

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CAPPAMORE-KILMALLOCK HELD IN ÁRAS MAINCHÍN SEOIGHE, KILMALLOCK, CO. LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON THURSDAY, 15th JANUARY, 2026 AT 2PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor G. Conway, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors O'Sullivan, E. Ryan, M. Ryan, Stokes, Teefy.

Councillor Carey Online.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Meetings Administrator (Mr. M. Leahy); Director of Services, Travel & Transport (Ms P. Liddy); Director of Services, Environment, Climate Action, and Fire (Mr. K. Lehane); Chief Fire Officer, Fire & Emergency (Mr. P. McMahon); A/Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. D. Sheehy), A/Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts (Ms. K. White), Administrative Officer, Environment & Climate Action (Ms. S. Hourigan), Clerical Officer, Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District (Ms. H. O'Neill).

1. MINUTES

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock held on 11th December, 2025.

Proposed by: Councillor Teefy

Seconded by: Councillor Stokes

And Resolved: "That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read, adopted and signed"

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, he was inviting those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting.

No such interest was declared.

3. ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE ACTION, AND FIRE DIRECTORATE

Update on the Redevelopment of Cappamore Fire Station.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Paul McMahon, Chief Fire Officer, to the Meeting, and they congratulated him on his recent appointment as Chief Fire Officer and they wished him well in his new job.

He confirmed to the Members that funding was in place for the redevelopment of the fire station in Cappamore, Co. Limerick. This redevelopment work included:

- Refurbishment of the existing appliance bay;
- Conversion of appliance bay to a lecture room, canteen, station office and muster bay;
- Conversion of the existing lecture room to toilets;
- Conversion of existing toilet to a laundry room;
- Construction of a new three-unit appliance bay, to include the construction a new entrance lobby;
- The construction of a drying room, Breathing Apparatus room, storage area and boiler house;
- Hard landscaping including new footpaths and concrete apron;
- Upgrading of foul sewers and surface water drainage, and all associated site works.

He outlined the work carried out to date on the project including planning design being completed and Part 8 application submitted and granted. Surveys and opening up works have also been completed with Fire Safety Certificate and Disability Access Certificate granted. He also confirmed that an enabling works contractor had been procured and appointed.

He confirmed that the total budget for the project was €2.5 million and that a suitable alternative temporary site for the Fire Station had been sourced during the construction stage of the new Fire Station. He also confirmed that the estimated completion time for the project was 15 to 18 months.

The Cathaoirleach and Elected Members thanked the Chief Fire Officer for the update and welcomed the fact that the redevelopment of the Fire Station in Cappamore was finally proceeding, as it had been sought for some time.

They agreed that this would be a state-of-the-art development for Cappamore, and the wider Municipal District, and would be extremely important in assisting with fire safety and control across the Municipal District. They thanked the Chief Fire Officer for the work done by the fire service in their work not only with fire incidents, but also car accidents and other emergencies. They noted that the firemen in the County were part time and they complimented their dedication and professionalism in providing such an important service for the people.

QUESTIONS

4. Question submitted by Councillor O'Sullivan

I will ask at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District if Limerick City and County Council are considering the installation of additional signage at the Ballyfaskin enterprise junction on the R662.

Reply:

The Municipal District Office previously arranged for the installation of “cat’s eyes” and additional road markings, following road reconstruction works at this location in 2020. The Municipal District Office has also arranged for the inspection of road signage at this location, and any faded signage has been replaced.

5. Question submitted by Councillor Carey

I will ask at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District for an update on the Local Sports Plan, developed by Limerick City and County Council and Limerick Sports Partnership, regarding Kilmallock and, specifically, if there are plans to develop a Community Field in the town of Kilmallock.

Reply:

Under the Government's National Sports Policy 2018-2027 Action 8, Sport Ireland have directed all Local Authorities to develop a Local Sports Plan which will review needs and set out actions to increase participation in sport and physical activity in Limerick. A Consultant has been appointed to support Limerick City & County Council to lead and facilitate the development of a Local Sports Plan – a 5-year Strategic Plan for Limerick.

Following a public consultation process which included workshops in the City & County, the emerging themes have been framed around active people, communities, developing spaces, enhancing places for activity, active communication and partnerships.

The draft Local Sports Plan 2026-2030 is currently under preparation and will be presented to the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture SPC ahead of a Full Meeting of Limerick City and County Council in Q1 of 2026.

At this stage, pending the completion of the Draft plan it is premature to give specific detail regarding the Plan's content. However, the Draft Sports Plan will be subject to further public consultation and all submissions will be taken on board.

6. Question submitted by Councillor Carey

I will ask at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District for an update on the former Bank of Ireland building in Bruff and if there are any plans to develop the building.

Reply:

The Rural Development section have been progressing the preparation of a proposal for planning consent. This process is almost complete, with engagement ongoing with immediately adjoining landowners.

The Elected Members will be briefed in the coming weeks of proposals, prior to lodging a proposal for Part VIII. The Council will seek funding, once the planning consent is in place, utilising all funding opportunity to redevelop the former Bank of Ireland Building.

7. Question submitted by Councillor Teefy

I will ask at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District for an update on the current status and any future plans for the former Bank of Ireland building in Bruff, now in the ownership of Limerick City and County Council.

Reply:

The Rural Development section have been progressing the preparation of a proposal for planning consent. This process is almost complete, with engagement ongoing with immediately adjoining landowners.

The Elected Members will be briefed in the coming weeks of proposals, prior to lodging a proposal for Part VIII. The Council will seek funding, once the planning consent is in place, utilising all funding opportunity to redevelop the former Bank of Ireland Building.

NOTICE OF MOTION

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr O'Sullivan

I will move at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District that, at the location at the Half Way pub on the Charleville side of Thomastown Cross on the R515, that Limerick City and County Council examine options to increase awareness of the concrete edge in front of the pub, so that road users are aware of same at this location.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Conway, and agreed.

Reply:

The Municipal District Office has previously engaged with the property owner at this location in relation to this issue. Arrangements have been made for a chevron to be placed on the edge of the R515 on the Charleville approach to the Half Way Pub, in addition to replacing the flexi arrow sign at the start of the concrete edge on the Charleville approach.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Carey

I will move at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District that funding applications be explored for public lighting at the walkways in Kilmallock, especially, the Western Wall Walk.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr Carey, seconded by Cllr Conway, and agreed.

Reply:

Before any proposals to install lighting along the Walkway in Kilmallock, including the Western Wall Walk, it is essential to assess potential impacts on local wildlife. Artificial lighting can negatively affect nocturnal species such as bats and may disturb birds and other wildlife.

To ensure an informed approach, two preliminary surveys are recommended:

1. **Current Lighting Assessment**-A walk through to record existing light levels and any light spills along the routes. This can be carried out immediately.
2. **Wildlife Impact Survey**-A second survey during the bat activity season in May, using bat detectors to detect bat presence and usage of these routes. This timing also allows the identification of bird nesting sites.

These surveys will be undertaken and will provide the necessary information to evaluate the ecological implications of introducing lighting and guide any future decisions.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Teefy

I will move at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal that the proposed 2026 Roads Maintenance Budget Schedule be prepared to ensure an equal allocation of the roads budget per kilometre of road network across all Districts.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr Teefy, seconded by Cllr E. Ryan, and agreed.

In proposing the Notice of Motion, Cllr Teefy referred to the fact that the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District had responsibility for 1,063km of local roads, and 211km of regional roads, and at 33% of the road network, meant that the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District was the largest of all the Districts. With the cost of maintaining the road network increasing, it was unfair that funding for same was not apportioned on a pro-rata basis and assist with the funding of adequate road maintenance and improvement works.

The Members agreed that this was an important issue for the Municipal District and that it had been flagged before that there was an imbalance in funding for road maintenance and improvement works. They noted that the R513 was a significant regional road that went through the Municipal District and carried a constant flow of heavy goods vehicles and commuter traffic and therefore required ongoing funding support. The Members also noted that the funding allocation under Active Travel was primarily for the City area and that just a small proportion was allocated to the three Municipal Districts in the county.

The Director of Services, Travel & Transport referred to the process of funding allocation under the Schedule of Municipal District Works process, which also includes applicable

grant allocations. She confirmed that the distribution of funding is informed by various criteria in an effort to be consistent and equitable across all the Districts.

On the proposal of Cllr Teefy, seconded by Cllr E. Ryan, it was unanimously agreed by the Elected Members to submit the Notice of Motion to the Meeting of the Full Council scheduled to take place on Monday 26th January, 2026.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr M. Ryan

I will move at the next meeting of the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District that Limerick City and County Council identify and take action to prevent the illegal rubbish dumping that is occurring in the Cappamore/Murroe area on a continuous basis over a long period of time now.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr M. Ryan, seconded by Cllr Teefy, and agreed.

In proposing the Notice of Motion, Cllr M. Ryan referred to the problem of illegal dumping, particularly around the Cappamore and Murroe areas. This is an ongoing issue and very unsightly for the area. It is also a resource issue for arranging clean ups, with an impact on staffing resources. Road maintenance staff are also often required to arrange clean ups of same, which is not satisfactory, as they should be engaged in road maintenance and repair works instead.

Reply:

The Cappamore-Kilmallock District has a dedicated Environmental Officer (EO), supported by the Litter Team, who operates under the Litter Management and Waste Management Acts. Their role is to take all practical measures to prevent, control, and ensure the proper disposal of litter. The team enforces these Acts, applying the necessary penalties and legal sanctions where required.

The Environmental Officer conducts weekly patrols in the Cappamore and Murroe areas, addressing problem locations and investigating all reports of illegal dumping. In cases of large-scale dumping, the EO carries out a full investigation and coordinates clean-up operations under the Anti-Dumping Initiative. The Litter Team works closely with the Area Office, which is responsible for cleansing operations in the district. Since 2024, under the Circular Economy Act, the Litter Team has been empowered to install CCTV for waste and litter enforcement in areas where there is evidence of persistent illegal dumping and where the installation of cameras is a proportionate response.

In addition, the Environmental Awareness Officer collaborates with Tidy Towns groups and Green Schools to promote correct waste segregation and disposal, while encouraging communities and businesses to play an active role in keeping Limerick clean.

The Elected Members expressed disappointment at the content of the reply to the Motion, stating that the reply did not address the Motion about continuous illegal dumping in the

Cappamore/Murroe areas. They requested that action be taken in tackling this specific illegal dumping, which is occurring on a continuous basis in this area. The Members agreed that this was a serious, ongoing issue and they noted that the last major cleanup took place in 2023. They agreed that the use of CCTV cameras was needed under newly enacted legislation in order to detect and prosecute offenders.

The Administrative Officer, Environment & Climate Action noted the feedback from the Members in relation to this issue, which would be considered by the Environment Department. It was also agreed that the quantities of illegally dumped material needed to be formally recorded so as to strengthen a case for CCTV being used as part of any proposed enforcement action. The Members also agreed that a survey of residents should take place so as to ascertain who is and who isn't availing of a wheelie bin service for their household waste.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Cathaoirleach and Elected Members expressed their condolences to the families and friends of the following, who had passed away recently:

- Andrew (Andy) Dillon, Brickfield, Effin, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick;
- Val Wheeler, Knockainy, Co. Limerick;
- Peig Ryan, Rath, Murroe, Co. Limerick.

Finally, the Elected Members noted that Anthony O'Riordan, Roads Supervisor, Kilmallock was retiring shortly, after over 40 years with Limerick County Council, and subsequently Limerick City & County Council. They thanked him for his service over the years, and they wished him well in his retirement. The Director of Services, Travel & Transport, on behalf of Management and staff, also wished Anthony well on his retirement.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____

