

## **Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday November 4th, 2014, at 3.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Áras an Contae, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

### **Present:**

**Councillors:** J. Breen, T. Mc Namara, P. Daly, A. Norton, M. Howard, P. Murphy, C. Colleran Molloy.

**Officials:** Ger Dollard, Director of Services, Eamon O’Dea, Town Engineer, Catherine O’ Hara, Meetings Administrator & Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

**In attendance:** Dr. Keir McNamara, Chairman Clare Peace Park Initiative.  
Dr. Chris McInerney, University of Limerick.  
Detective Inspector John Galvin, Ennis Gardaí.

**Apologies:** Cllr. J. Flynn, Mayor

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor of Ennis, Cllr. James Breen, chaired the meeting.

### **Item No. 1. Minutes of October monthly meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Daly and seconded by Cllr. Mary Howard that the Minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014, be agreed and adopted.

### **Item No. 2. Minutes of the Budget Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Howard and seconded by Cllr. Paul Murphy that the Minutes of the Budget meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014, be agreed and adopted.

### **Item No. 2 (a) Matters Arising**

None

### **Item No. 4 Presentation by Dr. Kier McNamara – World War 1 Project**

Dr. Kier McNamara gave a presentation on the proposed World War 1 memorial in the Peace Park. The presentation outlined the plans for a Remembrance Memorial to all those from Clare who were involved in World War 1. It is proposed to erect the Remembrance Memorial on a site in Friars Walk, opposite glór Theatre. He proposed that Clare Co Council would assist with or cover the cost of the ground works for the site.

Members supported the initiative and complimented Dr. McNamara on his presentation.

G. Dollard stated that Ennis Town Council had been centrally involved so far in this initiative and that the proposed site was a very suitable and fitting area for the memorial. He also stated that the

Planning Process gives an opportunity for public consultation and that any assistance from the Council for the ground works would be considered as part of the budget process before the year end.

Dr Mc Namara confirmed that updated costings in relation to the ground works will be submitted in the coming weeks.

### **Item No. 3 Presentation by Dr. Chris McNerney, University of Limerick – ‘Safety and Perception in Ennis Survey’ and ‘Branding of Ennis Town’.**

Dr. McNerney gave a presentation on a survey ‘**Safety and Perception in Ennis**’ carried out as part of the implementation of the Ennis 2020 Framework. Three separate surveys with a total of 406 participants were conducted which involved General Population, 2 Secondary Schools and the Clare Youth Service.

Members welcomed the survey and congratulated Dr. McNerney on his presentation. It was agreed and noted from the surveys that an increase in Garda presence could greatly enhance feeling safe generally, however, it was also acknowledged that resources are a problem. Members of Ennis Municipal District “vowed to assist the Gardaí stamp out crime in any way possible”. Education and awareness is also important and needs to be highlighted as perception can sometimes be different to facts.

Dr. McNerney gave a further presentation on “**Promoting and Branding Ennis**”.

Members thanked Dr. McNerney for his presentation and welcomed the fact that there is awareness amongst the public about the various initiatives that are already in place in Ennis. The issue of branding appeared strongly during the Ennis 2020 consultation process. Branding for a town aims to reinforce its strengths and good reputation. The members agreed that Ennis should aim to promote its name for traditional music and tourism and “stick to our strong points to promote the town”.

Dr. McNerney added that Third Level Institutions had recently signed a Charter on Civic Engagement and that they may be able to contribute to the implementation of the Ennis 2020 Framework actions. He also encouraged the Council to link up with other educational institutions to help promote Ennis as a significant part of their student base is from Ennis and Co Clare.

### **Item No. 5. Disposal of property at 4 Chapel Lane to Martha McNamara, S 183 of Local Government Act 2001.**

This item was proposed by Cllr. Tom McNamara, seconded by Cllr. Ann Norton and agreed.

### **Item No. 5(b) Renew of lease of Property to Educate Together.**

This item was proposed by Cllr. Ann Norton, seconded by Cllr. Mary Howard and agreed.

### **Item No. 6. Nomination(s) to the Clare County Council Working Group on the commission for Economic Development of Rural Areas (Cedra) Report and its implementation.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Tom McNamara, Cllr. Johnny Flynn and Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy were proposed as the nominees from the Ennis Municipal District to the **Clare County Council Working Group on the commission for Economic Development of Rural Areas (Cedra) Report and its implementation.** This was seconded by Cllr. Ann Norton and agreed.

### **Item No. 7. Update on Part VIII for West Clare Cycleway Greenway.**

Ger Dollard gave an update on Phase 1 of the Cycleway for which a grant of €400,000 has been awarded. It was noted that the deadline for submissions for the public consultation was 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 2014. Two main issues emerged as part of the public consultation process:-

1. Parking adjacent to Cloughleigh N.S.
2. Consultation with the Farming Community on the route.

G. Dollard confirmed that parking should not be an issue at Cloughleigh School as the public car park close by is generally underused.

It was noted that there is no appeal in the Part VIII process once passed by County Council. Phase 2 & 3 of the project will require a separate application and a full environmental impact statement will have to take place separately for these phases.

Members welcomed and supported the initiative and agreed it will be a great tourist attraction and provide a safe route for cyclists, especially families with young children. Members also welcomed the fact that consultations would take place with the farming community on the matter.

### **Item No. 8. Notices of Motion.**

#### **Notice of motion submitted by Cllr A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. Breen**

“I call on Ennis Municipal District to advise in relation to the plan and timeline for the provision of footpaths in and around Barefield Village with special emphasis on Hassets pub and links to the N18 motorway Cragwell cross up to Trinaderry house on the Ruan Road”

#### ***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:***

The Council will carry out an evaluation of the provision footpaths at Barefield, identifying the needs, priorities and funding required. The initial assessment should be completed before the end of this year and any works will be subject to available funding and priority of works within the Municipal District

#### **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr M. Howard, Cllr P. Murphy & Cllr J Flynn was seconded by Cllr. Breen. Ref Notice of Motion No. 10 also.**

“Ennis Friary is a premier heritage site in Ennis with over 22,000 visitors in 2013. There is an urgent need to provide adequate signposting for visitors on the approach roads to Ennis (and in particular the N18) for this special site and tourist attraction. We call on EMD to investigate the possibility of providing or arranging for the appropriate signage”

#### ***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:***

It is necessary to clarify that the name of the heritage site as the Ennis Friary as per the OPW Heritage Ireland website. Some tourism websites refer to the National Monument as Ennis Abbey. In the tourist trail signage in Ennis it is referred to as the Old Ennis Friary to distinguish it from the Franciscan Friary in Francis Street.

The Council can and will bring the signposting of this important tourism site to the attention of the NRA, however the following needs to be considered. There is a tourism sign for Ennis on the M18 at Junction 12 (Killow), which show insignia for four different tourism elements in Ennis including one for Churches of Interest. Two of the nine criteria for the provision of a tourist signage on a Motorway is a minimum number of visitors per annum of 50,000 and that the facility is open to the general public during normal hours throughout the year.

The N85 Relief Road has a tourism sign for Ennis with more detail insignia for services and tourism interests including the insignia for churches of interest. There is another tourism sign nearer the Clareabbey Roundabout showing the tourist attraction in West Clare and the direction for Clare

Abbey which is access directly off the roundabout. Ennis Friary would meet the criteria for visitor number from a national primary road 15,000 visitors per annum or a national secondary road 7,000 visitors per annum, however it is not open throughout the year.

The Council needs to consider whether they want to request the change of tourism sign posting on the M18 to identify Ennis as an Historical Town with the insignia changed from Church of Interest to Abbey The sign on the N85 Relief Road to be change to Ennis as an Historical Town with the insignia change to Abbey and the inclusion of Ennis Friary on the roundabout tourism sign.

When a visitor comes to Ennis they will come by public transport, coach or by use of own transport, the centre of the town is clearly identified and the Council intend to erect tourism fingerpost signs at the Square, Abbey Street and Parnell Street Carparks for the Ennis Friary. The Council has had engagement with OPW representatives on the matter and has sought confirmation that OPW will cover the costs involved.

#### **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. Breen.**

“In light of public and business concerns raised about the availability and cost of public car parking in Ennis that Ennis Municipal District committee consider in its Budgetary and Development plan roles the related findings and recommendations in the following reports ; Retail Excellence Ireland's Town Centre Framework Document and that organisation's 100 best Towns and Cities Survey report ; and the relevant findings of the Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM ) (UK) published July 2014 report on "In Town Parking -What Works (innovative practices in parking provision )”

***Motion was not discussed in Cllr Flynn's absence.***

#### **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr T. Mc Namara was seconded by Cllr. Daly.**

“In order to alleviate the flooding problem on the bog road between Doora and the Killow East roundabout I call on Clare County Council to clean the main drain waterway between the bog road and Carrownakelly Point.”

#### ***Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:***

The Council will inspect the drain (stream) from Doora & Killow to Carronakelly Point to confirm the condition of the drain and if there are any significant obstructions to the flow. The water level in the drains along the Doora to Killow road were historically high during winter months and the high rainfall levels during last winter would have caused the drains to be at a higher level. The drain discharges to the River Fergus in the tidal area and is subject to high tides twice daily thus retaining the water in the drain, which would cause the levels to rise particularly at times of high rainfall.

Members requested Eamon O'Dea to meet with landowners to discuss the issues raised. Eamon agreed to meet with the landowners.

#### **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr C. Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. Norton**

“That Ennis Municipal District clarify the precise works to be undertaken n the Ballybeg Road leading from the water tower to the Kildysert Road, and ask that the following be provided:

- (a) from what beginning point to what ending point is the road is to be resurfaced?
- (b) when is this road resurfacing to be undertaken?
- (c) can traffic calming measures, e.g.. speed bumps or strips be installed?
- (d) what flood relief works are to be undertaken on this road?
- (e) when are these flood relief works to be undertaken?
- (f) what total funds were collected in respect of contributions made in the past by homeowners on his road for sewerage hook-ups?

- (g) where are the funds held in respect of contributions made in the past by homeowners on this road for sewerage hook-ups?
- (h) when are the sewerage hook-ups to take place for these contributors?"

***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:***

***Items (a) to (e)***

The Council intends to carry out work on Ballybeg Road on the week commencing November 24<sup>th</sup>; the road surface water drainage work may start before that date subject to resources. The road surface water drainage work is mainly at the junction of the Ballybeg Road and the lane east of the water tower. The surfacing works will extend from the water tower to the entrance to the housing scheme south of the road above the quarry (Ballybeg Scheme).

Traffic Calming along the Ballybeg Road will require further investigation and will be put on a list of works for the Municipal District Area Office and CCC Road Design Section.

Flood Relief Works on the Ballybeg Road are between the bridge on the Ballybeg Lough stream and the Kildysart Road where an overflow pipe will be constructed to the drainage on the N85 Relief Road as part of the Ennis South Flood Scheme.

***Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, replied as follows:***

***Item (f) and (g):***

General contributions are levied on all planning permissions granted for the provision of public infrastructure which would include a contribution towards sewerage infrastructure. Such general contributions are allocated to the provision of public infrastructure i.e. roads, water, sewerage, recreation and community, in the wider area.

Monies collected under development levies are held in capital account and are used to fund water services infrastructure. This funding is now within the remit of Irish Water since 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2014.

***Sean Ward, Senior Engineer, replied as follows in relation to***

***Item (h):***

The water services section will make contact with Irish Water to determine the feasibility of connections and if feasible the likely timescale for any such connections.

***Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. Howard.***

“In order to enhance and further improve safety on the N85 I am requesting that the 60 Kil speed limit be moved 150 meters west of Rushaun Cross Kilnamona. This would facilitate five private residence at the aforementioned Cross exiting on to the road at this location.”

***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:***

The speed limits on the N85 at Kilnamona are temporary road works speed limits and shall be removed when all of the maintenance works are completed along this section of the N85. The Ennis Municipal District Area Office through the Councils Roads Section has requested the NRA to permit an 80kph speed limit on the N85 in this area until road improvements are completed. This was requested due to the high levels of tourist traffic on the N85.

Members complimented works done by the Council’s Engineering Staff on this stretch of road to date and as a result there were little or no accidents since the speed limits were erected.

**Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. Howard.**

“That "Friars Walk" be re-named "Bothar na Trocaire" as a way of properly acknowledging the very generous gifting of two acres of land, in order to facilitate the construction of this road, by the Sisters of Mercy to Ennis Town Council a number of years ago.”

***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:***

The Friars have a long association with the town of Ennis and it would be appropriate to retain the name of the road. The provision of a plaque or plate on the road could be considered acknowledging the gifting of the lands by the Sisters of Mercy to Ennis Town Council.

Ger Dollard suggested that a discussion take place with the Sisters of Mercy to agree an appropriate manner of acknowledging the gift as opposed to re-naming the road.

Members agreed to this suggestion.

Members also wished to extend their condolences to the family of the late Sr. Donnelly who had passed away recently.

**Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr T. Mc Namara was seconded by Cllr. Daly.**

“I call on Clare County Council to take to take in charge the 300 meters of roadway off the L8312-0 servicing 4 houses, 3 farms and Kilmaley/Inagh group water scheme reservoir at Tullassa Inch.”

***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:***

This private road was one of the prioritised roads on the old Local Improvement Scheme and the funding for this scheme is no longer provided in the Roads Budgets. The Municipal District Area Office would consider recommending the taking in charge of this road provided there was confirmation from the Council’s Roads Section that Residents had signed up to the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS).

**Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr C. Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. Breen.**

“In light of the high volume of traffic on the Lahinch Road due to the numerous and wonderful County Clare West Coast tourist attractions, that Ennis Municipal District clarify the precise works to be undertaken on the Ennis to Lahinch road in or about the bend after the Kilnamona Cross where there currently exists bollards, and specifically respond to the following:

- (a) How long have bollards been in place on said bend in light of the vegetation growth on the bollards causing their visibility and effectiveness to be substantially diminished?
- (b) What purpose do the bollards serve? What necessary works are required?
- (c) When are the bollards likely to be removed and the necessary works undertaken to address the aforementioned purpose? “

***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:***

The water barriers have been in place between the N85 road edge and the Shallee River for the past three years. The barriers were put in place to clearly define the road edge which was adjacent to the Shallee River. The barriers are power washed, weeds removed and reflectors replaced in springtime and in October/November and as and when required due to damage by vehicles. Retexturing works have been carried out along this section of the N85 in 2013 thus improving the skid resistance of the road surface.

Councillors in The Old Ennis West Area had requested on a number of occasions that the NRA provide funding for road improvements along this section of the N85. The Council had made

submissions under the Low Cost Safety Schemes (LCSS) in 2010&2011 and these were rejected as the costs exceeded the limits of the LCSS. The Council subsequently submitted a proposal for more substantive road improvements in the Kilnamona section of the N85 to the NRA and this has been progressing through the approval process. The Council anticipates that this scheme will be categorised as a Road Improvement Scheme in 2015. Further advancement of this scheme will be subject to resources within the NRA.

The Ennis Municipal District Area Office will be making a further submission through the Council's Road Section to the NRA for an 80kph speed limit in this area until the road improvement works are completed.

**Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr J. Breen (see NOM no. 2 above)**

"That proper signage be erected on approach roads to Ennis for Ennis Abbey."

***See reply to Notice of Motion No 2 submitted by Cllrs Murphy/Howard/Flynn above***

**Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly was seconded by Cllr. McNamara.**

"I call on the Municipal District to put down a footpath from Rockmount Cross to the Bypass bridge on the Kilrush Road, Ennis, Co. Clare"

***Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:***

The Council made a submission to the NRA and we have not received a response. The works are subject to funding from the NRA.

It was agreed by members to write again to the NRA to try and progress the matter further.

**Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly was seconded by Cllr. Breen.**

"I ask the Municipal District to upgrade the laneway between Shannon Park and Kincora Park, as it is in very bad condition presently".

***Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:***

The Council will include this lane in the list of footpaths needing renewal and will be considered in the 2015 works programme subject to funding.

**Item No. 9. Correspondence** - was noted by the members.

(a) Letter from Monaghan County Council regarding a Notice of Motion passed by them regarding grant aid scheme for buildings that are listed, both commercial and residential.

(b) Reply from Fáilte Ireland in relation to the opening hours of Ennis Tourist Office.

The meeting then concluded.