

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held at 10.30am on Friday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 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, Administrative Officer and Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

*The Mayor of Ennis, Cllr. Ann Norton, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year and wished everyone health and happiness for 2017.*

**Item No. 1. Minutes of the December 2016 Monthly Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016**

Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District December 2016 monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. J. Breen and adopted by members.

**Item No. 2. Budget 2017**

This item was deferred to the February monthly meeting.

**Item No. 3. Agree date for Car-Parking Workshop**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 2017, was agreed by members.

**Item No. 4. Notices of Motion**

*Cllr. J. Breen sought to have his NOM Nos 4 & 11 to be dealt with first as he had to leave the meeting. This was agreed by members.*

**No.4. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

I am asking this council to put a yellow box on the exit from the taxi rank at Parnell St. in order to expedite passengers availing of taxi's during heavy traffic at this location.

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

The Municipal District will discuss the proposed hatch box at the exit of the taxi rank with the Traffic Section of the Council and submit a proposal to the Gardai for their observations. The work will be placed on the list of line marking work, once the Gardai observations are received.

**No.11. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly**

I am asking this council to have a review carried out in relation to traffic coming from Barrack St. coming onto Upper Market St. Which in my view has made this exit very dangerous and immediate steps be taken to rectify same.

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

The junction of Barrack Street and Market Street was part of the Ennis Market project and is designed in accordance with the requirements of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS). The Municipal District Office has observed the traffic movement at the junction during peak and off peak times and did not observe any dangerous vehicle movements during our observations.

**No.1. NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.**

That VMS Signs be installed at an appropriate location to slow down traffic on the Sixmilebridge Road into Quin, and at an appropriate location on the Ennis road into Quin, to ensure safe passage for pedestrians and cyclists.

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

The Municipal District Office will carry out a traffic speed surveys on the R469 on the approaches to Quin Village to confirm whether additional means of speed controls or traffic calming are required. The outcome of the traffic speed surveys will be forwarded to the Garda Traffic Corps. Funding of this work will be through a Low Cost Safety Scheme or by Discretionary Maintenance Grants from the Dept of Transport.

**No.2. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.**

I am requesting that the roads section of Ennis Municipal District resurface the section of road that is in a poor state of repair at the junction of Old Road and Church Drive (adjacent to the Church carpark), Clarecastle.

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

The Municipal District are seeking quotes for work at this junction in Clarecastle and the section of damaged road surface at the junction of the Old Road and Church Drive will be replaced.

**No.3. NOM submitted by Cllr. T. McNamara was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.**

I call on Clare County Council/Irish Water to outline the group water schemes in the Ennis Municipal District that are fed from the main water supply; which of these schemes have an active committee and what plans are in place to take these schemes in charge.

**Brendan Flynn, Executive Engineer, replied as follows:**

The following is a list of Group Water Schemes (GWS) that are within the Ennis Municipal District boundary:

Ballymaconna - Active  
Manusmore - Active  
Castlefergus - No recent communication  
Castlefergus Ardsullos - No recent communication  
Knocknagoug - Active  
Corbally Danganbrack - Active  
Ballymarkham - No recent communication  
Ballymacahill - No recent communication  
Caherkine (approx 15% of Scheme in EMD and the rest is in SMD) - Active

With respect to Taking in Charge, the onus is on the GWS to apply to Clare County Council. Applications are forwarded to Irish Water for approval/comment. Of the 9 listed above 3 have indicated that they wish to be Taken In Charge and as such the recently published IW/DHCLG forms have been sent to the GWS's.

*Notice of Motion Nos 3 & 8 were dealt with together.*

*The members discussed the matter and agreed that the Council should follow up with the individual group schemes, particularly those with whom there has been no communication. It was confirmed that there is a further scheme, Claremount/Barntick to be included in the listing of GWS.*

*G. Dollard, Director of Services, agreed that Irish Water need to deal with Group Water Schemes and it is important that the non-active ones are addressed. It was agreed to request the Water Services section in the Council to make initial contact with each GWS to establish if these Schemes want to be taken in charge and if this is the case they should be referred to Irish Water.*

**No.5. NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.**

I welcome the commencement of the pedestrian crossing on the Gort Road at Ashfield Park, I seek a report and timeline on it's construction and completion.

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

Works commenced prior to Christmas with some kerbs being adjusted and tactile paving installed on the Ashfield park side of the road. Some cooperation is required from the ESB in relocating a pole and I met with their local engineer before Christmas with a view to resolving this. Notwithstanding this, the works are due to recommence next week and take 2-3 weeks to complete.

*Members further queried the status of the proposed pedestrian crossing on the N68 and if there was any further consideration give to one at Eire Óg.*

*E. O'Dea confirmed that the Regional Design Office, Limerick, were in the process of submitting a Safety Statement for the N68 pedestrian crossing and that a possible re-*

*shaping of the road near Eire Óg may be a solution to the this issue. The speed limit review will give more information.*

**No.6. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.**

I am calling on Ennis Municipal District of Clare County Council to carry out flood relief works that are necessary in order to alleviate the annual recurring flooding risk to rear of the first four houses near the railway line along Corrovorrin Avenue.

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

The Municipal District Office has received correspondence from Corrovorrin Avenue Residents & Cllr J Flynn on this matter last year and we are in the process of examining the location and finding solutions to the problem.

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

I call on Ennis Municipal District to co-ordinate with the Street Associations and Chamber of Commerce with a view to identifying a site adjacent to the town, that will provide parking spaces for staff members of local businesses, offices etc.

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

The Council has had ongoing engagement with business interests regarding the best use of parking in the town and the optimum availability for visitors and shoppers. The high number of business and residential permits does have an impact on the availability of prime parking areas for visitors and shoppers.

The Council has provided long stay parking at a very reasonable fee at a number of locations in the vicinity of the town centre. The allocation of spaces at the Friars Walk coach park during the Christmas period was a further measure to encourage permit holders to utilise these spaces and 'free up' spaces for shoppers and visitors.

The Council will continue to engage on and progress initiatives with the support of the business community but a behavioural change in relation parking is a key element in successfully implementing initiatives.

*This is to be dealt with at the proposed parking workshop on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.*

**No.8. NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.**

That the Council /Irish Water take over the Corbally Danganbrack Group Water Scheme which serves a wide area of the Quin Clooney Parish.

**Brendan Flynn, Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-**

The Taking in Charge of Group Water Schemes is now the function of the Water Services Authority - Irish Water (IW).

Clare County Council's Rural Water Programme e-mailed Corbally Danganbrack in early Dec 2016 with the required documentation Taking in Charge by Irish Water.

The GWS have provisionally indicated that they wish to proceed however the Council now awaits submission of the required documents by the GWS, which will then be forwarded to IW for assessment/approval.

**No.9. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.**

While thanking my Colleagues and the staff of Ennis Municipal District for supporting Clarecastle in being this year's recipient of the Town and Village funding, I am now requesting further support from the Director of Services in requesting that Eir remove or re-locate their Fibre and Cable cabinets that are adjacent to the Main Street car park. At present they are not very pleasing to one's eye and will be a hindrance to any future Village Renewal Works at this location.

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

The Municipal District Office is in contact with Eir to confirm what is feasible at this location in Clarecastle. I understand that representations are being made by Public Representatives on behalf of the Clarecastle Tidy Towns - Development Group to Eir regarding moving of the fibre and cable cabinets.

**No.10. NOM submitted by Cllr. T. McNamara was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.**

I call on Clare County Council to resurface the road and repair the footpaths on the estate road which is the first entrance to the right off the Ballybeg road from the Kildysart Road end.

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

The Municipal District office will include the replacement of sections of the footpath on the list of footpaths for works in the Clarecastle Area. The road was excavated as part of a group sewerage scheme in 2015/2016 and the reinstatement of the trench area was by double seal surface dressing. There is no funding available for the resurfacing of this road. The potholes will be repaired and subject to available funding the Council will endeavor to resurface the entrance area to the estate road.

*Members further queried if the Community Involvement Scheme could be used in this instance. E. O'Dea to seek further information on this.*

**No.12. NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.**

That this Municipal District Council seeks assurances from Irish Rail that the rail service north of Ennis will continue.

No reply required.

*Members discussed this Notice of Motion and agreed that a formal submission signed by all eight members should be made to Irish Rail as a matter of urgency to seek assurance that the rail line from Ennis to Galway be retained.*

**No.13. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.**

I call on Ennis Municipal District of Clare County Council to re-install early in the new year the white festive lighting used for the Fleadh along the main streets of Ennis. The lights could be lit up on the Thursday, Friday & weekend evenings & nights throughout the year.

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

The white festive lighting installed specifically for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2016 was undertaken on a once off basis as part of an overall programme to enhance Ennis town for the flagship Fleadh Cheoil event.

The lights were very well received and favourably commented on during the Fleadh.

The temporary installation requires time switches to be installed at 11 different locations which require to be manually set for the lighting to switch on and off each day. The Council considered the continuance of the white festive lighting over the Christmas period and decided against same having regard to the high maintenance cost, significant power cost and the view that it would be a special feature rather than a regular feature in Ennis. Issues had also been experienced in the operation of the CCTV system for the town in that the cameras in zoom mode tend to focus on the lighting rather than activity on the streets.

An overall estimate has been done of the likely cost involved in the implementing the request as set out in the Notice of Motion. When account is taken of the cost of installation, attendance to switch on and off the timer switches on a weekly basis, maintenance, bulb replacement as well as electricity cost, the overall estimate is of the order of €60,000.

The white festive lighting was installed as a temporary feature and if consideration is to be given to same as a permanent feature would require a much more robust system of installation including the use of LED bulbs to reduce energy costs. This in turn will require a capital investment by the Council.

*Members further queried this Notice of Motion and sought further information on ownership of the lights, storage, LED, maintenance, costings etc.*

*G. Dollard informed members that the Council did own the lights, they were purchased under the CEDRA Initiative.*

*They are currently in Council storage.*

*The ambiance of LED lights would be slightly different.*

*There would be an ongoing maintenance cost if used all year round.*

*It's a good idea but we would need to prioritise our resources first.*

*It was agreed that this would be further discussed as part of the budget workshop for 2017.*

**Item No. 5. Any Other Business.**

***Current Health Service Crisis***

*Members discussed, at length, the current and ongoing issue of patients waiting on trolleys throughout the Country and in particular Limerick. This week there were over 60 patients waiting on trolleys in Limerick University College Hospital, this being the worst in the Country. There is no second access to an A & E facility currently in the mid-west and this would have serious implications, in particular, in the event of a Major Emergency.*

*Members unanimously agreed to write to the CEO of the Health Service Mid-West with regard to the serious concerns.*

*A copy of the letter should be communicated to our 4 TDs and 1 Senator in County Clare.*

*The letter should outline the following:-*

- The current crisis should be addressed with immediate effect.*
- An urgent review of Major Emergency planning.*
- A review of 24 hour A & E at Ennis hospital.*
- Improve Ambulance Service in Clare.*
- No further loss of services from Ennis Hospital.*

*The Meeting then concluded.*

*Signed: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Cllr. A. Norton,  
Mayor of Ennis.*

*Signed: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Ann Reynolds,  
Meetings Administrator.*

*Date: \_\_\_\_\_*

