

**Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting Tuesday 2nd
March, 2021 (online)**

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. Joe Garrihy

I Láthair:

Cllr. Susan Crawford, Cllr. Shane Talty, Cllr. Gabriel Keating, Cllr. Joe Killeen, Cllr. Ian Lynch, Cllr. Cillian Murphy, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. Bill Chambers.

Officials present:

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Area Co-Coordinator & Director of Service

Mr. John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer & Meetings Administrator, West Clare Municipal District

Ms. Carmel Greene, SEO, Economic Development

Mr. John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department

Mr. Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. Enda MacNamara, SEE, West Clare Municipal District

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

Cllr. Garrihy convened the Meeting.

1. Minutes of January meeting held on 19th January 2021.
The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Keating and seconded by Cllr. Murphy
2. Disposal of Land at Cree, Co. Clare - Carmel Greene, SEO, Economic Development
Proposed by Cllr. Talty and seconded by Cllr. Murphy.
3. Section 183 Disposal of Property Ballard Road, Miltown Malbay.
Proposed by Cllr. Talty and seconded by Cllr. Keating.
4. Nomination of representative to Clare Tourism Advisory Forum (Tourism Task Force)
– Leonard Cleary, Director of Service, Rural Development

This item was deferred.
5. 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works – John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation

John Leahy went through the Schedule and it was discussed by the members.

Proposed by Cllr. Garrihy and seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Rural Development, Planning & Economic Development, Social

6. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:

That Clare County Council make an application for the West Clare area under the Arts Council Faoin Spéir. The purpose of which is to generate a sustained and curated programme

of multidisciplinary, inclusive arts activity in public or open spaces in towns and communities around Ireland between July 2021 and April 2022.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply from Siobhán Mulcahy, Arts Officer, Clare County Council:

The guidelines for the Faoin Spéir Scheme will be publicised on March 23rd, 2021 by the Arts Council. Any proposed application by Clare County Council will be submitted on the basis of meeting the criteria and meeting matched funding requirements. We will endeavour to support any individuals in the West Clare area, interested in making a proposal, on the same basis.

7. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

That West Clare MD members call on the Clare Oireachtas member to unite and influence at a national level, to pressurise the Minister to amend planning legislation to facilitate rural development in Clare.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from John O'Malley, Meetings Administrator, West Clare MD:

If agreed, we will write to Clare Oireachtas members.

8. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

That CCC undertake an assessment, and provide a breakdown to the elected members, of all Clare County Council owned lands zoned for development, whether commercial, industrial or residential, in the West Clare Municipal District.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development

The term "land" can have many forms in terms of property ownership and the nature of public land owned by Clare County Council includes housing property, land for development, roads, road verges and footpaths, open space such as beaches, burial grounds, corporate buildings, fire stations, libraries, etc.

At present, there would be over 5,000 individual pieces of property in the ownership of the Council and these may all be at various stages of occupation or development, at planning or construction stage, leased to Community Groups, grazing agreements, licences, undergoing refurbishment etc.

In the last two years, the Council established a Property Management Unit with a focus on undertaking an assessment of the properties in our ownership and this work is ongoing. It is a multi-year project to carry out this assessment on each piece of property and to determine options for its economic use, be it for housing, commercial, social or physical development. The motion is timely in this regard and I would hope to provide the listing sought of the larger landholdings / buildings within a few weeks.

We are working in conjunction with the Land Development Agency (LDA), the Property Registration Authority and the LGMA. The LDA have recently compiled a register on their

website www.lda.ie, with all state property registered in the Property Registration Authority including the zoning of that property. Should the members wish, I can do a demonstration of this website.

9. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy, Cllr. Ian Lynch, Cllr Shane Talty, & Cllr Joe Garrihy:

Can we be provided with the details of the proposed breakdown of the population growth targets for the county in the new County Development Plan and the proposed allocation of that by Municipal District with specific reference to the West Clare MD.

Reply from Helen Quinn, A/Senior Planner, Planning Department:

The information as requested is not available at this time. On the 15th January 2021 the elected members were circulated with a Chief Executive's Report on the Pre-Draft Public Consultation Process associated with the preparation of the Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028. On foot of issuing this report and in accordance with Section 11 (4)(d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) the Planning Authority are currently awaiting directions from the Elected Members on the making of the Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028. The final date for receipt of such directions is the 25th March 2021. Subsequent to receiving directions the Planning Authority will prepare a draft development plan in accordance with Section 11 (5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which in turn will be issued to the Elected Members for their consideration. It is at that stage that a draft Core Strategy will be available. The Core Strategy will be in accordance with Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in terms of ensuring consistency with the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and all Ministerial Guidelines and Policies relating to population targets. The Core Strategy will also detail the amount of land to be zoned for residential or a mixture of residential and other uses, the size of the area in hectares and how the zoning proposals accord with national policy.

A discussion took place where the following points were made by the elected members:

- Clarity was required in regards the population figures and the projected population growth. The term allocation could not be tolerated.
- The National Planning Framework was not reflecting the new normal as it was written pre Covid.
- Plenty of strategies for people to come to visit.
- Population required for sustainability and to justify development

10. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

We call on the Department of Education in conjunction with Bus Eireann to modify /redefine the catchment area for Ennistymon Secondary Schools, allowing pupils from Corofin and environs to become eligible for transport to these Secondary Schools on a phased basis.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Reply from John O'Malley, Meetings Administrator, West Clare MD:

If agreed by members we will write to Dept of Education & Skills.

11. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

We call of our Oireachtas members to progress the modifications to the Fair Deal Scheme which would better suit the needs of Farm Families in North Clare.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from John O'Malley, Meetings Administrator, West Clare MD:

If agreed by the members we will write to Clare Oireachtas members.

12. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Garrihy:

Can the director update us on advancement and detail work on the Strategic Projects within our MD and if any further progress has been made in anticipation of building projects for the upcoming RRDF Cat 2 funding stream.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Reply from Leonard Cleary, Director of Service, Rural Development:

The partnership approach of the 9 Elected Members and the Executive of the West Clare MD is to develop a Plan of Priority Strategic Projects for West Clare Municipal District 2019 - 2024. The Elected Members and Executive participated in several workshops to research the needs of the area and to discuss a range of important projects. This adopted 'West Clare MD Plan of Priority Strategic Projects' sets out a strategic vision for the area. It also identifies which projects are to be prioritised for development in the MD over the five-year term of this Council. These projects range across the following cross-directorate services: Economic, Social, Rural and Physical.

This is a 5-year work programme. This will involve design, planning and implementation. Significant staff and financial resources will be required to deliver these projects. The below projects will be considered for RRDF Category 2 funding where a project is ready for feasibility and design stage. The executive is currently analysing these projects. This analysis will have to take account of the fact that other MD's will also be apply for Category 2 funding.

Some projects will be achieved during the 5-year term of the Council. Others will be commenced and will need the baton to be passed on for the next term.

Please see attached appendix with summary update on the projects.

13. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Susan Crawford:

Can the WCMD start piloting the Clare Autism Strategy in relation to current projects that are being addressed to include the following:

1. Addressing autism awareness and understanding for staff.
2. Addressing accessibility issues for autistic people.
3. Addressing communication issues to include signposting on sites, pictorial signs with text and online links to introductory video clips about each amenity developments on local and Clare County Council websites.
4. Provision of sensory spaces where applicable in existing amenities.
5. Provision of sensory kits where applicable.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD

The WCMD is supportive of the Proposed Clare Autism Strategy Pilot project within the MD. I will work with Councillor Crawford in addressing the areas highlighted and providing the necessary sensory spaces and kits where applicable.

Physical Development

14. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:

That Clare County Council complete a structural survey of Cappa Pier, the coast road sea wall and the cliff edge at Aylevaroo. The area has suffered severe damage over the last number of years and is in need of emergency works to prevent further extensive and costly damage.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD (Kilrush):

In recent years (*particularly since storms in 2014*), remedial works have been carried out to large sections of the coastal wall at Cappagh. I will apply to the OPW for funding to carry out the survey requested.

15. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:

That road surfacing be undertaken on Lower Francis St Kilrush.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD (Kilrush):

Frances Street Lower is not included on this year's Schedule of Municipal District Works. Consideration may be given to including it on our three-year programme, which is due for review later this year.

16. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

That renovation works would be carried out on the access road to the housing estate at Crovraghan, Kiladysert.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD (Kilrush):

The requested road repair / maintenance work will be carried out.

17. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:

That emergency repair works would be carried out on the road immediately south of the Old Effernan National School, Kiladysert.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD (Kilrush):

The requested road repair / maintenance work will be carried out.

18. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:

As we head into the fishing season that CCC ensure the lighting on all the piers in the MD are operational.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD:

Public lighting at public piers in the West Clare MD are currently being reviewed and where there is a need for works to take place our Public Lighting section in the Transportation Department is contacted. Members are advised that there is a system on the Clare County Council website under the Roads and Transportation Service for reporting Streetlight Issues. This links to Airtricity's public lighting issues/faults reports map. Any member of the public can use this to highlight a fault in their area and is a very useful way of ensuring that the fault is captured by Airtricity and dealt with accordingly.

19. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty:

Request that safety signage be installed at Shrohill, Ennistymon to warn motorists of walkers emerging from the Falls River Walk & returning to Ennistymon.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD (Ennistymon):

Safety signage will be installed on this section of road to highlight the presence of pedestrians.

20. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:

We call on Clare County Council to carry out improvements to the road surface and edges of the L5250, to include the setback of the road boundary to improve the sightlines at the southern side of the intersection of the L5250 and the R476 in Kilnaboy.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD (Ennistymon):

A review of this section of road will be carried out. Although resurfacing of the L5250 is not included in the proposed Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021, minor repairs can be carried out. The intersection will be reviewed and put forward for a low cost safety scheme if deemed suitable to achieve adequate sight lines.

21. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

That Clare County Council upgrade the public lighting in Knockerra Village and public lights would be provided on the side road up by the Church where there are a number of houses but no public lighting whatsoever.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD (Kilrush):

The Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project proposes to retrofit circa 280,000 Public Lights with energy efficient LED lanterns over the next 3-4 years in 24 Local Authorities across Ireland. It is estimated that the total capital expenditure for this project will

be circa €150 million. I understand that Clare is in the Southern Region and that LED upgrading works are due to begin in Clare in 2022.

Clare County Council does not have any plans to extend public lighting along the L-6168-0 - the side road up by the Church. If a funding source should become available then public lighting may be installed.

Cllr. Lynch advised that a costing to extend the public lighting would be helpful.

22. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

To call on Clare County Council to provide an update on the development in regards improvements at Minister's Cross, Kilkee to enhance the flow of traffic on the N67.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

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

The preferred design, further to a design options report, for Minster Place, Kilkee has been approved by the TII. The Detailed Design, Feasibility Report and Preliminary Design Report have been advanced and will be submitted to the TII in Q2 of 2021.

23. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:

To call on Clare County Council to request the Road Design Office to give an update on the current status of the improvement measures at Shaughnessy's Cross, Lack West.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

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

The design for Derrycrossaun Junction (Shaughnessy's Cross) and feasibility report is completed and has been submitted to the TII for approval. Principal project approval was received from the TII in January 2021.

24. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Bill Chambers:

Call on the OPW to carry out remedial works to the fish pass at the inlet of the Annagh River at Quilty (52.7939276,-9.4830473).

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD (Kilrush):

This is a matter for the consideration of the elected members of the West Clare Municipal District, if agreed we will write to the OPW.

25. AOB.

Discussion took place on the recent announcements regarding the exit from the banking sector of Ulster Bank and KBC.

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

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

Dated this 4th day of May 2021