

**Minutes of the December 2018 Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 11th December, 2018,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

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

Officials: Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, Barry Conway, Executive Engineer, Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Bernie Haugh, Meetings Administrator, and Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the November Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 14th November, 2018.

This item was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy and agreed by members.

Matters Arising from Minutes:-

Corrovorrin Junction

L. O'Neill confirmed to the meeting that a proposal for a revised layout at the Corrovorrin – Tulla Road junction by means of a Section 38 Traffic Calming process had been brought before Ennis Town Council in the past. That proposal was subsequently withdrawn due to concerns regarding the effect of the proposed layout on the commercial viability of the local business at the location.

Ennis Municipal District office will need to ensure appropriate consultation with the businesses and the residents of Corrovorrin to confirm a design that is suitable to all. It is expected that the Council's Road Design Office will have a report on it's revised design proposal on this matter in the New Year.

Turnpike

B. Conway, E.E., confirmed to the meeting that Ennis Municipal District Roads Dept. attempted to do minor works in this area to alleviate illegal parking, however, objections were received from some businesses in the area. There is ongoing consultation in progress to ensure a solution that will be acceptable to businesses and residents in the area.

Rocky Road

Carmel Kirby confirmed that the asking price on the property for sale at the Rocky Road exceeds the value of it as an amenity area. The Council must prove a value for money outcome in this regard. There is currently €25,000 ring fenced for the Rocky Road and it may be possible to re-visit this matter in the future.

Item No. 2. Declaration of public roads

• **Abbey Court & Abbey Ville, Ennis.**

This item was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by members.

• **Ballyalla Grove, Ennis.**

This item was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara and agreed by members.

Item No. 3. GMA Specific Projects 2018.

Year	Specific Projects	Committed
2018	Pilot Waste Initiative - Ennis	Awaiting costs
	Burren Bee Keepers (Suits, Gloves, Smokers, Nucleus Hives)	500
	Church Drive, Clarecastle- Road No. L8276	1720
	Church Drive, Clarecastle - Road No. L8278	1720
	CIS Kilmaley Graveyard	2000
	Clarecastle Men's Shed	Awaiting costs
	Clarecastle School Biodiversity Project	400
	Cloughleigh Drama Club	500
	Cloughleigh Samba Band	500
	Earth Route Trail Plan- Revised Plan	2000
	Equipment Identifying Machine	500
	Forever Young Choir	500
	Barefield Tidy Towns Projects	6000
	Inagh/Kilnamona Development of Hurling Pitch at Shallee, Kilnamona	2000
	Inagh/Kilnamona GAA Astro Turf	1000
	Kilmaley Church Car Park & Day Care Centre Road	4000
	Kilnamona Camogie Club	1900
	Kilnamona Development Committee	586
	Kilnamona Hall Committee	1900
	Kilnamona N.S. Astro Turf Pitch	2900
	Kitchenette at Fr McNamara Park.	1000
	Kitchenette for Cloughleigh CE Gordon Drive	Awaiting costs
	Lifford Area for festive lighting 2018	6000
	LIT Course Ennis Museum for Tourguides in Ennis	5000
	Local Improvement Scheme Ballybeg	Awaiting costs
	Planting of hedging along new path at L-4230-45, Kilmaley	930
	Plastics Free initiative (Clarecastle & Ennis)	Awaiting costs
	Red Cross Clare Branch – AED Project	5000
	Royal National Lifeboat Institution	800
	Road into Kilnamona Old Cemetery	600
	St Josephs Terrace - Road No. L8302/L8306	1720
	The Rear of Maddens Terrace, Clarecastle	3150
	Traffic calming measures at St Senan's Road, Shannon Park, Kincora Park, and The Crescent, Ennis.	2430
	Traffic Calming measures at Clon Road Beg at Eire Óg	9096
	Willow Counselling – Purchase of Laptop/Printer	1630

The report on this item, dated 11th December, 2018, was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by members as circulated.

Item No. 4. Notices of Motion

No. 1. NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

Can Clare County Council put funding into the areas of Simms Lane, Corn Market Street and Considine Tce on health and safety grounds?

Eamon O’Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The Ennis MD Office was contacted by residents on the Old Mill Road in Ennis regarding concerns for the safety of pedestrians going to and from the pedestrian crossing at Cornmarket Street. The MD Office has examined the existing layout, traffic and parking controls on Old Mill Road and drafted an outline proposal for consultation with the local businesses and residents. It is expected that this consultation will be done this month and a draft proposal will be ready for consideration by the Councillors in January 2019. A section 38 traffic calming public consultation process and funding for the works will be required.

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

I ask for a progress report on my previous calls for necessary rejuvenation and public realm upgrades in the Square, Parnell Street and Barrack St areas.

Leonore O’Neill, S.E.O., replied as follows:-

The Ennis Town Centre Public Realm Regeneration project has secured funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund for two projects: €1,481,000 for Parnell Street, and the Lanes and Bow-ways which was submitted as a Category A application. It also secured funding of €189,000 for Barrack Square and Old Barrack Street, O’Connell Street and High Street which was submitted as a Category B application.

Ennis is currently, and has for a number of years faced challenges in delivering a vibrant and accessible Town Centre that capitalises on its physical and historic assets. Key public spaces are not used efficiently to the benefit of the Town, some of the principal shopping streets are underperforming and historic assets that define Ennis are underutilised. As these streets and spaces are the heart of a viable Town Centre investment is required to address these issues. These two projects have a shared purpose of regenerating the public realm and in their totality will enhance the Town Centre environment, making it a more accessible and attractive place to spend time.

Parnell Street and Lanes & Bow-ways

In Parnell Street, Health Check studies have identified a significant level of vacant property and an increasing lack of retail activity. Clare County Council proposal addresses the urgent need to reinvigorate this principal shopping street. The Lanes and Bow-Ways revitalisation proposals allows them to contribute positively to the Town Centre public realm, reinforcing their heritage character, and enhancing the permeability between key street through increased pedestrian activity.

The works that will be undertaken are as follows:

- Up-grading of the public realm of Parnell Street, from High Street in the east to Carmody Street in the west, including re-surfacing in natural stone materials; street furniture; replacement street lighting; replacement signage, new signage and signage restoration and all ancillary site works.
- Up-grading of the public realm of the Laneways, including where appropriate re-surfacing in mostly natural stone materials; replacement street lighting; provision of bin stores and barrel plinths; replacement signage, new signage and signage restoration and all ancillary site works.

The works will be going through the Part 8 process and in line with the Departments requirements for Category A funding, the Part 8 will be before Council for approval by March 2019, with works commencing in the 3rd Quarter 2019.

O'Connell Square, High Street, Barrack Square and Old Barrack Street

Funding for O'Connell Square and High Street and Barrack Square and Old Barrack Street will allow for the further development of public realm proposals. In Barrack Square and Old Barrack, the public realm works offer an opportunity to transform this area into a 'café quarter' that would act as a destination within the heart of the town. In O'Connell Square and High Street, works will seek to make the area more pedestrian friendly and give the opportunity to accommodate civic uses.

It is hoped to advance this project to enable a future submission as a Category A application under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund.

Members welcomed the very positive response on this item and congratulated the Director and other staff members of Ennis Municipal District for their work to date on this project. The Part VIII is currently on display and open for public consultation. It is important to engage with all stakeholders to ensure all have an input into the project. Following consideration of submissions, appropriate views can be reflected in the plans. The Part VIII will come before members of Ennis MD and then to full Council for approval.

C. Kirby stated that a unique offering for Parnell Street must be identified and a clear vision outlined to ensure the success of the overall project.

No. 3. NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

Doora Church Cross: - In light of a Garda reported collision on Sunday November 25th, 2018, in or about 7pm, (not fatal, thankfully), that the introduction of safety measures needed at the main approach road to Doora Church Cross be expedited by the EMD, especially the sight lines from road where MidWest Oil is located and the introduction of traffic calling on the main road from Exit 12 to Quin Road.

Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

A material damage collision occurred at the Doora Cross Road on Sunday Nov. 25th. The Ennis MD has carried out remedial works on the kerb line on the south side of the junction and further work including removal of some high shrubs and relocation of an Eir pole are required on the north side of the cross roads. The Ennis MD Office proposed to carry out some additional overlay works this year funded jointly by the Discretionary Grant and Ennis General Municipal Allocation funds, however this has not proceeded as funds were not available.

The Ennis MD Office will consider the provision of line marking and VMS sign on the approach to the junction from the M18 Junction 12.

B. Conway, E.E., confirmed that speed surveys are currently being done at this location. Once we have the results of these surveys, we can take any necessary action.

No. 4. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

I am requesting that the Lissane Road (at the entry/exit to Lissane Industrial Estate) is put forward for a low cost safety scheme in 2019. The alignment of the road, coupled with the volume of vehicles entering and exiting the estate make this location extremely dangerous at all time.

Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The exit from the Lissane Industrial Estate is on a bend on a local road. The Ennis MD Office has installed a stop sign and road marking at the exit of the private road from the Industrial Park and advance warning signs. Additional signs will be provided coming from the Islandmacgrath direction and the Ennis MD office will contact the operators of the Industrial Estate to request further signage in advance of the stop line on the exit of the private road.

No. 5. NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

I request the Ennis Municipal District discontinue the practice of turning off the lights after midnight between the roundabouts on the N85 Western Relief Road.

Pat Lynch, E.E., Roads Dept, replied as follows:-

When the N85 was built there was no public lighting provided other than at the roundabouts. In 2012 Clare County Council made an application to the TII to get infill public lights between the roundabouts on the N85 from the Clareabbey Roundabout to the Claureen Roundabout. Funding was granted but it was agreed that the lights would only remain on up to midnight to cover the period when sufficient numbers of pedestrians were using the footpath for walking. The factors that were considered were:

- After midnight there was insufficient number of pedestrians walking on the footpath to warrant keep the public lighting on.
- The public lights on the N85 were not necessary for traffic safety.
- There is a significant energy saving by turning the lights off after midnight. This is also a requirement for the local authority to reduce energy consumption in order to achieve the energy efficiency target set for 2020.
- There are cost savings financially.
- Since February 2015 there has only been one request from members of the public to turn on these lights in the morning.

As the TII are the governing body over this National Secondary road, Clare Co Co would have to get approval from the TII to change any such request to turn on the after midnight. Given that there are alternative other suitable routes that pedestrians can use that are lit should they wish to go for a walk after midnight, at this time we do not see the need to amend the current public lighting on the N85.

No. 6. NOM submitted by Cllr. T. McNamara was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

I call on Clare County Council and the Senior Executive Engineer to outline the difficulty in installing the extra street lights at Kilmaley cross to improve visibility and road safety during funerals

Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The Ennis MD Office has completed all of the required ducting for this public lighting project and the public lighting contractor has an order to proceed with the required works. The public lighting contractor is prioritising the works.

No. 7. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

I request Ennis Municipal District to cut the hedges from Moyriesk creamery to Drim. There is a lot of wasteland and forestry in this area.

Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The Ennis MD Office will be contacting the landowners whom have not trimmed their hedges on this road and informing them of their obligations under the Roads Act.

No. 8. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

A signpost be erected at Clareabbey roundabout clearly indicating that the dual carriageway ends at this point.

Eamon O’Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

This notice of motion has been forwarded to Colas Roadbridge (TII Motorway Maintenance Contractor) for consideration by the TII as they are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the dual carriageway section of the N85. They will determine whether the use of the warning sign W095 Dual Carriageway Ends on the approach to the Clareabbey Roundabout is appropriate.

No. 9. NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

Can Clare County Council with the Heritage Officer look at repairing the wall around Corn Market Street and Simms lane?

Risteard UaCróinín, Architectural Conservation Officer, replied as follows:-

I inspected the wall at Simm’s Lane, with Mr. T. Scott on the 7th December 2018. The wall in question is a high (c.3m), coursed, rubble limestone, mortared wall of the mid to late 19th century and is breached in a few places, due to the loss of mortar. It appears that the loss of mortar and stone results from leaks in the gutters of a shed overhead.

I would recommend that the gutters be cleared of vegetation and re-sealed and the wall, beneath, repaired with flat-faced, rubble-limestone, bedded in 3.5 NHL (Natural Hydraulic Lime) mortar.

The constituents of the mortar should be one part NHL to three parts sharp washed sand, without cement. The repair should respect the existing courses of masonry. Mr. Scott also pointed out similar breaches in a rubble stone wall opposite the junction, at the end of Simm’s Lane. Repairs to this should be carried out in a similar manner.

A list of masons experienced in historic repairs and lime mortars can be supplied, on request, by this office.

No. 10. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

I ask for a progress report on my previous call for the development of an Enterprise & Digital Hub in Ennis to meet the needs of co-workers, creative sector, technology/professional sectors and entrepreneurs.

Urban McMahon, Head of I.T., replied as follows:-

The provision of a Digital Hub in Ennis is one of the action items identified in our Rural Development Strategy and also The Clare Digital Strategy. At the October meeting of Council of Clare County Council the Part VIII to proceed with the proposed development of a Business and Digital Hub with Hotdesk Facilities at Unit 7, Trackland Business Park, Tobairteascain, Clonroadmore, Ennis was agreed. The design of the facility has been completed and the preparation of the tender documents is ongoing. The tenders are due to be published in mid January with a four week response time.

This proposed project has also been submitted for funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Scheme and we are awaiting the outcome.

C. Kirby, DoS, confirmed that this project is on schedule and if we are not successful in obtaining this round of funding, we will source funding elsewhere to complete this important project.

No. 11. NOM submitted by Cllr C. Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

Carmody Street Pedestrian Crossing: - That Ennis Municipal District clarify what measures are underway or being considered to assist in the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Carmody Street, possibly at the Kenny’s Bar corner location.

Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The Ennis MD Office has a draft proposal for a pedestrian crossing on Carmody Street at the Drumbiggle Road junction. The pedestrian crossing at Carmody Street has been submitted as a Low Cost Safety Scheme and to date has not received funding. Funding has been provided for other projects in the Ennis MD in the Low Cost Safety Schemes and the Council has submitted this project for funding in 2019. The detailed design of the pedestrian crossing will be completed and forwarded to the Road Design Section for review. A section 38 traffic calming public consultation process and funding for the works will be required.

No. 12. NOM submitted by Cllr P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

I am requesting that the tarred footpaths that traverse through the green areas in Primrose Gardens, Clarecastle be upgraded as soon as possible.

Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The footpaths will be inspected and they will be included in the next list of footpaths when funding is available through Grants or IPB funding. Necessary maintenance will be carried out by the Ennis MD Office.

No. 13. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy.

I ask Ennis Municipal District to install a push button pedestrian crossing from Drumbiggle Road to Garraunakilla, Ennis.

Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The Ennis MD Office has a draft proposal for a pedestrian crossing on Carmody Street at the Drumbiggle Road junction. The pedestrian crossing at Carmody Street has been submitted as a Low Cost Safety Scheme and to date has not received funding. Funding has been provided for other projects in the Ennis MD in the Low Cost Safety Schemes and the Council has submitted this project for funding in 2019. The detailed design of the pedestrian crossing will be completed and forwarded to the Road Design Section for review. A section 38 traffic calming public consultation process and funding for the works will be required.

No. 14. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

That delineators be erected at Clonfeagh Cross, Inch, Ennis.

Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The provision of junction marker posts at Clonfeagh Cross, Inch is on the list of maintenance works for the Ennis MD Works Crew and should be completed soon.

Item No. 5. Correspondence

None

Item No. 6. A.O.B.

- **January Meeting of Ennis MD.**
Members agreed to suspend the Standing Orders and change the date of the January 2019 Meeting of Ennis MD. The January 2019 meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis will now take place on Monday 14th January, at 10.30am.
- **Ennis Christmas Lights Ceremony.**
Mayor of Ennis Cllr. Clare Collieran Molloy congratulated and thanked the staff of Ennis MD in relation to the very successful Lights Ceremony 2018. There was very positive feedback following the event.

- **Irish Volunteer Awards 2018.**
 - (i) Members congratulated Laura Brennan on her award for highlighting the HPV vaccine for cervical cancer.
 - (ii) Members congratulated Mary Fitzgerald on her award for work with Clare Haven.
- Cllr. P. Murphy wished to acknowledge those who donate blood and asked others to consider donating in the future. He also wished to acknowledge the recent successful cycle event to highlight mental health which had been supported by Ennis Municipal District.

- **Further Awards 2018**

Congratulations to the following:-

- (i) Clare County Council - Best Local Authority.
- (ii) Ennis Municipal District - Coach Park Initiative.
- (iii) Ennis as best enterprise town in Munster- Bank of Ireland Awards.
- (iv) Quin village - runners up in the Pride of Place Awards 2018.

- **Members Queries**

- (i) **Why has Pedestrian Crossing road marking at entrance to Friars Walk been removed?**

B. Conway confirmed that this was an uncontrolled crossing and the line marking wasn't suitable in this instance. This matter can be reviewed by Ennis MD.

- (ii) **Update requested on footpaths on the Lahinch Road, Ennis.**

B. Conway confirmed that this work has commenced.

- (iii) **Can the sign at Parnell Street & Causeway to be reviewed to ensure correct directions to tourists.**

B. Conway to review to ensure it is correct.

- (iv) **Update on CCTV at Peace Park, Ennis.**

C. Kirby confirmed that this is a matter for the Gardaí to consider.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____