

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held at 10.30am on Friday November 4th, 2016, in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Present:

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

Officials: Ger Dollard, Director of Services, Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator, & Philomena O'Connell, Assistant Staff Officer.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting held on the 07.10.2016

Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District October 2016 monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara and adopted by members.

Item No. 2. Minutes of the Draft Budget Meeting held on the 21.10.2016.

Minutes of the Draft Budget Meeting were proposed by Cllr. T. McNamara, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and adopted by members.

Item No. 3. Christmas 2016 Report

Ger Dollard outlined proposed arrangements for the Lighting of the Christmas tree, a Christmas Market from 2nd to 4th December and proposals for Pedestrianisation for Christmas 2016. The members discussed the proposals and highlighted issues with regard to parking at Ennis Market and the closing time of the car park. A number of cars have been locked in at night. The members made the following suggestions with regard to car parking and pedestrianisation:

- Free Parking/Reduced Parking Rates during the Christmas period
- Closure of Bank Place, High Street and Salt House Lane to be explored

It was confirmed that the Ennis Market car park opening hours are 8am to 8pm and are displayed at the building. It was agreed at the planning stage that the Ennis Market building would be locked at night time. For Health & Safety reasons all key holders must be trained staff.

A general discussion took place regarding parking in Ennis. Members requested that a special meeting be held to discuss parking in Ennis and a consultant's report prepared for the Ennis Town Council in 2008 would be circulated to members.

Item No. 4. Update on Pedestrian Crossing at Gort Road, Ennis

It was confirmed that work will commence on this pedestrian crossing in November.

Item No. 5. Notices of Motion.

No.1. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard

Ballyalia Lake.

That Ennis Municipal District members request the Municipal District Executive to prioritise in 2017 a programme for the Sustainable Development of the Recreational use and the Biodiversity at Ballyalia Lake, Ennis. This programme to be funded by monies already allocated , County Council beach improvement funding and by availing of the opportunity to apply , with other stakeholders , for Leader 2014-2020 (CLDC) grants under both the " Tourism Products " and the "Biodiversity" headline combined funding of €1.35 Million available for Clare.

Gerard Dollard, Director of Services, replied as follows:-

Ennis Town Council set aside the sum of €25,765 in respect of a project related to Water Based Leisure Facilities. This funding has been retained in Clare County Council's account as a provision towards water based leisure facilities.

The many areas mentioned in the motion across a number of Directorates within Clare County Council include Social Development (leisure facilities), Physical Development (beach improvement) and Rural Development (Leader programme) as well as the involvement of the Economic Development (Tourism) and Ennis Municipal District Directorate.

I will arrange to co-ordinate activity internally to see how best funding set aside for water based leisure facilities could best be utilised.

A report compiled in 2008 on Ballyallia Lake is to be circulated to Members. It was agreed that a plan should be ready when Leader funding becomes available.

It was also requested that bollards be removed from the slipway at Ballyallia.

No.2. NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy

When will the road be constructed between the Skehannagh Roundabout and the Quin road. Plus are there any plans to either name or number the road from Skehannagh roundabout to Killoo in Clarecastle.

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

The Link road from the Skehanagh Roundabout on the N85 to the Quin Road R469 is identified in the Ennis and Environs Development Plan 2008 to 2014 (as Varied) under Policy TR14 New Road Development "It is the policy of the Council in co operation with

other agencies and subject to the available finances to implement the following road improvement objectives as set out in Maps 1&2", including the link road between the Quin Road and the Skehanagh Roundabout on the N85. The same link road is identified in the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2017 to 2023 under proposed projects identified for future development.

The construction of this road would be subject to a considerable level of further development in this area to raise the funding for the project and there are significant environmental and flood risk assessments that would be required in the design phase of the proposed road. Given the funding requirements and long lead in time for this road development I would not anticipate that this road will be constructed for some time.

The Municipal District Office will contact the TII Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contractor to arrange for the road numbers to be placed on the Killow link road from the Skehanagh Roundabout.

No.3. NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara

That Clare County Council put in a contingency plan for 2018. With the success of the Fleadh Ceoil 2016, and the expected success of 2017, Ennis will need the same influx of people in 2018. Is it possible to start with other interested bodies to come up with a plan to promote Ennis with a new event or festival that will draw in the same number of people.

Gerard Dollard, Director of Services, replied as follows:-

The hosting of Fleadh Cheoil na héireann in 2016 has demonstrated the capability of Ennis and also the excellent working arrangements between the local authority and agencies in hosting such a major event for the town. The County Council is already beginning advance preparations for Fleadh Cheoil na héireann 2017 on the basis that the event will be of a greater scale than 2016. I also understand that there is a possibility of the county hosting the Munster Fleadh in 2018 but this is a matter for Comhaltas to consider and agree.

I would also point out that the Council has been working with the Ennis Street Festival with a view to strategically examining the festival and seeing if it can expand to a greater degree than heretofore. The Council has also worked with many other events and festivals that have taken place on an ad hoc basis from time to time and will continue to do so.

The members agreed that it is important to build on Clare's Tourism product, to enhance river walks, tourist attractions and retail and build on the range of festivals throughout the year. Other possible events, such as a Harvest Festival, International Siege of Ennis competition were suggested. It was agreed to look at up-scaling existing festivals to continue to bring large number of people to Ennis.

No.4. NOM submitted by Cllr. T. McNamara was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly

I call on Clare County Council to cleanup and resurface the pedestrian right of way linking Hazel Lane to Ivy Hill.

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

The Municipal District will contact the residents on either side of the pedestrian access between Ivy Hill and Hazel Lane before we carry out any cleaning or assist the residents in cleaning the pedestrian access at this location.

No.5. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy

That Inis Clair, Kildysart Rd, Clarecastle is taken in charge by the local authority.

Helen Quinn, Senior Executive Planner, replied as follows:-

A claim was made on the bond in relation to this development in September 2014 as the developers went into receivership. Agents were appointed on behalf of the bondholders to prepare a Site Resolution Plan for agreement with the Planning Authority. Following negotiations with the bondholders and agreement on the Site Resolution Plan, a contractor was appointed by the bondholders who commenced works on site in June 2016 and these works are now being finalised. A S180 request was received on 10th October 2016 from the majority of the home owners and it is intended to progress the taking in charge of this development on completion of the works.

No.6. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

That a crash barrier be installed on the N85 South of my entrance at Ballyknock which has been the scene of a number of accidents in the past few years.

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

The Municipal District Office contacted the Transport Section once this accident was brought to our attention by Councillor James Breen. The Transport Section contacted the appropriate person in the TII (NRA) and they have requested the design team for this work to examine the location and see what solutions are feasible. One of the restrictions in the use of crash barrier at this location is the narrow margin between the road edge and the top of the stream/river embankment. This margin does not give the appropriate space for standard barrier to deflect when struck by a vehicle, therefore a more detailed design is required for the barrier. The Transport Section & The Municipal District Office are in weekly contact with the TII on this matter.

No.7. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton

I ask Ennis Municipal District to make urgent contact with the Minister for the Environment with a view to allocating immediate funding for social housing in the town of Ennis.

Liam Conneally, Director of Services, replied as follows:-

A number of funding streams are available for the provision of social housing by the Council, namely leasing, construction and acquisition. In addition, Approved Housing Bodies are also assisting in the delivery of much needed social housing. Some examples of recent deliverables in the Ennis MD are as follows:

Over 50 Houses purchased in Ennis in 2015 & 2016 to date.

Significant number of private houses are leased and allocated under the HAP, RAS and Social Leasing Schemes.

27 long term leased houses recently allocated with an additional 35 units expected to be ready for occupation early in 2017.

Notwithstanding the above, it is accepted that much more needs to be done in Ennis. We are currently examining submissions received following the recent Public Tender seeking Building Lands and/or Turnkey Developments. Two of these in the Ennis Area, if considered suitable and approved by the Department, could yield up to 112 units. We will keep the Members updated.

Members discussed the matter and requested a special meeting with Liam Conneally to agree an overall strategy. This was proposed by Cllr J. Flynn and seconded by Cllr C. Collieran Molloy.

No.8 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr P. Daly

Hermitage Estate Footpaths

In addition to the previous request for footpaths repairs for areas such as at Bishops Court, Educate Together, etc that Ennis Municipal District Members request the Municipal District Executive to commence in 2017 the replacement of poor quality concrete footpaths in the Hermitage area of Ennis.

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

The Council intend to replace some of the footpaths that are in poor structural condition and examine feasibility of using surfacing systems to repair the top surface of older footpaths in good structural condition that have damage to the walking surface. It is intended that work will be done at a number of locations in Ennis including parts of Hermitage.

No.9. NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy

Representations recently made to me regarding serious accidents at the junction on the Quin Road (R469) and R4114. I request an immediate safety survey including sight lines at this junction. I also have had a number of requests to urge the Council to do road maintenance on the Quin Road as the surface has deteriorated over the last number of years.

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

A Low Cost Safety Project was completed in 2015 to improve the sight lines at Lynch's Cross at the junction of the Quin Road R469 & Doora Road L4114. The R469 and part of the L4114 were resurfaced with an Asphalt Finish in the vicinity of the junction in 2015 from additional road grant funding that was provided in July 2015. A VMS sign has previously been provided on the L4114 (Doora) Road on the approach to the junction identifying the danger to drivers. The only issue at the junction on an inspection last week was a short section of briars that need to be cut back.

The Quin Road is on the Road works programme in 2017 and there is a need for sections of the road between Keevagh and Quinville to be considered for road improvement when funding is made available for more substantive regional road improvements by means of specific improvements grants or a similar Department of Transport scheme.

No.10. NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara
That Clare Council look at having a family event in Ennis on St Patrick's Day following the parade. Maybe having a pageant in the New Market Building to keep families in town.

Gerard Dollard, Director of Services, replied as follows:-

The hosting of the St. Patrick's Day parade is a major event for the town and requires significant advance logistical and other preparations. The involvement of An Garda Síochána and other parties is essential to the successful running of the parade.

The idea of holding a family event would be very welcome and the hosting of such an event would require the allocation of funding and the preparation of an Event Management Plan.

Previously, Ennis Town Council would have organised events to encourage a longer stay in the town centre.

I would point out that St. Patrick's Day in 2017 falls on a Friday which would traditionally be a Market trading day and, as such, the traders in the Ennis Market would have an entitlement to trade on that day. However, the Council can further examine the possibility on the basis that the Elected Members are in agreement with same and that funding is made available for such an event.

No.11. NOM submitted by Cllr. T. McNamara was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy
I call on Clare County Council to repair and resurface the Inch Bridge to Edenvale road L4164 and the Kilmaley Cross to the old Kilmaley Post Office road L4230 following the additional damage caused to those roads over the past 8 weeks as a result of the road closure on the R474 Kilmaley road.

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

The Municipal District of Ennis Office will examine the L4164 with the MD of West Clare Office as this road is in both districts. The L4230 Kilmaley Road is in the 2017 Road Works Programme. Both roads are maintained by the MD of Ennis Office and are being inspected and repaired as there is larger volume of traffic on these roads due to the cable laying contract works diverting traffic from the R474.

No.12. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton

I am requesting that the footpaths between Ballybeg Cross and Ballybeg estate are "joined up" in order to improve pedestrian safety at Ballybeg Bridge, and that funding is sought to provide a footpath from Ballybeg watertower down to where the footpath currently ends.

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

The completion of this footpath, public lighting, the upgrading of the road and road drainage are required however they are subject to funding requirement that is outside the capacity of present grant allocations to the Municipal District of Ennis. This project would require a detailed design for the road alignment which is not in place and would require available capacity in the Road Design Section. This road is similar to locations in Roslevan /Gaurus area & Drehidnagower area where there is housing in the vicinity of Ennis without safe pedestrian access.

Members agreed that a list of this work and similar work should be compiled and meet with Oireachtas members and request funding for 2017.

No.13. NOM submitted by Cllr. J Breen was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly

That flooding on the road at Turnpike Rd. opposite One Line Betting Office be eliminated.

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

The Municipal District Office will examine the location and see what is feasible to do to eliminate the problem with water congregating in this area after heavy rainfall.

No.14. NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy

I ask Ennis Municipal District to take away the serious bends on the road from Knockaneen to the Creamery at Moyriesk

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

This is similar to other local roads in the vicinity of Ennis where traffic has increased over the past 10 years. As stated in a response to this Notice of Motion previously, it may be possible to improve some of the bends with the co operation of local landowners by means of discretionary maintenance funding. I have asked the Roads Engineer to

examine the section of road and see what is feasible to do given the cost of land and requirements to provide new boundary walls- ditches-fences.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis.

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator.

Date: _____