

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

**held on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023 at 9.30am**

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

**In attendance:** Cllr. Alan O’Callaghan  
Cllr. Joe Cooney  
Cllr. Tony O’Brien  
Cllr. Pat Hayes  
Cllr. Pat Burke

**Officials:** Ms. Anne Haugh, Director of Service  
Mr. Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner & Meetings Administrator  
Mr. Declan Flanagan, 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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On opening the meeting Cllr. T. O’Brien proposed a minute silence, seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney, to remember Cllr. Damien O’Reilly, Meath County Council from Dunboyne, Co. Meath who passed away unexpectedly earlier that week, may he rest in peace.

**Item 3** *It was proposed by Cllr. P. Hayes, seconded by Cllr. T. O’Brien to bring forward presentation Item 3 on the Agenda “An Garda Síochána Change Programme in the Clare-Tipperary Division”*

Superintendent Oliver Baker and Inspector Michaela Moloney provided the members with a detailed overview of the new Garda Síochána operating model, changes in the Clare/Tipperary Division and explained the new structure of Community Engagement Functional areas. Superintendent Baker emphasised that while the new functional areas will be larger geographically there will be no changes to staffing in local areas, the new model will bring in new lines of communication and local policing will not be diminished.

Cllr. T. O'Brien informed members that the Superintendent for Community Engagement Clare (covering areas such as Kilkishen, Tulla & Crusheen) had been invited to the meeting but was unavailable to attend due to prior commitments.

Cllr. T. O'Brien referring to the reduction of garda personnel in Killaloe and nationally over the past number of years expressed concern around anti-social behaviour at amenity areas such as Ballycuggeran and Mountshannon. Superintendent Baker acknowledged the prevalence of anti-social behaviour where large crowds congregate and stated in addition to garda presence councils and community groups should examine awareness campaigns and byelaws.

Cllr. P. Hayes expressed concern regarding delivery of service to communities on the periphery and requested a map setting out the boundaries of the new Community Engagement Functional Areas (CEA).

Cllr. J. Cooney queried opening hours of local stations and also expressed concern for parishes which may be assigned to more than one CEA. In reply to Cllr. J. Cooney Superintendent Baker referred to the role of the crime prevention officer and the importance of environmental design in dealing with anti-social behaviour in estates. He referred to his involvement with a working group on speed limits, a group which includes representatives from a wide range of agencies. Cllr. J. Cooney referred to a meeting with the Minister the previous week and how he would like to see additional resources made available for policing nationally.

Cllr. P. Burke requested a map of the CEA on the Galway side and queried the geographical spread cross counties of some CEAs, expressing concern about possible delays in getting Garda support. Superintendent Baker explained that patrols are not curtailed by boundaries but when it comes to the management of an incident the matter is then referred onto the Superintendent/Inspector of the CEA. Superintendent Baker informed members of a new call dispatch system and how this will assist in ensuring the nearest resources are assigned.

Cllr. O'Callaghan expressed concern regarding the public accessing services and requested that information around opening hours and phone numbers be communicated. Superintendent Baker informed the members he would also examine communication of new boundaries with the public and committed to providing contact numbers of relevant Garda Síochána personnel to the Elected Members.

Cllr. P. Hayes requested a meeting with Inspector Moloney regarding community alert. Cllr. J. Cooney requested that all members be updated on the Community alert system.

Cllr. T. O'Brien referred to Clare County Council's close relationship with An Garda Síochána and praised the work of the Joint Policing Committee. The members wished Superintendent Baker good luck in his new role.

*Superintendent Oliver Baker and Inspector Michaela Moloney left the meeting.*

**Item 1            Minutes of Killaloe MD Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**

The Minutes of Killaloe Municipal District Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan and seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney.

**Item 2            Matters Arising**

**Referring to Matters Arising,** Cllr. T. O'Brien requested update on the installation of EV charging points in Killaloe. Declan Flanagan replied EV charger works have commenced on the ground as part of the LCSS works at New Street, Killaloe.

**Referring to Item 9,** Cllr. T. O'Brien expressed disappointment that a meeting was not arranged with HR and referred to the delay in appointing a replacement SEE and low staffing levels in Killaloe MD. A. Haugh advised she is aware of the request and that HR matters are within the remit of the executive. A. Haugh acknowledged that the members had contacted her directly regarding the matter and that it has been escalated to senior management and the HR department. She referred to budget restraints and suggested it be raised at CPG as part of the budgetary process. Cllr. T. O'Brien asked Cllr. J. Cooney, to raise at CPG meetings. Cllr. J. Cooney confirmed his support of the issue and the importance of an adequately resourced staff to maintain progress in the MD. Cllr. P. Hayes stated that it is not just a budgetary issue and that posts need to be filled in advance of staff leaving the council.

**Item 4            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. T. O'Brien seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney and agreed by members to defer Item 4 to a later date.

**Item 5            Section 38 – Proposed Low Cost Safety Scheme on the L3084, New Street, Knockyclovaun, Killaloe, Co. Clare.**

Report, dated 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 from Kieran O’Callaghan, Executive Engineer, Road Design Office was circulated with the agenda. The report states that it is proposed to carry out the following Traffic Calming measures in the Killaloe Municipal District in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994:

Traffic calming measures as set out below on the L3084 New Street, at the Eastern side of the Junction with the L30842, and the existing Pedestrian Crossing at Knockyclovaun, Killaloe, Co. Clare be approved.

Construction of a raised table with uncontrolled pedestrian crossing on the Eastern side of the Junction. Footpath buildout, installation of tactile paving, all associated signs and road markings. Construction of a raised table at the existing controlled pedestrian crossing 107 meters Southeast of the Junction.

The Section 38 for the proposed works was proposed by Cllr. T. O’Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Cooney and agreed.

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

6. “That works be carried out urgently in O’Briensbridge to prevent flooding of businesses and dwellings. Currently the storm water drain is not capable of preventing flooding.”

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

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer:***

I can confirm that members of the Killaloe M.D have recently met with a number of property owners in O’Briensbridge regarding issues of flooding following heavy thundery downfalls. The existing storm network in O’Briensbridge will need to be surveyed from the roadside gullies to its outfall via a CCTV survey.

Killaloe MD propose to carry out a CCTV survey on this pipeline over the coming weeks. If required, this existing storm water line may need to be upgraded. Additional gullies on the street may also be required pending the outcome of the CCTV Survey. The works will be

subject to funding and may involve minor disruption to the traffic lights due to the vicinity of the traffic loops. Priority will be given to this issue if the results of the survey prove an underlying issue.

7. "That road lining be carried out at Cross Roads Killaloe and Lower Ardnataggle Road in O'Briensbridge."

Proposed by: Cllr. T. O'Brien

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer:***

I wish to confirm that Clare County Council are currently preparing a list for our line marking contractor to complete outstanding works and refreshing of major junctions such as O'Briensbridge crossroads, Tuamgreaney village amongst other locations including yellow box junctions in Killaloe. With regards to Crossroads Killaloe, we will be refreshing the existing arrows, hatching and line markings. In the long term, a design will be required for this junction and parking layout.

The Lower Ardnataggle road was recently surface dressed this year as part of the restoration maintenance programme. We will be refreshing the STOP text line markings and will be reviewing road markings adjacent to the R-466.

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

8. "Ask this MD that the Main Street in the village of Quin would be considered in the road works programme as the surface is very poor."

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O'Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer:***

I wish to confirm the Killaloe M.D. has surveyed Quin Village for restoration Improvement works. We will be considering this section of road for the 2024 roadworks programme. In the interim, the area outside Crowes shop and sections of poor road surface will be repaired over the coming days.

9. “Where needed across the whole MD, that a list would be compiled where lining has faded and needs to be refreshed.”

Proposed by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer:***

I wish to confirm, Clare County Council are currently preparing a list of line marking works for our Line Marking Contractor. We have outstanding works on the 2023 Roadworks programme and other key areas such as Tuamgreaney Village, Main Street Killaloe, Tulla Village and O’Briensbridge Crossroads. Our budget allocation for Line marking out of Discretionary maintenance is €25,000 for the year.

We will be reviewing each regional road later this year and prioritising sections to be completed next year when weather conditions have improved and when our winter maintenance season has ended, which is from the 1st of October to the 30th of April.

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

10. “Calling on Clare County Council to carry out repairs to a section of road that has severely subsided between the Ash Tree Cross and the townland of Dereney, Whitegate.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Hayes

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer:***

I wish to confirm that the Killaloe M.D. has reviewed this section of road that has sunk between Ash Tree Cross and the townland of Derrainey. We will be carrying out restoration improvement works to this road next week. We will be providing a double layer of Secugrid geogrid to stabilise this road and prevent a future subsidence. We will monitor this road over the next 6 to 12 months.

11. “Calling on Clare County council to adopt a different approach next Summer whereby the entire footpath from Tuamgreaney to Killaloe will be kept free of vegetation so that tourists and locals can enjoy this scenic area whether cycling or walking “

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Burke

Seconded by: Cllr. T. O’Brien

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer:***

Killaloe M.D. have recently spent two weeks hedge cutting and clearing back the grass verge along the walking route from Tuamgreaney to Ballycuggaraun, using a battery-operated weed cutting machine for the weeding on the inside of the kerbline to improve the route.

We will be working with Local community groups in maintaining the grass verges and hedges in 2024. In January/February of the calendar year, we will be reviewing the footpath and will cut back any vegetation in advance of the nesting season. In general, there is a significant budgetary requirement to maintain and cut the extent of hedges and verges that is required and Killaloe MD will work with the Elected Members and community groups to assist where possible in line with available budgetary provisions.

Cllr. P. Burke highlighted the importance of maintaining the footpath particularly during the busy summer tourist season. Members referred to the importance of the footpath as a tourism product and the need to maintain the path considering the large investment made. A. Haugh referred to the challenge in resourcing such projects and agreed to note it with the finance department as part of the 2024 budgetary process.

D. Flanagan informed members that resources have been assigned to the path in the past few weeks and will review maintenance of the path at the start of Spring/Summer next year subject to resources being available.

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

12. “That Clare County Council give an update on hedge cutting programme for the Killaloe M.D and what action is going to be taken where hedges are not being maintained.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer:***

I wish to confirm that Killaloe MD currently have hedge cutting crews works at present on the R-461 Feakle to Gort road and have also completed works on the R-463 from Tuamgreaney to Killaloe. We will be complying with national policy that not only all routine hedge trimming, but also all essential hedge trimming, including that related to road safety to be completed by 1st March. It is accepted that in some cases, trimming may be necessary after this on grounds of public health and safety, notably when new road hazards are detected that require hedge trimming or vegetation clearance.

For the remainder of the year, hedge and verge trimming will be carried out as required along the following routes –:

- Regional Roads
- Strategic Roads linking villages with National and Regional Routes where such villages are not served directly by either National or Regional Routes
- Approaches to towns and villages from points not less than 100m outside speed limit signs facilitating such towns and villages
- Along School Bus and Clare Accessible Transport routes and any other locations where attention is urgently needed to facilitate road safety and usability – subject to availability of funding.

This is funded by the allocation specified in the Annual Roadworks Programme and the Council's own resources. Given the inflated costs of fuel and contractors, which have increased significantly in recent times, and also the requirements under Health and Safety Legislation, in the future the hedge cutting programme and the works on the above routes will be reviewed in light of our budget allocation. The Council will also continue to proactively engage with property owners along the roads where necessary.

Cllr. Cooney acknowledged good work being done in the Killaloe MD and added in the interest of road safety there is a need to concentrate on all roads in the MD. Cllr. Cooney suggested routes be assessed and if the landowner does not carry out required works the council charge the landowner costs incurred by the Council in doing the works. Cllr. O'Callaghan concurred and referred to the issues on local roads, Cllr. Burke highlighted responsibility lies with the landowner. P. Hayes queried if resources are available for hedge cutting? Brian McCarthy replied that this topic is a reoccurring issue and there is a limited budget, he added that whilst



the responsibility for maintaining hedgerows is with landowners, Killaloe MD are examining routes and will compile a programme for works to be carried out, subject to resources, in 2024.

13. “That Clare County Council give an update on the new housing development in Scarriff.”

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Cooney

Seconded by: Cllr. A. O’Callaghan & Cllr. Pat Hayes

***Reply from Adrian Headd, A/Senior Engineer, Social Development.***

The 18-unit housing development is currently under construction on the Feakle Road in Scarriff. The development comprises two 3-bed semi-detached houses, two 3-bed apartments, twelve 2-bed apartments and two 1-bed apartments. The project is due, as per the programme, to be completed in August 2024.”

Cllr. P. Burke queried the disposal of surplus lands and Cllr. P. Hayes asked about connectivity between the estate and the town of Scarriff. Adrian Headd replied that these issues and the safeguarding of access and land were considered in detail at design stage.

Brian McCarthy informed members that the A/Senior Engineer in attendance following a request at the last MD meeting that department submitting replies seek to have a representative at the meeting. The members questioned Adrian Headd regarding a number of social housing developments currently under design and construction in the Killaloe MD district.

***11.30 am In accordance of Kilalloe MD Standing Order No. 5 it was agreed to extend the meeting. Proposed : Cllr. A. O’Callaghan***

***Seconded: Cllr. J. Cooney***

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

14. “I am asking for a full review of traffic management around Tulla National school and the Gort road area on this very busy regional road. With the recent commencement of a new housing development adjacent to the National school and the opening of a new social housing development on the Doonane road it is now critical that a proper traffic management plan be put in place for the safe use of pedestrians and motorists and I would ask that all stakeholders be involved in this process.”

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes  
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Cooney

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer:***

You will be aware that the Road Design section developed plans around Tulla National school from which a Section 38 Traffic calming process was passed by elected members at the November 2022 Killaloe M.D. meeting. The works included Zebra crossings, footpath build outs, ramps, line marking works and repairs to existing footpaths in the vicinity of the National School.

This project which is funded the NTA is under construction, however there are a number of property boundary issues and matters of details to be resolved. In light of this Notice of Motion and having regard to the aforementioned issues and also the existing and proposed developments in the area since the passing of the Section 38, there is merit in reviewing vehicle and pedestrian movements from the Doonane road to the Tulla National School and general pedestrian connectivity to /from existing housing developments in the vicinity, and if necessary proposing a low-cost safety improvement scheme at the junction with L-4082 Main Street and the R-462.

15. "I am asking that a traffic calming measures be put in place on the Mountshannon Road in Scarriff. This section of road has become very challenging for the residents that live in this area with ongoing issues of speeding and overtaking taking place on regular occasions and creating high risk for the residents that live here."

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Hayes  
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Burke

***Reply from Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer:***

I can confirm that the R-352 Mountshannon road in Scarriff is within a 50km/hr speed limit Zone. This 50km/hr zone extends approximately 1220m on the R-352 from its junction with the R-461 Main Street, Scarriff. Several properties reside along this section of road along with local Business, library, offices, and car park entrance along with three junctions (L-4024, L-

4028 and private Junction). The road in its nature is 6m wide with a White warning center line and yellow edge markings. The existing line markings are in good condition.

The Killaloe M.D. team can confirm that we will carry out a speed survey on this road along with a visual inspection of driver behavior on this section on road. Subject to a review of this survey, it will then be decided if a project is warranted under a low-cost safety improvement scheme. Details of the review will be furnished and discussed with the Elected Members.

Cllr. P. Hayes referred to a number of options and the need to adopt a policy at council and MD level regarding traffic calming measures, Cllr. O'Brien concurred. Cllr. P. Burke & Cllr. Cooney supported the motion for the Mountshannon Road which they stated has been raised on a number of occasions. Delcan Flanagan informed the members the Killaloe MD has installed 3No. speed ramps in 2023 and will await speed survey results for Mountshannon road before meeting elected members.

## **16. Correspondence**

Brian McCarthy informed members that works at Ballycuggeran, the installation of a new floating pontoon and disability access hoist, are to be completed today. The disability hoist and pontoon both one of the first of its kind to be publicly available in Ireland and will allow ease of access to the water for people with disabilities, it is a timely launch for "National Make Way Day" tomorrow, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023.

## **17. Confirm date for next meeting**

It was agreed the next Killaloe MD meeting be arranged for Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 in the Killaloe MD offices, Scarriff.

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**Brian McCarthy,**  
**Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Meetings Administrator**  
**19<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**