

## **Minutes of the Municipal District of Ennis Meeting held at 3.30pm on Thursday November 5th, 2015, in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

### **Present:**

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

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

### **Item No. 1. Minutes of the October monthly meeting held on 6th October 2015.**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen and seconded by Cllr. A. Norton that the Minutes of the October monthly meeting, held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 2015, as circulated, be agreed and adopted.

### **Item No. 2. Nomination of representative to Ennis Civic Trust Ltd from Municipal District of Ennis.**

G. Dollard explained that Ennis Civic Trust Ltd is a limited company with public and private members. The Trust has been involved in various projects in the town with the current one being the refurbishment of the Mill Wheel.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. Breen and agreed by members that Cllr. Mary Howard be elected onto the Board of Ennis Civic Trust Ltd.

### **Item No. 3. Section 183, Disposal of Land at Clareen, Ennis.**

This item was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed subject to clarification in relation to the public right of way, as shown on the map.

### **Item No. 4. Proposed Street Performance Bye Laws.**

G. Dollard informed members that a basic framework was needed in relation to the management of buskers and street performers in advance of the Fleadh 2016. He confirmed that this framework would constitute phase 1 of this process and that phase 2 would include permits and designated locations. He confirmed that the proposal is not intended to negatively impact on the tradition of busking in Ennis but is about dealing with the issue of use of amplification by street performers. He added that street performers included busking and musicians of all kinds, face painting, juggling puppeteers etc.

Members welcomed the proposal and agreed that a certain standard should be in place. This item was proposed by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by members.

### **Item No. 5 Community & Arts Grants 2015.**

This item was deferred.

### **Item No. 5 (a) Proposed Variations – Ennis Town Area Plan.**

Variations to the Ennis Town Area Plan were noted and will be referred to the full County Council for adoption. This item was proposed by Cllr. T. McNamara, seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy and agreed by members.

### **Item No. 6 Notices of Motion.**

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

I am asking this Council to install a public light at Fountain Cross on the N85, arising from numerous complaints of people missing this junction.

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

Work was recently completed at Fountain Cross as part of a Road Safety Remedial Measure Project (RSRMP) 2014. The format of approval for RSRMP’s includes a cost benefit analysis and the cost of provision of public lighting at this junction was €72,000 plus VAT which was not deemed as necessary by the TII in the rural location of Fountain Cross.

The works carried out in the RSRMP included cutting back of trees and bushes to improve the forward vision lines, providing measures to tighten the radius of the junction and the size of the advance signage to the junction was increased which improve the drivers awareness of the junction location.

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

That works be undertaken to address the vehicular and pedestrian congestion occurring on school days in Quin village with a view to installing a pedestrian crossing and other traffic calming measures.

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

The pedestrian crossing on the main street in Quin should be completed this month, which will give safe pedestrian access across the R469 to the school from the Latoon Road Area in Quin. This should permit more children to walk to school or make the provision of walking buses or park and stride to the school feasible.

The school got recent permission to replace temporary class rooms with a permanent structure and any further expansion of the school will require a review of the school’s mobility plan to be submitted and additional provision for parking-drop off area adjacent to the school.

The school could seek a pedestrian access through Arbutus Grove thus increasing the number of pedestrian access locations. There is scope for park and stride in Quin thus reducing the traffic impact in the immediate area of the school.

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

That Clare County Council carry out an accessibility survey of Ennis and its environs with the upcoming All Ireland Fleadh Ceol in mind.

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

The Municipal District Office is examining the existing Clare County Council Accessibility Audit to prioritise work before the Fleadh Cheoil. The Municipal District Office will be consulting with the Fleadh Cheoil Accessibility Sub Committee and Clare County Council Accessibility Officer when the priority list is drafted.

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

I call on the Senior Executive Engineer of the Ennis Municipal District to carry out repair works and resurface the footpath between houses No.9 and 16 Shannon Park Ennis.

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

The footpath is in need of repair and the works will be included in the list of works for footpaths in the Municipal District.

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

I am proposing that the Roads Department consider some traffic management solutions to the regular traffic congestion in the Patrick Street/Barrack Street area of Clarecastle, that has arisen following the opening of the Playground and adjacent new businesses.

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

There is parking available on the Old Road (Dispensary Road) between the Dispensary and the Church adjacent to Church Drive. The car park at the Church has a pedestrian crossing across the R458 and a footpath to the playground area. The walking distance is less than 300metres.

Use of the available adjacent parking will reduce the impact on Patrick Street & Barrack Street.

**Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

I call on the Municipal District of Ennis to immediately contact the Minister for the Environment, Mr. Alan Kelly, T. D. with a view to seeking allocating funding for the development of social housing the Ennis Municipal District because of the huge waiting list presently.

Members had a general discussion on this Notice of Motion. The 2011 Census showed that there are a total of 11,782 vacant houses in the County which may provide a more immediate solution to addressing the housing need.

G. Dollard advised that recent government policy was for the local authority to have no role in the provision of housing and that the need would be met by the private sector. He confirmed that funding is available for new builds and that Clare Co Council is availing of this funding. He also pointed out that the acquisition of land, procurement; construction of new builds takes time but that Clare Co Council is focusing on vacant houses to provide a more immediate or quicker solution.

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

That this Authority urgently provide for the removal of Sycamore growth that is undermining the Ballyhea Cutting.

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

The Municipal District Office is examining the Ballyhea Cutting with Tree Maintenance Companies with the intention of devising a method to remove the Sycamore growth and treat the root systems. The work will proceed once all environmental assessments are completed, the weather & environmental requirements are feasible and funding is provided for Fergus Drainage in 2016.

Members had raised this issue in the past and welcomed any progress on the matter especially the long term solution of treating the root systems.

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

That this Council carry out works to eliminate flooding opposite Murt McDonagh house at Cahercalla, Ennis.

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

This work is on the Municipal District work list for completion in 2015.

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

That traffic speed signs and traffic calming be introduced along the road adjacent to the Eire Óg Club.

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

The Municipal District Office will provide intermediary speed signs and suitable warning signs in this area. The Road Design Section will carry out a traffic speed survey at this location and this data will be forwarded to the Garda Traffic Corps.

The provision of traffic calming at this location will be subject to specific requirements of DOT and TII Guidelines and these will be examined to see if a case can be made for funding.

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

With reference to the unkept open space adjacent to Old Gaol Road at Ardlee Close I call on Clare County Council to acquire this open space in order to enable the local Men's Shed Group develop a community ecological garden at this location.

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

The section of land was part of the Mc Inerney Homes Ltd development lands on the Old Goal Road. Part of the lands is the open space of Ardlea Close and the remainder of the site is in the control of the Receiver of Mc Inerney Homes Ltd.

It was a policy of Ennis Town Council not to take the open spaces in charge during the taking in charge process.

Ennis Town Council attempted to acquire the site and was unsuccessful. The Council will proceed to seek transfer of the open space and endeavour to acquire the site for suitable public use.

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

I am proposing that the Roads Department consider installing speed ramps or an alternative format of speed calming in Clarehill estate, Clarecastle.

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

The entrance to Clarehill Estate Clarecastle is by means of two right angle bends which act as a traffic calming measure. It is difficult to consider how a vehicle could enter and proceed with due care at any increased speed through the combination of right angle bends at the entrance to Clarehill Estate. Any drivers entering without due care should be identified to the Garda Traffic Corps.

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

That the Engineering Department of Ennis Municipal District resolve without delay the long standing flooding issues at Kilcross, Fountain.

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

The Municipal District Road's Crew recently cleared road drainage outlets in this area improving the removal of surface water from the road.

Historically when the Shallee River has a moderate winter flow and there is heavy rainfall over a short period causing flash flows on the Shallee River which causes flooding of part of the Maurices

Mills road at Caherbannagh. The Shallee River goes into a swallow hole on the upstream side of the Maurices Mills road and flows underground and rises in the stream 100metres downstream. There is a pair of overflow culverts at a higher level crossing the road that assist the flow during flash river flows. During heavy rainfall the Shallee River backs up at the swallow hole resulting in the Maurices Mills road flooding.

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

I call on the Ennis Municipal District to upgrade the many laneways throughout the town in preparation for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2016 in Ennis.

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

The Municipal District Office is inspecting the condition of the laneways with the intention of carrying out repairs and replacement of damaged sections of pavement in preparation for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.

**Any Other Business**

- Members found it very upsetting to learn that full time security was required at Áras Contae an Chlár to protect staff from people who are offensive to the staff of Clare County Council. The members considered this behaviour to be totally unacceptable and suggested that An Garda Síochanna should be involved if necessary.
- Members congratulated the contractors Ward & Burke on the recent works carried out on the Tulla Road. They also congratulated Eamon O’Dea and his staff for their input to all the recent works done around the town.
- Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, informed members that a weight restriction would be put on the Latoon Bridge on the R458 near Manus, Clarecastle from next week. This is necessary to carry out urgent repairs to the bridge.
- Cllr Flynn requested that an update on the capital works to be carried out at Coote Park and proposed start date for the work be provided at the next Municipal District of Ennis meeting.

**The meeting then concluded.**