

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held at 10.30am on Tuesday June 13th, 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.

**Apologies:** J. Flynn

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

**Item No.1. Minutes of the May 2017 Monthly Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2017.**

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ennis May 2017 monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and adopted by members.

**Item No. 2. General Municipal District Allocations 2017**

G. Dollard, Director of Services, outlined the following grants to be approved by members:-

**Festival & Events Budget:**

- Spencil Hill Fair - €1,000
- Irish Chess Championships - €1,000

**Community & Arts Budget:**

- Ennis Tidy Towns : Roundabouts and Arts installations- €2,850
- Gort Leamhan, riverside fencing - €4,320
- Road Improvements at Banner GAA - €2,000
- Shinty Weekend at Eire Og Ennis - €1,000
- Cloughleigh Community Centre Improvements - €1,000
- Quin's Mens Shed - €600
- Clare Sunset Foundation - €1,000
- RNLI - €360
- Quin/Clooney Community Games - €500

**Specific Project Funding:**

- Kilnamona Public Lighting Improvement - €6,040
- Kilmaley Public Convenience - €6,000
- Speed VMS Signage at Quin - €6,000
- Speed Reduction Measures at Corrovorrin - €6,000

- Pedestrian Access Improvements at Eire Og - €6,000
- Five Productions Road Safety Film for vulnerable groups - €3,000

This item was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by members.

### **Item No. 3. Agree Date Annual General Meeting.**

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly and agreed by members to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2017, at 3pm. It was also agreed to hold the July monthly meeting of Ennis Municipal District after the AGM on the same day.

### **Item No. 4. Update on Ennis Town Centre Paint Scheme 2017.**

G. Dollard, Director of Services, updated members on the Ennis Town Centre Paint Scheme 2017. 52 valid applications were received under the scheme for 2017. Successful applicants are required to complete the approved works in a satisfactory manner on or before August 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 and will only be paid following the submission of all relevant documentation. The 2017 scheme combined with the impact of the 2016 scheme will make a very positive contribution to the Ennis streetscape and Tidy Towns Competition.

### **Item No. 5. Disposal of Property**

- Lickaun, Ballgriffey, Larchill, Ennis.
- 45 Church Drive, Clarecastle.

This item was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara and agreed by members.

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

#### **No.1. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.**

Over recent months I have noticed the Sycamore growth on the walls of the River Fergus. These walls have all been repointed in recent times and we need to ensure that this work is not undermined.

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

The walls on the River Fergus will be examined as part of the maintenance of the Flood Scheme and saplings will be removed. On a recent inspection I noted two maple saplings near Steele’s Rock which are on the river bank and not on the wall, there is a maple sapling on the concrete plinth downstream of Club Bridge. There are existing Sycamore and maple trees on a raised bank beside Bank Place Bridge.

#### **No.2. NOM submitted by Cllr. Ann Norton was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara**

That Clare County Council look at the provision of Street Lighting and a Footpath from Western garage to Frank Healy Park, as the success of the Team is likely to increase the use of the Pitch by Children and Adults, proper footpaths and lighting are a vital to ensure pedestrian safety.

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

Frank Healy Park is 928metres from the end of the footpath at Western Garages on the Quin Road in Ennis. The following works are required to provide a footpath-cycle way three metres wide and this may be constrained to two metres at certain location due to proximity of existing buildings to the carriageway.

- (a) Permission will be required from a number of landowners to carry out works in the public domain on their property and the existing boundaries will have to be set back for 520 metres of the path as there is insufficient room in the existing margin to provide the appropriate width for the path.
- (b) New embankments will have to be constructed on a 200 metre section where the lands are below the existing road level including suitable fencing at the base of the embankment and on the inside of the footpath.
- (c) There are large district drains inside the road margin between the Doora Ind Estate and Frank Healy Park and these will have to set back or alternatively large diameter pipes and manholes will be required to replace them. Suitable boundary treatment between the path and the lands will be required.
- (d) Provision of public lighting requires considerable quantities of ducts to be provided to supply the power from the grid to the micro pillars and then from the micro pillars to the each lighting standard in line with codes of practice. The ESB will require provision for a spare power supply duct separate from the power supply for the public lighting. This requires two 125mm ducts and almost two metres of 50mm duct per metre of footpath.
- (e) Provision will be required for telecommunication ducts that can subsequently be sold by the Council to telecommunication companies thus reducing the need to dig the road after the footpath is completed.

There are a number of constraints in the provision of this footpath and I am seeking more recent tender prices before I put a detailed cost estimate forward for this footpath proposal.

**No.3 NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was moved by Cllr. A. Norton on Cllr. J. Flynn’s absence and seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.**

In welcoming the recent footpaths upgrades in and around Ennis I ask that Ennis Municipal District Executive provide a report on the 2017 Ennis District footpath upgrade programme , which has received significant funding increase from Local Property Tax collected in the District.

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

To date footpath upgrades have been carried out on the R458 at the Gort Road and are underway at Sandfield Road. A total of 419 metres of footpath have been replaced on the Gort Road and 190 metres of footpath is being replaced at Sandfield Road. In most locations new edge kerbing is provided between the footpath and the adjoining grass areas. The estimated cost of this work is €51,250. The footpaths on the Tulla Road between the Railway Bridge and the Cappahard Roundabout will proceed after the Highfield Road works.

**No.4. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.**

In view of the beautiful amenity in Ballybeg Woods, I am asking this Council

1. Carry out surface dressing to this road in 2017

2. Cut overhanging trees.
3. Trim the verges
4. Cut the briars in the car park

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

The Municipal District Office on behalf of the Council are making an application under the Community Involvement Scheme as the landowner on one side of the local tertiary road L83561 for the section from Killone Grove to the entrance to the forest walk a distance of 500metres.

The MD Office will examine the overhanging branches and remove those that are unsafe. The briars/weeds and debris will be removed from the parking area. The road verges will not be cut unless required for the CIS works, this is in line with biodiversity policy as there is no danger to road users by the growth in the verges.

**No.5. NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.**

I call on Ennis Municipal District to upgrade the surface of Turnpike Road from Darcys Corner to Aymers Rest.

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

The Turnpike Road was surfaced with a thin coat surfacing system six years ago. This surface material requires attention at a number of locations and this will be rectified. The Turnpike Road is not in this year’s road works programme. The estimate cost of resurfacing the wearing course of this 380 metre long section of Turnpike road is in the order of €55,000.

**No.6. NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.**

In light of the dangerous overhanging of trees on wires at the cross at Doora Church, that they be immediately cut back, as there is a distinct possibility that they will fall on passing traffic or pedestrians.

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

A number of trees on the Ballyhickey Road opposite the church in Doora were removed last week where they were a danger to overhead power lines. The ESB will be contacted regarding some routine tree topping that is required on the L4114 Killow Road adjacent to overhead lines.

**No.7. NOM submitted by Cllr. Tom McNamara was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

As part of the completion of the resurfacing and relining of the R474 following the laying of the 110KV cable from Mount Callan to Ennis I call on Clare County Council to install traffic calming measures on the approach road to Kilmaley junction from the west and move the existing Radar Controlled Speed Sign from its current location around the turn to the west to make it more visible to oncoming traffic

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

The Municipal District Office will raise the provision of traffic calming measures on the approach road to Kilmaley with the Road Design Section to seek approval for a Low Cost Safety Scheme in 2018. The MD Office will examine the location of the speed VMS sign

and see if there is a more appropriate location for same or is there need for more severe hedge cutting to make the sign more visible to drivers.

**No.8. NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.**

I am requesting that the Ballybeg Group Sewerage Scheme is taken in charge by Clare County Council.

**Joe Spellissy, Senior Staff Officer, Water Services, replied as follows:**

Irish water are now the Water Authority for the country for the taking in charge of Group Sewerage Schemes (GSS). Clare County Council are no longer empowered to take in charge such assets. However we are still waiting for Irish Water to formally issue to Local Authorities a taking in charge policy / procedure for taking in charge Group Sewerage Schemes.

When Irish Water issue this policy an application from Ballybeg group sewerage scheme can then be considered.

**No.9. NOM submitted by Cllr. Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.**

I request a report on work, if any at the Ballyhea Cutting.

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

The Municipal District Office sought quotations from specialised tree maintenance companies to remove the growth on the Ballyhea cutting and we inquired from the Heritage Officer if funding could be sought for work on the cutting subsequent to the removal of the bushes/trees. The funding available under Heritage Grants would not meet the cost of work and there is no specific fund available for the removal of the shrub/tree growth. The funds provided under arterial drainage allocation own resources for the Fergus Drainage District €24,000 is allocated to drainage works at other locations in 2017.

Members further discussed this Notice of Motion which it is hoped can be progressed in the future. E. O'Dea, SEE, clarified that this work is very costly with a quotation of €75,000 already received, therefore, a funding source needs to be identified. It is also a very specialised job and needs to be done properly as a once off job.

**No.10. NOM submitted by Cllr. Ann Norton was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.**

That the Environment Section of Clare county council increase litter controls around the area of active Ennis leisure facilities and Mc Donnell roundabout due to increased littering

**John O'Malley, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment, replied as follows:**

Ennis Municipal District manage the provision and emptying of litter bins and street cleaning operations around Ennis as resources allow. There is a Litter Management Plan 2015 - 2018 in place which outlines the policy and principles of Clare County Council's approach to litter. The plan is available to download at:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/water-waste-environment/publications/litter-management-plan-2015-2018-5786.pdf>

There is ongoing monitoring of the area around Ennis Leisure facilities by Environmental staff. If there is a particular problem at any specific location in Ennis

Municipal District, the Environment Section liaise with the Municipal District to resolve the issue. It may also be a matter of increasing the education and awareness of environmental/litter issues at a particular area.

Members complimented Ennis Tidy Towns and outdoor staff from the Municipal District of Ennis for their work to date in this area.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton to write to Iarnrod Eireann's Headquarters in Dublin to request an improvement to their property in the town.

**No.11. NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was moved by Cllr. A. Norton in the absence of Cllr. J. Flynn, was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.**

That a report be presented on the Climate Change Adaptation plans proposed to be implemented by Clare County Council in the Ennis Municipal District

**Pat Stephens, Manager, Limerick Clare Energy Agency replied as follows:**

The Limerick Clare Energy Agency and Clare County Council staff are engaging with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on training workshops for the development of Local Adaptation Plans. We are presently establishing baseline data and cooperating with the national / regional bodies on shared information to avoid duplication of research. Consultation with various stakeholders and the general public is anticipated later this year, after the draft National Adaptation Framework is published (expected in July 2017).

**No.12. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.**

I am calling on this council to take over and maintain the Clover Hill housing estate.

**Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, Economic Development replied as follows:**

The Planning Authority made a claim on the bond in relation to Clover Hill development in December 2012 and is in ongoing engagement with them to secure the satisfactory completion of this development for Taking in Charge.

While significant works have been undertaken by the bondholders there are outstanding issues to be addressed in relation to repairs to sewers, provision of an additional public light and more recently an issue concerning the boundary wall between this and a neighbouring development. The Planning Authority will continue to pursue the resolution of these outstanding issues in the interest of the residents of this estate, at which time the development can be considered for taking in charge.

**No.13. NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.**

That Halloran's Cross aka the Forge Cross on the Tulla Road to Quin be assessed and safety improvements be made in light of the near misses reported.

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

The L8180 Quin to Tulla road has appropriate advance signs for the cross roads at Ballyhickey-Craggataska on the L7204. The road from Dangan and Clooney-Quin GAA have both got advance cross road signs and yield signs in place. Normally road markings are not provided at crossroads on the local road network however the Clooney-Quin GAA Club can generate peak traffic movements at this junction. The MD Office will examine if road markings or additional signs on the Quin to Tulla Road on the approach to the cross roads would be of benefit to drivers.

**No.14. NOM submitted by Cllr. Tom McNamara was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.**

I call on Clare County Council to upgrade the Ruan road L4162 from a Local road to a regional road.

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

There is no specific criteria for upgrading of Local Primary Roads to Regional Roads, however a basic requirement that a new Regional Road should connect roads of similar or higher status and would have significant increase in traffic numbers. Higher Status Roads would be National Secondary Roads, National Primary Roads or Motorways. The L4162 Ruan Road does not meet these criteria.

Members also requested that this road be swept in the Autumn when leaves are falling.

**Item No. 7. Correspondence.**

None

**Item No. 8. Any Other Business.**

- Mayor of Ennis, Cllr. A. Norton reminded members of the date for the AGM and that it will be followed by the July monthly meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2017. Notices of Motion need to be sent in for this meeting by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June.
- Overgrown grass in the River Fergus needs to be addressed ahead of Fleadh 2017.

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

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

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

**Ann Reynolds,  
Meetings Administrator.**

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