

Minutes of July Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 12th July, 2016 at 4 p.m. at Kilrush MD Offices, Kilrush, Co. Clare

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. B. Slattery,

I Láthair:

Cllr. P.J.Kelly, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. B. Chambers, Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. M. Hillery, Cllr. C. Curtin,

Officials present:

Ms. Anne Haugh, Area Co-Ordinator & Director of Service
Mr. C. Feeney, A/Senior Executive Engineer ,West Clare Municipal District
Ms. S. McNulty, A/Senior Executive Engineer ,West Clare Municipal District
Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.

At the outset Cllr. Slattery welcomed S. McNulty to the West Clare MD meeting & wished her well in her role. He also acknowledged & thanked C. Feeney for his work covering the entire area of the West Clare MD for the past two years & he suggested that by having two SEEs to cover the MD area going forward would benefit the West Clare MD. Cllr Slattery also welcomed the media.

1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 3rd May 2016

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Chambers & seconded by Cllr. Keating

Cllr. Curtin queried as to the update on the Draft Memorial Policy. J. Corry advised that it had gone before the SPC & the MDs & that it was now proposed to go before the Full Council of Clare Co Council in either September or October.

2. Minutes of Special Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 9th May 2016 to decide on the allocation of once off funding for roads projects in the West Clare MD area of €115k

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Curtin & seconded by Cllr. Chambers

3. Minutes of AGM of the West Clare Municipal District held on 21st June 2016

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Chambers & seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

4. Taking in Charge – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads (report herewith)

In accordance with S11 of the Roads Act 1993 it was proposed by Cllr Lynch & seconded by Cllr Chambers that the roads in the following estates would be declared public roads:

Cois na Ce, Cappagh, Kilrush
Shannon View ,Killadysert
Barrack Court ,Killadysert
An Screach Geal, Killadysert

Cllr. Keating raised a query as to why the Fishermans Cottage estate in Querrin, which had appeared in the newspaper notice, was not included. It was agreed J. Corry would follow up with Planning re same.

5. Parking in Kilrush

J. Corry updated the members on the appointment of a Traffic Warden for Kilrush & Kilkee. He added that the recruitment had taken a lot longer than initially expected as no one had applied when the job was advertised internally in the Council & that same had to be advertised externally. He added that it was hoped that the appointment would be formally made within the next few weeks. He indicated that the first role to which the Warden would be tasked would be to monitor & to review the practice on the ground with the two hour free parking incentive in Kilrush to ensure that same wasn't being abused & that a report would be brought before the West Clare MD re same at the Sept meeting so that the members could make a decision on same. A. Haugh agreed that a decision could not be made on the future of the two hour free parking until the Council had the necessary information regarding same i.e. were workers abusing same & parking all day, were many people getting their business done within the two hours & therefore no parking revenue being generated etc. She added that it was the intention that this information would be obtained by the Warden & that it was not the intention that he would be issuing fines until such information had been gathered. Cllr Lynch said that it was important that people who were parking longer than two hours without a valid parking ticket would be warned initially as parking hadn't been enforced in Kilrush with so long. It was agreed that by the Warden initially carrying out a review of parking trends for the first few weeks that that would give adequate public notice to everyone that parking was now being enforced again in Kilrush. A lengthy discussion then took place on the role where it was clarified that as well as traffic duties for Kilrush & Kilkee that the person appointed would also be responsible for dealing with litter, beach bye laws etc & other duties as appointed. It was agreed that the terms of appointment would be forwarded to all the members. It was pointed out that the appointment was an executive one & it was agreed that the job role could be reviewed after 6 months to see if any amendments needed to be made to the role before a contract was extended after 1 year.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“I am requesting that the L1092 would be strengthened & surface dressed from its junction with the R460 to its junction with the L5210 to Clonmacken lake”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery.

Reply

The road is not in the current Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2016. We will however look at the feasibility of local repairs within available resources.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle indicated that some of the road had subsided & was in very bad repair & requested that it would be included in the roadworks programme for 2017. He added that he hoped that he wouldn't have to raise this Motion again. He added that locals were paying property tax & were entitled to have works done.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“I am requesting a progress report on the provision of footpaths at Doolin”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery.

Reply

We are at present finalizing documents to resubmit a Part VIII application (with Appropriate Assessment) in early Q3 2016. It is anticipated that subject to a successful planning outcome works will begin early in Q4 2016 to ensure available funding is drawn down.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle queried as to how much of the footpath would be done in 2016 & enquired as to where the footpaths works were starting & where it was going to finish. S. McNulty advised that works would start after the bridge 1st property on the left & that it stretched for about 150m. She added that €40k had been included in the programme for 2016. She added that the plan was to extend the footpath to Fitz's cross but that same would take 3 to 4 years to complete subject to funding continuing to be provided as part of the Discretionary Grant. It was indicated that funding would be the only constraint as all the land had been acquired except for one small section where negotiations were underway with the landowner.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“I am again requesting that the main street in the village of Kilfenora would be surface dressed”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

The main street in Kilfenora is not in the current Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2016. We will however look at the feasibility of local repairs within available resources.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle indicated that the road surface through Kilfenora was shocking. He added that visitors were coming from all over the world to visit Kilfenora & the Burren Heritage Centre. He added that those paying their rates & their local property tax were getting nothing in return from Clare Co. Council. He asked that if it can't be done in its entirety that it would be done on a phased basis so that some works could be done there. He added that he had raised this motion before and that it had been indicated that there was insufficient funding. Cllr. Keating suggested that Fáilte Ireland should be contacted also to seek funding. A. Haugh suggested that we would look into this to see if the works could be done on a phased basis. She added that it may be 2018 before there was an increase in national grant funding.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch & Cllr. Chambers

“That the West Clare Municipal District request Clare Co Co recognise the full benefits, social and economically, of the recent proposal presented to the WCMD in relation to the development of a Wild Atlantic Maritime Experience at the derelict site of Kilrush Convent, by way of

a) marketing and promoting the said development

b) facilitating a meeting between Clare Co Co, Tourism Ireland and the promoter, to advance the proposal”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

The Chief Executive and I met with the promoter of this tourism product, Martin Tubridy in Kilrush on the 12th January 2016 where he presented some information on the idea and we had a good discussion around it. At that time, Mr Tubridy advised that he was working on producing a feasibility study for the Convent site and the proposed Maritime Centre. We have had no further contact from Mr. Tubridy since that meeting.

Subsequently, the Chief Executive forwarded the idea for an Atlantic Maritime Centre to a tourism expert to seek their views in relation to the marketability of such an idea and concept in Kilrush and a report is awaited.

The proposed project is timely in that a grants scheme for large tourism projects was recently announced by Failte Ireland and initial proposals in the form of a feasibility study and application form can be submitted by mid August to Failte Ireland.

The Council would welcome further engagement with Mr Tubridy and will arrange to make contact with him with a view to facilitating another meeting and to further assess a suitable proposal.

Response Ends

Monica Meehan, SEO, Tourism & Community

Cllr. Lynch indicated that the convent had been an issue for Kilrush for many years as it was an eyesore & was now derelict & he added that this proposal was the first proposal that had generated an air of excitement. He suggested that the necessary expertise existed in Clare Co Council and that they should assist the owner in applying for the grant. Cllr. Chambers indicated that the interim CE of Clare Co Council had taken a personal interest in this project & that recent engagement had taken place with the owner.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“That Clare Co Co will support the development of Kilrush Town as a Maritime town and a maritime tourist destination by:

a) undertaking a survey of the immediate coast line surrounding Kilrush to identify a suitable area for a future slipway

b) provisional proposal including layout drawing and environment impact assessments be prepared in anticipation of a planning or funding application

c) that any such locations will be considered for any future available funding through the Clare Co Co Budgetary process or any other 3rd party available funding”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

The Council is currently engaging on the feasibility of a Maritime Centre at the Convent site in Kilrush and is also engaging with the OPW and other stakeholders on exploring the possibility of developing Scatterry Island.

This proposal regarding the development of Kilrush as a Maritime town and tourist destination is a significant one which will require resourcing on a large scale. It will need to be considered as part of the budgetary process.

Response Ends

Monica Meehan, SEO, Tourism & Community

Cllr. Lynch said he was disappointed with the response. He added that there was no slipway in Kilrush. He added that this proposal couldn't be considered as part of the budgetary process unless parts a) & b) were answered. C. Feeney indicated that there were already 54 piers & slipways in the West Clare MD & that these all needed to be maintained etc so he cautioned against constructing a new slipway as he added that there would be a significant cost involved of up to €150k & that there would be a lot of potential difficulties eg Foreshore licence being required, environmental considerations, SAC etc. He queried as to why the Marina couldn't be used. Cllr. Lynch indicated that he

had a site in mind for a slipway & it was agreed that he would forward details to C. Feeney.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

"That this municipal district will consider, by way of by-laws, suitable regulations to promote and protect the original and historic nature of shopfronts throughout our town and villages and that appropriate funding be made available through the budget process for 2017 for grant scheme to encourage new and old businesses to renovate shop fronts in line with the historical character".

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

Reply

Attractive shop fronts contribute significantly to a town's competitiveness from a retail, tourism and economic growth perspective, and their promotion is a key objective of Clare County Council. Well presented shop fronts and buildings can have considerable positive impact, encouraging people to feel welcome, increasing footfall and street activity and can result in a longer stay by shoppers and visitors.

The promotion and protection of historical shop fronts is achieved in some cases through the designation of individual shop fronts as Protected Structures, or, in certain settlements the designation of certain areas or streets as architectural conservation areas (ACA's). Whilst the use of designations is one regulatory method of protecting historic shop fronts it is respectfully suggested that Bye-laws and further regulatory interventions throughout the County, in themselves, may not always be appropriate - a multifaceted approach is required.

National grant schemes such as the Built Heritage Investment Scheme provide some, albeit diminishing, funds to improve historic structures. Notably however, Clare County Council initiatives to encourage businesses to renovate shop fronts, such as the Streetscape Improvement Scheme recently launched for Ennis may be an intervention worth further consideration in certain areas – in particular in ACA's, and subject to funding. Clare County Council's Planning and Enterprise Department through the Conservation Officer actively assists in advising owners and occupiers in the renovation of historic shop fronts. Whilst collaboration between local Chambers of Commerce's, businesses and retailers and Clare County Council is actively encouraged.

In this regard it is important to acknowledge the work of existing business and tidy towns groups throughout the county who take pride in their communities and undertake significant improvements to historic shop fronts.

Response Ends

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner, Planning & Enterprise Development

Cllr. Lynch said that there were beautiful shopfronts in West Clare & he wanted these preserved. He gave an example of Listowel where there was a beautiful character in the town because of the traditional shopfronts being preserved & that this was what he was trying to achieve in West Clare. It was indicated that a condition could be included in

planning requesting that a traditional shopfront be used .A discussion then took place as to whether or not a policy should be formed . Cllr Lynch suggested that we could liaise with Clonakilty as part of enquiries on how they improved their town centre.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

“I propose that Clare County Council will extend public lighting from the current supply to Kilrush GAA and the entrance to the Wall Gardens, Kilrush, Co. Clare.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

Public lighting is the largest utility bill for Clare County Council but under European Directives there is a requirement that the public service in general would reduce its carbon foot print by 33% by year 2020 which would have implications for public lighting schemes.

The road in question is the N67 national secondary route and therefore funding for such a lighting scheme would come under the responsibility of Transport Infrastructure Ireland. I will forward this application to them for their consideration.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Chambers indicated that he was satisfied with the response. Cllr. Keating indicated that health & safety was important & that these works would complement the great work which was being done in the Vandeleur Walled Garden & the access to the GAA grounds. Cllr Lynch queried if the four public lights which were part of the Woodmount estate could be taken in charge which would light up some of the area in question. C. Feeney added that it would take approx 15-18 lights at an estimated cost of €80- €100k to provide lighting all the way to the GAA grounds. He also mentioned that there were lights missing from the bottom of Stewart St to the Fort rd junction. He added that he would fwd to the TII.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“In light of the recent accidents where two people had to be air lifted to hospital with serious injuries and numerous other minor accidents, I am calling on the senior executive engineer to urgently carry out safety works and install protection structures and extra signage on the exposed and unprotected cliff edge at the bottom of the extremely busy county council car park on the Miltown Malbay road outside Lahinch. This car park is regularly used by families with young children and if immediate safety measures are not put in place further serious accidents will occur “.

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

While Clare County Council acknowledge the accidents in this location the question of personal responsibility arises. Aside from the fact that there is no funding available, any

works at this location would require at least Screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. It is accepted that additional signage would be beneficial at this location and to that end CCC will organize same.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery referred to the recent accident where two people had to be airlifted & he added that the cliff was falling bit by bit with nothing there to support it & he suggested that the signage that was there was inadequate & he queried if the stile that was there could be closed off by putting up a physical barrier. S. McNulty indicated that the signage was inadequate & she would look to improve. She added that as the area was an SAC that any works carried out there would need to be screened. She added that rights of way would also need to be investigated before doing anything with the existing access. Cllr. Nagle agreed that there was an issue here of personal responsibility on the part of anyone walking here.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“I am calling on the senior executive engineer of Clare county council to carry out repair works on all footpaths where necessary in the town of Lisdoonvarna”.

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

The works proposed are not in the current Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2016. We have recently undertaken and will continue to undertake local repairs within available resources.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery referred to a complaint that he had recently received from the Board of Mgt of the school re the footpath at St. Brendans road. S. McNulty advised that footpaths had recently been repaired outside the National School & she added that she would inspect the footpath at St. Brendans road.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kelly & seconded by Cllr. Lynch that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to continue.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“I am asking Clare county council to give an up to date report on planning etc. for the proposed new bridge in Ennistymon and also in the interim to repair and maintain the steps & the front of the derelict premises of Blakes and Linnanes to create a clean environment and to assist Ennistymon tidy towns committee on the up coming tidy towns competition.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

A determination has been sought from An Bord Pleanála regarding the nature of the Planning process which should be adapted in relation to the project – a reply is due in late July.

Blakes and Linnanes are listed buildings and protected under Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000, Clare County Council has a legal obligation to protect the structures and any proposals with regard to works at the location cannot damage the buildings, the N67 is maintained by Clare County Council for Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) who provide funding for defects along National Routes. CCC had sought to fill in the steps at this location in 2015 however this proposal was met with opposition and did not proceed. CCC will tidy up the area to address the concerns of the tidy towns committee.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery referred to the recent letter which had been received from the TII regarding Blakes Corner. He suggested that Blakes & Linnanes should be demolished & referred to a response that Joe Carey TD had received from Minister Heather Humphries on 10/2/2015 referring to the point that the making of or addition to or removal of a protected structure was a reserved function of the elected members. Cllr. Nagle added that if it was that simple it would have been done years ago and added that protected structures can only be delisted by Clare Co Council if not of architectural importance. He suggested that the Minister would have to amend the legislation to have them delisted. He added that we need to engage with the TII to see why they didn't approve the proposal submitted. A. Haugh indicated that the Steering Group was the appropriate forum to liaise with the TII. She added that until this meeting took place that we wouldn't know why the proposal submitted was not approved by the TII. She said that she would try & arrange this meeting as quickly as possible to try and address their concerns. She added that the proposal submitted to the TII was felt by Clare Co Council as being a proposal which could resolve the traffic problem & still consider local difficulties. It was indicated that the project cost to date including the cost of the acquisition of the buildings was almost €1m. Cllr. Curtin suggested that if the Steering Group met with the TII before the September MD meeting that the West Clare MD members would be updated.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“I request the Senior Executive Engineer to provide a pedestrian crossing on the main street of Corofin in the interest of safety”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

Clare County Council will need to undertake a survey/count to ascertain if pedestrian volumes warrant a pedestrian crossing, if a pedestrian crossing is warranted the project will then be referred to Road Design to undertake the design, however there has been

limited funding from the TII for Low Cost Safety Schemes for Non National Roads therefore delivery of same is not guaranteed.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Hillery suggested that the survey would be carried out. S. McNulty indicated that up to six parking spaces would be lost in Corofin if a pedestrian crossing was provided & she cautioned that parking in Corofin was already at a minimum. She suggested that a traffic survey would commence in the coming weeks. Cllr. Nagle suggested that a meeting would take place with the business people in Corofin before commencing the survey. It was indicated that the installation of pedestrian crossings in Ennistymon & Miltown Malbay had similarly resulted in the loss of parking spaces.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That Clare County Council would provide a progress report on the restoration works at the following locations resulting from recent storms,

a) Cloughaninchy / Seafield / Quilty / Spanish Point Beach and White Strand (Miltown Malbay)

b) Lough Donnell culvert

c) Miltown Malbay drainage“.

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

a) Cloughaninchy / Seafield / Quilty / Spanish Point Beach and White Strand (Miltown Malbay)

Clare County Council engaged Ove Arup and Partners (Ireland) Ltd as Consultants to produce a coastal flood and erosion risk management study for Cloughaninchy and Seafield in December 2014. The report was completed and submitted to the Office of Public Works in November 2015. It identified Clare County Councils preferred solution. The OPW coastal unit have now completed their review. They have identified that the Benefit of Cost ratio is only 0.44 and a BCR of less than 1 indicates that the project is not economically viable. They are not in a position to approve funding for the project at this stage. However they will contact Clare County Council in the near future to discuss the report and to explore alternative risk management options for the location which may be more economically viable.

Clare County Council engaged Byrne Looby and Partners as Consultants to produce a coastal flood and erosion risk management study for the whole Mal Bay area. This area covers the coast line from Whitestrand, Miltown Malbay to Seafield, Quilty. The study has particular reference to three locations Whitestrand, Miltown Malbay, Spanish Point and the area from Quilty village to Seafield. At this point all the required surveys have been completed. The bathymetric survey was particularly difficult as the weather was not good earlier in the year. The condition survey on the existing structures has been

completed. The flood modelling, assessment of coastal processes and environmental assessment is ongoing. Options are being assessed. It is expected that the report will be completed in August/September 2016. On completion the report will be submitted to the Office of Public Works for review and seeking approval for funding to move to the design and construction stage.

b) Lough Donnell culvert

Funding has been provided to Clare County Council by the Office of Public works for the repair of infrastructure damaged during the storms of 2014 including damage at three locations along the Atlantic Coastline. The replacement of the culvert at Lough Donnell is included in this funding. Clare County Council have engaged a Consultant to design and manage the project. That work is ongoing.

The proposed works are located entirely within the Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands Special Area Of Conservation [001021] and the Mid Clare Special Protection Area [004182]. Lough Donnell is an Annex 1 Lagoon Habitat and any impact on this lagoon would constitute and impact on the Conservation objectives of the SAC. In order to progress it will be necessary to demonstrate that the proposed works will not result in any adverse effect on the Conservation objectives and integrity of the identified European sites.

To that end Clare County Council will be required to carry out an assessment of the hydrological functioning of Lough Donnell along with a detailed assessment of the impact of the works on the Lagoon. A detailed botanical survey of the SAC will also be required. It is also likely that an Appropriate Assessment will be required

It is the intention of Clare County Council to carry out the repair of the culvert at this stage. However given the environmental importance of the area it may not be possible to do so and comply with environmental responsibilities.

c) Miltown Malbay drainage“.

The final report from the Hydrologist has not yet been received to date and until such time as the report is received we are not in a position to update the members on any proposed works.

Response Ends

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, Transportation

Cllr. Hillery indicated that re Cloughaninchy it was very important that the Council Engineer & the members would meet soon to try & move this forward. Cllr. Curtin indicated that he was disappointed that the OPW were not funding the project. Cllr. Hillery mentioned Lough Donnell and his concern that works might not proceed because of environmental concerns. It was agreed that a briefing would be arranged with Steve Lahiffe as soon as possible.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That as the Hydrologists report on the flooding problems of Sept & Dec 2015 which occurred in Miltown Malbay, Ballyvaughan & Rath, Corofin is now completed The Acting Senior Executive Engineer update the members on the remedial works and a timescale for same.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery.

Reply

The final report from the Hydrologist has not yet been received to date and until such time as the report is received we are not in a position to update the members on any proposed works.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Curtin emphasized that the people of Miltown were still awaiting a response to this matter. C. Feeney indicated that he understood that the hydrologist had been there & had carried out some work. He added that he would need to talk with Steve on the matter to see what was the up to date position. It was agreed that this could be discussed with S. Lahiffe as part of the upcoming briefing.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That Clare County Council would take in charge the road connecting Pairc na Lair, Fintra Beg , Estate with the N67 Miltown Malbay / Lahinch road in order to facilitate this development being taken over by the Local Authority.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

Clare County Council have inspected the private roadway and the condition is moderate - poor and as Clare County Council has very limited funding available for local tertiary roadway improvements it is unlikely that the Council would be able to improve the roadway if taken in charge. There is a statutory process, which must be followed, in order to declare a road a public road.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Hillery indicated that this was a private road which was leading from the N67 to the estate. He suggested that a special case should be made to take the road in charge as it was a stumbling block to the taking in charge of the Pairc na Lair estate. S. McNulty cautioned that the road was not in great condition & that if taken in charge it would place the onus on Clare Co. Council to maintain despite the fact that they had no funding to do so. The following resolution was proposed by Cllr. Hillery & seconded by Cllr. Kelly & agreed to initiate the process of taking in charge the road in accordance with the Roads Taking in Charge policy adopted by Clare Co. Council.

“That Clare Co Council would take in charge the road from the N67 Miltown Malbay/Lahinch road to the Pairc na Lair, Fintra Bay Estate”.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare Co Council repair the sluice/model at Loughdonnell to allow salmon access to Loughdonnell lake. This sluice was damaged during the storm damage of 2013/2014.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly

Reply

Funding has been provided to Clare County Council by the Office of Public works for the repair of infrastructure damaged during the storms of 2014 including damage at three locations along the Atlantic Coastline. The replacement of the culvert at Lough Donnell is included in this funding. Clare County Council have engaged a Consultant to design and manage the project. That work is ongoing.

The proposed works are located entirely within the Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands Special Area Of Conservation [001021] and the Mid Clare Special Protection Area [004182]. Lough Donnell is an Annex 1 Lagoon Habitat and any impact on this lagoon would constitute and impact on the Conservation objectives of the SAC. In order to progress it will be necessary to demonstrate that the proposed works will not result in any adverse effect on the Conservation objectives and integrity of the identified European sites.

To that end Clare County Council will be required to carry out an assessment of the hydrological functioning of Lough Donnell along with a detailed assessment of the impact of the works on the Lagoon. A detailed botanical survey of the SAC will also be required. It is also likely that an Appropriate Assessment will be required.

It is the intention of Clare County Council to carry out the repair of the culvert at this stage. However given the environmental importance of the area it may not be possible to do so and comply with environmental responsibilities.

Salmon are not a Qualifying Interest of the SAC and it would still need to be proven that there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC (Lagoon and Perennial Vegetation of stony banks). While the repair of the culvert may allow access to Lough Donnell it is not the principal purpose of the repair. The purpose is to reduce flooding and restore the environmental processes that existed prior to the storm.

Response Ends

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, Transportation

Cllr. Keating indicated that he was satisfied with the response & agreed that same could be discussed further at the upcoming briefing with S. Lahiffe.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare Co Council provide an update on the commencement of work on the entrance to the Vandeleur Gardens in order to accommodate busses & trucks.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

Works have commenced on enhancing the entrance to the Vandeleur Walled Garden to encourage and facilitate safer access for tour buses who visit the attraction. The works are being supervised by a conservation engineer due to the protected nature of the Vandeleur estate and it is anticipated the works will take approximately 6-8 weeks to complete.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Keating thanked C. Feeney & welcomed the works which had commenced as there were thousands of visitors who were visiting the attraction & these works would enhance the great work which was taking place at the VWG in developing and promoting a great tourist attraction with the assistance of Clare Co. Council. It was also acknowledged that Coillte were undertaking another project trying to get kids back playing there.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That signage be provided at the entrances to the town of Kilrush showing all the towns tourist attractions i.e. Scattery Island, Cappa, Vandeleur Gardens, Shanakyle Cemetery, Teach Ceoil etc.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

As the main routes into Kilrush town are national routes, any such proposal will need the approval of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). The information content of the sign would also need to be carefully considered and it would need to be in keeping with any signage policy operated by TII.

This request can be further explored with TII.

Response Ends

Monica Meehan, SEO Tourism & Community Development

Cllr. Keating suggested that the issue of signage in Kilrush had been discussed recently at mtgs of Tidy Towns & Kilrush Amenity Trust. He suggested that there should be welcome to Kilrush signs on the main road approaches to Kilrush & that these signs would highlight the main tourist attractions in Kilrush. A. Haugh indicated that any signage strategy would need to be endorsed by Planning & Tourism & Community & that she would contact them regarding same. C. Feeney indicated that a review of signage in Kilrush would be useful such that the tourist attractions as highlighted could be incorporated into existing signage rather than creating new signage.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That a draft scheme be drawn up to facilitate road names & signs for some of the roads leading into villages.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

I wish to advise that no funding is presently available to provide the recommended signage. Should such a scheme be considered it will be necessary to provide funding for same as part of the 2017 Budget process. Should funding be made available such a scheme should first be considered by the Environment & Transportation SPC.

Response Ends

John Corry, AO Transportation & Meetings Administrator

Cllr. Kelly suggested that issues arise in the delivery of post where there is a duplication of Christian & surnames in rural areas. He suggested that to help combat this that the names of the local area would be put on the signage. He suggested that there shouldn't be a cost to the Council as the locals would provide & put up the signage if a scheme was adopted. He acknowledged that if individuals put up signage that planning permission was required whereas if the Council put up signage that planning permission was not required. He suggested that a scheme with regulations would be devised. He indicated that having enquired locally that the post code was not an answer as it was not being used locally. Cllr. Curtin suggested that signage should be reviewed annually & he also added that an inventory of signage should be created where it was felt that signage should be in place.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That WCMD requests a fund of not less than €25million from the County Council as its GMA to facilitate infrastructure in rural communities.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 (the Act) sets out various matters in relation to the Municipal Districts. This includes the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) defined as the discretionary funding which is made available to the municipal district members for allocation in the budgetary plan.

The amount an Authority can provide by way of GMA is dependent on a number of factors primarily the total level of income available to it and the non discretionary costs that must be met from this income.

The level of General Municipal Allocation to be allocated for 2017 will be considered in consultation with the Corporate Policy Group as part of the 2017 budget process.

Response Ends

Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance

Cllr. Kelly suggested that the GMA was very valuable to the local community. Cllr. Curtin indicated that resources should match need.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That signage be replaced at the junction of Cranny Cross with the N68.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

Signage works to the national secondary road network are the responsibility of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the damaged signs are logged with TII for replacement.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Kelly indicated that he was satisfied with the response.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the Acting Senior Executive Engineer arrange for a review of existing road markings at the following junctions in the West Clare Municipal District:- Coolmeen Cross, Six- Crosses, The Hand & the Cross in Kilmihil village to address the safety concerns of local road users & the wider public.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

I am not aware of any particular issues regarding road markings at the referenced junctions. However road markings are reviewed on an ongoing basis and I will include these junctions for re-freshing when road liners are next in the area.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Curtin indicated that the road markings were obliterated at Coolmeen Cross, Six Crosses & the Hand & he asked that they would be relined when the liner was next in the locality. He acknowledged that Kilmihil cross had been re-lined. Cllr Lynch queried why roadmarkings were not put on resurfaced roads & C. Feeney clarified that where a road was not wide enough that the recommendation was not to provide a centre line .

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the Director of Services/Senior Executive Engineer update the Municipal District members on their response to the letter of complaint on the condition of

the road surface on the R485 which was circulated on behalf of 9 organisations in the parish of Kilmurry McMahon dated 9th May 2016”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly

Reply

The road in question is the regional road R485 which connects the N68 to the R473. We did carry out works to the R485 in 2015 and resurfaced 3 sections totaling approximately 1 kilometer in length which addressed the main issues at that time. The road is not in the current schedule of Municipal District Works but we will continue to maintain the road with the resources available. In a recent report which reviewed Regional roads across the country published by the National Audit and Oversight Commission it found that, overall, 19 per cent of regional roads have moderate to significant pavement defects while a further five per cent of such roads “display structural distress”.

Ultimately this is a result of significantly reduced investment in the road network since the economic downturn in 2008. All of the 3 main road grant categories from central government remain significantly below their 2008 allocations by figures ranging from 35% to 75%.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Curtin indicated that there was an urgency in having the road improved when a letter was signed by 9 different affected organizations. He suggested that it required investment going forward. C. Feeney indicated that there was over 2km in question & he added that funding was the issue & that it was not possible to carry out improvements to all regional roads each year & that that was why they were done on a rolling basis.

28. Correspondence

J. Corry referred to the request for funding recd from J. Treacy for the San Marcos project & it was suggested by Cllr. Curtin that consideration would be given for funding same as part of the Tourism & Community budget for 2017 as well as the GMA for the West Clare MD for 2017 as he indicated that it was a worthy project.

29. A.O.B

Cllr. Keating referred to the road in Cullenagh , Labasheeda which was a private road & that he was getting continuous requests to have same upgraded. He acknowledged that same was a private road.

Cllr. Kelly referred to the €1.6m loan that he had requested at a Full meeting of Clare Co. Council & that he hadn't received an update on same. J. Corry indicated that an application had been sent to the DoECLG re same & that a response had come back re same seeking further information.

Cllr. Keating congratulated the Clare Hurlers & Clare Footballers on a great weekend as they did the county proud.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed :

**Cllr. B. Slattery
Cathaoirleach**

Signed :

**J. Corry
Meetings Administrator**

Dated this the 12th day of July 2016.