to give further update at the next meeting.

Reply from Sean Lenihan, Senior Executive Officer, PMO:

Members will be aware of the Council's commitment to deliver a world class Greenway within the County and this objective is referenced in the County Development Plan 2017-2023. The tentative greenway route proposed is along the line of the old West Clare Railway, a distance of 85 km approx. from Ennis through Corofin, Ennistymon, Lahinch, Miltown Malbay, Quilty, Doonbeg, Moyasta, Kilrush and Kilkee. Given that the rail route is essentially in private ownership, it may be necessary to go offline in part. Also, to ensure the maximum success of any such a project, it will be necessary to connect the Greenway

route to the various Towns and Villages along the way so the final route could be in the order of 110km in total.

Following the Councils commissioning of a positive Feasibility Study, we were fortunate to secure €255k from the Dept of Transport's Carbon Tax Fund to progress the proposal through the various stages required. Phase 0 (Scope and Pre-Appraisal) & Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) of the TII Project Management Guidelines have been completed for the entire project with the following documents now completed.

- Project Brief,
- Project Appraisal Plan,
- Constraints Study,
- Ecological Desktop Study
- Preliminary Strategic Assessment Reports

These project deliverables will inform the next phase of the project which includes Planning & Statutory Consent followed by the Detailed Design Stage. We are currently out to tender for the appointment of Technical Advisors for the Planning and Consent Phase and Detailed Design Phase for the 20km section between Kilrush and Kilkee. The closing date for receipt of tenders is January 29th 2021. Following which they will be assessed and subject to the necessary funding being available, we would hope to make the appointment in March 2021. Once the Technical Advisors are appointed, we will begin work on the Planning and Consent phase of development namely Route Selection, Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment. Consultation with affected landowners and community groups will take place throughout the process.

11. Notice of motion from Cllr Shane Talty:

Request Clare County Council to reinstate the hard plastics recycling station at the recycling bank outside the Ennistymon area offices.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Marie O'Neill, Senior Staff Officer, Environment

Consideration by the Environment Section, in consultation with the Municipal District, will be given to the reinstatement of the hard plastics recycling station outside the Ennistymon Area Offices.

The hard plastics recycling station outside the Ennistymon Area Offices was removed a number of years ago due to misuse and illegal dumping of waste. This misuse consisted of incorrect materials being placed in the bank and use of the bank for dumping of household and general waste. Despite monitoring of the area, the problem persisted.

The Council promotes waste prevention, reduction and recycling and encourages the recycling of hard plastics. At present, hard plastics can be recycled at the Central Waste Management Facility in Inagh. A minimum fee applies for this service.

12. Notice of Motion from Cllr Shane Talty:

Local Improvement Scheme applications in the West Clare MD:

- How many Local Improvement schemes were delivered in each of the last 3 years, 2018 - 2020

- What was the total value of the schemes in each of those years 2018-2020?
- How many unfulfilled applications remain live?
- Can you estimate what budget would be required to fulfil existing applications within the MD?

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

It was agreed that the reply would be forwarded to Clare's Oireachtas members.

Reply from Liam O'Connor, Administrative Officer, Transportation

- (a) There were 34 Local Improvements Scheme projects completed between 2018 and 2020 in Clare, 23 of these projects were in the West Clare Municipal District.

Year	Clare	West Clare MD
2018	11	7
2019	11	8
2020	12	8

- (b) The total value of Local Improvement Scheme projects between 2018 and 2020 amounted to €1,557,009. Expenditure on these projects in the West Clare Municipal District was €1,177,175.

Year	Clare	West Clare MD
2018	€516,201	€379,939
2019	€500,543	€379,586
2020	€540,265	€417,650

- (c) Countywide there are 226 applications under the Local Improvement Scheme to hand.
- (d) The estimated value of these applications is €9.04 million.

Physical Development

13. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:

Street lighting: That additional street lighting be installed along the Shanakyle road to St Senan's graveyard? Can the engineer provide a brief update on the progress of upgrading the streetlights with in Kilrush town to LED lights. Could the engineer also inform the members as to the cost of installing additional streetlight in the following circumstances;

- a) Upgrading and existing fitting to LED
- b) Installation of a new light on and existing ESB pole
- c) Installation of a new light, pole and civils works

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Shane Talty.

Reply from Pat Lynch, Executive Engineer, Transportation:

1. *That additional street lighting be installed along the Shanakyle road to St. Senan's graveyard.* There is no funding for such a request in the maintenance budget for additional lighting this is up to the MD to decide on provision of additional lighting through their funds.

2. *Can the engineer provide a brief update on the progress of upgrading the streetlights with in Kiltrush town to LED lights?*

The tender for the Region 1 public lighting LED retrofit contract is just submitted with a purposed start date in July 21 in Cork. As this contract requires the contractor to complete Cork before moving onto the next county it will be well into 2022 before they reach Clare and I am not in a position to give a date when the changing of lights in Kiltrush will commence.

3. *Could the engineer also inform the members as to the cost of installing additional streetlights in the following circumstances -*

Upgrading and existing fitting to LED;

This can vary significantly on the wattage of the light, condition of the bracket, if on a ESB Network pole may require interface box between ESB & LA, condition of column etc.

Installation of a new light on and existing ESB pole;

Again this is difficult, firstly the ESB pole may not be in a suitable condition to take a streetlight, this first has to be checked, then cost vary on wattage, position of light as different cost if light is over conductor or under conductor, ESB connection fee charge vary, etc.

ESB may also not allow a light to be installed on their Network pole or there may be too many services to get it in the correct position on the pole.

Installation of a new light, pole and civils works.

Again, this is different, with every installation of new light, as there are different requirement lengths of ducting, size of column, how is the column secured in ground (rooted or flanged bolted to concrete base pad), wattage of light provided, ESB connection fee can vary, if rock is encountered, on footpath, grass or concrete, reinstatement costs.

14. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Bill Chambers:

I call on this Council to include Cooraclare Sewerage Scheme as a Level 1 priority to be constructed as a pilot project under the new scheme recently announced by the Minister for Housing which is to be administered by Clare County Council.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

It was proposed by Cllr. Keating and agreed that a deputation should meet the Minister. The Director of Service, Leonard Cleary advised that a request would be lodged with the Department.

Reply from Irish Water:

Irish Water is committed to providing a safe and reliable water supply, protecting the environment and supporting the growth of homes and businesses. The building, repair and upgrading of Irish Water's water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, water and sewer network will require a multi-billion euro investment programme over many years. Investment in water services infrastructure is ongoing in Clare with numerous water and wastewater projects in varying stages of development.

Irish Water is responsible for the public water and wastewater infrastructure. Funding to develop and maintain these systems is allocated with the approval of Commission for

Regulation of Utilities. It is important to note that Irish Water has no statutory role where there is currently no infrastructure.

Irish Water does not have any plans to develop a new sewerage scheme in Cooraclare where there is currently no public wastewater infrastructure.

It may be more appropriate to direct this query to Clare County Council or the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

15. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Bill Chambers:

That the Road No. L2048 from Cree Village to Cahermurphy be included in the Road Works Scheme for 2021.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush):

The Schedule of Municipal District Works (*or Roadworks Programme*) has not been finalised for 2021. The L-2048 will be considered for inclusion on the completed schedule.

16. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Bill Chambers:

That the Road No. L6162 from the junction of N67 to Brisla be included in the Road Works Scheme for 2021.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush):

The Schedule of Municipal District Works (*or Roadworks Programme*) has not been finalised for 2021. The L-6162 will be considered for inclusion on the completed schedule.

17. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

That Clare County Council & Transport Infrastructure Ireland in the interest of public safety address the junction at the intersection of the N68 and L2138 (Cranny Cross).

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from John Gannon, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design:

TII's Road safety inspection programme (HD17) has identified that the junction at the intersection of the N68 and L2138 (Cranny Cross) is in need of a Road Safety Improvement Measure.

The Road Design office in conjunction with the TII have commenced the evaluation phase and will report back to the MD later this year once the initial design and approval phases have concluded.

18. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

That the unsafe section of road on the L6322 at Lena, Lissycasey would be included in the 2021 Road Restoration Programme.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush):

The L-6322 is very narrow, with many twists and undulations – typical of many country roads or boreens. No traffic accidents are recorded on this road on our MapRoad database. The Schedule of Municipal District Works (*or Roadworks Programme*) has not been finalised for 2021. The L-6322 will be considered for inclusion on the completed schedule.

19. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

That Clare County Council would draw up a plan to alleviate flooding at Kiladysert cemetery.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Steve Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Engineer, PMO.:

Clare County Council have been repairing and upgrading various sections of embankment and sluices all along the Shannon Estuary over the last number of years. This included repairs in Ballycorick, Ballynacally, Iniscorker and Lacknashannagh. Consultants RPS were engaged by Clare Co Council to carry out this work. The flooding at Kildysart graveyard is included in this scheme. RPS examined the causes of flooding in the area and identified and examined a number of different solutions. They had concerns that some of the proposed solutions may have implications to land and property downstream of the site. A preferred option was identified that eliminated this risk. This option is technically and environmentally possible and economically viable. This involves the construction of a flood embankment. However the land required for the works is in private ownership currently and Clare County Council are not in a position to acquire the lands.

20. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

In 1952 Carrigaholt Village was waiting on Clare County Council to provide a Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Village. In 2009 funding was provided for same in the Budget. In 2011, Minister for Environment, Phil Hogan made funding available for a feasibility study to be carried out and when completed it showed a shortfall of €490,000 on an investment in excess of €1.3m.

Clare County Council clearly identified Carrigaholt Village as a priority before Irish Water, under its Wastewater Investment Scheme. Because of its location Tourism Attraction, Shellfish Industry, and its potential for Maritime Development Activity, I am now calling on Clare County Council 69 years on to include Carrigaholt in its 2021 Wastewater Investment Scheme. It satisfies all the criteria clearly identified by Clare County Council down the years and is now an ideal project for a pilot scheme, a number of which the Minister for Environment indicated that he will announce this year. Up to now the people of the village and environs have waited patiently.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Irish Water:

Irish Water is committed to providing a safe and reliable water supply, protecting the environment and supporting the growth of homes and businesses. The building, repair and upgrading of Irish Water's water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, water and sewer network will require a multi-billion euro investment programme over many years. Investment in water services infrastructure is ongoing in Clare with numerous water and wastewater projects in varying stages of development.

Irish Water is responsible for the public water and wastewater infrastructure. Funding to develop and maintain these systems is allocated with the approval of Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU). It is important to note that Irish Water has no statutory role where there is currently no infrastructure.

Irish Water does not have any plans to develop a new sewerage scheme in Carrigaholt village.

It may be more appropriate to direct this query to Clare County Council or the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

21. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

That Clare County Council carry out restoration works on the R484 from Knockalough Crossroads to Kilmihil to include Mr. Ryan's bend where there have been many accidents & damage caused to the entrance wall & piers to his house.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush):

The Schedule of Municipal District Works (*or Roadworks Programme*) has not been finalised for 2021. The R-484 will be considered for inclusion on the completed schedule.

22. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

To request Clare County Council to carry out a road restoration programme at Kilcrona burial ground to include drainage works. Sections of this road were completed in 2019 with the remainder to be completed under 3-year programme.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Kilrush):

The Schedule of Municipal District Works (*or Roadworks Programme*) has not been finalised for 2021. The L-2006 at Kilcrona will be considered for inclusion on the completed schedule.

23. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Garrihy:

That Clare County Council would take in charge the road at Dereen, Liscannor, Co. Clare (coordinates 52.9494461, -9.4273669).

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Ennistymon):

The Roads and Transportation section will commence the process of taking in charge this road in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

24. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Garrihy:

That Clare County Council consider the abandonment of the public road L50561 at Ballyinsheen, Lisdoonvarna.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Ennistymon):

The Roads and Transportation section will commence the process of abandonment of this road in accordance with Section 12 of the Roads Act, 1993.

25. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

That CCC begin the process of taking in charge Querrin Creek estate, Querrin, Kilkee, Co Clare.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer, Planning:

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 will arrange for a detailed assessment of the development to take place, if we receive a request under Section 180. A quick review of the original planning file indicates that this permission was for a holiday home development which would be managed by a Management Company. This is reflected in the design of the development e.g. no footpaths and low-level public lighting. The development also contains a wastewater treatment plant and at this current time, Irish Water will not take responsibility for these plants. Holiday home developments normally fall outside the Council's Taking in Charge Policy and will only be considered if certain criteria are met.

26. Notice of Motion from Cllr Shane Talty:

That Clare County Council take in charge the road, off circular road Ennistymon, serving multiple farm entrances, rear access to circular Rd properties & access for pedestrians to Ard Donagh Estate. The portion of the road upgraded by way of local improvement scheme in particular.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Ennistymon):

The Roads and Transportation section will commence the process of taking in charge this road in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

27. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

We call on Clare County Council to Take in Charge the roadway off the R 480 past the entrance to Ailwee Cave, past Ballycahill and on towards Townross which is a very busy pedestrian route.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Ennistymon):

This road is part of the Sport Ireland National Trails Ballyvaughan Wood Loop, Loop No. 81. The West Clare MD office will consult with the National Trails office to understand the implications of declaring this road public as it may have a negative impact on the trail. Funding may be available through sources available to Sport Ireland National Trails to upgrade this section of road where required.

28. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

We call on Clare County Council to give a progress report on the water treatment works in Ballyvaughan (with timelines and public consultation) and on the proposed upgrade of the water treatment works in Kilfenora.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Irish Water:

Ballyvaughan Sewerage Scheme:

Irish Water is progressing with plans to construct a new wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) in Ballyvaughan that will serve a population equivalent of 1055, as well as a new pumping station and associated sewer network infrastructure. We are planning to acquire lands and submit a planning application to Clare County Council in 2021 for this project. Once planning has been submitted, these plans will be available for the public to view in the planning offices of Clare County Council and also online via the eplanning portal. Subject to planning being granted, Irish Water expects to commence work in 2022.

Kilfenora WwTP:

Irish Water is progressing with plans for a new WwTP and sewerage infrastructure in Kilfenora, Co. Clare. Planning permission was granted by Clare County Council in late 2019 for this project. We are currently in the process of acquiring the land required for the proposed scheme and we hope to commence construction in 2022.

29. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

Call on Clare County Council to erect a pedestrian crossing in Corofin adjacent to the Medical Centre, the G.A.A. Pitch and the Children's Playground in the interest of safe access to all facilities.

This notice of motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare MD (Ennistymon):

The West Clare MD office will review suitable locations for a pedestrian crossing at this location. If a suitable location is identified, the MD office will investigate possible sources of funding.

30. Any other business

The Mother and Baby Homes Report:

On behalf of the MD the Chair wished to acknowledge the pain & hurt that was caused and the victims need to be given our full support.

The members agreed that actions need to be taken swiftly, all information should be given and the victims need to be listened to. The state should respond in every possible way.

Cllr. Murphy felt it was right to acknowledge the Council's role. It was also on current councillors that the same apologies are not being made in forty years time for example in respect of direct provision.

Cllrs. Lynch and Talty wished to acknowledge the work of Ms. Rita McCarthy in respect of the her diligent and sensitive research into the Kilrush Mother & Baby Home, and asked that her request for a memorial would be worked on.

John O'Malley advised that he had been tasked with leading the memorial project and he would keep the members informed.

Cllr. Talty thanked John O'Malley for his update but re-iterated that the as a MD it is expected that the Council would issue an apology.

Kilrush Town:

Cllr. Lynch that requested that the salting plan for Kilrush Town would be issued.

Cllr. Lynch also raised the issue of dog fouling in the town and asked that further steps would be taken to prevent this.

COVID:

Cllr. Killeen asked that the public to continue to adhere to the Public Health Advice.

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed: Cllr. Joe Garrihy,
Cathaoirleach**

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

Dated this 2nd day of March 2021