

## **Minutes of the Municipal District of Ennis Meeting held at 3.30pm on Tuesday March 3rd, 2015, in the Council Chamber, Áras an Contae, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

### **Present:**

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

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

**Shannon Heritage:** John Ruddle

### **Item No. 1. Minutes of January monthly meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2015.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Daly and seconded by Cllr. Ann Norton that the Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2015, monthly meeting, as circulated, be agreed and adopted.

### **Item No. 2 Minutes of Meeting with An Garda Síochána held on 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2015.**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn that the Minutes of the Meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February with An Garda Síochána be agreed and adopted.

Members paid tribute to Superintendent Derek Smart who has now taken up his new position in Limerick. Members and officials wished Mr. Smart well in his new role and said that Ennis had been very fortunate to have had Derek Smart in the town of Ennis for a number of years. They also wished to welcome the new Superintendent, Brendan McDonagh to Ennis and wished him well in his role.

### **Item No. 3 Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Members sympathised with Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy on the death of her nephew Noel Colleran jnr. Members asked Cllr. Colleran Molloy to pass on their condolences to the Colleran family and especially Noel’s mother Ann who is a colleague in Clare County Council.

### **Item No. 4. Set a date for Special Meeting to adopt the Scheme of Municipal District Works.**

G. Dollard informed the meeting that there are guidelines in relation to the adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works by the end of March. It was agreed to hold this meeting at 2pm on

Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2015. The extinguishment of the right of way at Castlelawn will also be on the Agenda for this meeting.

### **Item No. 5 Urban Heritage Visitor Attraction for Ennis (John Ruddle – Shannon Heritage)**

Cllr. J. Flynn welcomed John Ruddle to the meeting and congratulated Shannon Heritage on being awarded the contract for the GPO 2016 Centenary Commemoration.

John Ruddle outlined to the meeting the importance of Ennis as a unique and historical County Town. He explained that the Heritage of Ennis has not been lost and that there is a number of areas within Ennis that are very important from a historical point of view.

From a Shannon Heritage point of view Ennis has a lot to offer. The protection and presentation of our Cultural town is what is important. Marketing the town of Ennis is what we need to do well. All the relevant bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce, Ennis Tidy Towns and Clare County Council all should work together with the same objective to provide street maintenance, good lighting and a good urban presentation. Chapel Lane and Parnell Street are, in particular, good areas that can be highlighted for their historical qualities. Chapel Lane is a great traditional area and its link between Parnell Street and the Market is unique.

All members welcomed John Ruddle to the meeting and congratulated him and Shannon Heritage on their successes to date. It is important to blend the old with the new and anything that can be done to attract more people to the town of Ennis should be done. It was also suggested that we should request some of the Ennis Artefacts back from the National Museum and the National Gallery.

Cllr. Breen proposed and Cllr. Flynn seconded that a letter be written to request the return of some Artefacts either permanently or on loan to the Ennis Museum.

The Wild Atlantic Way was also discussed by members whereby it had been noted that some tour companies were advertising tours with overnights in Galway and Kerry but not in County Clare. G. Dollard informed the meeting that the Council was aware of this and is currently researching with the company involved if they had sought bed nights in Co. Clare.

John Ruddle stated that he was happy to be part of a group working together in promoting Ennis as a Heritage Town and offered to partake in a Steering Group if necessary.

### **Item No. 6 Proposed re-naming of Friar's Walk, Ennis.**

G. Dollard informed the meeting that a report had already been circulated and that a number of submissions had been received supporting this item. It was also noted that a letter had been received which was signed by a number of past elected members objecting to the name change.

Cllr. Paul Murphy had proposed this motion, Cllr. J. Flynn seconded it and it was agreed to re-name the section of road from Station Road to the Causeway Link as Bothar na Trocaire and to name the road from the Clon Road to the Friar's Walk Car Park as Friar's Walk. The name Friar's Walk Car Park to be retained.

### **Item No. 7 Community & Arts Grants 2015.**

G. Dollard outlined the applications as per report circulated. 29 applications were received. There is €20,000 available for spending in the Community & Arts Grant Scheme 2015 and the following 7 allocations were agreed by the members:-

Clare Crusaders Children’s Clinic – Art & Music Therapy	€800.00
Clare Immigrant Support Centre – Amaro Nypos Music Project	€300.00
Association of Nigerian community in Clare	€300.00
Clare Youth Service – SWITCH music project	€750.00
Tic Toc Puppets – new story telling technique	€600.00
Dún na hInse Estate – Community Arts Programme	€500.00
Clare Volunteer Centre – 2 workshops	<u>€500.00</u>
	<b>€3,750.00</b>

Funding was not provided to 17 no. applications under this scheme as they were receiving funding from other public funded schemes.

The decision on granting of monies to sporting organisations was postponed for further discussion at a later date.

This item was proposed by Cllr. T. McNamara, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed.

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

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

That resident parking signs only be put in place at Old Gort Road, Ennis

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

Ennis Town Council at the request of Town and County Councillors installed double yellow lines on the Old Gort Road in Ennis. The double yellow lines are at each house entrance and on the opposite side of the road to the houses along the open space. I noted on a recent inspection that cars were legally parked to the front of the houses near the end of the road. The provision of Resident Parking signs would rely on the courtesy of a non resident driver not to park at the location. I have asked the Traffic Section in the Council to check the Traffic and Parking Regulations to see what mechanism are in place for Resident Parking.

A general discussion took place on this item and it was suggested that it can be re-visited when the Parking Bye-Laws are being reviewed.

### **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Tom Mc Namara was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

I call on Clare County Council to carry out essential drainage works and surface dress the Quinn Road end of the Gaurus road L4118 in the 2015 road works programme.

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

The Council will be carrying out drainage and road works at the R469 end of the Gaurus Road this year. There has been difficulty over the past number of winters with flash flooding in hollows on this road.

### **Notice of Motion submitted by Cllrs J Flynn, C. Colleran Molloy, T. Mc Namara, A. Norton, J. Breen & P. Daly**

1916 Commemoration Project for Ennis & Clare at O’Connell Square (The Height)

The Square in Ennis is an important civic space for Ennis, Clare and Ireland in terms of our history of Emancipation, Boycott, Politics and Independence, etc and its focal point, the O Connell Monument, is a key landmark in the town. The Municipal District Committee of Ennis suggest that an

appropriate 1916 Commemoration Project for Ennis & Clare would be the development of a Civic Space Enhancement such as shown in Figure 7.12( a) of volume 1a of the Draft Ennis Local Area Plan 2015-2021 currently on public consultation in libraries and on the [www.clarecoco.ie](http://www.clarecoco.ie) website. Such a Civic Space in addition to possible usage of any unused space in the nearby Museum building could lead to significant increased public engagement/awareness and tourism opportunities in terms of the Square's significance to among other things the development of Political and Ethical Principles.

**Goldan Daly, Senior Planner, replied as follows:**

The area around the O' Connell Monument is a very important civic space and as such has been given careful consideration in the Draft LAP. The artists impression gives a sense of how the space could be better used. The first step through the adoption of the LAP will be to get consensus to this vision. However as set out in the LAP this space will have to be given further more detailed consideration as part of a wider examination of streets and public spaces and these proposals subject to further public consultation. The suggestion in this notice of motion is very welcome and should form part of this more detailed consideration.

A general discussion took place and G. Dollard pointed out that a lot of work needs to be done to make the space a Civic Space and this would be a separate issue to the 1916 Commemoration. The Tidy Towns report raised some issues with this area. We need to create a vision on how the area should look and maybe under an Urban Renewal Scheme it may happen. The Ennis Area Plan outlines a possible look for the area. For the 2016 celebrations is about reflecting on the last 100 years and Clare County Council will set up a Steering Committee and the approach will be similar to that of The Gathering.

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

A report on progress to the proposed demolition of derelict houses on Watery Road, Ennis and the redevelopment of the site for community usage.

**Leonard Cleary, SEO Housing, replied as follows:**

Clare County Council's Housing Department initiated a process to develop a master-plan for the regeneration of the vacant housing and environs at the Watery Road, Ennis. This had the intention of increasing access to the river side for leisure purposes. Funding to carry out the required preparation and development works has not materialised for either the housing or the amenity.

Given the current scarcity of housing supply the Council is exploring options to return the vacant stock to social housing use in line with Government policy. However in assessing this potential investment at Watery Road, consideration is being given to balancing the economic cost of the refurbishment with the structural integrity and dereliction of the property. The social cost in terms of the Government's objective of building sustainable communities is also being weighed up and balanced with the housing need of potential tenants. In this regard, the Council is both preparing detailed costs for refurbishment or demolition and reviewing other accommodation alternatives. There is also ongoing communication and engagement with interested parties and local residents. A decision is expected shortly. For the present, funding for the amenity development would seem to be more of a medium term objective.

A further discussion took place where G. Dollard stated that the Section 140 passed by the former Ennis Town Council members was deemed not to be legal. This is a line of terrace houses with one house on either side being occupied which makes it a difficult situation. It is the objective of the Housing Authority to meet housing needs and provide housing so it doesn't make sense to demolish houses at this time.

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

That a status update be provided as to the promised linking of residential homes in the Roslevan/Knockanean areas to the public sewerage be provided.

**Sean Ward, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:**

The current upgrade of Clonroadmore wastewater treatment plant by Irish Water is expected to be completed in early 2016, and will provide significant additional treatment capacity. As the catchment of this plant includes the Tulla Road and Roslevan, it will then be possible to consider connection to the public sewerage network of any premises in these areas which could not previously have been connected because of lack of treatment capacity. Individual applications for connection will have to be made to Irish Water, and the decision as to whether or not to approve any connection will be made by Irish Water.

In the meantime a review will be done of individual houses and other premises, and of planning applications granted and still valid but not yet acted upon, in the Clonroadmore catchment to determine (i) how much demand for connections could potentially arise once the additional treatment capacity is available, and (ii) if any prior undertakings have been given to individuals or companies in regard to connection.

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

I request an update on the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Gort Road at the junction with Ashfield Park.

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

The draft detailed design is completed and awaiting approval. The public consultation process will follow the approval. This crossing would be third in line of priority and of a similar priority level as requested pedestrian crossings on Clare Road at St. Flannan's College and at Clonroadbeg at Eire Og. The priority for funding of pedestrian crossing is at Francis Street and at Carmody Street adjacent to Drumbiggle Road.

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

Considering the prominent location of the Clare Abbey Ruins on the main route into Ennis. (The Abbey ruins are a visible structure on the Ennis skyline and in light of recent anti social behaviour there over the last number of years.) I urge this Municipal District to request the OPW to flood light the ruins of Clare Abbey.

*No reply required*

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

To improve the safety of school-children in Clarecastle, I am proposing that the Area Engineer review the traffic calming measures that currently exist in the vicinity of the manned crossing at Clarecastle National School.

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

The Council provided new school crossing advance warning signs at Clarecastle National School from funding from the Road Safety Authority. The existing school crossing advance warning signs are still in place. The Council will examine the location over the next month and see what other measures are feasible particularly on the approach from Clareabbey Roundabout.

It was agreed to have the old flashing lights re-connected and it might be an idea to ask the Garda traffic corps to set up some speed checks within the vicinity of the school during drop off and pick up times.

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

I am proposing that traffic calming is introduced at the intersection of Tobartaisceain, St. Michaels Villas and Clon Road. It appears that traffic travelling from Clon Road into Tobartaisceain is inclined to be turning this bend at excess speed which in turn has led to frequent near misses of pedestrians being knocked down.

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

The Council will examine the radius of the curve at the junction of Clonroad and Tobairteascain to see what measures are feasible. The radius of the curve is set so as to permit delivery trucks to turn left without crossing into the opposite lane of traffic approaching the junction from Tobairteascain. The pedestrian crossing on Tobairteascain Road is south of the entrance into Ryan’s Centra Shop a distance from the junction.

**Any Other Business**

- Disabled Parking at Cloughleigh school should be retained
- Beech Park anti-social behaviour, cameras should be linked to Garda Station.
- Decision on Fleadh Ceoil na hEireann to be known the weekend of the 7/3/15
- Noted that Eamon O’Dea will be meeting with the NRA and will discuss Clare Abbey Roundabout issues, additional signage at pedestrian crossing on N85 and road safety issues from Clareen on N85 etc

**The meeting then concluded.**