

**Minutes of the October 2019
Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee,
held at 10.45am on Tuesday 8th October, 2019,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

Councillors: M. Nestor, P. Daly, M. Howard, P. Murphy & A. Norton.

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

Apologies: Cllr. J. Flynn & Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy

Item No. 1. Minutes of the September, 2019 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10th September, 2019.

The Members requested a correction to the September Minutes for Notice of Motion No. 2, to change the NOM submitter from Cllr. Norton to Cllr. Howard.

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

Item No. 2. Matters Arising

Item No. 3. Update on Review of St. Flannan's Low Cost Safety Scheme

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Ann Norton outlined at the outset that the Members had sought a review of the St. Flannan's Low Cost Safety Scheme at the last meeting of the Ennis Municipal District Committee. She noted that this review was ongoing including ongoing consultation with 3rd parties and therefore it would be best to defer the Notice of Motion regarding this item.

Carmel Kirby, Director of Service noted that the St. Flannan's Low Cost Safety Scheme actively promotes and encourages people to cycle and walk and is aligned with national and regional climate strategies. She noted that Members had correctly requested this scheme at a time when 1200 students were attending St Flannan's and records showed that 52% of motorists were speeding at this location. Members had requested road narrowing, traffic calming measures and cycle lanes. The subsequent scheme was designed with sight of everyone's requirements; residents, businesses, road users and the general public. The Director acknowledged that it was a big change for the public and that driver behaviour in particular required change.

The Director remarked that there was an increase in the number of buses at St Flannan's since the scheme was designed, which was to be welcomed, as this promoted greater public transport usage. She advised that Council staff were involved in dialogue with Bus Éireann to see if there could be better management of the bus service in the area.

The Director advised that the TII and the Department of Transport were seeking to change the national mindset with an emphasis on moving people from the car to walking and cycling. She noted that Clare County Council has been particularly successful in drawing down funding for

infrastructural projects from the Department and that she was keen to see this continue, so as to further improve our infrastructure.

The Director concluded by stating her continued commitment to engaging with all stakeholders i.e. Residents, St. Flannan's and Bus Éireann to provide a satisfactory resolution.

Ann Cronin, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design Office provided the following update:

A Traffic Calming, pedestrian and cyclist facilities scheme was recently introduced on the road between St. Flannan's College and Kilrush Road including the junction near CLG Eire Óg. Following the September 2019 Ennis MD meeting the Road Design Office was requested to carry out a review of the scheme for compliance with National Guidelines.

Review

The cycling facilities are designed in accordance with the National Cycle Manual. Road width is reduced in line with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets. Local roads can be between 5m and 5.5m and the road is now 5.5m at the upper end of the range allowed. Light segregation between drivers and cyclists is provided as this has been proven to encourage more cyclists as it gives them protection from drivers and therefore more confidence. Segregation is recommended in the National Cycle Manual with bollards etc. It is noted that in other schemes drivers have welcomed segregation as they can maintain a safe distance from cyclists.

Junction radii have been reduced in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets. This also has a traffic calming effect. The movements in/out of junctions/premises was undertaken using vehicle tracking software. The zebra pedestrian crossing is designed in accordance with the current document which is NRA Pedestrian Crossing Specification and Guidance. Uncontrolled crossings are also provided in line with this standard and provide buff tactile paving to assist people with sight difficulties, people with disabilities, older people and people pushing buggies /prams.

Signs and road markings are in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual. Landscaping is proven to have a traffic calming effect on drivers (ref. TII DN GEO 03084) and therefore the planted areas (where junction radii have been reduced) are fulfilling that function.

We investigated all possible measures and discussed them with the TII Road Safety Engineer. The design drawings were issued to the TII Road Safety Engineer for comments and we incorporated some additional measures. Therefore the scheme is in compliance with National Guidelines.

On site review

The scheme as constructed was checked on site against the drawings issued to Ennis MD Staff and is in line with current standards. A number of issues are still outstanding and these will be dealt with by Ennis MD Staff. A number of enhancements will also be made as there may be instances where drivers need extra assurance regarding the regulatory signs and road markings relating to the cycle lanes particularly. For example additional regulatory signs RUS 009 signs for cyclelanes/tracks (blue signs with a cycle symbol), directional lane arrows on the road, keep right sign will also be included. Where illegal parking is occurring near St. Flannan's College we are considering additional red surfacing just to highlight these zones. It is noted that drivers have to slow down particularly when meeting a wider vehicle. The intention of the scheme is to slow down traffic. Our radar survey has shown that speeds have reduced. It should be noted that a speed survey undertaken one day in May 2018 indicated that 15% of traffic was travelling over 60 kph ie 938 vehicles, with 52% of traffic travelling over the speed limit of 50 kph ie 3,250 vehicles. Traffic volume was recorded as 6,249 vehicles in that 24 hour period on 30/31 May 2018.

It is noted that there has already been an uptake in walking and cycling which is encouraging. Parking is occurring at some locations on the cycle lanes and this is posing a risk to cyclists and

should stop. Cyclists may veer out onto the road to get around a parked vehicle or vehicles. It should be noted that it is illegal to park on a cyclelane and in any case illegal to park on a road with a continuous white line in the centre.

It is noted that complaints have been received that the road is narrow and that drivers are keeping out from the bollards. The width is in accordance with DMURS and driver behaviour will have to modify. Complaints were received in relation to buses parking on the road. See below in relation to liaison with Bus Eireann. A comment was received about the new zebra type pedestrian crossing installed as part of the scheme. This was deemed to be the most appropriate type given that a traffic calming scheme was being installed. We will continue to monitor the scheme and speeds. We can undertake to determine if there is an issue with the zebra crossings.

Children cycling alone have to avoid cars parked on the cyclelane- some cycling up onto the footpath and back down onto the cyclelane. Rear end type collisions or injury to cyclists may occur when cyclists have to veer out into the traffic lane.

It is noted that Ennis National School is supportive of the scheme and have indicated that they would forward our information to students regarding the scheme signs and road markings etc. We are liaising with Ennis NS regarding the roll-out of a cycle bus scheme similar to the one in Galway.

Liaison with Bus Eireann

At the design stage we met with a representative of Bus Eireann on site at St. Flannan's College to make them aware of the proposed scheme, seek their advice and observations and to discuss proposals to increase the size of the bus bay. We then increased the bus bay from one bus length to accommodate four of their longest buses.

We met with representatives of Bus Eireann on the 5th of September 2019 and discussed possible improvements. We suggested that they look into scheduling of bus times. We suggested that buses locate elsewhere while waiting to pick up ie not arrive up to 45 minutes early. We discussed the possibility of buses being allowed onto the grounds of St Flannan's College to pick up students. They indicated that they would consider all proposals and said they would revert. We requested that they meet with representatives of St. Flannan's College and seek a resolution. Bus Eireann arranged a meeting with representatives of St. Flannan's College in mid September 2019. We are due to meet with Bus Eireann again in the coming days to discuss progress.

Liaison with representatives of St. Flannan's College

We contacted representatives of St. Flannan's College in July 2018 during the Section 38 process and invited their comments. With their agreement we supplied 500 copies of a map of existing cycling facilities in Ennis and they indicated they would distribute the maps in the School. We supplied information and drawings of the proposed Section 38 scheme in September 2018 and asked that the information be communicated to their students/staff. We met with them in October 2018 to discuss the scheme following its approval by the Ennis MD Councillors. In August 2019 before School reopening and as the project was nearing completion on site we contacted them on two occasions and sent a letter outlining the scheme and the meaning (with diagrams) of the various signs /road markings. We asked them "to bring the scheme to the attention of your School Community – Parents, Guardians, Pupils and Teachers." We again met with them on the 1st of October 2019 to discuss the scheme and access to St. Flannan's College.

Conclusion

Cyclists are using the scheme already. Parents have contacted us to say they are cycling to school with their children. It is very encouraging that parents are using the facilities with their children and even more encouraging that children cycling alone. Cyclists have indicated that they are very pleased with the facilities saying that they feel the protection of the segregation provided by the bollards. The removal of the left slip lane at the Eire Óg Junction was welcomed as a safety improvement for cyclists who could have been struck by left turners. Cyclists have indicated that

some drivers have no problem with passing very close to them but some drivers keep out from the bollards. We have been contacted by parents who wish to cycle to school with their children and who have whole heartedly applauded the scheme.

We conclude that a change in behaviour will ensue as drivers become more accustomed to the changes. We have been working with and will continue to work with St. Flannan's College, Ennis National School, An Garda Síochána and Bus Éireann to ensure that all parties are committed to succeeding in reducing car usage, increasing walking and cycling and helping people to understand how important this is to the future of Ennis. During the Section 38 process the proposals were supported by the Health Promotion & Improvement Department of the Health Service Executive, Clare Sports Partnership and Eire Óg GAA. Clare County Council was pleased with this support and encouragement. Requests were received for further extensions of cycling facilities. An Garda Síochána have been involved from an early stage, are very supportive and continue to monitor. The Chairperson of Cycling Ireland Leisure Commission and member of the Clare Cycle Safety Initiative has been very supportive of the scheme. It is Government policy to encourage walking and cycling and the smarter travel policy is in existence since 2009. Clare County Council has adopted this in the walking and cycling objectives of the County Development Plan.

Discussion

The Chair thanked Ann Cronin for her report and expressed her hope that the review and ongoing consultations would continue. The Members welcomed the update from Ann Cronin. Members welcomed the cycle lanes and the reduction of speeding in the area. There was considerable debate with regard to the width of the carriage-way and the role of St. Flannan's College in finding a solution to the issues in the area. The Members queried if the cycle-lanes could be reduced by 18" in width and suggested that a delegation from the residents meet with the review committee. They further expressed the view that St. Flannan's needed to be part of the solution.

The Chair referenced correspondence from Cllr. Colleran Molloy which she summarized for those present. Cllr. Howard acknowledged the speed and volume statistics and indicated that the speeds had been too fast. Cllr. Nestor welcomed cycle-lanes and indicated that we have a duty of care to young people.

Cllr. Murphy addressed the chamber noting that he was not in favour of the removal of bollards. He advised he had received numerous emails from parents that were very happy with the scheme and further indicated that we must try to get children cycling which is very important for our Youth. The Chair concluded her remarks on this item by saying that it was her experience that the County Council was always open to consultation and welcomed input from the residents into the ongoing review.

The Director said that the County Council would continue to engage with Bus Éireann, St. Flannan's, the Business community and residents to find a positive solution. The Director noted that with regard to a delegation, while the Council welcomed dialogue, it was important to note that a full public consultation process had been undertaken for this scheme. However if one representative was to feed into the ongoing review, this person needed to represent the views of the entire community in that area i.e. residents & business community.

Item No. 4. Section 38- Construction of a zebra controlled pedestrian crossing at the Junction of R458 Carmody Street/Drumbiggle Road

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

Members welcomed this item. The chair referenced correspondence received from Cllr. Colleran Molloy in which she noted that the proposed location for the pedestrian crossing is in such a way as to impede Rory Kenny's delivery double door which is located on Carmody Street.

Eamon O'Dea advised that technically this is the only location available as the crossing requires an advance distance with a parking clearway to allow sufficient sight lines for both pedestrians and drivers. He also advised that this location is in line with the desire line for crossing the road. Deliveries to Mr Kenny's for loading and off loading will have to be accommodated 20M further down the road towards the Kilrush Road Junction. He noted that Road Design had spoken to Mr. Kenny in this regard.

Members welcomed the clarification.

Item No. 5. Section 38- Construction of a zebra controlled pedestrian crossing at the R352 Ballymacahill Junction, Tulla Road

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

Item No. 6. Christmas in Ennis 2019

A report was circulated to the Members outlining the full schedule of family festive entertainment spanning 4 consecutive weekends in the lead up to Christmas. The report also detailed proposed Road Closures and pedestrianisation for the festive period.

This item was proposed by Cllr. Norton seconded by Cllr. Howard.

There was a broad welcome by Members for the Christmas in Ennis 2019 schedule of events. Members noted the level of detail in the report and noted that the Christmas in Ennis Event was building year on year and praised the staff of Ennis MD for their hard work in putting the series of festive events together. Members noted that the schedule of events would showcase the Town of Ennis for locals and visitors alike.

Cllr. Norton wished to advise everyone that the Express Train was wheelchair accessible and available to all to enjoy. Cllr. Nestor asked for the media to promote the programme of events while Cllr. Daly welcomed the Christmas pedestrianisation of O'Connell Street adding that in his opinion the street should be pedestrianised on a continuous basis.

Item No. 7. Notice of Motions:

No. 1 Joint Notice of Motion submitted by: Cllr. P. Daly, Cllr. M. Howard, Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, Cllr. M. Nestor

"In the interest of public safety we request that the bollards and armadillos be removed from Clonroadmore and Clonroadbeg which includes from Mangan's Cash and Carry to O'Sullivan Hansbury's junction.

We also request a 30k speed limit be introduced here immediately and further request that Clare County Council enter into meaningful negotiations with the patrons of St. Flannan's College with regard to providing another entrance for buses in the interest of health and safety of their students."

John Leahy, SE, replied as follows

This is a traffic calming scheme incorporating cyclelanes which addresses the speeding issue and the need to provide for alternative modes of transport in the vicinity of St. Flannan's College and Eire Óg GAA.

The scheme was proposed on foot of a NOM and it was passed by Ennis MD in October 2016:

" To address safety concerns, which are particularly acute from 8:15-9:00am and 3:00pm-4:00pm, that traffic calming, road narrowing, and cycle lane, be considered from St. Flannan's to Eire Og."

An application for grant funding was made to the DTTAS in 2017 for 2018. Funding was granted and a design commenced. We investigated all possible measures and discussed them with the TII Road Safety Engineer. The design drawings were issued to the TII Road Safety Engineer for comments and we incorporated some additional measures.

Speeds on the road had been a problem which needed to be addressed and the values measured in one day in May 2018 were:

- 15% of drivers were travelling at over 60kph ie 938 vehicles travelling greater than 60kph
- 52% of drivers were travelling over the speed limit ie 3,250 travelling over 50 kph.

The road width is narrowed to 5.5m in line with the Design Manual for Urban Road and Streets published by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

It has been proven that a very effective method of slowing down traffic is to reduce width. Drivers have no option but to slow down and they are already modifying their behaviour. The most recent speed survey has shown that drivers have slowed down.

The bollards and lane separators were proposed as a method of separating cyclists from vehicles and this is proving to be very effective in that cyclists are contacting us and saying that they feel protected by the bollards. This type of segregated facility is contained in the National Cycle Manual published by the National Transport Authority. Therefore the bollards and lane separators are essential to the scheme.

The system is there for the protection of cyclists. Where segregation is not provided drivers can encroach onto a cycle lane and put the lives of cyclists at risk. It is not safe for other road users if drivers are driving in a cyclelane.

Children are now using the new cycling facility on their own to get to and from school.

This scheme went through a Section 38 Public Consultation in 2018 and this was a reserved function for Councillors to discuss and approve. The scheme, submissions report and recommendation were put before the Ennis MD Councillors in September 2018 and October of 2018 and was given approval by the Ennis MD Council in October 2018. The concerns of those who made submissions were taken into account.

Clare Co Council has just concluded a speed limit review for Co. Clare with the revised speed limits coming into law since 1st June 2019. This speed limit review was a very comprehensive exercise which commenced in Aug 2015 and speed limits were reviewed and feedback sought from both the public and the elected members throughout this process. Clare Co Council are only statutorily required to carry out a speed limit review every 5 years. The next review process will commence in two years time. In the meantime any requests received for review will be considered once the process commences.

It has been the experience in Ennis that speed limits on their own are not enough to slow drivers down. Physical measures are effective however.

Discussions had already taken place and will continue with representatives of St. Flannan's College.

This Notice of Motion was discussed as part of the Headed Item on this matter and was not moved.

No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton and seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy

"Can Clare County Council look at putting a foot path on the fly over in Barefield on health and safety grounds."

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

The Ennis MD will examine the location and determine whether a gravel pathway can be provided. Due to the location of the crash barrier and requirement to provide a means of preventing unauthorised caravan parking in the area the position of the path is not easily determined. A means of funding the works will need to be found possibly by use of GMA.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion

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

"This motion calls on the council to engage with the ESB regarding urgent maintenance and safety works needed to be carried out at the ESB substation located at the entrance to Knockaderry Grove."

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

The Ennis MD has forwarded this NOM to ESB Networks Office for their response.

A number of Members outlined their concerns regarding the site, with particular reference to the safety of the site and its perimeter fencing. The dilapidated state of the building was also raised.

Eamon O'Dea advised the Members that Ennis MD are in direct contact with the ESB on a range of issues and had always found them to be helpful. He advised that he was confident of a response from the ESB in due course.

No. 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. P. Daly

"That the Lissane road, from Wards shop/Clarehill junction out to where it meets the Claremount road is re-surfaced if there is any remaining spend in this year's roadworks programme, or that it is included as a matter of urgency in next year's roadworks programme. These works to include provision of a footpath from John and Lena Quinn's dwelling to Christine Egan's dwelling."

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

The Lissane Road from Wards Shop/ Clarehill junction to the Claremount junction is not in the 3 year programme. There is no additional funding in the Restoration Improvement Grant Funding this year. Main Street Clarecastle is in the 3 year programme. The provision of a footpath from Quinn's to Egan's will require land acquisition and set back of the entrance of a dwelling. A means of funding this work will be required.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion. Cllr. Murphy queried a low section of the road that was prone to hold water. He queried if this could be included in the current 3 year programme. Eamon O'Dea advised that this was not a low cost project and that unless there was an increase in the Budget it was unlikely that such works could be completed at this time. He did advise that works were scheduled for Main Street and Barrack Street in Clarecastle and if there

were drainage issues identified at the Lissane road location then this could be reviewed as part of the works.

No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard and seconded by Cllr. A. Norton

“That Ennis Municipal District reinstate the wooden benches along the river in Woodquay and Abbey Street carparks.”

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

The Ennis MD has reinstated the refurbished park benches at Abbey Street car park last week. The reinstatement of the benches at Woodquay will not proceed at this time as the Ennis M.D were requested to remove same due to issues with persistent loitering and disposal of litter in the area.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion noting that benches were particularly welcomed by the elderly not just at this location but throughout the Ennis area. Eamon O’Dea advised that under the age friendly strategy the provision of public seating is under consideration.

No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly and seconded by Cllr. A. Norton

“I ask Ennis MD to upgrade the road and cut hedges from J.J. Hegarty’s corner to Caherbanna Creamery, Kilnamona.”

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

The L4144 from Caherbanna Creamery toward the Kilnamona GAA pitch is in reasonable condition and will require some drainage maintenance work. The Ennis M.D office will contact the landowners regarding hedge cutting and maintenance of overhanging branches.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion

No. 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton and seconded by Cllr. M. Howard

“Can Clare County Council look at extending the walking paths at the old Doora dump site, as there is already some walking paths around the ladies GAA grounds and it would be a great amenity area on the outskirts of Ennis in the parish of Doora Barefield.”

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

The Environment Section of the Council has made an application under the ORIS scheme for provision of additional pathways at the Doora Amenity Park. This application has not yet been determined or approved.

Members welcomed the positive response and look forward to the outcome of the application.

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

“Re: Quay road, Clarecastle and Quay area I am requesting the following;

- i) Traffic/speed calming on Quay road.
- ii) Flooding/Ponding (from rainfall) issues at the back entrance to ROCHE IRL and along the Quay area to be addressed.
- iii) Scoop the Poop signage and gloves/bags to be installed in the Quay area
- iv) The footpath immediately adjacent to the steel pole outside Willie Murphy's dwelling to be satisfactorily repaired.”

i) Traffic/speed calming on Quay road.

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

The Ennis M.D has not considered the necessity for traffic calming in the area as there is tidal embankment ramp at the entrance to the Quays. The Ennis MD Office will carry out further observation by means of speed surveys to determine quantum of issue raised in the NOM.

ii) Flooding/Ponding (from rainfall) issues at the back entrance to ROCHE IRL and along the Quay area to be addressed.

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

The Ennis MD will be carrying out works at this location once the footpath work is completed at St Joseph's Terrace.

iii) Scoop the Poop signage and gloves/bags to be installed in the Quay area

Marie O'Neill SSO replied as follows:

Signage, advising dogs to remove dog litter, has its benefits in alerting dog-owners of their responsibilities. However, even with signage in place, the problem can still exist and hence is not a total solution to the problem. The majority of people walking dogs in public spaces are conscientious about picking up dog litter, and can help get the message out to others when leading by example.

Free "Poop the Scoop" bags are available at our offices throughout the County and gloves can be provided to voluntary/community groups involved in clean-ups in the area.

To address the issue of dog-fouling, the Council has a hard-hitting campaign in place advising dog-owners of their responsibilities in relation to dog-fouling. The advertisement requests dog owners to clean up after their dog in order to prevent "Mess, Smell and Disease". This Notice is currently being advertised in local newspapers. The Council can provide leaflets on responsible dog-ownership to local Community Groups or resident groups for distribution in the area.

It is hoped through our education and awareness campaigns, that all dog-owners will take responsibility for their own dogs and hence, reduce the amount of dog-waste throughout the County.

iv) The footpath immediately adjacent to the steel pole outside Willie Murphy's dwelling to be satisfactorily repaired.

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

This footpath will be rectified when the drainage work is being carried out at the Quay.

The Members welcomed the response.

Item No. 8. Agree date for Draft Budgetary Meeting of the Ennis Municipal District 2020

Members agreed the date of 4th November 2019 for Draft Budgetary Meeting of the Ennis Municipal District for 2020

Item No. 9. Awards/Accreditations

Leonore O'Neill noted that she wanted to acknowledge the work of all the Staff of Ennis MD, volunteers, businesses and community groups throughout the Municipal District whose work has now been recognised in the three different accreditations: Purple Flag, Tidy Towns and Retail Excellence.

The Purple Flag accreditation has once again been awarded to Ennis recognising the vibrant night time economy. Ennis was the first town in Ireland to achieve the accreditation back in 2012. This award is due to the collaborative efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, An Garda Síochána, the business community and Ennis MD. She referenced that the youth disco in Ennis was highlighted as an example of excellence for entertainment involving young people.

She further welcomed the award of "Ireland's Tidiest Large Urban Centre" to Ennis in the Supervalu Tidy Towns Awards. She commended the hard work and dedication of the Tidy Towns volunteers and commented that the award is recognition of the extraordinary effort of the group.

Leonore O'Neill advised that Ennis has also been placed in the Top 5 Friendliest Towns by Retail Excellence Ireland, placing the town in contention for the title of "Ireland's Friendliest Place"; an award the town held in 2018. She referenced the unique mix of high quality stores in the town of Ennis coupled with the friendliest retailers continues to be a winning combination.

Leonore concluded by once again congratulating all involved in bringing such positive accolades to the County town.

The Chair wished to add her congratulations to all involved in bringing such success and recognition to the town. The Members referenced the hugely valuable role volunteers and community groups play in making our communities better places and promoting pride in our local areas. They acknowledged the hard work of Cllr. Flynn in helping retain the Purple Flag and requested that Eamon O'Dea pass on the appreciation and gratitude of the Elected Members to the entire staff of Ennis MD for all the hard work they do all year round and in particular Brendan Keogh, Tommy Scott and Gerry Murphy for their assistance to Ennis Tidy Towns.

The Director concluded discussion acknowledging the hugely important role voluntary and community groups play in our town. She wished to congratulate all involved. In particular she was amazed to note that Ennis Tidy Town's application for 2019 included 70 individual projects in their submission.

Item No. 10. Correspondence

Item No. 11. Any other business

- *Leonore O'Neill advised that Irish Water had commenced works under the Public Realm Project on Parnell Street. She wished to thank Irish water for bringing forward their schedule to assist Clare County Council with their plans. She advised that the Council were on schedule to commence works in Mid-Jan 2020.*
- *On a separate matter, Leonore O'Neill wished to acknowledge the work done by Margaret O'Brien, Festival & Events Co-ordinator for a very successful inaugural Clare Food and Drink Fleadh. It is hoped that this will grow into a national and international event. She advised that Margaret would be available to give a presentation to the Elected Members on the Clare Food and Drink Fleadh at a future meeting.*
- *Cllr. Murphy queried the next steps relating to Ballymacahill. Eamon O'Dea advised that there is funding available and that he will update the Members with a time line at the next meeting.*

- *Eamon O'Dea advised the Members that a two-way system will come into effect at Summerhill to facilitate works in Parnell Street when the works reached the Woodquay section of the planned works. In addition works have commenced in Tobartescain with regard to the Ennis South flood relief works.*
- *Mary Howard queried if Notice of Motions are required to be submitted earlier than the "9 clear days" before the Ennis MD Meeting. Leonore O'Neill advised that the submission of Notice of Motions 9 clear days before the meeting is the correct timeline in accordance with the Standing Orders.*

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____