

**Minutes of Meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District**

**held on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at 9.30am**

*Meeting held in Meeting Room, Killaloe Municipal District Offices*

**In attendance:** Cllr. Tony O’Brien, Cathaoirleach Killaloe MD

Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan

Cllr. Joe Cooney

Cllr. Pat Hayes

Cllr. Pat Burke

**Officials:** Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service

Mr. Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Meetings Administrator

Mr. Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer

Ms. Pauline Costelloe, Staff Officer

Members of the media attended.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tony O’Brien chaired the meeting.

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**Item 1 Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023**

The Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. J. Cooney and seconded by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan.

*Cllr. T. O’Brien proposed and it was seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes to bring forward presentation Item No. 4.*

**Item 4 Presentation from TFI Local Link Limerick Clare.**

Anne Gaughan, Manager TFI Local Link Limerick Clare and Cillian Griffey, Transport Operations Coordinator Clare provided a detailed presentation on the structure and services provided by TFI Local Link Limerick Clare. Cillian Giffey referred to the recent introduction of three new routes and the increased frequency of services in East Clare. He outlined the benefits of Regular Rural Service (RRS) and Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) services and highlighted the interaction between TFI Local Link Limerick Clare and local residents,

businesses and clubs in developing routes. Mr. Griffey also made reference to proposals for bus shelters and signage in the Killaloe MD area.

The Members thanked Anne and Cillian for their very informative presentation and commented on the excellent service being provided. Cllr. T. O'Brien requested a copy of the presentation be circulated to the Members and complimented the service as a means of linking communities with services, education and employment. He referred to the current crisis in school transport and asked if TFI service could be better linked in with the schools system? A. Gaughan acknowledged there is an issue with drivers nationally. She added TFI Local Link is now being utilised for school transport on the Scarriff/Feakle route and she would notify Members if additional school links are accommodated.

Cllr. A. O'Callaghan said he looks forward to seeing the service grow and asked if services could be linked to Sixmilebridge train station. A. Gaughan replied this link has been identified under Connecting Ireland and will be examined in 2024.

Cllr. J. Cooney referred to bus drivers waiting around for departure time in towns such as Scarriff, as this is causing a nuisance he asked that it be examined. A. Gaughan replied she will contact the operators in question. In response to Cllr. J. Cooney, A. Gaughan advised Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) provision costs outside the 4km radius is included in a pilot scheme for smart DRT which is currently awaiting approval.

Cllr. P. Hayes referred to the recent closure of Clare Bus and took the opportunity to acknowledge the excellent services it provided to the residents of East Clare area over the years. Cllr. P. Hayes asked how service requirements in the MD are determined and routes selected. He stated there is a need for a proper transport strategy in County Clare. A. Gaughan referred to the Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan developed by the NTA which aims to increase mobility in rural areas. A. Gaughan emphasised the importance of feedback from Councillors, community organisations, businesses and the general public in developing routes.

Cllr. P. Burke commented on a noticeable increase in the usage of the TFI Local Link service in his area of Whitegate and Mountshannon and concurred with Cllr. J. Cooney regarding the off service buses parking in Scarriff town.

A Haugh stated the general visibility and branding of the service is very welcome and queried if there are any plans to go beyond local services and link in with areas such as tourism for example Holy Island C. Griffey replied that TFI Local Link have engaged with Failte Ireland and are included on Tourism Forums and tourism websites.

B McCarthy referred to the *Elected Members of Killaloe MD Strategy and Workplan* and how the MD's engagement to date with TFI Local Link and advocating for the enhancement of services into are around East Clare ties in with the objective of "Enhancing sustainable mobility and connectivity to East Clare from the Mid-West region". He added the Killaloe MD will work with TFI Local Link to enhance bus stops and shelters in the Municipal District and reiterated the importance of an efficient public transport service to the socio-economic development of Killaloe MD.

Cllr. T. O'Brien thanked A. Gaughan and C. Griffey for their presentation and acknowledged the excellent service being provided in the MD area, he suggested TFI Local Link meet the Members again later next year to provide an update on the service.

*Anne Gaughan and Cillian Griffey left the meeting.*

## **Item 2           Matters Arising**

**Referring to Item 2** Cllr. T. O'Brien thanked the Killaloe MD team for traffic calming works recently completed at New Street, Killaloe and acknowledged works carried out at the new EV charging points.

**Referring to Item 7** In reply to Cllr. T. O'Brien, D. Flanagan advised line marking works at Cross Roads Killaloe and Ardnataggle Road in O'Briensbridge have been delayed due to poor weather and will be carried out as soon as conditions allow.

**Referring to Item 15,** Cllr. P. Hayes sought update on proposals for traffic calming measures on Mountshannon Road, Scarriff.

**Referring to Item 3**, Cllr. P. Hayes stated there is still lack of clarity regarding CE border areas and catchment cover and requested a follow up meeting be arranged with Superintendent Oliver Baker, Superintendent in the CE Clare area should also be requested to attend a special meeting. He asked Inspector Michella Moloney be contacted regarding Community Alert Schemes.

**Referring to Item 10** Cllr. P. Burke acknowledged works carried out at Ash Tree Cross, and asked that the site be revisited following recent subsidence.

**Item 3           Section 38 – Proposed traffic calming measures to Market Square, Scarriff and L4024 roadway in the townland of Ballyminogue, Co. Clare.**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes, seconded by Cllr. A. O’Callaghan and agreed by Members to defer Item 3 to a later date. Cllr. J. Cooney asked that a date be set for a Special Meeting as soon as possible due to impending deadline for RRDF application, Members agreed to a Special Meeting in the next 10 days.

Noting this as the last Killaloe MD meeting of 2023 Cllr. T. O’Brien referred to the *Elected Members of Killaloe Municipal District Strategy and Work Plan* adopted by the Members earlier this year and provided an overview of the many projects being progressed in Killaloe MD. He made reference to improvements to services in Killaloe MD offices, the introduction of a new Mayoral Chain for the Killaloe MD, meeting and submission made to Irish Rail regarding the reopening of Crusheen Railway station, progress on the *Killaloe Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Strategy* and proposals being progressed for Carrigs Lane, Tobermuragh and the Court house in Killaloe. Cllr. T. O’Brien also highlighted the progress on the RRDF application for Scarriff and the recent accessibility works completed at Ballycuggeran. He made reference to the larger capital projects progressing in the MD such as the Bridge crossing and Bypass in Killaloe and the Inis Cealtra Tourism project and the positive contribution they will make to the development of the Killaloe MD in years to come. Cllr. T. O’Brien thanked A. Haugh, B. McCarthy, D. Flanagan and all the Killaloe MD staff for all the positive work being carried out in Killaloe MD

**Notices of Motion from Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan:-**

5.“Works be carried out on the hedgerow at Cranagher Cross (L4060) i.e. junction leading onto the R352 as it is obscuring the sightline visibility distance from the Ennis/Spencilhill direction, and it is a main artery via Spencilhill to Ennis etc. as well as the M18 Motorway, in the interest on safety.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

Clare County Council have been engaging with landowners at Cranagher Cross over the past few months regarding improvement of sightlines at the junction between the L-4060 and R-352. We have submitted this Junction for Low Cost Safety Scheme funding proposals for 2024.

In the interim, and arising from this Notice of Motion, the roadside trees/saplings between the road edge and boundary walls will be cut down to verge level to improve visibility at this busy junction off the R-352. This work will be scheduled to be completed before the end of November and we will continue to liaise with landowners regarding same.

Following an enquiry from Cllr. P. Hayes regarding funding, D. Flanagan advised that this project will be prioritised in 2024.

6.“ Works be carried on the R471 at the bridge (CL R471 -017.00) as both bridge and road is in need of repair.

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

Arising from this Notice of Motion, Killaloe MD have contacted colleagues in Road Design who have examined the bridge and have applied for funding to repair it in 2024 under the bridge rehabilitation program of works.”

**Notices of Motion from Cllr. Tony O'Brien:-**

7. "That Clare County Council take action by engaging with Enerveo and ESB to get public lighting in our housing estates and on our streets repaired, many of these public lights have been out of action for several months."

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

***Reply from Michael McNamara, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation:***

"Clare County Council are engaged with both Enerveo and ESB Networks on an ongoing basis with a view to ensuring the repair of faulty public lighting in a timely manner. However, as much of the public lighting infrastructure in our housing estates and on public roads is dated (old) it does not comply with current ESB standards. ESB Networks now require the completion of additional works in advance of any repairs to public lights to ensure compliance with ESB's public lighting network requirements and on completion this will provide uninterrupted access to the council public lighting infrastructure to minimize repair delays and outage extents in the future.

Clare County Council continues to engage and liaise with Enerveo and ESB networks to promote increased allocated resources with a view to ensuring outage periods are reduced going forward."

Cllr. T. O'Brien advised Members were not informed of this policy and he has concerns that the ESB Networks are not providing the service they are paid to do, this has huge implications in towns and communities around the MD and county and Clare County Council should write to ESB Networks to resolve this issue. The Members concurred and referred to examples in a number of towns and villages. Cllr. J. Cooney added that this item was included on the Council meeting Agenda a number of months ago and a reply is still awaited. D. Flanagan explained the current process, and advised Enerveo may be in the East Clare area in in the next couple of weeks. Cllr. T. O'Brien requested the matter be raised at senior management level.

8. "That traffic calming measures similar to what was put in place recently at New Street/Newtown Killaloe be put in place at Convent Hill/ Abbey Street to enhance road

safety around both Killaloe Boys NS, Killaloe Girls NS and what is a very busy commercial area of the town.”

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

The Killaloe MD team along with our Road Design section will be actively working with the National Schools in seeking funding through the National Transport Authority under Safe Routes to School (SRTS) funding stream. The Convent Primary School and the Killaloe Boys N.S are registered with the Safe Routes to School Program. The Safe Routes to School Programme is designed to encourage as many pupils and students as possible in primary and post-primary schools to walk and cycle. It has three aims:

- To accelerate the delivery of walking/scooting and cycling infrastructure on key access routes to schools.
- To provide “front of school” treatments which will enhance access to your school grounds.
- To expand the amount of bike parking available at schools.

Funding allocations for 2024 works have yet to be announced and it would be of benefit if the schools could avail of same. In addition, there is merit in a coordinated approach between the schools and Clare County Council to the enhancement of road safety in the vicinity of school grounds. The Members will be aware that the *Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Strategy* identifies a number of proposals for enhancement of pedestrian and cyclist mobility on Convent Hill/Abbey Street and around the Carrig’s Lane, John Street, Royal Parade areas, together with proposals for off-street car-parking.

Whilst the implementation of the *Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan* is significantly dependent on funding, arising from this Notice of Motion, Killaloe MD will commit to progressing plans and options in collaboration with the schools, for improved pedestrian accessibility and traffic management solutions along the Convent Hill/Abbey Street area and in particular in front of the schools themselves.

**Notices of Motion from Cllr. Joe Cooney:-**

9. “That Clare County Council give an update on the proposed traffic calming measures for the village of Ogonnelloe.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. T. O’Brien & Cllr. P. Burke

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

Killaloe MD has highlighted the requirement for a new Traffic Calming Scheme in Ogonnelloe with our Road Department. A Specific Improvement Grant will be required to deliver this project with two schemes proposed. It is likely this would take the form of a single scheme adjacent to the Community centre and Church and a second scheme adjacent to the National School to reduce speeding through the Village of Ogonnelloe.

The proposal has been highlighted to the Engineering Inspector in the Department of Transport and a submission for this specific grant will be submitted over the coming weeks. This application will be subject to review of funding by the Department of Transport.

Cllr. J. Cooney stated this matter was raised a number of years back and it is unfortunate that it is not progressing. Cllr. T. O’Brien and Cllr. P. Burke referred to driver behaviour and the role of the Gardai in enforcement. Cllr. J. Cooney and Cllr. P. Hayes asked if alternative measures could be put in place if funding is not forthcoming? D. Flanagan advised that a reply on the funding application is due early next year.

10.“That Clare County Council construct a new footpath from the housing development to the rugby facilities on the Fossebeg Road, Scariff in the interest of road safety.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

Clare County Council has reviewed this proposal for a new footpath between Fossabeg housing development and the Rugby grounds, with a number of measures required to deliver this project. Road widening, drainage works, boundary fencing and land dedication agreements



would be required. There is merit in this project as it serves Scarriff National School, the GAA & Rugby clubs along with residents on the L-8054 and would complement other pedestrian safety and mobility enhancements proposed by Clare County Council in Scarriff.

Killaloe MD will be submitting this proposal for Active Travel funding for works in 2024.

**Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Burke:-**

11. ““Calling on Clare County Council to pipe an open drain adjacent to property V94 TD8N at Aughrim, Scariff in the interest of road safety “

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

The is no surface water network adjacent to the Property at V94 TD8N at present. In the interim our roads crew will open inlets and drains channels adjacent to this property. A new storm water networks of 150m length of pipeline will be required to resolve this issue in the long term. The Killaloe MD will be submitting this scheme as part of the Drainage grant for the 2024 Road works programme

12.“Calling on Clare County Council to upgrade the footpath and kerbs outside the filling station and nearby properties at Drewsboro, Tuamgraney as these have fallen into disrepair.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney & Cllr. T. O’Brien

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, A/Senior Executive Engineer:***

Killaloe MD has reviewed these locations in Tuamgreaney village. Degradation has occurred at the access points to the service station, levels of kerbs are also inconsistent and will require replacement. Killaloe MD will be carrying out improvement works to these sections of footpaths over the coming 2 months.

**Notices of Motion from Cllr. Pat Hayes:-**

13. “After our application for the Active Travel Fund to enhance connectivity and infrastructure on Tulla Road in Crusheen didn't secure funding, I'm suggesting a new approach. I propose seeking financial support for this vital project from the Development Levies Fund under the Economic Development Department of Clare County Council.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

***Reply from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-ordinator***

“In the recently adopted Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 Crusheen has been identified as a Commuter village “due to its location between Ennis and Galway, acting as a commuter village for both. A key priority will be to retain community and social facilities within the village and to encourage indigenous enterprises and service provision.

The Development Plan further indicates that it is an objective “to further enhance the public realm within the village” whilst “Upgrades to and provision for green infrastructure such as walking and cycling routes would promote active recreation and sustainable travel in the village and its environs, with potential for a link to the Mid Clare Way which passes to the northwest of the village. Since 2019 four residential developments totalling over 130 residential dwellings and a number of small scale office/retail units have been permitted in Crusheen. It is clear there has been a positive level of housing developments in Crusheen with consequent receipt of development levies and contributions.

Arising from the Notice of Motion it is reasonable and indeed it is the purpose of the Development Contribution Scheme that development should benefit the area. Therefore in light of this Notice of Motion, funding will be sought under the Development Contribution Scheme to assist in the enhancement of public realm and footpaths in Crusheen, as per the objectives of the Development Plan.”

Cllr. P. Hayes emphasised the need for connectivity between the School, GAA grounds and Tulla Road. Cllr. J. Cooney referred to the need for a Masterplan setting out traffic management proposals, including pedestrian crossings.

14. “I am asking for the implementation of a comprehensive, long-term program to address the persistent flooding challenges in the River Graney catchment area and its tributaries. The frequent road closures and the noticeable expansion of floodplains this autumn show the urgent need for immediate attention. Additionally, I propose seeking funding under the Climate Action Plan to support these critical initiatives.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes

Seconded by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

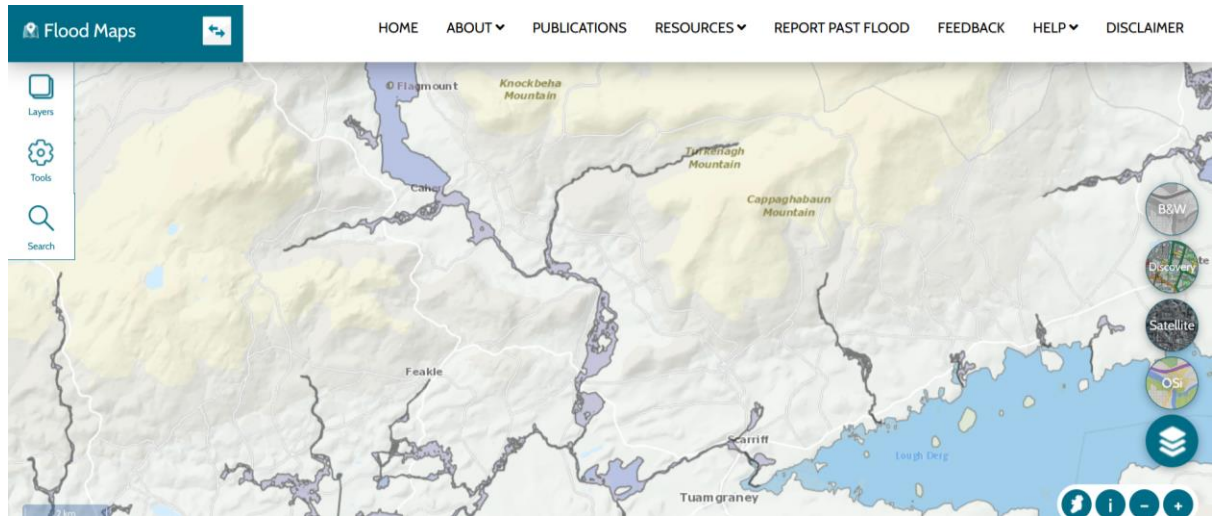
***Reply from Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Killaloe MD Co-ordinator:***

Clare County Council are aware of the challenges from the River Greaney and its flood plains. We have reviewed flood locations on our road network adjacent to the River Graney floodplains. We have identified and submitted works to be carried out at Ayle Upper on the L-8056 under our proposals for 2024 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works Programme where the road surface has flooded a number of times in 2023. The works will include raising of the existing road network and drainage works adjacent to the L-8056.

In 2023 Killaloe MD was allocated €204,300 for drainage works as detailed in the Schedule of Municipal District Works. This funding grant has remained unchanged for several years. The primary focus of this funding is to deal with remediation and improvement of defective drainage systems, to help increase the longevity of road surface integrity. This funding can also be used to deal with off-road drainage issues such as catchments that are not functioning as efficiently as they should.

In terms of responsibility, please see below map taken from [www.floodinfo.ie](http://www.floodinfo.ie) which details the OPW’s Arterial Drainage Scheme areas (in blue) and Local Authorities Drainage Districts (in red). Note that is effectively no OPW drainage responsibility within Killaloe MD. Arterial Drainage Schemes are carried out by the OPW under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945 to improve land for agriculture and to mitigate flooding. Local authorities are charged with responsibility to maintain Drainage Districts, which were carried out by the Commissioners of Public Works under a number of drainage and navigation acts from 1842 to the 1930s to improve land for agriculture and to mitigate flooding. The purpose of the schemes was to improve land for agriculture, by lowering water levels during the growing season to reduce waterlogging on the land beside watercourses known as callows. Drainage Districts cover approximately 10% of the country, typically the flattest areas.

From CRFAM flood mapping of the River Graney demonstrates river flood extents as per map below



Since the raising of a similar Notice of Motions, the Killaloe MD met with the Community water officer with Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) to discuss the concerns and assess potential solutions. LAWPRO actively engages with local authorities and landowners on works in improving water quality in our rivers and streams. Where issues are identified, LAWPRO collaborate with the relevant local authority, public body, and water stakeholder to find a solution.

Killaloe MD have also undertaken a high level aerial survey to assess any blockages and have recently secured a contractor to carry out a more detailed visual inspection of the River Greaney. Locations with blockages and issues in stream will be identified where minor works are required. Works in stream will be subject to funding and consent from National Parks and Wildlife Service and inland fisheries Ireland following appropriate assessments works being undertaken.”

## 15. Correspondence

Submission to the All-Island Strategic Rail Review from the Elected Members of Killaloe Municipal District. This document was circulated to attending media.

B. McCarthy complimented Killaloe MD Members on the approach to sustainable mobility as set out in the Municipal District Strategy and Work plan linked in with this proposal and earlier presentation from TFI Local Link.

**16. Confirm date for next meeting**

It was agreed the next Killaloe MD meeting be arranged for Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 in the Killaloe MD offices, Scarriff.

Cllr. P. Hayes and the Members paid tribute to Andrew St. Ledger who recently passed away. Mr. St. Ledger was member of the Physical Development SPC and co-founder of the Irish Woodland League. May he rest in peace.

All the Members wished Cllr. Bill Chambers well in his retirement.

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**Brian McCarthy,**  
**Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Meetings Administrator**

**15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**