

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Kanturk Mallow Municipal District – Blended Meeting held on Friday 10th January 2025 @ at 10.30 a.m.

I Lathair: Cllr Pat Hayes presided.
Cllr Ian Doyle, Cllr Liam Madden, Cllr Gearoid Murphy, Cllr Aileen Browne, Cllr Tony O' Shea, Cllr Bernard Moynihan, Cllr Ronan Sheehan

Ag Freastal: Mr Keith Jones
Mr Fdraig Barrett,
Mr Eilly O' Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer,
Mr Aidan Creagh, Senior Executive Officer Municipal District & Rural Operations,
Ms Claire Barr, Municipal District Officer,
Mr Denis Beecher, Executive Engineer,
Ms Andreana Sheehan, Executive Engineer,
Mr Eilly Dennehy, Executive Engineer
Ms Niamh Mullins, Meeting Administrator.

The Chair, Cllr P Hayes, opened the meeting by welcoming the newly elected members of the committee: Cllr Aileen Browne and Cllr Ronan Sheehan. He also welcomed Mr. Keith Jones, the new Municipal District Manager, and Mr. Padraig Barrett, Director of Roads, Transportation and Area Services. Cllr Hayes expressed his gratitude to the Council staff, Gardaí, Civil Defence, and community groups for their efforts in ensuring safety and maintaining essential services during the recent challenging weather conditions.

Cllr Ian Doyle requested a suspension of standing orders to address the recent weather incident. He acknowledged the efforts made to manage the situation but highlighted the difficulties faced by residents due to the loss of water and power, as well as the significant snowfall. Cllr Doyle commended the contractors engaged in clearing operations and emphasised the need for improved planning. He proposed that a stock of contractors should be readily available to respond quickly in similar situations in the future.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 06th December 2024

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Friday 06th December, 2024 were unanimously adopted on the **proposal of Cllr Bernard Moynihan and seconded by Cllr Tony O'Shea.**

Matter Arising from Minutes.

No matters arose.

2. Statutory Business

a. Taking in Charge of Estates; "That, being satisfied that a public right of way exists over it, and the roads are of general public utility, Cork County Council hereby declares pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Roads Act, 1993 the following roads to be public roads: Estate Name Location Linear Metres Ard na Gaoithe Dromahane 319 Brookfield Mallow 130 Castlepark Mallow 5,891 Cluain na Greine Dromahane 245 Cois Tobair Dromahane 398 Meadowside Dromina 68 The Gables Dromina 73

**Proposed Ian Doyle
Second Liam Madden**

3. Notices of Motion.

- (a) Deferred from November 2024 "That the council support the construction of a foot bridge at very dangerous bridge On the Newmarket entrance to freemount" Cllr B Moynihan (04/10/2024)

Proposed by Cllr B Moynihan and Seconded by Cllr I Doyle

Cllr B Moynihan stated Cllr Ian Doyle and i have been collaborating with the Freemount Development Association on this issue. Given the significant traffic, including lorries, we propose a comprehensive review of the situation and requested exploring ways to collaborate with the community to expedite the footpath provision.

Cllr Ian Doyle seconded the Motion and stated it is a very dangerous bridge but there may be a possibility to fund through such as partners in Ballyhoura and leader funding.

Response by Mr Billy O' Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer:

The Allow Bridge on the R578 at the western side of Freemount Village is a narrow single carriageway road with no pedestrian footpath. In addition, it is located on a bend with poor sightlines. Taking this into consideration, the Local Authority would, in principle, support the provision of a Pedestrian Footbridge at this location. However, these works would be subject to funding and OPW Section 50 approval.

Cllr Moynihan acknowledged the response stating that's helpful and that Freemount Residents have discussed with IRD Duhallow and requested an exploration of a combination of funding to make this happen.

- (b) Deferred from November 2024 "That an update be provided on progress on derelict building next to hall in Boherbue" Cllr B Moynihan (04/10/2024)

Proposed by Cllr B Moynihan and Seconded by Cllr Ian Doyle

Cllr Moynihan commended the council for the ongoing improvements in Boherbue, particularly the new wastewater treatment plant. However, the presence of a large derelict building in the centre of the area continues to be a concern. He stated he receives frequent complaints about the building and the roof, especially with children attending the temporary school set up in the community centre next door and feels the owner's lack of engagement is undermining our efforts.

Cllr Ian Doyle seconded the Motion

Response by Town Regeneration Unit :

There are currently 37 properties listed on the Derelict Sites Register in the Kanturk-Mallow Municipal District, with 1 of these properties located in Boherbue. There are an additional 37 properties in the Kanturk Mallow MD currently under consideration for addition to the Derelict Sites Register, including 2 properties in Boherbue.

To date, 167 Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG – Croí Cónaithe) applications have been approved for properties in the Kanturk-Mallow

Municipal District, of which 29 have been paid out. 9 VPRG applications had been approved for properties in Boherbue.

In April 2024, the property in question in Borherbue was entered on the Derelict Sites Register. In accordance with Section 22 of the Derelict Sites Act, this property will become eligible for levying in the first quarter of 2025.

Cllr B Moynihan queried that the building would be levied which was confirmed by the MDO.

- (c) **Deferred from November 2024 "That an update be provided on progress on derelict building on top of strand street Kanturk" Cllr B Moynihan (04/10/2024)**

Proposed by Cllr B Moynihan and Seconded by Cllr Ian Doyle

Cllr B Moynihan stated another derelict site which could be developed into beautiful apartments looking at river. The site has huge potential.

Cllr Ian Doyle 2nd Motion

Response by Town Regeneration Unit :

There are currently 37 properties listed on the Derelict Sites Register in the Kanturk-Mallow Municipal District, with 9 of these properties located in Kanturk. An additional 37 properties in the Kanturk Mallow MD are currently under consideration for addition to the Derelict Sites Register, including 3 properties in Kanturk. Compulsory acquisition proceedings commenced on 1 residential property in Kanturk in Quarter 4 of 2024 and it is intended that this property will be vested in the ownership of Cork County Council in Quarter 1 of 2025.

To date, 167 Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (VPRG – Croí Cónaithe) applications have been approved for properties in the Kanturk-Mallow Municipal District, of which 29 have been paid out. 16 VPRG applications had been approved for properties in Kanturk.

In 2024, Kanturk was approved for funding of €30,000 for the development of a Town Centre First Regeneration Plan under the Town Centre First (TCF) initiative. The development of the Kanturk TCF Plan is currently progressing, and will consider among other elements a strategic approach and possible solutions to long-term vacancy and dereliction in Kanturk town.

In June 2024, both of the properties at Strand Street were entered on the Derelict Sites Register. In accordance with the provisions of Section 22 of the Derelict Sites Act, both properties become eligible for levying in Q 1 of 2025

Cllr B Moynihan queried if the property is currently being Compulsive Purchase Ordered (CPO) by Cork County Council.

Mr Aidan Creagh confirmed it is not currently being CPO'd. He stated would send the link on Cork County Council's webpage to access derelict sites register and confirmed it has been valued and will be subject to levies in 2025.

- (d) "That Cork Co Co would investigate providing a long term car park for people who are travelling to work in mallow Town." Cllr P Hayes (30/12/2024)

Proposed by Cllr P Hayes and Seconded by Cllr R Sheehan

Cllr P Hayes emphasised that adequate parking is crucial for the town's development. He noted that local schools lack sufficient parking facilities, leading to overflow into public car parks, which contributes to the overall parking shortage.

He proposed that the council explore several potential sites for parking solutions, particularly the feasibility of a multi-storey car park at Muddy Hill. This facility could be linked to Market Square through a possible partnership with a private company.

Cllr Ronan Sheehan Seconded the motion and the suggested investigation stating he feels there is a shortage and it is holding back the town.

Cllr Liam Madden stated his motion -motion G was also in relation to the issue of parking in Mallow. He stated to keep Mallow alive we need to source carparking. We need action less talking now and we need to put a plan in place

Response by Ms Claire Barr, Municipal District Officer

Cork County Council currently provides 883 car parking spaces plus 24 disabled spaces in Mallow.

This is broken down over 7 carparks in Mallow town providing 409 car parking spaces plus 9 disabled space. In addition to this we also have on street parking provided across 15 streets one being the main street and the remainder linking to the main street. These 15 streets provide an additional 474 car parking spaces plus 15 disabled spaces.

In additional to the privately provided car parking spaces in Mallow we are satisfied there is sufficient parking to meet the current demand. In investigating any potential long term new car park as a first step we would need to identify a source of potential funding.

Cllr P Hayes stated in 2019 long-term parking was an issue and it hasn't progressed since then. I would like to see something done on the long-term parking and I'd appreciate if you can revert back.

- (e) "That Cork Co Co would look at providing sustainable travel (bus transport to and from park and ride) to possible car parks which are based on the perimeter of Mallow town." Cllr P Hayes (30/12/2024)

Proposed by Cllr P Hayes and Seconded by by Cllr R Sheehan

Cllr Hayes proposed that, as a short-term solution, the council explore the feasibility of implementing sustainable travel options. Specifically, he suggested negotiating with Mallow GAA to establish a park-and-ride system, which would include bus collections at approximately 8:00 or 8:30 AM, with return services later in the day. This initiative could serve as an interim measure to address current transportation needs.

Cllr R Sheehan Seconded motion

Response by Ms Claire Barr, Municipal District Officer

Cork County Council are not in ownership of any car parks on the perimeter of Town for such a proposal. At present the parking demand within Mallow is generally being met by the public and private car parks in existence in the town. While closure of one of these private car parks for a short period resulted in difficulties prior to Christmas, the long-term demand for additional car parks around the perimeter of the town would need to be established.

Cllr P Hayes queried if Cork County Council could investigate and assess what the demand is.

Cllr Sheehan queried how it was assessed that in Mallow the parking is being met in general as in his opinion it is being met because people are travelling to cork city.

Mr Aidan Creagh SEO stated the need would be investigated and would revert back to Councillors.

Cllr Tony O shea queried if the area currently accommodating the adults exercise equipment in the town park could be used for parking.

Cllr Liam Madden stated mallow town park is a huge area and could possible accommodate parking.

- (f) "That Cork Co Co would carry out a survey on all public lightning in Mallow. There are a number of street lights which have been out of action for quite some time." Cllr P Hayes (30/12/2024)

Proposed by Cllr P Hayes and Seconded by Cllr Ronan Sheehan

Cllr P Hayes stated he had received numerous complaints of lights out in the Mallow Area, some of which are out for a long time.

Cllr Ronan Sheehan seconded the motion stating he had noticed a few up at Russell Place and Townview and queried the timeframes within the contract for resolving the issue.

Cllr Madden stated he also felt the length of time has increased in relation to resolving the issues reported.

Cllr Tony OShea queried the new solar lights installed in Churchtown and Ballyclough which light up at 5.00pm and are gone off by 6.00pm.

Response by Mr Billy O' Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer

As part of the Public Lighting Contract, the Contractor is required to have a patroller in place to do a drive by of each public light in the County on a monthly basis. When a fault is identified, it is then logged on the public lighting maintenance system.

In relation to Mallow Town, the last survey was completed on the 16th December 2024. Identified faults have been assigned to electricians for the necessary repairs. Unfortunately, when strings of lights are reported out within the County, they become a safety priority and electricians get reassigned to these areas which has happened in the North Cork area in recent times.

During 2024, the Public Lighting Contractor has closed out 114 faults in the Mallow area. In addition, the Public Lighting Contractor has attended

between 65 to 75 tickets in the Mallow Area during 2025 to date including the R620 Cork Road in Mallow and any remaining identified faults will be closed out as soon as possible.

Contract details circulated at previous meeting – we will circulate that again if required.

Cllr P Hayes stated that it is very important to have all lights working especially for the elderly in our estates.

Cllr T Shea queried if it is possible to escalate an already logged issue on the system.

- (g) "The issue of parking in Mallow and the need to secure more parks and spaces was never so obvious following recent fire in Dunnes. What options are available going forward and what are Council ideas on same." Cllr L Madden (31/12/2024)

Agreed previously discussed under motions D & E

- (h) "Taking in charge of Estates with emphasis on two particular ones Lime Kiln Estate/Bathview and Gleann Aras and Gleann Dara Grenagh update on these. The last two budgets at Council level funding set aside for legacy Estates like these but no action to date despite safety concerns in both. Cllr L Madden(31/12/2024)

Proposed by Cllr L Madden and Seconded by Cllr T OShea

Cllr L Madden acknowledged the work completed in relation to the Taking in charge of estates but stated there are 2 areas in particular he wished to highlight which have being ongoing since 2019. The estate in Grenagh which he believed could be rectified if the potholes were filled by CCC. The Mallow estate is an issue of subsidence and trees. He requested an in committee meeting in relation to taking in charge.

Cllr T O Shea seconded the motion stating the Grenagh estate could be fixed if the potholes were filled and a charge placed on the developer.

Cllr R Sheehan queried if there is any fund that can be setup.

Cllr Pat Hayes stated he supported the motion and has received numerous calls on.

Response from Planning & Environment Directorate as read by Mr Billy O' Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer

Cork County Council's recently adopted Budget for 2025 made financial provision to create a multi-annual fund for Capital Works necessary to bring established estates for which Council has received valid Taking In Charge applications to the required standard. This fund will relate only to developments where there is no active developer, no bond in place or where the bond is insufficient having regard to the costs arising at this time.

As the members are aware works have recently been completed on the estates in 'Bundle 1' - 7 of which are within the Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District. In relation to the remaining estates, where some monies were already available, CCTV surveys/audits and as-built drawings have been pro-cured to determine the cost of bringing them to a taking in charge standard – 18 estates in total countywide.

A comprehensive survey of all remaining estates including both Gleann Aras and Gleann Dara, Grenagh will follow.

2025 works can be determined based on the financial provision made in Budget 2025. Elected members will be briefed further at divisional level in the coming weeks on this process.

Until such time as an estate is taken in charge and where a developer continues to operate, they will remain responsible for roads and services in the estate and should remain the first point of contact for the residents. This remains the case with Limekiln Estate / Bathview Mallow

Cllr Liam Madden stated he received a similar answer last year in relation to this and it appears there has been no further action. He then requested an in-committee meeting with the planning department.

Cllr Ronan Sheehan stated he would like to support the motion as he is familiar with the Mallow case and a solution is needed.

Director of Service Pdraig Barrett assured the members that the Planning Department are working very hard but the taking-in-charge process involves multiple stakeholders and is contingent upon available funding. It is planned to provide a comprehensive briefing to the members regarding the processes and the status of the current bundles. Presently, the next bundle is being surveyed utilising the budget secured by the members. There are numerous estates with developer-provided infrastructure that are currently stalled due to issues related to Irish Water, including title and legal matters. Every effort is being made to expedite the process, and staff are diligently working around the clock to address these challenges.

Cllr L Madden stated he needed the exact answer to go back and say what it is to his constituents.

- (i) "Footpath Programme for 2025 it's important that older Estates again are looked at favourable especially for ageing population and also that entire footpaths in estate are completed not portions. Cllr L Madden(31/12/2024)
Proposed by Cllr L Madden and seconded by Cllr T OShea

Cllr Madden proposed the motion stating the footpath programme with a limited amount of finance had carried out some fantastic work done last year in Blackrock park and this work needs to be continued in other areas.

Cllr Tony OShea seconded the motion stating while a lot of good work done last year and town people very much appreciative it that footpaths in mallow had deteriorated a lot.

Cllr PHayes stated Sandfield Terrace requires additional works.

Response by Mr Billy O' Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer

This will be taken into consideration when finalising the 2005 Footpath Programme. However, it should be noted that the extent of works to be undertaken will be dependant on the funding allocation provided.

Cllr L Madden queried the expected date for announcing 2025 funding.

Mr Billy O'Sullivan SEE stated late March/April.

- (j) "That Cork Co Council would lyase with Tii and cut the trees overhanging the N72 from Firville to Newberry turn off in particular the very tall trees directly opposite the inver station." Cllr T O' Shea (02/01/2025)

Proposed by Cllr T O'Shea and seconded by Cllr P Hayes

Cllr OShea proposed the motion, noting that there is a significant number of very tall trees along this stretch of road, which he has previously requested to be considered for widening. He emphasized that these tall trees pose a danger and have caused issues for the nearby service station. He recommended that we liaise with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to assess the situation regarding these trees on the N72.

Cllr P Hayes seconded stating the trees were previously trimmed but the height was never addressed.

Cllr L Madden – stated this was had been raised in previous motions and queried the status of the road widening project.

Cllr R Sheehan supported both the widened of the road and trimming the trees.

Response by Mr Billy O' Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer

The responsibility for maintaining the trees along this section of the N72 rests with the landowner in the first instance.

We have also liaised with the Cork NRDO who will review the location under the heading of a potential safety improvement/intervention with TII in relation to tree removal/coppicing at this location.

- (k) "That Cork Co Council would look at installing some kind of traffic Calming on the very busy road from Lisheen Row to the Garda Station Car park." Cllr T O' Shea (02/01/2025)

Proposed by Cllr T O'Shea and seconded by Cllr R Sheehan

Cllr T OShea proposed motion stating he had been contacted by people living on estate in Rockmount requesting speed calming measures and believes it is a valid request especially given the number of children in the area during school terms.

Cllr R Sheehan seconded the motion.

Cllr P Hayes supported the motion and referred to issues with footpaths in Glenanar

Response by Mr Billy O' Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer

The L-1238 connecting Lisheen Row to Bowling Green is a single carriageway road approximately 145m in length. It has high traffic volumes as it is one of the main access routes to the Car Park including larger vehicles such as buses associated with the Patrician Academy Secondary School. It is noted that this road is expected to be included within the proposed Speed Limit Review for inclusion within 30kmph Speed Limit Zone later this year. The location will be inspected by the Mallow Area Roads Office and a Speed Survey will be scheduled for this location to quantify the issue and inform any necessary interventions.

Cllr T O'Shea queried a speed survey and stated that the safety side has to be looked at as well.

Mr Billy O'Sullivan SEE stated the speed survey would quantify the volume and speed of traffic on this road and noted that the speed limit is to reduce to 30kph under the speed limit review later this year.

Cllr G Murphy stated there had been several motions to carry out speed surveys and traffic calming measures over past number of years and requested a list of speed surveys that we already done to compare against the new speed limits for all surveys completed over last 2 years.

- (l) "That Cork Co Council would look at replacing the bad sections of footpath from the Gilbert Centre to Market Square." Cllr T O' Shea (02/01/2025)

Proposed by Cllr T O'Shea and seconded by Cllr L Madden

Cllr T O'Shea proposed stating he had been contacted by wheelchair users who are experiencing difficulty and requested this footpath is added to the footpath programme for 2025

Cllr L Madden seconded motion.

Response by Mr Billy O' Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer

The condition of the footpaths at this location will be inspected by the Mallow Area Roads Office to identify the extent of the works required. It can be considered for inclusion in a future footpath programme if a substantial length of replacement is deemed necessary. Isolated bay replacement can be considered in the interim for any specific repair locations if the replacement of the overall area is not deemed necessary.

- (m) "That Cork County Council would give update on Charleville Fire Station. Whether existing site to be upgraded or green field site to be purchased" Cllr I Doyle (02/01/2025)

Proposed by Cllr I Doyle and seconded by Cllr A Browne

Cllr Ian Doyle proposed motion stating it is becoming critical, Charleville is situated on the N20 and as a result does far more than fire fighting dealing with major traffic accidents and station is operating from a shed. The station can't upgrade their vehicles due to lack of facilities. While they have a full compliment of staff they are working under appalling conditions. They need a new station for training, debriefings, drills etc., Cork County Council must come up with a plan to upgrade it – new green field site or current site expanded but progressed rapidly.

Cllr Aileen Doyle seconded motion stating she is personally very aware of volume of calls and amount of work and concurs the conditions they are working from are not sufficient. Stated Charleville needs a fully equipped fire station.

Cllr P Hayes also supported motion.

Response from Department of Climate Change, Emergency Services, and Library Services.

A decision on site selection has not yet been made. As advised in our response to a similar recent notice of motion, the Fire Department in conjunction with County Architects continue to assess the suitability of a number of alternative sites, including the option of building on the existing Fire Station site.

It is hoped to complete the assessment soon, with a view to submitting a capital funding application to the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management (part of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage).

Cllr I Doyle requested this is progressed further for next meeting and requested in committee meeting to discuss further.

5. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations.

(a) Municipal District Officers Report

Members were presented with the Municipal District Officers Report prior to the meeting. Members were requested to approve the following:

Community Grants Requests to *Extension of Time*:

Ballyclough GAA - CFS398762767 Amenity Grant 2022 - Grant Allocation - €5,000

Purpose – Develop astro turf playing area and ball wall.

Extension of time requested to 31st March 2025

Proposed Cllr P Hayes and Seconded Cllr R Sheehan

Town Development Fund – The following expenditure required approval by members:

Paint Scheme – Mallow €20,000 Charleville €5,000 Kanturk €5,000 Newmarket €5,000 Buttevant €5,000

Proposed by Cllr P Hayes and Seconded by Cllr I Doyle

Buttevant Walled Towns Licence €5,000

Proposed by Cllr L Madden and Seconded by Cllr R Sheehan

Illumination Walk Mallow Castle - €5,000

Proposed by Cllr L Madden and Seconded by Cllr P Hayes

Christmas Lights Erection – Mallow €15,000, Charleville €10,000, Kanturk €5,000 Newmarket €5,000, Buttevant €5,000
Proposed by Cllr P Hayes and Seconded by Cllr I Doyle

Halloween Haunted Walk - €5,000
Proposed by Cllr R Sheehan and Seconded by Cllr L Madden

Members welcomed the report and noted the following:

Cllr L Madden – Request update on Buttevant playground, welcomed the works on the Mallow Swimming pool

Cllr Ian Doyle – complimented the MDO on Town presentation in terms of Christmas lights on behalf of towns and businesses

Cllr Ronan Sheehan – stated happy to fund money for Christmas lights and haunted walk and as adds so much to town spirit.

Cllr P Hayes – stated great to see swimming pool get the go ahead and also painting scheme work on mallow this year to get a better response. Christmas lights are a huge addition to the town couldn't believe was looking so well. Very impressive.

**(b) Senior Executive Engineer's Report presented by Billy O' Sullivan
SEE:**

Members were presented with the Senior Executive Engineers Report prior to the meeting. Members raised the following queries:

Cllr I Doyle – traffic calming measure on Turrets and Love lane for 2nd part

Cllr P Hayes queried a) the cleaning of the Mill Stream in Quartertown, b) the approach road from Mitchelstown into Mallow which has a temporary fence up queried progress on proper fence and c) Dangerous junction on bend on N72 at Spa Glen

Cllr L Madden queried when the Roads Programme is likely to be presented

Cllr T O'Shea queried if there has been any update on the Pedestrian Crossing on the N20 Buttevant near Centre

Response from Mr Billy O'Sullivan SEE –

Cllr Ian Doyle – Works at Love Lane will be continued as part of the project for The Turrets

Cllr P Hayes – In relation to the Mill Stream, the section north of Quartertown road will be reviewed with the OPW and CCC will liaise with the private landowner in relation to the section south of the Quartertown Road. CCC has liaised with the Cork NRDO and are awaiting feedback to see if funding will be forthcoming to advance works this year. If not, alternative funding sources can be investigated.

Cllr Liam Madden – Envisage that Roads Programme will be available for the March Meeting.

Cllr T O'Shea – No update received from TII/Cork NRDO. CCC to follow up.

6. Any Other Business

Mr Keith Jones newly appointed Town Manager expressed his delight at the opportunity to work again in Kanturk Mallow Municipal District and how he was looking forward to working with all in relation to Strategic Issues in KMMD.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Cllr Doyle acknowledged the unprecedented volume of snow and expressed gratitude for the efforts made by CCC, stakeholders, and volunteers who worked above and beyond. He noted that contractors had been engaged in the past few days which was very successful and emphasised the need for this practice to be sanctioned for future weather events. Cllr Doyle pointed out the impact of the snow on schools, with a week of closures, and highlighted the ongoing treacherous conditions on roadways and footpaths. He proposed that the weekend's priority should shift towards clearing roads and footpaths to facilitate the reopening of schools. Additionally, he suggested writing to the relevant department to seek reimbursement for the expenses incurred in managing the weather crisis.

Cllr Madden offered compliments to all involved in the response efforts, suggesting that a higher initial warning might have been beneficial. He acknowledged the inevitable criticism of the response but praised the community effort across North Cork. Community spirit was fantastic. He proposed conducting an overview of housing estates to assess the availability of salt bins and requested a report from various services post-incident to identify if we can do things differently in the future.

Cllr Browne reflected on her three-week tenure, describing last week as a "baptism of fire." She emphasised the importance of learning from the experience and fostering community spirit, particularly through residents' associations and local farmers, to ensure support for all residents.

Cllr O'Shea echoed previous sentiments, noting the suddenness of the snow event but commended the efforts made to manage the situation. He praised the communications department and the staff who worked tirelessly. He also mentioned that many residents associations would be applying for salt bins to alleviate pressure on local services. He would encourage every estate to apply for one.

Cllr Sheehan commended CCC staff for their dedication during the emergency. He noted that while salt bins have been available, effective communication is crucial to encourage self-help among residents. He acknowledged the challenges posed by concurrent water outages and praised the collaborative efforts of council staff and Irish Water.

Cllr Hayes reminisced about past community practices where residents would clear snow from outside their homes, noting that many were caught off guard when the conditions froze rapidly.

Director of Services Padraig Barrett provided background on the events leading to the crisis which was felt most within the Kanturk-Mallow MD Area, stating that an advisory

was issued on January 1st. He highlighted the proactive measures taken by emergency managers and the CCC crisis team, which met multiple times to address the situation. He detailed the response efforts, including salting and ploughing throughout the county, and the collaboration with essential services. Mr Barrett expressed gratitude for the extraordinary community support and assistance from contractors and the Irish Defense Forces. He assured continued efforts to manage the thawing conditions and advised that staff will be working beyond 5.00pm this evening and will continue through the weekend to maintain essential services. He thanked the communications team and all staff for their hard work throughout the challenging week.

5. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District will take place on 7th February 2025 @ 10.30a.m.

This Concluded the Business of the Meeting.

Signed: *Pat Hayes*
CHAIRPERSON

Date: 13/2/2025

Signed: *Claire Barr*
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

Date: 13/2/25.