

Minutes of November Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 17th November, 2016 at 11 a.m. at Ennistymon MD Offices, Ennistymon, Co. Clare

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. B. Slattery,

I Láthair:

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

As Láthair:

Cllr. B. Chambers

Officials present:

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Area Co-Ordinator & A/Director of Service

Ms. S. McNulty, A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.

Mr. J. Leahy, Senior Engineer, Environment.

Mr. J. O'Malley, A/ Senior Executive Engineer, Environment

J. Corry gave apologies for Cllr. Chambers who could not attend because of another engagement as Cathaoirleach of Clare Co Council.

Cllr. Slattery welcomed L. Cleary & wished him well in his role as Area Co-Ordinator for the West Clare MD. He also added that he wanted to thank C. Feeney for all the work that he had done in a very difficult role as A/SEE for the West Clare MD & he wished him well in his new role.

1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 6th September 2016

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

Cllr. Curtin sought an update for the timeline for the speed limit review for Co. Clare. J. Corry confirmed that the draft Bye Laws had been on public display until 15th November & that up to 56 submissions had been received which were now being assessed & it was proposed that a report on these submissions together with a draft bye law would be brought before the MDs in early 2017 before going before the Full Council for consideration by April 2017.

2. Minutes of Special Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 19th October 2016 to consider Budgetary Plan

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

Cllr. Kelly mentioned that he had heard nothing re the request that he had brought before the Full Council of Clare Co Council in early 2016 regarding approval to raise a loan in the amount of €1.6m for carrying out works to private roads under the LIS scheme. He added that he expected an update from the Executive of Clare Co Council on the matter. J. Corry undertook to check the status of same.

3. Minutes of Special Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 19th October 2016 to consider Section 38 for Limekiln Junction

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

4. Taking in Charge – Declaration of Roads in The Weir & Fishermans Cottage, Querrin, Kilkee to be Public Roads in accordance with S11 of the Roads Act 1993

A resolution to declare the road to be a public road was proposed by Cllr. Keating & seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Cllr. Keating indicated that if we were to encourage rural development it was unacceptable that Irish Water refuse to take responsibility for Waste Water Treatment plants such as in this development. He added that the approach of Irish Water needed to be examined & he suggested that the Clare Oireachtas members would be written to to see if they could change the approach of Irish Water with regard to them not taking over waste water facilities in developments such as this. Cllr. Nagle agreed & suggested that Irish Water were “cherry picking” what they wanted to take over & this should not be the case as he argued that they were responsible for water & waste water services. He also referred to the fact that Irish Water were releasing staff back to Clare Co Council as their services were no longer required & he argued that this was making it very difficult for Clare Co. Council to manage its resources.

5. Update on proposed works on public toilets at Lahinch & Spanish Point

J.O’ Malley & J. Leahy from the Environment section in Clare County Council were present to give a detailed update on proposed works on public toilets at Lahinch ,Spanish Point & Kilkee. J. O’ Malley indicated that the intention was to submit plans for Lahinch & Spanish Point for Part 8 by the end of the month & to bring before the Full Council in January & if approved it was hoped that the toilets would be ready for the 2017 tourist season. He went through the plans for both locations in detail & indicated for Lahinch that the intention was to enlarge the footprint of the existing facilities to provide increased capacity & an improved layout with storage provided for Clare Water Safety. It was indicated that external showers would be considered as part of the storm damage repair works at the promenade. For Spanish Point he indicated that the plan was to refurbish the existing toilet block & to provide for a wheelchair accessible toilet area & storage for Clare Water Safety. He added that it was also proposed that the existing lifeguard building would be refurbished to provide increased space for lifeguards. It was indicated also that there was no masterplan for the green area but that this could be considered in the future. He further added regarding Kilkee that they were still considering a suitable location for the provision of public toilets and he added that he

would welcome the views of the members re same & that it was also proposed to get the views of the Kilkee community. He added that it was not proposed to have Kilkee ready until the tourist season of 2018. It was indicated that proceeds received by Clare Co Council in the amount of €450k, following the sale of the old toilet block in Lahinch , would be used for the proposed works.

The members welcomed the proposed works and they thanked J. O' Malley & J. Leahy for all the work that they had done in bringing the projects this far including the consultation which had taken place with the local communities. It was indicated that it would be very important that the projects would be delivered on time & on budget. It was also indicated by the members of the importance of having sufficient funding for the staffing of these toilets to ensure that they would be maintained to the highest standards and that they would be open to the public for as long as possible each year.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare County Council collaborate with the OPW regarding the serious flooding which is being caused by the overflow from the Doonbeg River on the road leading to the residence of John and Maeve O'Briens in Shragh, Kilrush, known locally as Timberbridge road off the L20423”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply

Clare County Council corresponded with the OPW in relation to this issue and were advised that the Doonbeg River is not an OPW maintained scheme nor does there appear to be any statutory responsibility for the embankments. It is worth noting that no property is flooded therefore it is not likely that the cost of any solution would meet the cost/benefit ratio as set out in the Non-coastal Minor Flood Mitigation Works Scheme.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Keating indicated that when flooding took place here that it was a health & safety issue for the O'Briens. He added that there was a problem between Cree & Shragh on that river & that a possible solution might be to dredge the river at that location. Cllr. Lynch agreed & he also added that the raising of the public road might resolve the issue. A general discussion then continued regarding the requirement to have rivers dredged and the responsibility of the OPW in this regard. It was indicated that some farmers are willing to carry out works however they are prevented from doing so by the OPW & the National Parks & Wildlife restrictions. It was concluded that Clare Co Council should not have to carry out works on behalf of the OPW & that it should be highlighted to the local Oireachtais members of the OPWs responsibilities in dredging rivers to help prevent flooding.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare County Council carry out surface dressing works on the R474 from Connolly Village to boundary of Ennis Municipal District, a distance of 0.7 kilometres”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

This stretch of road is included in the Schedule of Municipal District works for 2017 therefore it is planned to resurface this section of the R474 as part of the 2017 Roadwork’s Programme. There is a section of road that requires a local repair which we will be carrying out over the coming weeks.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

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

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare County Council improve the toilet facilities at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience to provide for the increased visitor numbers with a view to reducing the lengthy queues which are causing inconvenience for these visitors.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

The Council has made significant improvements at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience in relation to the availability of toilet facilities at the site. During 2015, temporary toilet facilities were installed to supplement the existing level of toilet facilities on site. In addition, other operational changes have been made to maximise the use of toilet facilities at any point in time, e.g. conversion of male toilets to female toilets for temporary periods etc. It should be noted that there are toilet facilities available both on the ground floor and on the first floor of the Visitor Centre as well as in the car park area. Further improvements planned at the site will also increase the level of toilet facilities available for use by patrons of the facility.

In reality, it is the case that the significant number of coaches arriving at the site during peak periods invariably results in passengers on those coaches wishing to use the toilet facilities immediately on arrival. For example, the arrival of two coaches simultaneously could result in over one hundred people wishing to use the toilet facilities. In such a scenario, it is not possible to provide a level of toilet facilities that would eliminate entirely queues for the use of these facilities.

The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience however is strongly implementing capacity management measures and in particular the promotion to potential visitors to visit the site outside of peak hours. It is also necessary that coach operators would accept the capacity constraints that by necessity will arise at the site and look towards installing on-board toilet facilities for use by passengers.

The Council will continue to monitor the overall situation and implement, insofar as is possible and practical, measures to alleviate the circumstances that arise.

Response Ends

Gerard Dollard, Director of Services

Cllr. Nagle indicated that huge improvements had been made to the visitor experience at the Cliffs of Moher over the years & he added that the improvements carried out had helped the Council to cope with annual visitor numbers up to 1.4m. Cllr. Slattery suggested that possibly toilets should be considered in the vicinity of the outlets to facilitate staff working there.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That Clare County Council would give a progress report on the upgrading of footpaths in Miltown Malbay with a likely time scale and the allocation of funding for each project.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

In total during 2016 four sections of footpath in Miltown Malbay have/will be upgraded these are:

- 1- Mullagh Road footpaths completed and paid from the 2016 West Clare Municipal District Discretionary Grant*
- 2- Ennis Road footpaths ongoing and due for completion early November to be charged to the 2016 West Clare Municipal District Discretionary Grant*
- 3- Ennistymon Road footpath adjacent to the N67 due to commence mid November and has been funded by TII*
- 4- Main Street Miltown Malbay (from Willie Clancy statue around to corner on the Ennis Road ~50m) due to commence in mid November and is to be paid for by Cllr Hillery and Cllr Curtin from their 2016 General Municipal Allocation.*

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

S. McNulty added that the only area where works had not commenced was the Ennistymon road & she added that works would commence here next week at a cost of €16k approx. Cllr. Hillery welcomed the response & the works and indicated that in total that up to €76k would have been spent on footpaths in Miltown Malbay.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That Clare County Council would give a progress report on coastal protection works proposed for Cloughaninchy and Lough Donnell?”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

Clare County Council completed and submitted the Coastal Flooding and Erosion Risk Management Study to the Office of Public Works in November 2015. The proposal contained within the report did not meet the criteria set out by the OPW in the assessment of benefits and costs. Following a meeting in September 2016 the OPW and Clare County Council agreed to revisit the report and consider alternative proposals to mitigate the risk of flooding at the location. This work is being conducted at present by the Consultant Engineers ARUP (Ireland Ltd) and is expected to be completed shortly.

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. This work is on going at present. It is likely that any works will require a full Appropriate Assessment. As a result Clare County Council are proceeding with the works at Doonmore, Doonbeg and Farrihy initially and will deal with Lough Donnell separately. We are currently carrying out extensive topographical and environmental surveys in the area. Due to the complexity of the environmental issues involved it is impossible to put a timescale on the project.

Response Ends

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, Transportation

Cllr. Hillery indicated that he was not happy with the response & suggested that maybe the West Clare MD members should seek a meeting with the OPW on the matter of proposed works at Cloughaninchy. He added re Lough Donnell that if no preventative works were carried out that the sea would come in & would change the lake from a freshwater lake to a saltwater lake anyway. He added that he was glad that works were taking place at Doonmore, Doonbeg. Cllr. Curtin agreed & he added that the Cost Benefit Analysis for Cloughaninchy was an obstacle to proposed works & he added that he would like to invite Minister Canny to a meeting of the West Clare MD on the matter. L. Cleary suggested that an approach would be made to discuss with the executive of the OPW before inviting the Minister to a meeting. J. Corry added that the residents were being kept updated by Clare Co. Council.

It was agreed to take items 11 & 12 together.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That Clare County Council would give a progress report on proposed resolutions to flooding at Rath Church, Ennis road and Church Street Miltown Malbay”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

With regard to Miltown Malbay and Ballyvaughan, the situation is that the Hydrological Report for both are well advanced to the point that preferred solutions are emerging. In both cases culvert construction works are likely to be part of the envisaged solution, while in Ballyvaughan it is likely that some augmentation of conveyance capacity will be proposed in relation to the open channel adjacent to the N67 approach to Ballyvaughan from the south. Present indications are that the estimated cost in relation to Ballyvaughan would be between €200,000 and €250,000 while in relation to Miltown Malbay the expected cost would be of the order of €300,000.

It should be noted that the aforementioned information is as yet inconclusive but the completed reports in relation to both locations should be delivered within the next few weeks. Once recommendations are clarified and subject to them satisfying environmental and Cost Benefit Ratio (CBR) requirements it is envisaged that they would become the basis for applications for Minor Flood Relief Schemes to the OPW. The hope is that it will be feasible to submit applications within the next 3 – 4 months. Implementation of schemes at both locations will depend on the response of the OPW to the applications but the objective is to endeavour to carry out flood relief works at both locations during 2017. It should be further noted that Clare County Council have undertaken works to install and redirect surface water from the entrance to Jones Supervalu on the Ennis Road in Miltown Malbay. The new system is yet to be tested but we are satisfied that this measure should reduce the risk of flooding on the Ennis Road. Clare County Council area staff have also undertaken maintenance works on the culverts in Church Street, Miltown Malbay, however further works (if required) are awaiting the report and recommendations from the Hydrologist.

In relation to the flooding at Rath Church the following is the situation: This road, the L-1118, was closed due to flooding for a sustained period following the severe weather events of late 2015/early 2016. It is worth noting that no property was flooded and while inconvenient there is a diversion route to ensure access to all properties is maintained. Flooding of this section of road is due to the nature of the topography and natural drainage channels in the area. The high ground naturally drains to this low-lying area which in turn drains via a swallow hole located in the field adjacent to the section of road in question. Clare County Council secured funding of €10,000 for repairs to the road in tranche 1 of the severe weather allocation in 2016, however the road surface is in good condition and this allocation was diverted towards the resurfacing of the diversion route.

The proposal to raise the road (by over 1.2m to ensure the road is passable) is not in my opinion financially viable as significant retaining structures would be required to achieve a road level above the highest high water level, it should be noted the road level in this area was raised in the past. This position is under continuous review and the option of raising the road is subject to significant additional funding being made available on foot of a future extreme weather event provided it can be regarded as priority in context of all other similar type situations in the North Clare Area.

Clare Co Council will as a gesture of goodwill repair the stone wall however there is no immediate works, which if undertaken, would ensure this area does not flood in the future. There is no point in carrying out a Hydrological Assessment as any potential

solution which might emerge would not be cost effective and would not satisfy standard Cost Benefit Ratio (CBR) requirements.

Response Ends

Tom Tiernan ,Senior Engineer, Transportation

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the Senior Engineer report on the findings of the Hydrologist on the flooding damage at Miltown Malbay, Ballyvaughan & Rath, Corofin in September & December 2015 & indicate a time scale for the necessary remedial works to reassure the local residents who have waited patiently for action on same over the past 12 months.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery.

Reply

With regard to Miltown Malbay and Ballyvaughan, the situation is that the Hydrological Report for both are well advanced to the point that preferred solutions are emerging. In both cases culvert construction works are likely to be part of the envisaged solution, while in Ballyvaughan it is likely that some augmentation of conveyance capacity will be proposed in relation to the open channel adjacent to the N67 approach to Ballyvaughan from the south. Present indications are that the estimated cost in relation to Ballyvaughan would be between €200,000 and €250,000 while in relation to Miltown Malbay the expected cost would be of the order of €300,000.

It should be noted that the aforementioned information is as yet inconclusive but the completed reports in relation to both locations should be delivered within the next few weeks. Once recommendations are clarified and subject to them satisfying environmental and Cost Benefit Ratio (CBR) requirements it is envisaged that they would become the basis for applications for Minor Flood Relief Schemes to the OPW. The hope is that it will be feasible to submit applications within the next 3 – 4 months. Implementation of schemes at both locations will depend on the response of the OPW to the applications but the objective is to endeavour to carry out flood relief works at both locations during 2017. It should be further noted that Clare County Council have undertaken works to install and redirect surface water from the entrance to Jones Supervalu on the Ennis Road in Miltown Malbay. The new system is yet to be tested but we are satisfied that this measure should reduce the risk of flooding on the Ennis Road. Clare County Council area staff have also undertaken maintenance works on the culverts in Church Street, Miltown Malbay, however further works (if required) are awaiting the report and recommendations from the Hydrologist.

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tranche 1 of the severe weather allocation in 2016, however the road surface is in good condition and this allocation was diverted towards the resurfacing of the diversion route.

The proposal to raise the road (by over 1.2m to ensure the road is passable) is not in my opinion financially viable as significant retaining structures would be required to achieve a road level above the highest high water level, it should be noted the road level in this area was raised in the past. This position is under continuous review and the option of raising the road is subject to significant additional funding being made available on foot of a future extreme weather event provided it can be regarded as priority in context of all other similar type situations in the North Clare Area.

CCC will as a gesture of goodwill repair the stone wall however there is no immediate works, which if undertaken, would ensure this area does not flood in the future. There is no point in carrying out a Hydrological Assessment as any potential solution which might emerge would not be cost effective and would not satisfy standard Cost Benefit Ratio (CBR) requirements.

Response Ends

Tom Tiernan ,Senior Engineer, Transportation

Cllr. Hillery indicated that he was not happy with the response regarding Rath. He thanked the Council for the works they had carried out in Miltown Malbay but added that more works needed to be carried out. Cllr Curtin agreed & indicated that people in Miltown Malbay were living in fear of future flooding. S. McNulty outlined the works that had been carried out by Clare Co Council in Miltown Malbay & she added that further works could not take place until they received the recommendations of the Hydrologists report. Cllr. Curtin indicated that it was not acceptable that it had taken so long for the Hydrologists report to issue.

In the absence of Cllr. Chambers he had requested Cllr. Nagle to move his motions.

It was agreed to move items 13 & 26 together.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That as a priority, the section of the R483 road fronting Cree church & adjoining houses be restored to an acceptable state for users.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

It is my understanding that a number of resurfacing projects were undertaken in the past on this section of road in Creagh Village but the issue appears to be the road structure, therefore there is no merit in addressing the road surface until such time as the defective road structure is repaired. Significant funding would be required to further investigate, design and undertake works and presently Clare County Council do not have funding available for this project. We will however undertake local repairs on the road surface as required until such time as the larger project is funded.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers
“That an update be provided on carrying out very essential works to the road surface in Cree village”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

It is my understanding that a number of resurfacing projects were undertaken in the past on this section of road in Creagh Village but the issue appears to be the road structure therefore there is no merit in addressing the road surface until such time as the defective road structure is repaired. Significant funding would be required to further investigate, design and undertake works and presently CCC do not have funding available for this project. We will however undertake local repairs on the road surface as required until such time as the larger project is funded.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Curtin indicated that a petition that had been signed by over 322 people had been submitted to Clare Co Council seeking to have improvement works carried out to the road in Cree. S. McNulty indicated that there was no road structure here & she estimated that with the necessary works to be carried out including drainage etc that you could be talking about €100k for these works to be carried out. It was agreed by the members that something needed to be done to improve the road in 2017.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin
“That Driver Feedback Display signs be erected at the approach to Doonbeg village on the N67.

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

The route along which the driver feedback sign is requested is a national route and accordingly it is a matter for Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to decide if funding for same should be made available.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Curtin emphasised that as the road was on the Wild Atlantic Way that it was essential that this Driver Feedback Display sign would be erected.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“In the interest of safety that the engineer install additional speed ramps within John Paul and Island View estates in Kilrush”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

A significant proportion of the housing within each of the estates is social housing and managed and maintained by the Social Development Directorate (incorporating Housing Services) of the Council. The need for any additional traffic management measures would need to be determined following an assessment of traffic counts and vehicle speeds within the development, which would be a matter for the West Clare Municipal District roads staff, advised by the Council’s Road Design Office.

Response Ends

Robert Burns, A/SEE, Housing

Cllr. Lynch indicated that he was disappointed with the response & he sought to have two ramps provided as he argued that we had a duty of care to tenants. S. McNulty indicated that the cost of providing a speed ramp was excessive at €5k approx, because of the requirement to provide lighting etc.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“That road design complete the design for pedestrian crossing on Fahys Road in order to progress the much needed project.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

The Road Design Office doesn’t have staff resources at present which would allow for the design of this facility at Fahy’s Road, Kilrush as we have to concentrate on projects for which funding was granted. If funding is identified the project will get higher priority. It would have to go through the Section 38 process as it is regarded as traffic calming under the Road Traffic Act 1994. The design would have to have an independent Road Safety Audit as it is on the N67 National Road.

Response Ends

Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design

Cllr. Lynch indicated that a preliminary design was done 8 yrs ago & he added that surely that this could be considered when designing the facility to go out on public display. J. Corry added that he would advise Road Design of this preliminary design. He also advised that funding had been set aside by Kilrush Town Council for this project when they were being abolished.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“That Clare County Council in partnership with Coillte and Clare Sports Partnership would develop and maintain the existing trails within the Kilrush

woods with a view to further develop the use of the facilities through other activities and develop a green gym for West Clare.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

The National Trails Office promotes the use of recreational trails in Ireland and maintains a National Trails Register. The trails listed on www.irishtrails.ie have been assessed against the Management Standards for Recreational Trails in Ireland which covers information provision, waymarking, signage, trail surface quality, vegetation, litter control and trail furniture.

There are three walking/hiking trails and one Sli na Slainte Walking route in Kilrush. The three walking/hiking trails which are managed by Coillte and promoted on www.coillteoutdoors.ie are based in Kilrush Woods and are listed as having a quality indicator of three stars and are therefore deemed fully compliant with the standards. The Sli na Slainte Walking route which starts and ends in Kilrush town also has a quality indicator of three stars and is managed by Clare Local Development Company.

Clare Sports Partnership has confirmed that they do not have responsibility for the maintenance of trails. They currently operate a ‘Park Run’ every Saturday morning in Kilrush woods and promote physical activity generally in both Kilrush and Kilkee. Their Strategic Plan 2016-2018 promotes the concept of ‘green gyms’.

The Council’s Rural Development Directorate has responsibility for leading the local authority support in relation to walking trails. The Directorate will engage with Coillte and Clare Sports Partnership with a view to exploring options for the further development of the facilities at Kilrush Woods being mindful that the management and maintenance of these facilities is the responsibility of Coillte.

Response Ends

Monica Meehan, SEO, Rural Development

Cllr. Lynch indicated that he was looking for a collaborative approach between Coillte, Clare Sports Partnership & Clare Co Council to develop the existing trails within Kilrush Woods. G. Keating indicated that Mark Burke, Coillte would be a key player. L. Cleary indicated that he would convene a meeting between the relevant agencies & he added that this might be considered as a pilot in the West Clare MD if funding was to be made available.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That immediate works be carried out on R486 at a point approx 300m on the ferry side of Killimer church”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply

Following clarification the section of road in question is the N67, a national secondary route, and in this regard the progression of works on national routes is a matter for TII.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Kelly added that three accidents had occurred here in the past 14 months. He proposed that the TII be formally notified of the accidents that had occurred & that lands had been acquired here by Clare Co Council. S. McNulty indicated that all accident records are recorded centrally & are available to the T.I.I. J. Corry added that Road Design were unable to find a record of having acquired lands at this location . Cllr. Kelly added that he would help out re same & get back to J. Corry on the matter.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That the road surface on the L2066-26, immediately east of Coolmeen village be improved”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

This road is not included in the 3 year road restoration improvement programme however this and all local roads in the West Clare MD will be considered for inclusion in the 2017 restoration maintenance programme which is subject to available funding.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

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

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That a report be made available on the delay on improvements to N68 at Caherea”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply

The works required at Caherea were notified to the TII in May 2016 and they responded looking for further information. We are presently compiling the information to submit to the TII and are confident this project will commence in the New Year funded by the TII.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Kelly indicated that if temporary speed limits were being put in place that the signage should be a different colour. He suggested also that the speed limit signs should be removed until the works were ready to commence. Cllr. Lynch suggested that if

someone crashed at this location that Clare Co Council would be responsible as there was no advance warning of the reduction of the speed limit to 50/km/h. He added that Clare Co Council needed to have a policy in place regarding introducing such temporary speed limits. J. Corry confirmed that the introduction of such temporary speed limits, where works were taking place, were governed by the Road Traffic Act 2004.

It was proposed by Cllr. Curtin & seconded by Cllr. Hillery that Standing Orders would be suspended to facilitate the conclusion of the meeting.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery & Cllr Nagle

“We are requesting that Clare County Council provide a proper footpath from the AIB to the bow lane at Main Street Ennistymon as the present one is not fit for purpose.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

This section of footpath is a protected structure under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, in that regard in September 2016 I sought and was granted a Section 57 declaration which permits the re-laying of the existing “Lough” flagstone pavements. Presently CCC do not have funding available to undertake this work however CCC are in a position to undertake this work should funding become available in 2017.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Both Cllr Slattery & Cllr. Nagle indicated that they were very satisfied with the response & they both agreed to allocate funds from their GMA allocation for 2017 towards the works. S. McNulty estimated that the works could cost up to €20k.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“In view of Aldi LTD opening their new Supermarket in Ennistymon I am asking that Clare County Council repair the damaged footpath from the Community hall to the entrance of Aldis at Church hill”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

Clare County Council approached the Aldi design team and they have agreed to replace the footpath outside the curtilage of their site on Circular road. On completion of this work we will assess the condition of the remaining sections of footpath to consider if works are required and if so we will look to have same included in the 2017 Schedule of Municipal District Works subject to sufficient funding being available.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery welcomed the response.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“I am requesting that Clare County Council take in charge the lane know as Frawleys lane in Lahinch and provide public lighting from the Liscannor road car park to the promenade car park.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

A section of this lane from the Liscannor Road Carpark out beside Frawley's pub onto Main Street was taken in charge in 2011. It is hoped subject to available funding to resurface this laneway in 2017. There is an existing public light at the junction of the lane and the carpark. The section behind Frawley's heading out to the promenade was not taken in charge at the same time due to a dispute. The land on this laneway is privately owned by a number of parties however there is a de facto public right of way over the laneway. The progression of an application to take in charge this laneway will require the agreement of all parties with an interest in the land.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery indicated that as far as he was aware that there was no issue with any of the landowners regarding the proposed taking in charge of the lane but he undertook to check this out further & to come back to S. McNulty on the matter.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“I am requesting that Clare County Council strengthen and surface dress the road from the junction on the N67 to Kilshanny Church.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery

Reply

This road is not included in the 3 year road restoration improvement programme, however this and all local roads in the West Clare MD will be considered for inclusion in the 2017 restoration maintenance programme which is subject to available funding.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle indicated that the road was in very poor repair & that water lodged in front of the church. He asked that these works would be included in the 2017 Road Works Programme.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“I am requesting that Clare County Council extend the footpath from the filling station in Liscannor to Clahane cross.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery.

Reply

The route along which the provision of a footpath is requested is a Regional Road with an 80KPH speed limit and is outside of the 50KPH speed limit for the village of Liscannor. The construction of a footpath adjacent to a Regional Road with an 80KPH speed limit could not be considered as it would create a hazard for road users.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle suggested that the 50 km/h speed limit should be extended to Clahane Cross. He added that people walk here regularly & that the road is a very busy road being part of the Wild Atlantic Way. He added that it may be possible to purchase additional lands here to facilitate the footpath.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

“That Clare County Council would apply to the TII to seek funding for essential improvement works to the N67 around the Town Hall in Kilrush as it is in a very poor condition”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

Clare County Council applied to the TII for funding to improve the road surface around the town hall in Kilrush, the application for funding was rejected by the TII in May 2016 however there was ongoing communications with the TII in relation to the matter which are now concluded due to funding limitations.

Response Ends

Siobhan McNulty, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

28. A.O.B

Cllr. Nagle suggested that everyone should purchase Christmas cards from Helen McNamara before they left the building as they were supporting a very worthy cause.

Cllr. Curtin indicated that he had a prior engagement today in Carrickmacross but he had not attended this engagement coming instead to the West Clare MD meeting.

The members acknowledged the work undertaken by C. Feeney over the past no of years in difficult circumstances & it was agreed that a note would be sent to him on behalf of

the West Clare MD members thanking him for all that he had done in the West Clare MD area over the past no of years.

L. Cleary indicated that he was looking forward to working with the members in the West Clare MD. He added that there would be a lot of challenges . He added that there was a need to see what was possible in replenishing GO staff in Roads as it was recognized that staff were stretched in this area. He acknowledged S. McNulty for taking on the entire West Clare MD area as SEE on a temporary basis. He also acknowledged the work undertaken by C. Feeney.

He added regarding Rural Development that he was expecting the government to launch a National Rural Development Action Plan similar to the Housing Strategy & Action Plan for Jobs , a particular Action Plan for rural affairs & he added that this would be particularly relevant to the West Clare MD & that as that unfolded that he would keep the members updated.

It was agreed that the January MD meeting would take place in the Kilrush MD offices on 17th January at 4pm.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed :

Cllr. B. Slattery
Cathaoirleach

Signed :

J. Corry
Meetings Administrator

Dated this the 23rd day of January 2017.