**Minutes of the February 2020**

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

**held at 10.30am on Tuesday 11th February, 2020,**

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

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

**Present:**

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

**Officials:** Carmel Kirby, Director of Service, 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. P. Murphy, Cllr. M. Nestor

**Item No. 1. Minutes of the January, 2020 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th January 2020.**

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

**Item No. 2. Matters Arising**

Cllr J. Flynn looked for an update on Corrovorrin and Kilmorane from Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer. Reply was as follows:

* Kilmorane has been referred to the Road Design office.
* Corrovorrin did not receive funding under the Low Cost Safety Scheme. A request has been submitted to prepare preliminary drawings in order to progress the matter further.

**Item No. 3. Age Friendly Parking**

Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer informed the meeting that it is proposed that a total of 20 Age Friendly Parking spaces will be provided in a number of locations around the town. There will be two parking spaces allocated together, highlighted by Age Friendly Parking signage and markings. It is intended that the signs and markings will be advanced by Easter. It was clarified that the spaces are geared for 55 and over, they will continue to be paid car parking spaces and that it would be voluntary. The meeting welcomed the initiative, highlighting the need for more disabled parking and asked to look at Autism Friendly Parking spaces.

**Item No.4. Notices of Motion:**

**No. 1 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy & seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**That an update on the upgrading of the footpaths at St Senan’s Road be provided.

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

The Ennis MD replaced footpath in this area recently. On further examination the remaining footpaths were found to be in a reasonable condition.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

As Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy and Cllr. A. Norton have to attend a meeting re URDF funding at 11:30 a.m. it was agree to continue to Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy’s next Notice of Motion and then Cllr. M. Howards two notice of motions.

**No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy & seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

That examination be undertaken to address the speeding in Balloughboy, route connecting Quin Road to Knockanean.

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

The Ennis MD will carry out speed surveys on this section of the Ballaghboy Road which is a 50kph speed limit. Additional repeater 50kph signs were installed onthis section of road in December 2019

*Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy acknowledged that there are a number of signs already in place but asked could VMS signs could be erected. She requested an update from Eamon O’Dea on the road crossing at Ballaghboy Road. The road is unsuitable for large vehicles. Eamon replied that the road from Gaurus to the Quin Road is currently being monitored for speed by road counters. If VMS signs are used too frequently they lose their impact. The road connecting the Quin Road to the N85 has signs stating vehicles restricted.*

**No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard & seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

Due to heavy footfall and littering I request the litter bins be placed at the locations of Mill Steam / Mill Water Wheel and outside the shops on the Turnpike.

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

Litter bins are provided on the river walk immediately adjacent to the Mill Wheel area and there is a litter picking routine for this area. The Ennis MD is not inclined to increase the number of litter bins provided in the Town. The existing litter bin at the Old National School car park could be moved to the wider paving area at Carmody Street near D’Arcy’s Corner.

*Cllr. M. Howard has received a number of calls from residents of Millstream saying it is a litter black spot. Shops have complained that bins outside their premises are filling very fast and not from rubbish generated from the shop.*

**No. 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard & seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

I request that Ennis Municipal District Executive contact both Bus Eireann and the National Transport Authority. The local bus service is very confusing not just for locals but those visiting our town and county. Bus stops have no signage and only one has a shelter. We request that all stops are clearly identified and that shelter is provided for those wishing to use the Bus Eireann service.

***No response required***

*Cllr. M. Howard informed the meeting that if you look at the Transport for Ireland website, details of bus stops in Ennis are displayed incorrectly. Majority of bus stops do not have bus shelters and are open to the elements. Cllr Howard requested that Bus Eireann need to come to the table and deliver a proper service. Discussion ensued between members supporting this motion and highlighting the importance of having a proper bus service. Cllr Daly highlighted the inadequate staffing levels in Ennis Bus Station. Eamon O’Dea Senior Executive Engineer advised that the provision of bus stops is the responsibility of the Local Authority. Eamon acknowledged that work needs to be completed which should be done through central funding. Carmel Kirby Director of Services welcomed comments made by the Elected Members. Clare County Council are preparing a mobility plan for Ennis and will include this as part of the plan.*

**No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy, proposed by Cllr. A. Norton (in the absence of Cllr. P. Murphy) & seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

Re Cycle paths from St. Flannan's College to Clonroadmore/Kilrush road and associated roads I am requesting the following or that the following issues be addressed,

1. That the crossing at O'Sullivan and Hansbery's is re-introduced.
2. That the raised embankment between O'Sullivan and Hansbery's and the junction adjacent to NC Paints is removed in order to extend the cycle way.
3. That the pedestrian and cycle markings on the approach to Ennis N.S. are replenished and identified separately by painting them different colours.
4. That bollards are erected on the roundabout on the approach road to Ennis N.S. in order to prevent parking on the circumference of the roundabout.
5. That the exit/entry point between this road and the main Kilrush road is slightly re-configured in order to facilitate two cars to gain entry onto the roundabout at the same time, this will alleviate traffic congestion.
6. That traffic calming is improved on the approach to Woodhaven Estate, to safeguard pedestrians crossing at this point.
7. That safety at the Eire Og crossing is improved by introducing rumble strips or additional road markings.
8. That bollards and armadillos are introduced from Clareabbey roundabout to St. Flannan's.

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

1. The Road Design section are the designer for the cycle way scheme and they have been requested to examine if the existing uncontrolled crossing point is suitable. If it is deemed not to be suitable then consideration will need to be given as to whether the location is suitable for a controlled crossing and thereafter what form of controlled crossing is required.
2. This will be examined in conjunction with the proposed pedestrian crossing location to give appropriate width for a cycle way/walkway.
3. The pedestrian cycle way markings will be placed on line marking works list. We need to conform with the colour requirements as outlined in the traffic signs and cycle way manuals.
4. The Ennis MD undertook to do this work once we confirmed that the positioning of the bollard would not affect larger vehicles. The bollards will be installed before the end of February.
5. The Ennis MD Identified to the Road Design Section that this needs to be designed and sent for approval to the TII. Subject to the TII approval, the works are to be completed before the housing scheme is completed at Ashline.
6. The Ennis MD office is looking at a means of cautioning motorists to reduce the speed of vehicles turning into Woodhaven from the Kilrush direction.
7. This will be referred to Road Design Section.
8. This will be referred to Road Design Section.

Items outlined above will require to be designed and evaluated and a means of funding found for the works.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn & seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

I ask Ennis Municipal District to raise the level and resurface the frequently water logged footpath at St Flannan’s wall adjacent to Main road roundabout

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

The Ennis MD Office are aware of the location and this is on the list of footpath repair works.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

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

This motion calls on Clare County Council to engage with the energy provider, to improve the quality of lighting in the Kincora Park and Shannon Park Estates on Lifford Road.

**No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton & seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

Can the Stone Park to Ballyallia Road be put onto the roads program for 2020.

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

This road is listed for works on the draft Roadworks Programme 2020 which will form part of the SMDW 2020 which will be before the Councillors in March

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly & seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

I request Ennis MD to seek department funding for the extension of the new road adjacent to Our Lady’s Hospital and to continue onto the main Tulla Road.

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

The Council submitted this infrastructure project under the last submission for Urban Regeneration and Development Fund URDF and were unsuccessful in the application. The next round of URDF funding is due to be announced and the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government will be holding workshops on the application process for URDF funding. The Council will have greater clarity on the criteria for applications under the fund and then can prioritise the applications for URDF funding.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion and hope Council will apply for funding again.*

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

"I am proposing that Ennis Municipal District adopt a policy whereby recipients of community funding/festival and events funding receive their allocations in a public forum by the Municipal District Mayor of the day".

**No. 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn & seconded by Cllr. P. Daly**

Traffic-calming & safety works including ramps be provided along St Senan’s road, a road which is a cycle path route and is used by vulnerable road users (including older residents and school children) which is being used as a rat run resulting in excessive speeding.

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

The Ennis MD Office will carry out further speed surveys to determine the level of excessive speeding at this location.

*It was highlighted that this estate has a long straight road and may resulting in speeding.*

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

This motion calls on Clare County Council to engage with management and residents of the Páirc na Coille retirement village, to put a viable and sustainable plan in place for the usage of the communal room in the Retirement village.

**No. 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton & seconded by Cllr. P. Daly**

Can we get an update on illegal encampments in the Ennis MD and ask when they will be removed.

**Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer replied as follows:**

A process for addressing illegal encampments in the Ennis Municipal District is in place. In the case of illegal encampments located at Clare Technology Park, Gort Road & Skehanagh, Clarecastle the appropriate notifications of trespass have been reported to An Garda Siochana who are currently engaging with the occupants there.

In the case of the illegal encampment at Ashline, Kilrush Road, this matter is the subject of ongoing legal proceedings which remain sub judice and so a further update cannot be provided at this time.

The illegal encampment at Doora is currently being reviewed with a view to taking the necessary action in this case.

*Members noted the frustration among members of the public with regarding illegal encampments throughout the county and the incorrect perception that no action has been taken.*

**No. 14 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly & seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

I ask Ennis MD to arrange for street lighting (possible 3 to 4 poles) from Kerin’s Cross to the slip road onto the motorway at Skehanagh Clarecastle.

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

The Council does not recommend the provision of public lighting in rural area, such provision would only be considered where there are defined road safety concerns. There is no central funding for such works and subject to the provision of the public lighting meeting defined road safety concerns, use of the General Municipal Allocation Funding would have to be considered.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**Item No. 5. Correspondence**

Letter from Terry Dunne, Principal Officer, Air Quality, Noise & Radiation, Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment was read out.

**Item No. 6. AOB**

Cllr J. Flynn sought an update on Station Court and Parnell Street for a later date.

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

Mayor of Ennis

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

Meetings Administrator

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