**Minutes of the December 2019**

**Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee,**

**held at 10.30am on Tuesday 10th December, 2019,**

**in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,**

**New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** J. Flynn, M. Nestor, P. Daly, C. Colleran Molloy, A. Norton, M. Howard, P. Murphy.

**Officials:** Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Bernadette Haugh, Meetings Administrator and Mairead Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Ms. Carmel Kirby, Director of Service

Eugene Crimmins, Staff Officer

**Item No. 1. Minutes of the November, 2019 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November, 2019.**

*This item was proposed by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor and agreed by members.*

**Item No. 2. Matters Arising**

**Item No. 3. Christmas Express Train Beneficiaries**

The Christmas Express Train will run on Friday 20th, Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd December 2019. As was the case in 2018 there will be a charge of €2 with all proceeds going directly to charities. Councillors were asked to nominate Charities and 5 charities were selected as follows to fill the available timeslots:

* St. Vincent de Paul – 3pm to 8pm Friday 20th December
* Clare Haven – 10am to 2pm Saturday 21st December
* Cystic Fibrosis- Clare Branch – 2pm to 6pm Saturday 21st December
* Clare Crusaders – 10am to 2pm 22nd December
* Clarecastle Day Care Centre – 2pm to 6pm 22nd December

Cllr. Nestor proposed that a sixth charity, Elevate, which was proposed by the Members but was not successful in being drawn to fill the five available timeslots, would be considered for a small donation from the Municipal District.

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

**Item No. 4. GMA 2019 Report**

Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, stated that with reference to GMA and finalising allocation for 2019, most projects are completed and monies drawn down. Some items will be carried forward to 2020 and a full report on any remaining balances will be available in early 2020.

**Item No. 5. Section 38 - Cappalawn**

A report from Ian Chaplin was circulated to the Members for consideration.

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

**Item No. 6. Presentation on the Clare Food and Drink Fleadh**

Cllr J. Flynn welcomed Margaret O’Brien, Festival & Events Co-ordinator who gave a presentation on the Clare Food and Drink Fleadh. The festival was one of fifteen out of over 2,000 applications from all over Ireland, which received grant funding of €5,000 under the “Taste the Island” funding stream from Failte Ireland. Aimed at attracting visitors to the town off-season, the festival combined food and drink, showcasing the best of what the County had to offer, with 67 events taking place over the weekend of 26th to 29th September 2019. The festival also received €1500 in financial support from the GMA with a further €5000 from Clare Tourism.

*The Members thanked Margaret O’Brien for her detailed presentation and acknowledged the success of the inaugural year of the Clare Food & Drink Fleadh. The Members further acknowledged the success of the renewal of the Purple Flag for Ennis in promotion of the night time economy. They further acknowledged the continued work of the Promote Ennis committee, with 3 Elected Members now involved in the committee, suggesting that the upcoming AGM will be the start of exciting times for the town, in working towards becoming a Niche Destination.*

*Leonore O’Neill thanked Margaret and Ennis Chamber for their continued hard work and collaboration on the Clare Food & Drink Fleadh, Purple Flag and the promotion of the town.*

**Item No. 7. Notices of Motion**

**No. 1 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

In recent week a number of buses and HGVs have continued along Francis Street to Abbey Street where they were stuck for a considerable amount of time at the junction at the Queens Hotel. I request that our roads department place proper signage along Clon Road, Bothar Na Trocaire as well as on Francis Street to alert drivers of these buses and lorries that the streets are narrow and not suitable for large vehicles.

**Eamon O’Dea, SEE replied as follows:**

There is an existing maximum vehicle length warning sign (W112) provided at the junction of Francis Street and the Causeway Link Road and some drivers are ignoring the sign.

The Ennis MD will provide maximum vehicle length regulatory signs (RUS 051) on both sides of Francis Street adjacent to the Causeway Link restricting vehicle lengths to 7.5m and a second set of maximum vehicle length regulatory signs (RUS 051) on both sides of Francis Street adjacent to the Friary Carpark entrance restricting vehicle lengths to 6m.

This will permit delivery vehicles to get access to Francis Street and Friary Carpark and only permit vehicles of a suitable size to travel through to Abbey Street*.*

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. M Howard**

Reported incidences of poor Air Quality in Ennis.

In light of the large number of reports of adverse air quality readings in Ennis during October and November, the readings which have been consistently well in excess of safe health levels set by both EU & WHO, I ask Clare County Council Environmental section to work with the EPA to urgently enforce the legal ban on the selling and also the burning of Smoky Coal in Ennis.

**Cyril Feeney replied as follows:**

The measurement of Air Quality is detailed in legislation under the “Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011”. The statutory body for assessing air quality is the Environmental Protection Agency. There are a number of different parameters that the EPA assess to determine air quality. The EPA have an air quality monitoring station in Ennis and it measures Particulate Matter and sulphur dioxide. Particulate matter (PM) which are minute particles of dust, soot, smoke etc are measured at 2 different sizes mainly  PM10 and PM2.5 . The 2.5 and 10 denote  the diameter of the particulate matter and are measured in micrometres , that is, one millionth of a metre.

The daily limit for PM10 is 50 ug/m3. The unit of measurement is the ug (microgramme) and  is a unit of mass equal to one millionth (1×10−6) of a gram per cubic meter.

As of the  30th November 2019 there have only been 6 exceedances of this parameter in Ennis  . However the limit is only deemed breached if more than 35 exceedances occur during the year.

There is no hourly or daily limit value for PM2.5 and there are no current figures available for PM2.5 as it is measured on a yearly basis.

Both of these parameters are graphed on a 14 day rolling period and are freely available to view on the EPA website <http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>

The measurement units for sulphur dioxide SO2,  ,which can be an indicator of smoky coal use, are microgrammes per cubic meter( ug m-3 ). The SO2 hourly limit of 350 ug m-3  and is deemed breached if more than 24 exceedances have occurred. This parameter is graphed on a 14 day rolling period and is also freely available to view on the EPA website <http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>. The EPA website is a very informative resource for people who have concerns regarding air quality and it provides up to date information in easily understood formats.

The enforcement of the prohibition of burning smoky coal in prescribed areas is covered under the “Air pollution Act (marketing, sale, distribution and burning of specified fuels) Regulations 2012”. These regulations are enforced by the relevant local authority. Clare County Council recently placed an advertisement in the local newspaper reminding fuel merchants and the general public of their obligations under these regulations and the prohibitions in relation to smoky coal. We will also be carrying out inspections to ensure the Regulations are being adhered to.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion but noted that there needed to be an increased awareness to both shops owners and members of public of the smokey coal ban not only in the town but in the greater Ennis MD Area. All members agreed education is key in this matter*

**No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

That the streets in Woodside, Roslevan be resurfaced similar to work undertaken in Springfield to address poor condition and flooding.

**Eamon O’Dea, SEE replied as follows:**

The road surface condition will be examined at Woodside and if the condition of the road surface falls within the required condition levels from the DTTAs guidelines, then it will be considered for future road works programmes. The road drainage will be examined by the Ennis MD Office and any works required will be listed in the drainage works in the 2020 Road Works Programme subject to drainage funding being provided.

**No. 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

I am requesting that Ennis Municipal District and the Gardening Section of Clare County Council extend its current support to Clarecastle Tidy Towns (hanging baskets on the Fergus bridge), by filling the hanging street baskets up through the main thoroughfare".

**Patrick Mullane, Waste Enforcement Officer replied as follows:**

The Gardening Team have already commenced preparing hanging baskets for the summer season 2020. These baskets are overwintered in polytunnels to ensure that flowers are well established when they are installed in public locations next spring. There is currently a shortage of space within the polytunnels for overwintering that means the Gardening Section cannot prepare any additional baskets for Clarecastle Tidy Towns. While the Gardening Section is unable to provide assistance to this particular request, hopefully the team will be able to provide support on other initiatives in the future.

*Cllr. Murphy was disappointed with the response seeking the support of his colleagues for some floral assistance to be provided to Clarecastle Tidy Towns. The Members acknowledged that every town and village in Clare would love to have the standard of floral displays that Ennis has and while this was not feasible, they agreed to support Cllr. Murphy’s request that some additional floral displays be provided by the Gardening Section to compliment the ongoing work by Clarecastle Tidy Towns.*

**No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

I request Ennis Municipal District to remove the large rocks adjacent to *Ballyallia* Lake, as they have served their purpose and a local farmer will take them.

**Eamon O’Dea, SEE replied as follows:**

The Ennis MD Office is seeking costs for the removal of the large boulders at Ballyallia as not every truck will have appropriate tipper body to carry the boulders. The means of funding this work will be required once the cost estimates are available.

*The Members acknowledged the history of illegal encampments at this location that led to the installation of the boulders in this scenic area and welcomed that response that their removal could be facilitated, seeking signage thereafter to prevent overnight parking. Eamon O’Dea confirmed that once costs were available he would revert to the Members on the removal of the boulders.*

**No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard**

To look at alleviating the flood area that arises due to heavy rain on the Ruan Road in the facility of Clonteen Barefield.

**Eamon O’Dea, SEE replied as follows:**

The Ennis MD Office does not regard that there is a flooding issue at this location, see attached photos dated February 26th 2017 showing flooding on the N85 at Kilnamona and the Ruan Road on the same day. There are a number of residents that have concerns regarding surface run off and some areas of ponding during prolonged heavy rainfall. Both the householder and the Council have some level of responsibility here. The householder or those that originally built the house would have been required to provide a means of dealing with runoff from the public road that would have discharged to adjoining lands before the house construction occurred.

**No. 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

This motion calls on Clare County Council to carry out upgrading works on the pedestrian crossing on the Mill Road to improve visibility

**Eamon O’Dea, SEE replied as follows:**

The Ennis MD Office is examining the controlled pedestrian crossing locations to examine the public lighting at the crossings as per response to Notice of Motion from Cllr Flynn in November 2019. The Ennis MD Office are presently arranging the provision of two zebra crossing type poles with integrated overhead lighting units (similar to Francis Street) to improve the lighting at this crossing. It is expected that this work will be carried out in January 2020.

**No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly**

The southern section of Golf Links Road at the entrance to Ennis Golf Club to Drumbiggle road is in dreadful condition. I request that this road is included in the roads budget and repaired/ resurfaced as soon as possible.

**Eamon O’Dea, SEE replied as follows:**

The Ennis MD Office will proceed with the design of footpath and alignment of the lower section of Golf Links Road. Some land acquisition may be required and in recent years there has been no means of making application to the DTTAS for funding of such works. The Ennis MD will forward a proposal to the Transport Section of the Council for submission to the DTTAS for funding.

**No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy**

Nationwide ban on smoky coal.

On Health and Environmental grounds Ennis Municipal District Councillors call on the Government, in particular both the Ministers of the Environment and of Health, to urgently introduce a Nationwide ban on the sale and the burning of smoky coal.

**No Response Required**

*The Members noted concerns about the enforcement of a nationwide ban on the sale and the burning of smoky coal, due to the continued use of timber and turf. Cllr. J Flynn confirmed that the Director General of the EPA had called for a ban on smokey coal and that this could be progressed in isolation of other solid fuel types. All members agreed that continued education is key in this matter.*

**No. 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

That drainage adjacent to Mr. Tom Pender’s home at Club Bridge be examined and cleared as flooding of the driveway recently caused the home to be inaccessible.

**Eamon O’Dea, SEE replied as follows:**

The Ennis MD Office in recent weeks as part of our winter maintenance works have engaged a local company with specialised high powered jetting and CCTV to inspect and clean outlets from gullies that are not working following standard maintenance. The gully at this location was examined last week and a number of pieces of debris were removed and the gully has been functioning during recent heavy rainfall. The inspection and jetting work is usually carried out late in the evening or very early in the morning to reduce impact on traffic at busier road locations.

**No. 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy**

What is the current situation in relation to the taking in charge request that was submitted last year by the residents of Greenlawn, Clarecastle?

**Eamon O’Dea, SEE replied as follows:**

The Ennis MD Office will inquire from the Planning Section in regard to an application for Taking in Charge of this housing scheme.

The Ennis MD Office is seeking quotes for drainage work at this location with the intention of upgrading a section of the existing storm water network to reduce impact on residents at time of heavy rainfall. This work will be funded from drainage works provided for in the Roadworks Programme 2020.

**No. 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy**

I ask Ennis Municipal District to upgrade the road into Clareabbey cemetery.

**Eamon O’Dea, SEE replied as follows:**

The Ennis MD office has been in contact with the contractor working on behalf of the Mount Callan Windfarm project and they have undertaken to rectify the section at the Railway Bridge. It will then be the responsibility of the Council and our Ennis South Flood Scheme Contractor. The section from the Railway Bridge to the Abbey could be considered under a Community Involvement Scheme however it would be appropriate that this work would be considered on completion of the Ennis South Flood Scheme. The Ennis MD office will check the road and necessary maintenance will be carried out.

**No. 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy**

That the Ennis Municipal district contact the relevant companies to put in place transport from LIT campus Ennis to LIT Campus Limerick to facilitate students - would this be a viable option by train or by bus.

**Leonore O’Neill SEO replied as follows:**

We will work with the Economic Development Directorate to engage with LIT in relation to the needs of students, both existing and future, in terms of transport options to Ennis, both from LIT Limerick and other locations.

LIT will be offering eight courses in Ennis Campus from September 2020 in the following streams, Creative Media and Design (new for 2020), Early Childhood Education and Care, Social Care Work and Business.  The Creative Media and Design Course is new for 2020 and will be a further attraction for the Ennis Campus.

*The Members welcomed this response acknowledging the 90 students already registered in the campus for 2019 noting that a connection between the Ennis and Limerick LIT campus would be most welcome. They praised Clare County Council for purchasing, refurbishing and selling the Bindon St building which led to delivery of the LIT Campus in Ennis acknowledging the potential for further third level institutions in Clare. Members suggested that a survey of the travel arrangements of the ninety students attending the LIT Campus in Ennis be undertaken by LIT to determine their travel needs.*

*Members requested that the Executive of Clare Co. Council bring this proposal for consideration under the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS).*

**Item No. 8. Correspondence**

*There was no correspondence*

**Item No. 10. AOB**

* *The Mayor expressed his condolences to the family of his colleague Cllr. Mike McKee. May he rest in peace.*
* *The Mayor also expressed his condolences to Mairead Griffin, ASO of Ennis MD, on the recent passing of her mother Maura Griffin. May she rest in peace*
* *The Mayor acknowledged the recent retirement of School Warden, Kitty Killeen, following 16 years of service in the Ennis area. It was suggested that a Letter would issue from the Mayor on behalf of the Elected Members in appreciation for her service*
* *The Members acknowledged the work of the Ennis Municipal District, all office based and outdoor staff, on the full programme of events delivered in Ennis in the lead up to Christmas. It was a great start to the Christmas season in the town and encouraged the public to come out and shop local and support the local business community while enjoying four weekends of festive family entertainment in the town.*
* *The Members asked that Road Design investigate the provision of a hard shoulder on the right hand side of the road in Kilmorane, Darragh at the junction for US Wholesale. The Members noted that with the new business and additional traffic, this was becoming a dangerous junction. Eamon O’Dea confirmed he would revert on this at the January Meeting, having discussed it with Road Design, to consider what the next appropriate action should be to have the matter progressed.*
* *The Mayor raised concerns about cars parking on the footpaths in Clancy Park. It was agreed that these concerns would be referred to the Traffic Section.*
* *The Mayor raised concerns about the Old Corrovorrin Cemetery regarding the condition of the access road, the requirement to have trees cut back and whether parking can be provided there. The Members requested that an update be sought from Rural Development on the concerns, given that the cemetery is still in use.*
* *The Mayor requested that a number of trees in Corrovorrin Drive need to be cut back and the road sweeper deployed to the area to clean up and remove deposits of dead leaves.*
* *The Mayor concluded the meeting by wishing everyone present a Happy Christmas recognizing all the hard work that has been done and continues to be done on behalf of the residents and the business community in Ennis Municipal District. He expressed his gratitude to the Media for continuing to report on the important issues of relevance to the Ennis Municipal District.*

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

Mayor of Ennis

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

Meetings Administrator

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