**Minutes of the December 2020**

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

**held at 10.30am on Tuesday 1st December 2020,**

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

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

**Present:**

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

**Officials:** Carmel Kirby,Director of Services, Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Niamh O Connor, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Lily McInerney, Staff Officer.

**Item No. 1. Minutes of the November 2020 Meeting of Municipal District Ennis Committee held on 3rd November at 10.30am**

*This item was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all members.*

**Item No. 2. Minutes of the Budgetary Meeting of Municipal District Ennis Committee held on 9th November at 9.30am**

*This item was proposed by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr C. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all members.*

**Item No.3. Matters Arising**

None.

**Item No. 4. Section 183 – Proposed Disposal of lands to Patrick Donnelly, Clare Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

As part of the construction of the link road from Clare Road to Station Road, agreement was reached with a property owner to give a piece of land to him following construction of the road.

*This Item was proposed by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr M. Howard and agreed by all members.*

**Item No. 5. Section 11 - Declaration of Public Roads - Sli an Fheargais, Clarecastle**

*This Item was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by all members.*

**Item No. 6 GMA Report**

The following reallocation of €50,000 from the GMA was agreed by members :

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| €20,000 | Promote Ennis Niche Destination Plan |
| €2,500 | World War 2 Memorial |
| €2,500 | Clarecastle Playground works |
| €25,000 | Develop ‘walking trails’ project proposal (for funding application) |
|  |  |
| Cllr. specific GMA allocations not formally adopted previously |
| Project | Amount Allocated |
| Willow Counselling Service | €1,000.00 |
| Ennis TidyTowns | €2,811.19.00 |
| Cloughleigh Res and Development Group | €400.00 |
| Ennis Peace Park | €3,000.00 |
| Ennis Sub Aqua Club | €500.00 |
| Clarecastle Community Playground | €11,437.29 |
| Ennis Educate Together | €737.29 |
| Barefield Community | €2,000.00 |

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

**Item No.7 Notice of Motions**

**No. 1 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy**

That review of the ongoing flooding outside of home with Eircode V95 XT29 located in Ballyhannon be examined to determine how it may be best remediated.

***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:***

*This location at Ballyhannon South on the L7196 is a dished hollow between two adjacent crests on the road. The Ennis MD will provide soakaways in the adjacent grass margins this work will be placed on the list for the works crews in this area.*

Se*conded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by all members.*

Response from Senior Engineer Eamon O’Dea was welcomed by Cllr C. Colleran-Molloy, followed by a request regarding the likely timeframe for planned remedial actions. E. O’Dea replied that works are scheduled to address this issue.

**No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy**

Ballybeg Woods Amenity

During these Covid 19 times as the general public are maximising all of our public spaces and amenities, I am requesting that the creeping ivy/overgrowth in the public carpark of Ballybeg Woods is tidied/trimmed back in the short term in order to maximise the space available for parking. These works being carried out and the erection of advisory signage at the Ballybeg Road entrance, requesting patrons to use the carpark, may alleviate the problem of cars being parked on footpaths in this area. Also, that the damaged picnic bench in the centre of the wood (timber lat) be repaired. And finally, that the Ballybeg Road pedestrian entrance is widened sufficiently in order to facilitate wheelchairs and children's buggies.

***Eamon O Dea, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:***

*The levels of weekend activity at Ballybeg Woods has significantly increased with the 5km exercise distance restriction under Covid-19 level 5 guidelines. The Ennis MD will arrange the works as soon as resources become available. The adjustment to the entrance on Ballybeg Road will be prioritised. The works crews will be completing essential drainage maintenance on Regional and Local Primary Roads over the coming weeks. In regard to the number of vehicles parking adjacent to the entrance, the Ballybeg Woods can be accessed by use of the walkway – cycleway provided on the Kilrush Road from Ennis or alternately from the Rocky Road.*

*Seconded by Cllr C. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all members.*

The response was acknowledged by Cllr P. Murphy, particularly in relation to the widening of the entrance, for the benefit of walkers with buggies. Consideration should be given to erecting signage encouraging the use of the carpark nearby and the possible extension of same. Members welcomed proposed works to improve this valuable amenity.

**No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn**

Ask for a progress report (including cost of each project) on the Flood defense schemes/projects currently under construction in the Ennis Municipal District.

***Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:***

*Schemes currently being progressed by the Project Management Office in the Ennis Municipal District Area include the Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme which commenced construction in March 2019 and is due to be completed in August 2021 and the recently commenced Ennis Lower Scheme at Harmony Row. Other schemes at different stages of development include Thomond Villas in Clarecastle, Shallee Drive/Victoria Court in Ennis as well as funding applications for additional Studies, Surveys and Assessments including a high-level assessment of the Clarecastle Barrage.*

*In terms of construction costs and a progress report for schemes currently under construction, I wish to advise as follows:*

**Ennis South FRS**

*Members will be aware from the Monthly Report updates that there are essentially 3 elements to this scheme, the St Flannans Culvert, the Ballybeg Culvert and the Flood defense to the section of River Fergus from Doora Bridge on the Quin Road to the N85 Bridge at Clareabbey. The aim of the scheme is to alleviate flooding at St Flannan’s College and surrounding areas; the residential area of Ballybeg and the Clare Abbey Floodplain. Technical Advisors on the Project are Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers, and the Main Contractor is Ward & Burke Ltd. The Ballybeg section and the St Flannans College section of the contract are now complete with only minor snags remaining to be addressed. The resurfacing works on the public road network, including the roundabout at St Flannans College, were completed in September 2020. Recent severe weather where we had significant and prolonged rainfall have tested the scheme on a number of occasions since the culverts were completed and I am pleased to advise that it has operated effectively.*

*Work is progressing well on the riverbank defence with sheet piling work 95% complete. Work on the pump station and landscaping to complete the riverside works cannot start now until next April due to seasonal environmental constraints. In terms of cost, the total scheme budget is approximately €20m. This includes Construction costs of €14.3m as well as Land costs, Design, Advance works, Supervision, Archaeology, Contingency as well as a reserve for future operational and maintenance costs.*

**Ennis Lower Flood Relief Scheme**

*Work has commenced in recent weeks on the final part of the Ennis Lower Flood Relief Scheme. This work extends from the Club Bridge to Bank Place on the opposite side of the River to Abbey Street carpark. Access to the site is via Harmony Row which involved the demolition of a wall which is to be reconstructed on completion of the of the project, which involves the construction of a 100m sheet piled wall along the river bank on a line agreed with Clare County Council, the OPW and local landowners. Critically, it provides the final section of the previously completed Ennis Lower FRS.*

*The sheet piled wall will be clad in stone on the riverside and capped in cut stone creating a nice vista from Abbey Street Carpark as well as crucially mitigating the risk of flooding. A heritage style railing will be constructed on the wall as a safety measure. Two sections of reinforced concrete walls will tie the new sheet piled wall to the existing walls and a number of headwalls, flap valves and associated pipe work will replace the existing outfalls. The existing river wall fronting the Rowan Tree will be pressure grouted and /or pointed as required and the area will be landscaped on completion.*

*Technical Advisors on the scheme are J B Barry Consultant Engineers and the Contractor is again, Ward & Burke Construction Ltd. The scheme is scheduled to be completed in April 2021 at an estimated cost of €400,000.*

**Other projects being progressed**

*Clare County Council has engaged Malachy Walsh & Partners to develop a flood relief scheme for Thomond Villas in Clarecastle. The scheme, estimated at €400,000, involves the construction of embankments and walls and we have made a funding application to the OPW to take the scheme to detailed design and planning stage. There are significant environmental challenges as the proposed works are located in or near a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA) so it is very likely that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) will be required.*

*We have also applied to the OPW for funding to carry out a feasibility study for two areas in the Town of Ennis, namely Shalee Drive and Victoria Court. The next step is to appoint a Hydrologist to carry out the study and identify the preferred solutions. We are also sourcing the necessary funding to carry out a high-level assessment of the Barrage at Clarecastle and will keep the Members informed of developments in each of these areas.*

*Seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all members.*

The detailed response from Senior Engineer, Sean Lenihan, was welcomed by Cllr J. Flynn and he highlighted the considerable contributions over the years from Eamon O’Dea, Sean Lenihan and prior Senior Engineers of the Urban District and Town Councils in progressing these schemes since the first flood relief study was undertaken and that the achievement of a scheme which runs from Clarecastle to the town is a considerable success. He cautioned that the 2007 Flood Support Scheme had recommended relocation of barrage from Clarecastle.

Senior Engineer, Eamon O’Dea, responded that safety work on the barrage doors is scheduled for next Spring or earlier and that a company is engaged to replace doors on the eastern end as well as other ongoing maintenance works.

**No. 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor**

This motion requests Clare County Council to engage with landowners on the Drumcliffe Road, in particular the stretch of road beyond the cemetery leading to Ballyallia Grove, with the purpose of having roadside hedges cut back.

***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:***

*The Ennis MD has arranged the hedge cutting on the road network that is part of the Ballyallia Lough Loop Walk to facilitate the works proposed under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.*

*Seconded by Cllr P. Daly and agreed by all members.*

The response was welcomed by Cllr. M. Nestor and on request for timescale, Senior Engineer, Eamon O’Dea replied that works on Ballyallia Loop are scheduled to take place shortly as part of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

In response to a suggestion from Cllr P. Daly as to further works to facilitate car parking, Senior Engineer Eamon O’Dea recommended that a careful balance be struck in loop walk areas to not actively encourage more cars into an amenity whose prime target is walkers and leisure pursuits.

**No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard**

The pedestrian crossing at Ballymacahill is causing some concern among residents and those who visit the shop or just need to cross this very busy road.  I believe we may have to revisit the design of this crossing.

I have received a number of observations and complaints from residents

  - that the crossing is dangerous to pedestrians,

 -  it has been constructed 100 yards approximately from the crest of the hill

 - travelling from west to east the approach is obstructed by a hill

 - amber beacons at the crossing are not effective enough

 - motorists are more likely to stop for a red traffic light

Is it possible to move the crossing further down the Tulla Road and also the addition of rumble strips at the location would alert motorists to slow down on approach?

***John Gannon, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:***

*“In 2019 The Road Design Office (RDO) carried out a traffic survey further to a request by Ennis Municipal District to investigate road user (drivers, pedestrians and cyclists) activity at Ballymacahill. The selection of a Controlled Pedestrian Crossing was assessed to be the most suitable option based on the traffic data collected and observations made.*

*I confirm that the scheme was designed by RDO and that current DTTAS and TII design Standards were followed and complied with. The location of the crossing was based on pedestrian crossing desire lines and physical constraints. I can also confirm that in the worst case (i.e. travelling from town in the Tulla direction) forward visibility (180m) to the beacons is over twice that recommended in design guidelines.*

*The scheme was subject to the Section 38 process of the Road Traffic Act - which included a month-long period of Public Consultation. The scheme was passed by resolution at the October 8th 2019 Monthly Meeting of Ennis Municipal District Council.*

*A traffic survey (speed and count) was carried out by the RDO between the 26th June 2020 and the 1st July 2020 (attached). There is a definite speeding issue on this section of road. Over 60% of drivers using the road are violating the speed limit. The Road Design office have advised An Garda Síochána of the speeding issues on this section of road for their enforcement.”*

*Seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by members*

The response from Senior Engineer, John Gannon, was welcomed by Cllr. M. Howard while reiterating the safety concerns. Cllr. M. Howard suggested traffic lights may become the more appropriate solution and that residents are to request that the design is re-visited.

**No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton**

Can Ennis MD ask the Housing Department how many houses on their housing stock have been adapted for people with disabilities this year and how many new builds have been built specifically with adaptations. Also, how many consultations have the council had with people with disabilities on the housing list at development planning and design stage to make sure that the houses being built are suitable for specific needs of people on the housing list.

***Siobhan McNulty, Senior Executive Officer, replied as follows:***

*During 2020 to date and in spite of the restrictions of COVID Clare County Council a number of new developments were completed. In Ennis the 8-unit development at Roslevan incorporated 2 universally accessible units which were allocated meet the need of the household. Generally, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will fund up to 10% of a new scheme for universally accessible units.*

*In relation to adaptations works to stock please be advised that expenditure of €727,544.24 has been incurred during 2020 to facilitate works to 104 homes to accommodate need. This includes the 23 grants that have been paid for adaptations to Local Authority Homes in the Ennis area to a value of €155,000.*

*Approved Housing Bodies (AHB’s) are very active in this area with phase 2 of the Cuan an Chláir scheme imminently due for completion. This scheme will accommodate 15 households over the age of 65.*

*This Council leads the Housing & Disability Steering Group who meet quarterly to discuss and prioritise accommodation for persons with disabilities. For new schemes properties designed to universal design standards will accommodate most tenants and individual need can be accommodated at allocation stage.*

*For clients with needs that cannot be accommodated within the universal design i.e. where hoists are required, we do consult with the client and medical team to deliver the accommodation necessary for independent living. As the majority of these clients are accommodated through AHB’s the consultation would generally be between the client, the AHB and the HSE.*

*Clare County Council does not pre-allocate properties i.e. properties are not allocated until such time as they are ready for occupation. There is a pilot of an ‘offer window’ in a number of authorities. This offer window provides notice to the client of the proposed allocation and gives 6 months for arrangements to be put in place to support independent living. The Housing Agency will collate the feedback on the pilot with a view to rolling it out to all local authorities.*

*Seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor and agreed by all members.*

Cllr. A. Norton commended the work of the Housing Department and proposed that the focus be on planned disability housing as opposed to remedial adaptation works. Cllr. Norton requested that the Housing Department review the issue and advance the planning of disability housing.

**No. 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly**

I request Ennis MD to consider developing the derelict Stone Building as a changing room, located opposite the Old Pier at Ballyallia Lake, as up to 30 swimmers swim there on a daily basis.

***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:***

*This needs to be considered with the overall development proposal for Ballyallia Lake Amenity. The Ennis MD Office are examining the structure and consulting with the Planning and Environment Sections to see if the structure has to remain in its present form or whether alteration could be considered to make it more appropriate for a swimming shelter.*

*Seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy and agreed by all members.*

Discussion ensued and members welcomed this initiative, acknowledging the popularity of this amenity during Covid-19. The benefit to the area of a changing facility was unanimously agreed.

**No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy**

Further to report of near-miss incidents on the L8172 road in Doora and its use as a shortcut between the Quin road and the Tulla road, that efforts be undertaken to slow down the traffic that is using this narrow and windy road.

***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:***

*The Ennis MD Office has inspected the road and is consulting with the Road Design Section and other Municipal Districts to confirm the appropriate provision of warning signs at the entry points from the Knockanean and Quin Roads. The nature of the road would restrict road traffic speeds and drivers are obliged (a) to exercise due care and attention at all times (b) should always take the prevailing road conditions into account and (c) always drive taking other users of the road into account.*

*Seconded by Cllr P. Dal and agreed by all members.*

Senior Engineer, Eamon O’Dea was thanked by Cllr. C. Molloy for the response and his efforts to influence motorist behaviour in what is a difficult narrow road. In response to whether further signage would be beneficial, Eamon O’Dea replied that uniformity of signage is required for all roads and signage is limited to outlining the basic rules of the road appropriate to that road.

**No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy**

Clarecastle Village

"I am requesting that speed surveys are carried out in the vicinity of Clarecastle School. This follows reports to me of excessive speeding by motorists on the way in, and out of Clarecastle. Following this, if required, I call on appropriate traffic calming measures to be introduced and that Ennis Municipal District write to Ennis Gardaí requesting spot checks in this area".

***Eamon O’Dea, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:***

*Speed Surveys will be undertaken and the results of the surveys will be forwarded to the Garda Siochana. The Ennis MD will be submitting a proposal to the National Transport Authority under Active Travel Funding for the renewing of the roads markings installed some years ago at Clarecastle and Barefield Schools and if funding is not forthcoming it will be funded by means of the Discretionary Maintenance Grant in the 2021 Roadworks Programme.*

*Seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all members.*

Senior Engineer, Eamon O’Dea was thanked by Cllr. P. Murphy for a very positive response to this Notice.

**No. 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn**

Long-term vacant shops and other commercial properties on the streets of both Ennis and surrounding villages can ultimately lead to dilapidation, dereliction and desertion of the buildings. Such abandoned buildings send a message of disregard for the wider community. Ennis Municipal District ask Clare County Council to put in place a strategy including financial incentives and penalties to generate activity to bring these vacant buildings back into commercial or residential use.

***Carmel Green, Senior Executive Officer, replied as follows:***

*The Ennis 2040 Spatial and Economic Strategy is an ambitious vision which will deliver economic investment and benefits to the town of Ennis in the short, medium and long term, ultimately making Ennis one of the best places to live, work and visit.*

*Implementation of the strategy with other incentives will transform Ennis, enabling the town to prosper as a successful, diverse and vibrant social, civic, commercial, cultural and residential centre. The creation of a vibrant Town Centre as outlined in the Ennis 2040 Strategy will require spatial change, enhanced public realm and improved accessibility, to achieve real economic improvements and attract investment. Linked to this will be a re-invigoration of the town centre and an incentive for property owners in the town to meet the transformational challenge.*

***Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance and Support Services, replied as follows:***

*It is intended that a focus on derelict sites in the town will target those which can yield economic benefits, provide town housing such as living over the shop while improving the visual attractiveness of the town. Since taking over this function in March 2020, a small derelict sites team has already made progress on some sites. Issues such as ownership, title and resources will be obstacles, but we will have to find new ways of approaching such issues up to and including the Derelict sites levy and Compulsory acquisition of the properties which continue to be derelict.*

*The legislation governing Commercial Rates on properties does provide a reserved function to local authority members to make a decision at the statutory budget meeting each year to specify a local electoral area or local electoral areas that rate vacancy relief would apply for the whole of the financial year where certain criteria is satisfied. This legislation is an avenue for members to adopt in order to provide incentives to property owners to bring these vacant buildings back into commercial or residential use.*

*Of the commercial properties deemed vacant in draft budget 2021, over 50% of these properties are in areas where there is no significant commercial demand. Vacancy is not a choice by owners in these scenarios. Implementing a rate charge on some electoral area vacant properties where there is no commercial demand will not provide an income stream to this council.*

*It is proposed based on the input of members in this and other recent notice of motions that for draft Budget 2021, a scheme in relation to the regeneration of vacant properties will be proposed to members.*

*Seconded by Cllr. P Daly and agreed by all members.*

The detailed response from SEO Carmel Green and Director of Service Noeleen Fitzgerald was welcomed by Cllr. J. Flynn and he highlighted their importance in ensuring the attractiveness of Ennis town centre. Members acknowledged the innovative solutions of the Executive, such as the Long-Term Vacant Property Scheme, in helping to support local businesses whilst minimising the effects of dereliction. It was acknowledged that these initiatives link in to the “Everybody Loves Ennis” and “Shop Local” culture. It was suggested that Ennis could follow the European model of apartment living in the centre of town both for vibrancy and safety efforts, and this could be considered by property owners in the context of an ease on “change-of-use” planning restrictions.

**No. 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor**

This motion requests an update on negotiations with the ESB regarding works to be carried out at the ESB sub station located at Knockaderry Grove.

***Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer replied as follows:***

*The Derelict sites function transferred to Economic Development Directorate in March 2020.   Due to Covid restrictions, limited site visits were conducted, however, this site was visited, and a full report done.   The Derelict sites team has been in regular communication with the ESB Property Services Division and has made considerable progress in this matter.  It is anticipated that improvement works will be carried out by the ESB before Christmas, following the completion of their procurement process for the works in question.*

*Seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by all members.*

The response was acknowledged by Cllr M. Nestor who welcomed the engagement by ESB following a period of no progress. Discussion ensued and members highlighted the unattractiveness of the building.

It was agreed that Ennis Municipal District would make a submission to the Clare County Development Plan to have this building decommissioned.

**No. 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard**

Is there any update on the promised provision and reinstatement of seating in John O'Sullivan Park /Lee's Road?

***Tim Forde, Manager Lees Road, replied as follows:***

*The plan for the replacement and provision of benches in Lees Rd is part of our ‘Works Plan’ 2021. This work will begin immediately in the new year.*

*Our budget for 2020 has been spent due to the onset of the pandemic, and the additional costs required to follow HSE/Government guidelines.*

*Seconded by Cllr P. Murphy and agreed by all members.*

The response was welcomed by Cllr. M. Howard who stressed that the seating had been requested but acknowledged the impact of Covid19 on the delivery of same.

**No. 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly**

I ask Ennis MD to identify who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the bungalows at Pairc Na Coille, Showgrounds, Ennis

***Siobhan McNulty, Senior Executive Officer replied as follows:***

*Clare County Council has 20-year lease agreements for the properties at Pairc na Coille. The Council are leasing the individual properties and are responsible for general maintenance and the upkeep of the properties. Structural issues remain the responsibility of the property owner. The properties have a BER rating of C3, this rating generally in-line with the standard achieved by CCC following energy efficiency upgrade.*

*The Council has inspected a sample of properties in the estate and has committed to service the gas boilers and while undertaking works lay additional attic insulation to improve the level of comfort for the tenants. These planned works will commence in the coming weeks subject to easing of Level 5 COVID restrictions.*

*Seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by all members.*

Cllr. P. Daly thanked Senior Executive Officer Siobhan McNulty for her response and that he very much welcomed the informative report on this important facility.

**Item No. 8 Correspondence**

None.

**Item No. 9 Any Other Business**

Members expressed their condolences to Barry Walsh, Facilities Team, on the recent passing of his sister Tania. May she rest in peace.

Members expressed their condolences to the family of Gerry Kenny, Old Gort Road, Ennis. May he rest in peace.

Members extended congratulations to Niall O’Keeffe, Administrative Officer, on his retirement and an appreciation of his contribution to the former Town Council.

Members wished Gemma Culhane, former Staff Officer, Ennis Municipal District success in her new role in Limerick City & County Council.

Cllr J. Flynn voiced concern with regard to the newly opened Homesavers in Ballymaley Business Park and advised of a recent issue whereby Waterford City & County were involved in a High Court injunction, in regard to 3 premises which had been operating outside of planning legislation. Cllr P. Murphy agreed to make contact with the Planning section to seek an update.

Cllr P. Murphy raised the issue of water on the road near St Flannans, between the roundabout and Captain Mac’s Cross. Eamon O Dea, Senior Engineer outlined that works are scheduled for next year.

Cllr A. Norton requested that greater consideration be given to prioritising Members of the Ennis Municipal District, particularly the Mayor of Ennis, for inclusion on any ceremonial, media or other events, especially when the event pertains to the Ennis area.  It was agreed that this topic would be forwarded to the Corporate Policy Group.

Cllr P. Daly enquired if consideration is being given to linking Drumcliff Road with Tulla Road. Eamon O’Dea, Senior Engineer, explained that this work is in the Development Plan under Strategic Infrastructure.

Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy sought clarification on the next step regarding the illegal encampment on Council lands on the Quin Road, in light of the recent favourable High Court appeal. Carmel Kirby, Director of Service, explained that the Director of Service with responsibility for Housing would now follow due process following the High Court appeal decision.

Cllr P Murphy complimented the works on the cycle routes which are being well utilised, especially by the ‘Cycle Bus’. He also congratulated Ennis National School on being crowned ‘Cycling School of the Year 2020’ as part of the Green Schools Travel Green Flag Awards.

Chair Cllr P. Murphy closed the meeting wishing all a very happy Christmas.

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

 Mayor of Ennis

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

 Meetings Administrator

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