

**Minutes of the February 2019 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee,
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 12th February, 2019,
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, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer and Sinéad Armstrong-Lynch A/Assistant Staff Officer.

At the outset of the meeting Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy noted that she would unavoidably have to leave the meeting at 10.55a.m. and would be reassigning the chain of office and the Chair to Deputy Mayor of Ennis Municipal District, Cllr Paul Murphy.

The Mayor of Ennis Municipal District welcomed the earlier public announcement of the LIT's plans to open a new campus in Ennis to be located on Bindon Street on foot of a proposed capital investment of €0.75 million by Clare Co. Council. Acknowledging the six degree programmes to be made available in Social Care, Early Childhood Care & Education and Marketing & Management, the Mayor indicated that the new Campus would welcome between 100 & 150 resident students into the Campus and would be a fantastic addition to higher education in the town

Item No. 1. Minutes of the January 2019 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held on Monday 14th January, 2019.

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

Item No. 2. Matters Arising

Gallows Hill & Turnpike Road

Cllr P. Daly gave a brief history of the concerns of the business community & residents in relation to Gallows Hill and Turnpike Road area including a meeting that was attended by five Ennis Municipal Elected Members and stakeholders on Friday 8th February 2019. Two separate petitions were submitted to the Ennis Municipal District. Members acknowledged and supported the concerns of the residents and businesses in the area. C. Kirby, Director of Services acknowledged the concerns of both the stakeholders and members, noting that the draft proposal circulated was a discussion document only for the purpose of stakeholder consultation. Barry Conway, A/Senior Executive Engineer further confirmed that the design is a draft proposal which was undertaken following a Notice of Motion. This document will be revised following further discussion with

- 1. one resident to address access to his private residence and*
- 2. the business community to discuss and agree a solution to the concerns raised.*

Cllr C. Colleran Molloy excused herself from the meeting handing over the chain of office to Deputy Major Cllr P. Murphy who presides over the meeting.

Corrovorrin Junction.

Members queried if there has been any design proposal from the Road Design team for the Corrovorrin Junction. They also highlighted the frustration of stakeholders in the area at the difficulty pulling out onto the main Tulla Road. L. O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer noted that the

preferred option would be a signal light solution. A draft design proposal will be prepared and brought to the stakeholders in the area for consultation when completed.

Cllr J. Flynn asked for clarification on a Notice of Motion that he raised in 2018 in relation to a Right of Way from Corrovorrin to St. Josephs. It was confirmed that an update would be provided when available.

Item No. 3. Property Marking Equipment (Telesis Dot Peen Machine)

B. Haugh, Administrative Officer read out correspondence from Leonard Cleary, Director of Services, Rural Development in relation to a request for a contribution from the Ennis MD Members towards to acquisition of Property Marking Equipment, a co-financing proposal brought before the Members of the four Municipal Districts

This item was proposed by Cllr. Tom McNamara and seconded by Cllr. Johnny Flynn and welcomed by the Members who agreed to allocate €135 each from their GMA Specific Projects Allocation 2019.

Item No. 4. General Municipal Allocation 2019

This item was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

Cllr Johnny Flynn, while accepting the proposed distribution of the GMA for 2019, noted his dissatisfaction with the cut in the Ennis Municipal District GMA Budget for 2019.

Item No. 5. Notices of Motion

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

That Ennis Municipal District examine the costings involved & implementation requirements involved in introducing the Big Belly Bins in the District, e.g., O'Connell Street, Ennis.

Barry Conway, A/S.E.E., replied as follows:

The Ennis MD have recently met with the providers of the Big Belly Bins to discuss with them the practicalities of their system. The scale and cost of the implementation of this system is such that it would need to form part of a greater waste management plan for the district as opposed to replacing the bins on a single street. Ennis Town has approx. 90 street bins that benefit from a daily waste collection by our outdoor staff. Any alteration to the current arrangements would require extensive consultation and detailed costings.

No. 2 NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was seconded by Cllr A. Norton

Without prejudice to the consideration by Clare County Council of a future Planning Application that Ennis Municipal District Executive and Roads Engineers continue to work with the School community of Knockaneen National School with regard to public road issues in order to progress the lodging of a Planning Application for the much needed 12 Classroom School.

Barry Conway, A/S.E.E., replied as follows:

The Ennis MD along with the road design section will continue to work with the Knockaneen School Community in relation to public road issues on the L-4106-0. The road design department are currently completing the design to address issues of alignment, road width/profile etc.

No. 3 NOM submitted by Cllr. Tom McNamara was seconded by Cllr A. Norton

I call on Ennis Municipal District to examine the pedestrian crossings in the greater Ennis Area and in particular the one at Mill Road as there is a number of complaints in relation to visibility of pedestrians crossing during darkness.

Barry Conway, A/S.E.E., replied as follows:

The MD will arrange to examine the pedestrian crossings in the district in the context of their proximity to public lighting. In relation to the crossing specifically mentioned in the notice, arrangements will be made to measure the lighting levels at the Mill Bridge Crossing.

No. 4 NOM submitted by Cllr. Ann Norton was seconded by Cllr T. McNamara

As a result of Clare County Council providing houses to the elderly and less mobile people on the outskirts of Ennis and also outsourcing their housing function to organisations such as Clúid, now the largest housing association, with the most ambitious programme for increasing affordable housing across Ireland. We provide quality housing and services to enable people to create homes and thriving communities. I am requesting that Clare County Council outline what plans they have in place to provide appropriate transport for these people to access facilities and services like Doctor appointments and hospital visits. Please provide specific details and timelines for implementation.

Siobhán McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, replied as follows:

To meet housing need this Council is delivering social housing both directly and in conjunction with Approved Housing Bodies; there are many approved housing bodies active in Ennis namely Respond, Cluid and CHI amongst others. AHB's allocate properties to those from the housing list nominated to the AHB by the Council, following assessment of the nominations by the AHB the properties are then offered to the most suitable clients. Invariably the Council work with the AHB to ensure household needs are met. As a Housing Authority we do not provide transportation services for tenants.

Members voiced their concerns over the lack of public transportation in the Ennis area. C. Kirby further added that Clare Co. Council is engaging with the NTA on a public transportation system for Ennis and to ensure that any such system matches the needs of the town as set out in the Ennis 2040 plan.

No. 5 NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly seconded by Cllr T. McNamara

I ask Ennis MD to alert motorists to the pedestrian crossing points on Abbey Street and O'Connell Street by introducing coloured road markings.

Barry Conway, A/S.E.E., replied as follows:

There are eight uncontrolled pedestrian crossings on O'Connell Street and Abbey Street each of which have been surfaced with a buff coloured material to highlight the areas to motorists and pedestrians alike. The use of black and white road markings is only appropriate at controlled zebra crossings where flashing beacons are in operation.

No. 6 NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy seconded by Cllr A. Norton

I am requesting a detailed report from Irish Water and/or Clare County Council in relation to the diversion of untreated sewage from it's current discharge point at the Quay in Clarecastle to the treatment station at Clareabbey. Please address the following queries and provide any additional information of relevance;

- i) Is there a projected starting date for this project?
- ii) Is there a projected timescale for completion?
- iii) What traffic management proposals are planned?
- iv) Is there an exact map available of the proposed routing of the new sewer (is it in the middle of the road, or where)?
- v) Can peak traffic periods (i.e. school drop-off and pick-up) be considered if traffic is likely to be adversely affected?
- vi) That Irish Water upgrade the footpaths along the route as a gesture of goodwill.#

Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:

The UTAS (*Untreated Agglomeration Study*) project was established by Irish Water, working in partnership with Clare County Council and Consulting Engineering firm RPS.

The primary aim of the project is to end the discharge of less than adequately treated waste water from coastal agglomerations in county Clare (*Kilrush, Kilkee, Liscannor, Ballyvaughan and Clarecastle*) with the provision of appropriate waste water treatment plants including storm storage, pumping stations and rising mains.

These 5 agglomerations are at different phases of progression ranging from environmental assessment to detailed design and planning submission stages.

For the Clarecastle Agglomeration the current discharge practice will cease following the construction and commissioning of a new rising main from Quay Rd PS to Clareabby Waste Water Treatment Plant (WwTP). Waste water generated thereafter in the Clarecastle Agglomeration will be treated in the Clareabby WwTP. An emergency storm overflow only will remain in place at Quay Rd PS.

- I. Site investigations (SI) for the project are expected to commence in late February 2019 and will take approximately 2 weeks to complete. The construction phase of the project is due to commence in January 2020.
- II. It is expect that the construction phase will take approximately 6months to complete (July 2020).
- III. A concept traffic management plan for the project has been developed however this will have to be reviewed when the outcome of the site investigation is completed. It is expected at this stage that traffic will be managed under a rolling lane closure with either temporary traffic lights or a stop and go system.
- IV. A concept map showing the general route of the pipeline is available (attached) however the exact route within the road will not be determined until the SI is completed.
- V. The traffic management plan, yet to be finalised with the Roads Dept, will take into consideration peak traffic demands particularly business needs including bus routes and school drop off's/collections. The traffic management plan will be sufficiently flexible to cater for peak traffic loads (i.e. reverting to a stop and go at peak traffic periods).
- VI. It is expected that the new rising main pipeline will be constructed within the road footprint only. Also as the project pipeline is a rising main it will not have any property connections that will impact on footpaths and as such no footpaths are planned for replacement.

No. 7 NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard seconded by Cllr P. Daly

The Cloughleigh Road is in an appalling state. I request that the road surface be completely resurfaced and painting of road marking and lines be done.

Barry Conway, A/S.E.E., replied as follows:

The Cloughleigh road (L-4571) is approx 600m in length. 300m has been included in this years Restoration Improvement programme with the remaining 300m scheduled for 2020.

No. 8 NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen seconded by Cllr P. Daly

I am asking for an update on the appointment of a full time caretaker at Drumcliffe Cemetery?

Bernadette Haugh, Meetings Administrator, replied as follows:

The matter of a full-time caretaker was raised as part of a discussion on a related Notice of Motion at the January 2018 Ennis MD Meeting. The extract from the discussion which took place between the Members on that related Notice of Motion on 9th January 2018 confirms that "Members also expressed their concern in relation to the fact that there is only a part-time

caretaker for Drumcliffe Burial Ground and requested that this role should be increased to a full time position.” Following the meeting, the Members concerns were raised with the Rural Development Directorate who confirmed that “A registrar/caretaker is employed in Drumcliffe Burial Ground with sufficient hours allocated for the completion of works required for this position.”

Members further discussed this issue and expressed their concerns that visitors to the cemetery have difficulty locating the graves of relatives and expressed the view that the presence of a full-time caretaker would address this issue. C. Kirby agreed to bring the concerns raised back to the Director of Rural Development and report back to the members.

No. 9 NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy seconded by Cllr A. Norton

That the EMD favourably consider an application for creation of a Organ Donor contemplative area next to the Peace Park in the blue railed green area on the approach to the Temple Gate Hotel.

Leonore O’Neill, SEO, replied as follows:

Ennis MD can confirm contact was made by the Memorials committee, through our Transportation Department, in October 2018 for the creation of an Organ Donor contemplative area at the above location. Due to the very low level of pedestrian activity at the site, and the requirement for road crossings, an alternative location was proposed by Ennis MD (the opposite end of the Bus Park where the path from Dunnes stores meets with the path through the car park). We await further contact from the memorials committee in this regard.

No. 10 NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn seconded by Cllr M. Howard

That Ennis Municipal District prepare an Ennis Sustainability Plan which would include Climate Adaption & Action.

William Freney, S.E.E., replied as follows:

Clare County Council (CCC) like all Local Authorities (LA’s) must make and adopt a Climate Adaptation Strategy by 30th September 2019 as laid out in the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) in line with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (The Climate Act). Climate adaptation involves taking steps to adjust human and natural systems in response to existing or anticipated climatic change, in order both to avoid unwanted impacts and to take advantage of new opportunities that may arise. Climate Adaptation will place demands on all Local Authority services and thus planning for it requires input and actions from all directorates.

The Dept of Communications Climate Action and Environment has funded the establishment of Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) to assist and advise Local Authorities in the preparation of these plans and a cross directorate team has been formed. An initial workshop has been held to start the process which will also involve a public consultation element.

The Climate Adaptation Strategy once adopted will then feed into the diverse range of Clare County Council plans and policy documents.

C. Kirby, Director of Service further advised that the Climate Adaptation Strategy will be brought before the Strategic Policy Committee led by the Physical Development Directorate. There will be also be a four week public consultation period in May. It is intended to have completed the process by September 2019. She further suggested that this will be an ever evolving document as we continue our efforts to address climate change

No. 11 NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly seconded by T. McNamara

I request Ennis MD to introduce a double yellow line outside No. 4 Considine’s Terrace, Ennis to assist the resident with access to his home.

Barry Conway, A/S.E.E., replied as follows:

Double yellow lines have previously been provided along Considine Terrace where residents converted their front gardens to provide for off street parking. A similar approach could be considered at number 4 if the residents were to carryout similar type works.

B. Conway, A/SEE added that since the Notice of Motion, he has met the affected resident with Cllr P. Daly and will be discussing a proposed resolution to the resident's concerns with the Traffic Department.

No. 12 NOM submitted by Cllr. Ann Norton seconded by Cllr P. Daly

Can Clare County Council alleviate the flooding in College park Ennis after heavy rain?

Barry Conway, A/S.E.E., replied as follows:

College Park has been included in the 2019 schedule of drainage works. Additional gullies will be installed where necessary to alleviate ponding.

No. 13 NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy seconded by Cllr P. Daly

I am proposing that the current Ennis Municipal District representatives sign up to a voluntary charter abstaining from putting up posters in the upcoming local election campaign.

No response required

The Members made reference to the correspondence recently circulated from both the Ennis & Clarecastle Tidy Towns Committees who had asked the Members to consider a poster free election campaign in May 2019. The Members unanimously pledged their support for this motion in the interests of the ongoing work of Ennis & Clarecastle Tidy Towns and a cleaner environment albeit they acknowledged it may be a disadvantage to new candidates.

No. 14 NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard seconded by Cllr A. Norton

What steps have been taken to realise money from the claimed bond at Gort Leamhán, Roslevan?

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner, replied as follows:

Significant effort over a number of years has been undertaken by the Planning Authority on resolving the issues at Gort Leamhan. A claim was made on the bond in relation to Gort Leamhán, Gort na hAbhana & Cluain Lia in February 2013. The Planning Authority has continued to follow up on this claim with IBRC (Irish Bank Resolution Corporation) seeking payment of the bond. A further claim was made with the Special Liquidators on behalf of IBRC in March 2015. A costing of the works required to be carried out in the developments covered under the bond, was made by Clare County Council as part of our claim.

The priority at the moment is to agree a value on the outstanding works with the Special Liquidators and there is ongoing correspondence on this issue between both parties. This is complicated by the fact that one of the original developers of the estates is currently on site and active under a separate planning permission.

Cllr J. Flynn withdrew from the meeting while this topic was discussed due to a potential conflict of interest.

Item No. 7. Correspondence.

The Members noted recent correspondence received from Ennis & Clarecastle Tidy Towns Committees, as circulated.

Item No. 8. Any Other Business

Members raised the following issues.

- ***St Senan's Road/Kincora Park***
Cllr. Johnny Flynn made reference to specific contribution he has assigned to road lining at this location. He would welcome an update at the March meeting.

- ***Coach Friendly Accreditation***
Members noted the recent Coach Tourism & Transport Council of Ireland (CTTC) Conference which took place in Ennis recently. Cllr Johnny Flynn requested that directional signage to the coach park at friars walk be provided as per the recommendations of the CTTC, as these signs are a requirement prior to the renewal inspection in August 2019 by the CCTC.

- *The Standing Orders were suspended for the March Meeting of Ennis MD to allow the Ennis MD meeting to be held at 10.30am on Friday 8th March, 2019.*

- *The Members extended their good luck wishes to Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer, Ennis Municipal District, on her transfer to Economic Development.*

- *The Members requested that Ennis MD write to Eamon O'Dea, SEE to extend their get well wishes*

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____