

**Minutes of the June 2018 Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 12th June, 2018,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

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

Officials: Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Bernadette Haugh, Meetings Administrator & Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the May Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee held on 8th May, 2018.

The Minutes of the May 2018 meeting of Ennis Municipal District were proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by members.

Matters Arising from the May 2018 Minutes

Members wished to acknowledge the works done on the Tobertascaín Road and further queried if the Evergreen trees could be cut to a height of 3m.

Item No. 2. S183 Disposal of Property – Property at 38 John Paul Avenue, Cloughleigh, Ennis.

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

Item No. 3. Update on progress regarding the Housing Development proposal at Ashline, Kilrush Road Ennis.

Siobhan McNulty, Ruth Hurley and Mairead Corbett, (Housing Dept) were in attendance for this item.

S. McNulty, S.E.O., Housing, circulated a report in relation to this proposed development. Members welcomed the update and this Item was proposed by Cllr. A.Norton, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by members.

Members further queried if the area including the Right of Way at Ashline Lane could also be considered in the current plans by the Council. C. Kirby, Director of Services, confirmed that the Council will aim to progress the Taking in Charge of the Laneway in the interim.

Members requested the Parking Bye-Laws be an Item on the Agenda on the September meeting of Ennis Municipal District.

Item No. 4. Community & Arts Grants 2018.

An additional application from Ennis Rugby Club to those circulated was added in the amount of €500.

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

Item No. 5. Section 38 Road Traffic Act 994 Traffic Calming Proposals.

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

Item No. 6. Proposed Taking in Charge Cappahard & Newpark, Tulla Road, Ennis.

This item was proposed, as circulated, by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara and agreed by members.

Item No. 7. Notices of Motion.

NO. 1 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

That a passing bay be installed between Ballyduffmore Cross and Ballyshea Cross in Kilnamona. This will entail a 20ft x 6" plastic pipe, this to be covered over with gravel.

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

The work on the passing bay will be carried out by the Ennis MD Office once the roads listed on this year's Roadwork's Programme are completed.

NO. 2 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

I request Ennis Municipal District to upgrade a particular footpath close to No. 15 Lower Woodview, Shanaway Road. Damage has been done due to occasional flooding in this area.

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

Road surfacing works in Woodview were recently completed by the Ennis MD as part of the Discretionary Grant Works. The Ennis MD Office is aware of footpath works that are required in the housing scheme and will proceed once resources are available.

No. 3 NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

In Drumcliff graveyard most of the waste is compostable. Why don't we have a green bin? Compostable waste takes short of a lifetime to breakdown in landfill.

Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer, replied as follows:-

The Council will trial the provision of a composting area within the burial ground and will monitor use over a period of six months. If this solution proves positive a more permanent solution will be installed.

No. 4 NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

As per "Clare Co Co Street Performers Bye-Law 2016 (Ennis) County Clare, Section 6 states "A street performer shall not use amplification for speech or music unless authorized in writing". This is not being adhered to.

Also is the only "authorized person" to deal with offenders a member of An Garda Siochana?

Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer replied as follows:

Street Performers Bye-Laws 2016 (Ennis) County Clare came into effect on the 1st June 2016 following a public consultation period. The Bye-Laws provide for the regulation of street performers in Ennis, Co. Clare and involved consultation with prescribed bodies including An Garda Siochana, Ennis Chamber etc. The Bye-Laws (No. 17 to 21) make specific reference to offences and penalties that can be enforced in relation to an alleged contravention of the Bye-Laws. Enforcement of the Bye-Laws is a matter for a member of An Garda Siochána or an Authorised Person acting in the exercise of the functions conferred on an authorised person by the Act. In advance of Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann for each event in 2016 & 2017, Clare Co. Council appointed a number of Council employee's to the role of Authorised Officers under the Casual Trading Act, 1995, Ennis Town Council Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2011 and Clare County Council Street Performers Bye-Laws 2016 (Ennis).

Since the introduction of the Bye-Laws, two official complaints have been received both of which were referred to An Garda Siochána and were satisfactorily addressed.

B. Haugh, Meetings Administrator, confirmed that the Bye-Laws will be re-circulated to the Gardaí and the Enforcement Officers in this regard together with a discussion on same.

No. 5 NOM submitted by Cllr. T. McNamara was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

I call on Clare County Council to carry out a full assessment of the four cross road junction at Doora Church with a view to creating a clear and safe outline to the existing roads and improve the exit from the school road as you take a left turn onto the main road.

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

The Ennis MD will carry out an assessment of the cross roads at Doora Church. The Ennis MD Office has received representation regarding this junction and we are examining what works are feasible at this location. The main issue is the sight line from the Doora School Road in the Direction of the M18.

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

That traffic calming measures be introduced in Quin upon approach to playground.

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

Further traffic speed surveys will be carried out at this location within the 50kph speed limit to establish whether the digital speed sign has reduced speeds at this location on the R469 from Knappogue. The Ennis MD Office will bring the results of the speed surveys to the attention of an Garda Siochana.

A further discussion took place in relation to options for the reduction of speed in this area.

E. O'Dea confirmed that it is not feasible to introduce traffic calming measures at all locations where speed is considered an issue. Appropriate speed signs have been erected and the public need to respect the speed limits in these areas. A speed survey has been carried out and the results have been forwarded to the Gardaí. It is a matter for the Gardaí to enforce the law in relation to speeding offences.

E. O'Dea will check the variable messaging signs and update the survey, if required, for the Gardaí

Members requested further updates on the outcome of Notices of Motion to ensure action is taken. C. Kirby, Director of Services, confirmed that she has requested Ennis Municipal District staff to follow up on commitments made at meetings.

No. 7 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

I am requesting that traffic/speed calming measures are installed in Beechwood, Clarecastle.

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

The Ennis MD office will alter the location of the children at plays sign and provide Slow marking on the road at the entrance to this housing scheme.

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

Repeated Call for an Ennis Town Bus Service.

Further to my requests over the last few years on the urgent need for an Ennis Town bus service - I ask is there any update on my Nov 2017 request adopted by all Councillors which stayed "Ennis Municipal District Councillors request Clare County Council to urgently seek the National Transport Agency (NTA) to plan to provide for the first time a bus service in Ennis as the NTA are currently in the process of doing similarly for rural towns of Carlow, Mullingar and Letterkenny. "

Such a service in Munsters largest town would support the transport service supplied by local taxis by reducing reliance on private cars , traffic delays and emissions.

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, replied as follows:

A meeting was held with Paul McGartoll, National Transport Authority (NTA) on February 9th at Clare County Council headquarters. Marion Wilson (NTA) was also in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was for the NTA to advise Clare County Council that they were examining a proposal for a bus service for Ennis. Clare County Council's Rural Development Directorate, Forward Planning, Transport Department and Ennis Municipal District were in attendance. Michael Neylon, (Rural Development Directorate) gave details of a previous proposal that he had developed. As the NTA were at the initial proposal stages, they wanted to discuss it with the Council Executive at that initial stage and then they would bring the proposal for discussion with the Council Executive and Councillors at a later date.

No. 9 NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy.

Plants in Ennis - Very pretty but??

Bulbs in winter?

Primroses in spring?

Flowers in summer?

What happens to these when they die?

I was told they are put in the ground till next year - but if you go outside the council gardening centre you will see a big pile of flowers that are left to compost.

What a waste!

How about planting these beds with shrubs and perennials that don't need to be replaced every couple of months. The back part of the flower bed beside the river Fergus on the Clon Road has had these types of plants.

Suggestion: Plant 3/4 of the beds with shrubs all the bed or 3/4 of the beds with these and leave 1/4 for seasonal flowers, this would save money long term.

Gráinne Reddan, Acting Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-

Perennial plants and shrubs have been planted in a number of locations where conditions are suitable. Examples of these locations are, Danagher's Park on the Tulla Road, Templegate, Mill Wheel Park, Mill Fountain Park, near to Glór and beside the River Fergus on the Clon Road as mentioned in the Notice of Motion. However, we have had complaints about the perennial plants at the Clon Road as they are perceived as being of lower standard due to less flowers and colour.

Perennials are not suitable for planting in all areas and are more susceptible to wind damage causing a lack of uniformity in the structure of the plant. Therefore extensive maintenance is required to ensure that the plants are kept of consistent structure. These plants also require deeper soil conditions which are not available at all locations.

Generally perennial plants flower once a year and do not maintain a long flower period like bedding flowers. With the bedding flowers there is the added advantage that they are planted twice a year hence ensuring two long seasons of colourful flowers extending from February to November. The Spring bedding flowers are grown from plugs in September in our Gardening depot at the Gort Road and nurtured until they are ready for planting in February in preparation for St. Patrick's Day and Easter. The Summer bedding flowers are grown from plugs in March at the depot and are ready for planting in the garden beds in late May. It is more cost effective to grow these flowers from plugs as opposed to buying them when they are fully established. When the seasons are over the flowers are composted and the soil is reused in garden beds which maintains soil fertility.

Historically planting of bedding flowers was encouraged by the Ennis Municipal District. The flowers have proved a winning formula for Ennis in competitions such Tidy Towns and the International Competition 'Entente Florale Europe'. Since 2000 Ennis has achieved scores of greater than 90% in the 'Landscaping & Open Spaces' section of the Tidy Towns Competition. In 2016 Ennis achieved a score of 96% in the 'Landscaping & Open Spaces' section whereas the overall winner Skerrries achieved a score of 88% in this section.

Extract from Tidy Town Adjudication Report 2016

"The extent of floral displays is most impressive while it's phenomenal to think that these are all grown locally, well done!"

In 2002 Ennis achieved a Gold Medal in the International Flower & Landscape Competition 'Entente Florale Europe, where two towns from each country are nominated to compete.

The Gardening Section will explore if there are any other areas where perennials could be planted and augmented by bedding flowers going forward.

Quite a lengthy debate took place on this Notice of Motion and in particular the interpretation of its wording and that of the response. All Councillors highlighted the excellent & award winning work being carried out by the gardening section.

Cllr. J. Breen proposed that the status quo apply. Cllr. J. Flynn seconded this proposal. Then following on from this a vote was requested by members and the Notice of Motion was passed on a Vote of 5 for the Motion and 3 against the Motion.

Cllr. J. Flynn, Cllr. M. Howard and Cllr. J. Breen did not support the motion.

No. 10 NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

With regard to the road locally known as Lee's Rd and Watery Road/Drumcliff Road, Ennis Municipal District needs to lower the speed limit on this section of road, which is essentially a country road and it is difficult for two cars to pass each other. This road is being used as a rat run from the Lahinch Rd (N85) to the Galway Rd (R458) and as a result it is very unsafe to either walk, run, cycle or even drive on it.

This route is very popular with walkers due to its proximity to Lee's Rd amenity park and has inadequate lighting and footpaths. Footpaths are especially needed from Droichead Na Gabhar Bridge to the junction with Drumcliff Road. This is a health and safety issue that needs to be addressed urgently.

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

Lees Road is in a rural setting close to the town of Ennis and is outside the urban area therefore the 50kph speed limit does not apply. Drivers are required to travel at an appropriate safe speed for the road and their surroundings. The road is used as a rat run by drivers however the weight restriction on Drehidnagower Bridge has reduced the numbers of heavy goods vehicles using this route. There are infrastructure safeguards provided on the County Development Plan for a future road link between the N85 Clareen Roundabout and the R458 Gort Road via the Drumcliff Road.

The Ennis MD Office has identified that pedestrian access is required on Drehidnagower Road from the Drumcliff Road to Watery Road, however a means of funding such work needs to be identified. There is also similar need for pedestrian access at Newpark Road & Millstream Road Roslevan, Ballymachahill Cross, Cappahard Lane, Quin Road, Ballybeg Road, Cahercalla Road-Drumbiggle Road, Barefield, Quin, Kilmaley and other locations.

No. 11 NOM submitted by Cllr. T. McNamara was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

I call on Clare County Council to surface dress the Ballyhannon Road from the T-junction with Doora to the junction with the Quinn-Inn at Dromoland Road.

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

The L7142 & L7196 Coolshamrogue is in this year's Restoration Maintenance Grant, Surface Dressing Programme.

No. 12 NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.

That at the Cross at Doora Church, where the kerbs protrude, that these kerbs be removed as their location continues to pose a serious hidden hazard to motorists notwithstanding the recent installation of reflective bollard & chevron sign, & that traffic calming be introduced in & about Doora Church.

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

The Ennis MD will carry out an assessment of the cross roads at Doora Church. The Ennis MD Office has received representation regarding this junction and we are examining what works are feasible at this location. The main issue is the sight line from the Doora School Road in the Direction of the M18.

No. 13 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

Call for upgrades of facilities at Ballyalia Lake.

As Chair of the Ballyalia Blue Flag Working Group I welcome the second year of the awarding of the Green Flag for Ballyalia Lake and ask for an update on necessary upgrades to the public areas such as to the footpaths which are subject to erosion due to frequent flooding and urgently need resurfacing for safety reasons.

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

The Ennis MD Office will inspect the walkways and carry out appropriate repairs where necessary and arrange the cutting back of grass from the edge of the walkways with the grass cutting contractor if required. Ballyallia Lake and the surrounding banks of the lake are a designated Special Protected Area (SPA) under the EU Habitats Directive and therefore any works require an AA Screening and liaising with the NPWS.

No. 14 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

In view of the Irish Open being held in Lahinch in 2019, what plans are in place to eliminate traffic congestion on the N85 from Shanaway Road?

Ann Cronin, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-

The Road Design Office has a programme of works and this includes a project on the N85 from Claureen Roundabout westwards to the speed limit a length of approx 1.3km.

One aspect of the project will be assessing speeds and recommending measures to reduce speed if required. We will also look at possible provision of cyclist facilities in the form of either on-road cycle lanes or segregated cycle tracks where width between the existing boundaries permits. This has the potential to reduce traffic volumes at all the junctions and would be a positive step for Ennis mirroring the facilities provided on the R458 Limerick Road and R469 Quin Road approaches to Ennis.

The project will include consideration of the N85/Shanaway Road junction requiring traffic counts to identify the level of delay and queue length occurring presently.

This project work will be progressed later this summer. A funding application in the form of a Feasibility Report will have to be prepared and submitted to the TII for their consideration. If it is concluded that traffic signals are warranted at the N85/Shanaway Road Junction then a public consultation process under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 will be required.

Item No. 8. Correspondence

- *Thank you note from the O’Dea Family Clan following on from the Civic Reception hosted by the Mayor of Ennis, Cllr. Paul Murphy, in the Civic Room, Drumbiggle, Ennis, as part of their 700th Anniversary Celebrations.*

Item No. 9. Any Other Business.

- *Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy proposed that the Chamber stand in a Minutes Silence for the two boys, Shay Moloney and Jack Kenneally, who died tragically in a recent drowning accident. A dhéis Dé go raibh ainm.*
- *Cllr. P. Daly proposed a letter of sympathy be sent to Ennis Rugby Club and acknowledged their response and assistance to the two families involved in the tragic drowning of Jack and Shay.*
- *Cllr. J. Flynn sought an update for the September meeting on the status of Clare County Councils water rescue capacity within Ennis Municipal District. Cllr J Flynn requested an additional river wall access ladder be provided at Maid of Erin/Community College to compliment those already installed along the Fergus River in the town centre.*
- *Cllr. J. Breen welcomed the planned low cost safety measures on the roadway between St. Flannans College and Éire Óg GAA Club.*
- *Cllr. J. Breen sought an update on a previous request to extend the opening hours of Ennis Market Carpark from 8pm to 11pm each evening. B. Haugh agreed to investigate this internally.*
- *Cllr. M. Howard had received acknowledgements from Polska Éire and Consartín on funding being allocated to their events from Ennis Municipal District.*
- *Cllr. P. Murphy had received acknowledgements from Clarecastle Regatta on funding being allocated to their event from Ennis Municipal District.*
- *E. O’Dea, S.E.E., acknowledged the recent retirement of Denis Meaney from the Ennis Roads area and proposed a note to issue thanking him for his service and commitment over the years with Clare County Council.*

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____