

**Minutes of the November 2019  
Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee,  
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 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, M. Howard, P. Murphy.

**Officials:** Carmel Kirby, Director of Service Physical Development, Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Bernadette Haugh, Meetings Administrator, Eugene Crimmins, Staff Officer and Mairead Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Cllr. A. Norton.

**Item No. 1. Minutes of the October, 2019 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.**

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

**Item No. 2. Minutes of the Budgetary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.**

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

**Item No. 3. Matters Arising**

The Chair wished to acknowledge his gratitude to Cllr. A. Norton for deputising for him in his role as Chair during a recent period of illness.

**Item No. 4. Declaration of Public Roads - Meadow View, Clarecastle**

- A report from the Planning Department dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 on the Declaration of Public Roads in Meadow View, Clarecastle was circulated to the Members

*This item was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by members.*

**Item No. 5. GMA 2019 Report**

As part of the 2019 Ennis General Municipal Allocation it was agreed by members to allocate €36,000.00 to Footpath Improvements and €18,000.00 to Capital Projects.

**• Footpath Improvements €36,000.00**

This allocation is to be assigned to footpath improvement works within the following developments:

- ❖ Connolly Villa
- ❖ Ard na Greine
- ❖ Ashfield Park

● **Capital Projects €18000.00**

This allocation is to be assigned to footpath improvements in Tim Smyth Park.

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

**Item No. 6. Part VIII Parnell Street**

- A report from the Planning Department dated 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 on alterations to the public realm improvement works on Parnell Street and Old Friary lane was circulated to the Members.

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

**Item No. 7. Update on the proposed New Ennis Library**

An update from Helen Walsh, County Librarian dated 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 was read by Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer.

**Update Library Capital Project**

A pre-contract meeting was held with the contractors on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 with a letter of acceptance to issue before 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Once this is signed – there is a 20 day lead in to begin works on site. However, for a number of reasons ( utilities lead in, contractor holidays for 2 weeks over Christmas, busy period for Glór, etc), it was deemed more feasible to commence works on site on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 with the first phase being enabling works to create a new road in to Glór.

*Members welcomed the update and acknowledged that the new library was a significant project for the town and county.*

*Members queried if there were any future plans for the old Library on Harmony Row. Carmel Kirby, Director of Service advised that the old Library was a historic building in an attractive location, and the future potential uses were being explored by the Property Management section of Clare County Council. Cllr. Flynn noted that the site may provide an ideal opportunity for the expansion of 3<sup>rd</sup> level education opportunities in Ennis.*

**Item No. 8. Notices of Motion**

**No. 1 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.**

Can Clare County Council look at getting lights and zebra crossing at the gate where all of the students come out of Rice College. It is so dangerous coming out of the school and also in the evening especially after study which is a great addition to the school.

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

The Ennis MD Office has requested an evaluation of the existing public lighting on New Road adjacent to the Rice College entrance. The provision of a zebra crossing at this location will be considered by the Ennis MD Office however a number of interventions including positioning of pedestrian barriers at the entrance may be required before a pedestrian crossing is provided.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard and seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy**

I request all traffic control measures that are in the competence of Ennis Municipal District be agreed with residents of Abbeyville and Abbey Court to assist in the control of chaotic and dangerous parking that occurs when there are large events on in the area. Furthermore I request that speed / table ramps or a chicane be constructed at agreed location/s in the estate to limit excessive speeding.

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

The Ennis MD Office will examine what forms of traffic calming that will meet present requirements, Clare County Councils existing policies on traffic calming, identify a means of funding of such works and proceed to Section 38 public consultation process. The Ennis MD Office will consult with Residents regarding inappropriate car parking during large events in the area and bring this to the attention of the Garda Síochána and Fire Service.

*Members welcomed the response From Eamon O'Dea. Members noted the frustration of residents, regarding speeding in the estates and non-residential parking during large events in the locality.*

**No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor and seconded by Cllr. M. Howard**

That the council replace the wall sign at the entrance to Drumbiggle Drive.

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

The Ennis MD will provide a replacement sign at this location.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. M. Howard**

Safety audit of Ennis Pedestrian Crossings.

I ask that Ennis Municipal District carry out a safety audit of all pedestrian crossings in Ennis District starting in Ennis town, to include uncontrolled crossings, in terms of adequacy of levels of lighting, signage, warning approach lights, accessibility, timing available for safe crossing relative to location & users, etc.

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

The work required to carry out a full safety audit of the pedestrian crossings is not within the resource capacity of the Ennis MD at present. The Ennis MD are carrying out evaluations of the traffic light timings and have adjusted a number of locations to increase the pedestrian timings. All of the existing pelican and zebra crossing have adequate public lighting and all new zebra crossings are provided with individual public lighting on the same pole as the yellow belisha beacon. The Ennis MD Office is in the process of completing an assessment of accessibility in the town centre area and provide drop kerbs and review accessibility requirements as new work is carried out in the area. One example is the provision of drop kerbs in the vicinity of the new LIT building at Harmony Row – Bindon Street.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. M. Howard**

That the poor condition of the roads and footpaths in Maiville, Kilrush road is addressed as soon as possible, these have been in a bad way over a long number of years with manhole covers raised above the level of the road and very uneven footpaths. Also, that consideration is given to supporting the residents in "getting a handle" on the green area at the bottom of the estate.

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

The footpaths are in reasonable condition and a small number of locations need maintenance work. The hammerhead at the end of the road needs to be resurfaced and the manhole lids need to be reset or the adjacent road level adjusted to suit existing levels. This work will be completed as soon as resources are available. The existing road is in reasonable condition and is not listed for surfacing in the present 3 year road works programme. The Ennis MD Office will discuss with the Residents as to the works required in the open space and the Councillors might consider this work under the GMA funding in 2020.

*Members welcomed the response and hope a solution could be arrived at for the green area that would be aesthetically pleasing. Cllr. Flynn referenced that such works could be considered for future funding from the GMA.*

**No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly and seconded by Cllr. M. Howard**

I request Ennis MD to remove Hedges that are almost out on the road and improve lay Byes on the road between Kilquane Cross and Slattery's corner on the link road between Inch and Shanaway road.

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

The Ennis MD Office are in contact with a number of landowners to proceed with an application for a hedge cutting grant so that the hedges are cut along this section of the road. It is noticeable that the section from the R474 Inch Bridge are maintained by the landowners and the remaining section has not been cut to date. The existing lay byes will be examined by the Ennis MD and appropriate work completed.

*There was significant discussion on this item. Members pointed out that this secondary road was now being used as a relief road in an effort to avoid the busy Shanaway Junction. A number of Members raised their concerns regarding safety and the suitability of such a narrow road with overgrown sections due to the volumes of traffic now using it.*

*The Chair acknowledged the work of the Senior Executive Engineer in alleviating the flooding issue at Kilquane Cross on this stretch of road.*

*Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer advised the members by way of a further update on Shanaway as follows;*

- *Manual traffic turning count is completed.*
- *Topographical Survey complete and issued to TII Road Safety Engineer.*
- *Awaiting TII input in relation to access to the filling station/One Mile Inn Property.*
- *Feasibility Report complete but cost estimate to be finalised and Landowner meetings to take place.*

*Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E. further advised that one section had been brought up to a good standard and that a second section had issues with overgrown hedges. The Council were engaging with landowners via a hedge cutting scheme and that thereafter lay-byes would be addressed.*

**No. 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy and seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.**

That road markings be applied on the road from DOORA church past the school to Jaspers Pound intersection with YIELD marking placed ON the road at this intersection.

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

The Ennis MD will install the yield line at the Jasper Bridge junction on the Doora Road. The provision of line markings on the remainder of the road from Doora Church to the School to Jaspers Bridge will be examined however the road width may not permit the provision of centre line markings.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard and seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy**

I request that Ennis Municipal District deal with a number of outstanding issues at Maiville on the Kilrush Road.

1. Uneven road surface, and sunken manhole cover.
2. Uneven road surface at hammerhead.
3. Footpaths need maintenance
4. Badly over grown green area at the bottom of the estate
5. The four empty sites are not maintained and are badly overgrown, what is the long term plan for these sites?
6. According to residents the road sweeper has never visited the estate can this be addressed?"

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

***See reply to NOM No.5.***

The four empty sites are not maintained and are badly overgrown, what is the long term plan for these sites.

The lands at the hammerhead at Maiville are zoned as "Open Space" in the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied). Residential developments "Will not normally be acceptable" within this land use zoning as per Appendix 2 of the Plan "Indicative Land Use Zoning Matrix". I also note that the mapping database indicates that there are underground sewers in this area. Finally, there have been no recent planning applications on the site.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor and seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

That the council repair/replace damaged fencing at the entrance to Davitt Terrace in Cloughleigh.

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

The Ennis MD Office will arrange the replacement of the low level fence at this location and funding will be required for the works and the Councillors might wish to consider this work under the GMA funding in 2020

*Cllr. Nestor thanked Senior Executive Engineer for his response to this Notice of Motion. Cllr. Flynn noted that this might be a suitable project for GMA funding.*

**No. 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor**

That Ennis Municipal District continue the programme of clearing road surface water drains and gulleys on the main trafficked roads in Ennis area and in particular on the Regional roads, which include for example Tulla road and Gort Road.

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

The Ennis MD Office has commenced drainage works on the national secondary and regional road network in the past number of weeks. The road sweeper operating on the street cleaning in Ennis throughout the year has a structured system of clearing gullies in the Ennis Town area and there is a second road sweeper that is hired during October and November period for removal of leaves and suctioning of gullies. There is a road sweeper that is hired for two days a fortnight that covers the Clarecastle and the approach roads to Ennis including the cycle-ways from Latoon Bridge to Ennis.

Funding has been provided in the road works programme for drainage works and this funding is used to eliminate locations where gully outlets have been blocked and damaged. As locations are brought to the attention of the Ennis MD Office they are checked, jetted with high power jetting equipment and where this is not successful the locations are placed on the list for replacement or repair.

*Cllr. Flynn welcomed the response of the Senior Executive Engineer, noting the work being carried out regarding this issue and acknowledged that there was a plan in place to deal with this issue.*

**No. 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. M. Howard**

That Ennis Municipal District endeavours to source funding in order to undertake a sustainable Bio-diversity project at Clareabbey roundabout. There are huge numbers of vehicles passing through this location on a daily basis and a project of this kind would give a huge statement of intent that Clare County Council is to the forefront in promoting Bio-diversity.

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

The Ennis MD are in contact with the motorway maintenance contractor Colas Roadbridge to arrange a meeting with them and the TII contract representative to discuss the proposal for a Bio Diversity project at the Clareabbey Roundabout. This could be considered in conjunction with an artistic proposal that the Arts Officer has for this roundabout that we have been seeking consultation with the TII contract representative.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion and it received the unanimous support of the Members. Cllr. Howard noted the success that Ennis Tidy Towns achieved in their promotion of Pollinators, which has been used as a template nationally. Members fully supported the motion advising that this project would benefit the Clarecastle Tidy Towns, Ennis Tidy Towns and the county at large due to its prominent location.*

**No. 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly and seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor**

I ask Ennis MD to look at the possibility to open up at weekends the Market Building for trading similar to the Milk Market in Limerick, which is very successful at the moment.

***Bernadette Haugh, AO replied as follows:***

The Market Building is a unique multi-purpose facility, providing a modern structure, available to host community and festival events. The building provides a quality and convenient location for licensed traders to promote their quality food and craft produce, in this modern, bright and open space. Since its official opening in September 2016 it has hosted events around Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in 2016 & 2017, Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan 2018, Fleadh Nua, Art Exhibitions, Spring Fest, Summer Fest, Ennis Street Arts Festival, Ennis Food Festival,

Halloween events, Christmas Markets, Cruinniú na nÓg, Tidy Towns/Scouts Art Exhibition to name but a few and Clare Co. Council will continue to facilitate events in this public space. On non-event days, the building provides 27 car parking spaces in a safe, convenient and central location.

The existing Market Building will be integrated into the regenerated urban area once the O'Connell Square, High Street, Barrack Square and Old Barrack Street project, part of the Ennis Public Realm Regeneration Programme, is advanced. In the interim, we are always open to engaging with traders who wish to come together to hold a Market in the building.

*There was significant discussion on this item and broad welcome for the response given. Members referenced the historic location of the Market building and the locations long association with trading and markets. Members welcomed that the building is multi-purpose and provides a facility for all kinds of community and artistic events. Members were supportive of expanding its usage for artistic, community and youth activities.*

*Members supported the idea of a delegation from the Members and the Executive to attend the Milk Market in Limerick, with a view to identifying what elements were successful in Limerick and could be considered for Ennis.*

*Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer thanked the Members for their ongoing support and further expanded on the multi-purpose nature of the building by highlighting the numerous events held there to date, including Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann, the Munster Fleadh, and the more recent Clare Food and Drink Fleadh. The Christmas in Ennis event schedule will also feature a fun filled day of family entertainment in the Market Building on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of November.*

*Leonore indicated that Ennis MD would welcome and were open to collaborating with any community groups who wished to utilise the building for events. She further noted that Ennis MD would be happy to facilitate a delegation visiting the Milk Market in Limerick. She concluded by advising that as part of the Public Realm rejuvenation plans for Old Barrack Street and Barrack Square, the Market Building would be considered.*

**No. 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy and seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor**

That an update be provided on efforts to widen the Quin Road at the dangerously narrow section in Keavagh.

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

The Council has made initial contact with one of the landowners at Keavagh. The design will progress as resources become available in the Road Design Offices in 2020 and then an application for funding can be made to the DTTAS.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**Item No. 9. Correspondence**

*Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer informed the meeting that two separate petitions had been received from The Brothers of Charity and Ballybeg Rockmount Community Alert Committee. Leonore read first the petition received from the Brothers of Charity which outlined concerns raised by the 112 petitioners relating to a period from August 14<sup>th</sup> to October 21<sup>st</sup> 2019. The letter highlighted issues regarding accessibility within the town of Ennis with particular regard to the narrow footpaths, which can pose a difficulty for wheelchair users and persons of reduced mobility and calling on the Council to consider pedestrianisation of the main streets in the town.*

Leonore read a letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 from Ballybeg Rockmount Community Alert Committee, which had 45 signatories adding to similar petition which had been received in April of 2019 containing 335 petitions. The letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, thanked Clare County Council for responding to concerns raised by residents, in particular for upgrading the road, providing resurfacing, marking and signage. The letter went on to raise other concerns and outlined the commitment of the residents to highlight same. The letter acknowledged that upgrade works would require future design works and funding to progress.

The Chair acknowledged that both petitions raised issues of importance and in his opinion would attract the unanimous support of the Members.

Members were supportive of the concerns raised by the Brothers of Charity members. Members referenced the historic nature of the town centre with its associated narrow footpaths.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE advised that the Ennis MD are mindful at all time of universal access for all and every effort is made to improve the public realm for all. Eamon referenced where a number of recent upgrades had taken place to improve access and mobility in the town. Eamon noted the difficulty associated with certain locations in the town centre due to width restrictions. At these locations regrettably extra width to footpaths cannot be provided. He advised that improvements are ongoing.

Both Eamon and Leonore O'Neill advised that significant public realm projects were in the pipeline for Parnell Street, O'Connell Square and Barrack Square. It was hoped that the introduction of shared surfaces for vehicular and pedestrian traffic as part of these public realm rejuvenation plans have the potential to greatly enhance universal accessibility.

With regards to Ballybeg, Eamon O'Dea advised that an outline design was required from Road Design. He further advised that significant co-operation would be required from the public utility service providers to rectify the locations of utility poles. Eamon advised that this element of the upgrade work was likely to have a significant cost element.

#### **Item No. 10. AOB**

Cllr. Daly requested the support of the Members for a proposal to commemorate the three times World Champion 'Honest John Purcell'. This item received the unanimous support of Members and it was agreed by Members to raise the issue at the next Memorial Committee meeting of Clare County Council, who would advise as to an appropriate memorial and location.

Members requested an update on the following issues;

- Bushypark- possible issue of flooding due to heavy rain
- Provision of planters at Brookville
- OPW meeting regarding Clareabbey
- Improvement to road into Clareabbey
- Concerns regarding the proliferation of Corri-board signage in the town


Leonore O'Neill advised that the proposal for planters at Brookville was not the preferred option and that alternative options were being explored. She advised that where Corri-board signs were seen to persist that the Planning and Environmental sections of Clare County Council should be notified. Leonore informed the Members that the OPW had replied to a request from Members for



a meeting regarding Clareabbey and had advised that it would be the New Year before such a meeting could be accommodated.

Eamon O'Dea advised members that routine works had been carried out in the area of the road leading to Clareabbey and that more detailed works would require a CS scheme and that he would revert in due course. He further advised he would revert with an update on Bushypark.

Members acknowledged the excellent recent work done by Clare County Council and Ennis MD on the footpaths at Drumcliffe graveyard.

Signed:   
Mayor of Ennis

Signed:   
Meetings Administrator

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019

