

**Minutes of the July 2017 Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held at
3.30pm on Thursday June 22nd, 2017,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

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

Officials: G. Dollard, Director of Services, E. O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, A. Reynolds, Administrative Officer & F. Whelan, Staff Officer.

Item No.1. Minutes of the June 2017 Monthly Meeting held on 13th June, 2017.

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ennis June 2017 monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and adopted by members.

Item No. 2. Extension of Glór Lease

This item, as circulated to members, was proposed by Cllr. T. McNamara, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly and agreed by members.

Item No. 3. Notices of Motion

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

I call on the Ennis Municipal District to repair the footpath in Quin from the new Gala Store to the old shop “Abbey Stores”.

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

The footpath will be inspected and appropriate repairs carried out at this location in Quin.

No.2. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

I request the up to date position in relation to Flooding at Claureen.

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

The Municipal District Office has not had the available time to complete this flood scheme application and we had concerns in regard to cost benefit for the proposed scheme. The details of the cost benefits in the OPW Minor Works Flood Schemes were changed this month which will improve the cost benefit for this project. The MD Office will be contacting the landowners to get permission to carry out site investigation in July with the intention of submitting an application to the OPW.

No.3. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

Could Ennis Municipal District produce a report on what accommodation can be realised on vacant "over the shop" properties in Ennis.

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner, replied as follows:

It's is an objective of "*Volume 3a - Ennis Municipal District*" of the the recently adopted Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 "*To achieve a vibrant and culturally-rich Ennis area with a revitalised town centre and strong economic growth balanced with enhanced social inclusion, sustainable neighbourhoods and a high level of environmental quality to ensure an excellent quality of life for all*". A significant opportunity to achieve this is the potential for certain vacant properties in the town centre to accommodate people "*living over the shop*" - as is the traditional form of occupation in towns across the country.

An examination of such potential would require a multi-faceted approach involving detailed research and analysis of a range of factors including property ownership, size, nature and form together with an appraisal of requirements for compliance with building codes and modern standards. The research would build on the findings and data emerging from the preparation of the Ennis Town Centre Health Check.

In the event that a Research and Analysis resource was available, Ennis municipal district in conjunction with the Planning Authority and Economic Directorate would assist. The report could also inform the preparation of the Ennis and Environs Local Area Plan.

G. Dollard further commented that there is some evidence that people want to live close to accessible amenities. This is not always easily achievable due to compliance with various regulations and requirements. Unless there is a strong incentive for owners of properties to do this, it won't happen.

No.4 NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.

Ballyalia Lake Enhancement.

That the circa €50,000 in dedicated Ballyalia fund be matched by Area Enhancement monies to carry out following ;

- a) provision of public street lights from main Gort road down to existing lights at lakeshore car park
- b) raising of levels of existing footpaths (a small footbridge if necessary at a particular area that severely winter floods) at South section of lakeshore that loops out and back to old pier.
- c) design & costing of feasibility of putting back in order lace public toilets , repair of old pier , dredging (or other more environmentally sensitive cleaning of river exit channel from old pier towards Ennis.

Gerard Dollard, Director of Service, replied as follows:

Clare County Council along with the Ballyallia residents developed a proposal in December 2012 to upgrade the public amenity area at Ballyallia lake. While some works were completed the overall proposal was not advanced at that time.

A copy of this proposal has been circulated and discussed with Ennis Municipal District members and it was agreed that the original proposal could form the basis for an overall development proposal for the area. As this area is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA) it is necessary to consult with The National Parks and Wildlife Service and with Inland Fisheries Ireland. In this regard the 2012 proposal has been submitted to both agencies, with a request to meet with the members for an initial consultation to discuss what may be feasible. Any new proposal would be developed in consultation with the relevant parties and a Community group, which is to be re-established. The Community group may then be in a position to make a submission nationally for funding for the proposed works.

Following discussion the members agreed to proceed as outlined in the Director's reply to the notice of motion.

No.5 NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

I ask Ennis Municipal District to contact Iarnrod Eireann regarding the site entrance to the railway station (where the old train for the West Clare railway was situated) with a view to upgrading immediately.

No reply required.

Members further discussed this motion and it was agreed that a letter would issue to the Headquarters of Iarnrod Eireann in Dublin to have the matter addressed.

No.6. NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

I call on the Ennis Municipal District to assess traffic calming at the cross at Doora Church, including VMS signals and or fried egg roundabout.

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

The Municipal District Office will carry out a speed and traffic count at Doora and check the sight line visibility at the cross roads. This will determine whether works are required at this location

No.7. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

Will the following roads be repaired and surface dressed in 2017:

The road leading to Ballymacahill and the road leading to Ballyallia opposite the Ballymacahill junction.

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

The road from Stonepark Cross on the R458 towards Ballymacahill is on the 2018 road works programme. The road between Stonepark Cross and Ballyallia Cross is not in the present 3 year programme. Roads are considered for inclusion on the road works programme based on their condition as per the Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) database which the Department of Transport uses to review the selected roads.

No.8. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

I have received a number of complaints regarding excessive speed on the Drumcliff Road. Is it possible for Ennis Municipal District to liase with An Garda Siochana and possibly revise the speed limit?

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

This is a 50kph speed limit and the Municipal District Office will carry out a speed survey at this location and forward the details to the Gardai.

No.9. NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

Ennis Town Centre (4 urban electoral areas) repopulation & Community activation programme

In light of the significant loss of population in town Centre electoral areas ; That Ennis Municipal District request that Clare county council allocate dedicated staff to perform Ennis town Centre repopulation & surburbs Community activation programme to avail of local & national funding streams available to communities.

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner, replied as follows:

In agreeing with the sentiment of the notice of motion, Clare County Council will, subject to resources, seek to avail of all such possible opportunities for funding streams for communities.

G. Dollard further advised members that discussions as part of the rural strategy plan could determine how best this could be dealt with when the Rural Strategy is finalised.

No.10 NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara

I ask EMD to do a feasibility study on the Green Road, entering the main Ennis Tulla Road at Clooney as presently the junction is dangerous.

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

The Municipal District Office will examine this junction and prepare a cost estimate for the proposed works. It is unlikely that the location will meet requirements for a Department of Transport Low Cost Safety Scheme.

Item No. 4. Correspondence

E. O’Dea, S.E.E., briefed members on his report on the Footpath Expenditure Programme for 2017.

Members thanked Eamon for the detail outlined and congratulated him and his colleagues on works done to date as well as the planned programme ahead for 2017.

Item No. 5. Any Other Business

- Members wished to acknowledge Bernard & Róisín Cahill who had saved lives at Spanish Point beach recently.
- Cllr. P. Daly proposed a Vote of Sympathy to the family of the late Mickie McNamara, Clarecastle, RIP. Mickie was a retired Clerk of Works from Ennis Town Council. This was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.
- It was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara that the newly elected Mayor of Ennis would write to Michael Collins, Engineer with the OPW, on the occasion of his retirement. Michael had been instrumental in the success of the programme of works for the Ennis Flood Relief Schemes.
- Hot Desk/Digital Hub – to be considered at the site of the old cinema to be an item for the briefing ahead of the September monthly meeting.
- Potholes near the Kilnamona Cross to be addressed if possible.
- Following on from the recent tragedy in London, (with sympathies to the families involved,) members queried if this type of material was used in apartments/housing developments in Ennis.

Signed:

Cllr. P. Murphy,
Mayor of Ennis.

A. Reynolds,
Meetings Administrator.

Date: _____