

WORKING FOR KILLALOE

- New Multi Million Euro Extension for St Anne's Community School
- €317,000 for new car park
- €100,000 footpath to Ballycuggeran amenity area
- Killaloe/Ballina Family Resource relocates to former Garda Station
- A future for the Old Courthouse

Michael McNamara TD



The four years since the last general election have been painful for almost all in our society. However, that pain has not been without purpose. As a people, we have begun to rebuild our country and hope is being restored. The economy is growing and unemployment is finally falling. Confidence is returning. I regret that all did not happen faster but I am relieved that it is happening at all. Budget 2015 means that many will finally start to see the beginnings of the recovery in their take-home pay.

I am very grateful for the support I received from the people of Killaloe at the last election and during my time as a backbench TD. I have done my best to work to improve the facilities in Killaloe for its people, and will continue to do so.

Best wishes,


Labour

NEW SPORT FACILITIES AND CLASSROOMS PART OF MULTI MILLION EURO EXTENSION AT ST ANNE'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A design team is currently preparing a planning application for a new extension to St Anne's Community School which will include a PE hall with fitness suite. The new multi-million euro extension, for which funding has been devolved to the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB), will include the following new facilities for students and staff:

- 8 General Classrooms
- A new Science Laboratory
- A new Home Economics Room
- A new Engineering Room
- A new Multi-Media Lab
- A General Purpose/Dining Area
- Toilets
- Staff Room
- Offices
- Project Store

It is envisaged that work will commence on the project during the course of 2015. The extension will enable the school to cater for a long term projected enrolment of 750, a substantial increase on the September 2014 enrolment of 553 pupils.

During 2013, a state-of-the-art astro turf pitch was built behind St Anne's Community College as part of the Clarisford Park Development in Killaloe. The astro turf pitch is a tribute to the team behind the Clarisford Park Development. They worked long and hard to energise and revitalise the Killaloe Area and I believe the development will be a focus for sporting and other community activity in the years ahead. I was glad to be able to help in a small way by liaising between the Clarisford development team and Clare VEC to secure a location for the pitch that will benefit the school and its students to the greatest extent possible.

NEW LIFE FOR OLD GARDA STATION

The old Garda Station in Killaloe is to have a new lease of life. Following representations from me, the Office of Public Works has decided to make the premises available to the Killaloe/Ballina Community & Family Resource Centre. The OPW will initially licence the building to the Centre for a period of five years which can be renewed.



This is good news for the community and family resource centre which needed this accommodation.

REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AT SMITH O'BRIEN'S GAA CLUB

Smith O'Brien's GAA Club is working hard to expand its facilities. I was glad to support an application by the club to the Sports Capital Fund for a major redevelopment project. When complete it will see the construction of a new Clubhouse, incorporating a sports hall/community hall, new dressing rooms and hurling wall, and cost approximately €500,000. €118,000.00 was awarded to Smith O'Brien's GAA Club towards the cost of the project from the Sports Capital Programme in 2014.

€17,000 FOR CAR PARK

Good news for drivers trying to find a place to park. A public car park will be constructed at Convent Hill, Killaloe to provide car and coach facilities. The project has planning permission and has secured funding of €17,000. The land agreements are also in place.

Grant aid approval for this project comes from the Lough Derg Stimulus Funding programme. It is expected that work will start on the project this year. It will take two to three months to complete. Another piece of good news is that parking with 50 to 60 spaces will be free.



€100,000 FOR BALLYCUGGERAN FOOTPATH

It will soon be possible to walk safely from Killaloe to Ballycuggeran Amenity Park, one of the most beautiful places on the shores of Lough Derg. Clare Co Council have the go-ahead to spend €100,000 on extending the footpath to connect Ballyvalley with the lake beach which has received the International Blue Flag in 2014 and the beach is lifeguarded during the bathing season.. This project has been at the top of my agenda for some time and I am delighted that it will shortly become a reality. Linking the amenity area to the town will be of significant recreational benefit to local people and visitors alike. Grant aid for the project comes from the Lough Derg Stimulus Funding initiative.



Across the road from the beach are Ballycuggeran woods, an impressive oak wood with panoramic views of Lough Derg from its highest point. The woods have looped walking trails (Crag Wood) forming part of the East Clare Way and mountain bikes are used also in the woods. Both spots are an excellent way to spend a fine day, walking the loop and then relaxing on the lakeshore. Now you will have the choice of returning to Killaloe by foot after enjoying all these amenities.

THE OLD COURTHOUSE

I will work with community groups in the Killaloe area who have expressed interest in using the old courthouse. Following the decision of the Courts Service to hand over the building for community use, Clare Co. Council sought expressions of interest from local groups.



These expressions of interest has enabled the Council to have discussions with the groups concerned which I hope will result in giving this historic building a new lease of life and enhance community services in Killaloe. I have been very concerned for some time that the building, which was built in the 1830s, and is part of Killaloe's history should not be allowed to fall into ruin.

I made several representations to the Courts Service to transfer the building to Clare Co Council for community use and I also made a submission on how it might be developed to the Killaloe Strategic Development Plan.

What has been achieved by the community with Tulla Courthouse, and more recently in Sixmilebridge, is very impressive and I believe it can be replicated in Killaloe. A new round of Leader funding will become available for development by local community groups towards the end of the year.

The building is in need of refurbishment and funding is required for this work before it would be suitable for a new occupier. Clare Co Council is active on this front and I will do all that I can to ensure that a new use is found for this lovely building as soon as possible.



Michael McNamara TD

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EAST CLARE CLINICS
4th Friday of Every
Month

Killaloe 10.30am
Family Resource Centre