**Minutes of the January 2020**

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

**held at 10.30am on Tuesday 14th January, 2020,**

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

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

**Present:**

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

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

**Apologies:**

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

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

**Item No. 2. Matters Arising**

**Item No. 3. Tidy Towns Presentation**

*Cormac Mc Carthy, Chairperson of Ennis Tidy Towns gave a comprehensive presentation on the broad range of activities and initiatives undertaken in recent years by Ennis Tidy Towns referencing the seven awards picked up by Ennis Tidy Towns in 2019 including Large Urban Centre, Pollinator Award, Community Climate Action Award and Schools Award.*

*Cormac gave an overview of the many community groups that Tidy Towns actively collaborates with including Ennis Sub Aqua, Macra na Feirme, Lions Club, Clare County Council, Active Ennis, Civil Defence, The Chamber of Commerce, The Hotels Federation, Irish Rail, local businesses and many others.*

*Cormac continued the presentation with an emphasis on Biodiversity and Pollinators noting a number of initiatives that Ennis pioneered and Ennis Tidy Towns continued efforts to share their knowledge with other groups for the benefit of the wider community. Cormac concluded his presentation by thanking the Elected Members for their continued support and hopes that 2020 would be another successful year for Ennis Tidy Towns.*

*The Mayor thanked Cormac, the Tidy Towns committee and volunteers for all they do for the Town of Ennis with the Members expressing belief that 2020 was going to be the year that brings gold to Ennis in the National Tidy Towns competition.*

*Carmel Kirby, Director of Service echoed these sentiments and the work done by Tidy Towns in making the Town look so well. She noted the fantastic community effort, the inclusive nature of Tidy Towns which has volunteers of all ages, ability and cultural backgrounds. The Director advised that the funding awarded to Ennis Tidy Towns are agreed collectively by the Ennis MD Elected Members under the General Municipal Allocation.*

*Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer on behalf of all Ennis MD staff expressed his gratitude to Ennis Tidy Towns for their work throughout the year and in particular their collaboration with Ennis MD and Tommy Scott, Executive Technician, whose partnership approach has delivered many successful initiatives.*

*Members referenced that Councillors Howard and Nestor were the current nominated Members of Ennis MD to Ennis Tidy Towns.*

**Welcome to Chief Superintendant Sean Colleran.**

*The Mayor welcomed the Chief Superintendent to the Meeting and called on the Director to speak.*

*Carmel Kirby, Director of Service welcomed the Chief Superintendant and referenced the significant demands on his time due to the recent national restructuring of An Garda Siochana Divisions. She expressed her satisfaction that the divisional Garda HQ for Clare and Tipperary is in Ennis and advised members that she had recently met with both the Chief Superintendant and the Chief Executive of Clare County Council on the challenges facing both parties. She further referenced the excellent working relationship that exists between Clare County Council, An Garda Síochána and other state agencies such as the HSE.*

*Chief Superintendant, Sean Colleran thanked the Members for the warm welcome and he apologised for not formally notifying them of his attendance. He acknowledged the strong working relationship between the County Council and An Garda Síochána, a relationship he believed existed as a result of past engagement and experience, which he committed to building on. He advised Members that he understood the issues and concerns which had been raised by Members and the public via the Joint Policing Committee. He referenced the location of a new Garda sexual offences and vulnerable persons unit in Crusheen. He further confirmed that the recent restructuring would not see any reduction in service but rather a standardisation of services across divisions nationwide noting that the Gardaí would continue to work with the entire community for the good of the community.*

*The Members thanked the Chief Superintendent for his attendance noting their commitment to working with him in the future.*

**Item No. 4. Part VIII Tim Smythe Park**

A six page Planning report and appendices was circulated to the Members from Senior Planner, Brian Mc Carthy dated 22nd December 2019 on the Part VIII for works to Tim Smythe Park.

*This item was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor and agreed by members.*

**Item No. 5. GMA 2019**

*This item was deferred with the agreement of the Members*

**Item No. 6. Notices of Motion:**

**No. 1 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy & seconded by Cllr. P Daly**

In light of the dangerous conditions that pertain on the R352 Tulla Road from Spancilhill Cross to Kilfilum Cross (Toureen) due to its narrowness and due to the flooding that occurs due to the unfinished drainage, that this section of roadway be designed to address these dangers, and that funding for the works be sought from the Department.

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

The Ennis MD office has raised this notice of motion with the Senior Engineer in Transportation to identify how the Council can seek funding for such works and how they are prioritised within Clare County Council.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy & seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

Given the ongoing dangers for pedestrians and cyclists in particular, at Clareabbey Roundabout, I wish to be briefed on the improved safety measures that have been submitted for consideration to T.I.I.

**Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design Office, replied as follows:**

The draft proposals submitted to TII for consideration are as follows:

Three options are under consideration for provision of improved pedestrian and cyclist facilities. All three include the following elements:

A proposed off road route around the west side with no changes proposed to the road access to Clareabbey or the N85 east, a 3m wide cyclepath/footpath around the west side of the roundabout, circulating carriageway reduced to 7.5m, changes to the entry and exit geometry, accommodation of the Maxol Service Station entrance and exit including provision for articulated vehicles exiting from the relocated exit onto the roundabout, entry and exit ramps to connect the road to the off road paths, yellow hatching and bar markings on the N85, grey background sign for Ennis with 50kph speed limit sign, all associated new warning signage including speed display signs on the N85 east and west, all associated new road markings, vegetation removal, high friction surfacing, bollards.

Option 1 includes a puffin crossing (signal controlled pedestrian crossing) of the R458 south of Maxol with uncontrolled crossings of the R458 north and N85 west close to the roundabout.

Option 2 is as per Option 1 but with a puffin crossing on the N85 west approx 50m from the roundabout instead of an uncontrolled crossing close to the roundabout.

Option 3 includes puffin crossings on N85 west, R458 north both approx 50m from the roundabout and a puffin crossing of the R458 south of Maxol.

We consulted with cyclists and cycling organisations and received useful feedback indicating that crossings close to the roundabout are not favoured at this location.

Option 3 is the recommended option.

Note that works in the vicinity of the R473 junction would also be required to tie into the existing on road cycle lanes.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion but expressed their frustration with the length of time that has passed in trying to arrive at a solution at this location. Members noted that the TII were the lead organisation regarding a solution here. Eamon O’Dea advised that Ennis MD and Clare County Councils Road Design team will invest time in trying to progress the matter with TII. He further advised that he will revert to the Members with an update on the matter but that it was unlikely to be in time for the next monthly meeting.*

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

That a report be provided outlining which of  the individual recommendations of the Ennis UDC commissioned 2007/8 Ennis town centre carparking report have been implemented  and an update on the remaining ones yet to be implemented.

**Leonore O Neill, SEO replied as follows:**

Parking Consultants Ltd. were commissioned to provide a Special Report on Car parking in Ennis in July 2008. The report looked at background trends, patterns and policies, town centre parking, adequacy of parking provision in the town, projections for future parking demands up to 2018 and policy initiatives for consideration including:

* Increase car parking charges in prime parking areas and extend the 1 and 2 hour maximum stay spaces
* Increase both short stay and long stay parking charges in the retail core.
* Re-organise the Friars Walk car park to eliminate the 25% of spaces dedicated to long stay parking.  The whole car park should be short stay with maximum stays of 2 hours to optimise space turnover.
* Review the Council non-residential special parking permit scheme to ensure optimum space turnover in prime parking areas.
* Review the policy of accepting capital contributions in lieu of providing on-site parking at new town centre developments.

It found that while the number of parking spaces were sufficient at that time, additional parking spaces were required over the lifetime of the plan to meet the projected need to 2018.

Parking in Ennis was reviewed again in 2017, following workshops held in 2015 which focused on the availability of parking and the parking price.  This resulted in an increase in the minimum charge for on-street parking, a decrease in the minimum charge for council owned car parks, and a change in the length of stay permitted per unit charge, the intention being that shorter times in car park spaces would increase the turnover of spaces within the town centre.  It further identified the need for providing additional parking spaces.

Clare County Council, through the Ennis Municipal District, continue to actively explore options available for the provision of additional off-street car parking.  The Ennis 2040 Strategy also examines Parking option. This will be further explored and addressed through the mobility plan (to include a parking strategy) which will be prepared following the adoption of the Ennis 2040 Strategy.  It should be noted that private sector investment in parking is contingent on making a return on investment, and this may require a review of both the business and residential permit system, as well as a further review of parking charges to ensure that they do not act as a deterrent to investment.

*This Notice of Motion was not moved as it was agreed a work shop would be facilitated with the Elected Members on the issue of car parking.*

**No. 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor & seconded by Cllr. P. Daly**

This motion calls on Clare County Council to examine the possibility of creating a larger loading bay area in the upper market area of the town.

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

There are two loading bays in this area of the Upper Market, one which has a time restriction up to 11.00 each day and the other is available all day. The extending of a loading bay will require to be reasonably flat, adequate space for the truck to pull in parallel to the footpath, sufficient space for it to pull out, cater for the length of a full size delivery truck and its rear loading platform with adequate space to the rear of the platform for hand operated walk behind fork lift units. A standard sized delivery truck with a rear loading unit will require a minimum length of 11metres plus extra entry and exit space given that the vehicle is 8m long and 2.5m wide.

The extending of the existing loading bay at Market Place will require the removal of three perpendicular parking spaces. There are two alternative location that could be considered adjacent to the Market Place Roundabout on the lower section of Summerhill and Lower Market Street

*Cllr. Nestor welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion. He raised the concerns of business owners in the area regarding inadequate loading bays and queried if it was possible to provide a loading bay island along the centreline in the market area in the interest of both pedestrians and lorry drivers. Eamon O’Dea advised the members that there were a number of technical and practical issues at play at this location, including the amount of space required for commercial vehicles, the clearance needed at the rear of these vehicles and the camber of the road. Eamon committed to looking at the location to see what might be feasible.*

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

I request Ennis MD roads department to survey the latter part of the footpath on the Lahinch Road. The surface is nonexistent in some sections. Particularly the section opposite the entrance to the Woodlawn Estate going towards Inis Grove.

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

This section of footpath has been inspected by the Ennis MD and will be completed when works crews are in this area.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was joined to No. 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton & seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

Can Ennis Municipal District look at repairing and putting up new signage in the village of Barefield.

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

The Ennis MD Office will examine the road signage at Barefield and replace/upgrade those that are not in good condition.

*Cllr. Norton welcomed the response and noted that some of the issues raised had been identified in a Tidy Towns assessment. Members welcomed the response while noting concerns regarding the speed of vehicles, parking and footpaths in the village centre. The Members expressed the view that any enhancement to the village would be welcome. Eamon O’Dea committed to looking at the possibility of adapting the footpath at Clare Crusaders and will revert at a future date.*

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

I ask Ennis MD to look at improving the sight distance at the exit of the Green Road onto the main Tulla Road in the parish of Clooney.

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

The Ennis MD Office will request that this location would be considered for a Low Cost Safety Scheme application in 2021 by the Road Design Section.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy & seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy**

That a timeframe for the road dressing needed on the Mine Road in DOORA be provided.

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

This road is in the three year roadworks programme and works will be undertaken in 2020.

*Cllr. Colleran Molloy welcomed the response.*

**No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy & seconded by Cllr C. Colleran Molloy.**

That the persistent problem of rainwater lodging on the roadside/edge of footpath between Captain Mac's cross and the Clare road roundabout is investigated. Pedestrians are reporting of getting soaked on their way in and out of town.

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

The Ennis MD office has examined the existing storm water network on the Clare Road from Captain Macs Cross to St Flannan’s Roundabout and repairs /replacement and jetting is required and works shall be done under drainage funding in the 2020 Roadworks Programme. Jetting and CCTV work has been carried out on a number of gully outlets between the St Flannan’s Roundabout and Abbeyville-Abbeycourt and work will be required at one location.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**No. 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn & seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.**

That a report be provided on the progress being made in terms of the drafting of the Ennis 2040 strategy.

**Liam Conneally, Director of Service, Economic Development, replied as follows:**

In September 2019 the Ennis 2040 Steering Group on receipt of professional advice decided that the Ennis 2040 Economic & Spatial Strategy required SEA Screening, AA and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment be done as part of the Strategy making process. This work was not included in the original tender brief.

The Group felt that doing such work at this stage would expedite the Ennis 2040 Strategy’s implementation and while an additional 4 months would be required to prepare the Strategy (due to the additional SEA, AA and SFRA work) this was a small time cost for the long-term benefits that the Ennis 2040 Strategy will bring to the town.

On completion of this additional work a draft Ennis 2040 Strategy should be prepared by February 2020 and once to hand will be circulated to Ennis 2040 Steering and Working Groups for inputs and thereafter to the Ennis MD and full Council for approval.

*Members welcomed the response and acknowledged Liam Conneally’s update, noting the delay due to environmental screening. Carmel Kirby, Director of Service, advised that once the environmental screening was complete the Members will be consulted at final draft stage. Carmel further advised that this was expected to be in quarter one of 2020.*

**No. 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor & seconded by Cllr. P. Daly**

This motion calls on Clare County Council to carry out flood prevention works at Honans Terrace, at the rear entrance to Dan McInerneys coal merchant yard.

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

This area is protected under the Upper Fergus Certified Drainage Scheme and the flooding identified in the notice of motion relates to road surface water that requires the provision of a road gully at this location. This work is proposed to be done under drainage funding in the 2020 road works programme.

**No. 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard & seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

The hoarding at the rear of Bramble Lane (Hawthorns) is in a bad state so much so children can directly access to inner relief road (N85).  This needs to be dealt with urgently.

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

The Ennis MD Office will examine the location at Bramble Lane (Hawthorns) and make necessary arrangements for the repair of the fence.

*The Members welcomed the response noting the concerns of parents regarding the condition of the hoarding & potential access onto the N85*

**No. 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton & seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn**

Can Ennis Municipal District look at putting a pedestrian crossing at the cross from the Clare Crusaders Clinic to the school for the safety of the children.

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

The Ennis MD Office will examine the location at Barefield and confirm if a controlled crossing point at the junction of the R458 in Barefield is in accordance with DTTAS Guidelines. If the evaluation does not meet the requirement for a controlled crossing, the Ennis MD will install an uncontrolled crossing point at this location with the facility to make provision for a controlled crossing.

*This Notice of Motion was joined with Notice of Motion No. 6 for the purpose of this meeting.*

**No. 14 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly & seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.**

I request Ennis MD to upgrade the main Turnpike Road from D’Arcy’s Corner all the way up to the roundabout at the top end of the Turnpike.

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

The Turnpike Road is listed in the three year roadworks programme and is listed in both 2020 and 2021. The Ennis MD Office will examine the other roads proposed for structural asphaltic work and see if their condition will permit deferral such that the Turnpike Road can be completed in one year.

*Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion*

**Item No. 8. Correspondence**

*There was no correspondence*

**Item No. 10. AOB**

**●** *Cllr. Flynn sought an update on Kilmorane, Kilrush Road. Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, advised that Ennis MD were in contact with Road Design on this issue and will revert back to the Members as soon as an update is available. Eamon further advised that the TII have responsibility over this location. It was agreed that this item would be dealt with under Matters Arising at the February meeting and would be a standing item on the Agenda going forward.*

**●** *Cllr. Flynn sought an update on Corrovorrin junction. Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, advised that the location had been submitted to the Road Design Section for inclusion on the list of Low Cost Safety Schemes. Once that list is available, this will determine the priority given to projects on the list.*

**●** *Members expressed their condolences to Barry Conway, Executive Engineer, on the recent passing of his father Mr. Patrick Conway. May he rest in peace.*

**●** *Members expressed their condolences to the Harding, White and Moloney families on the recent tragedy of family member, Mr. Fran Harding.*

**●***Members expressed their condolences to the Waters family on the passing of TJ Waters, former president of Ennis Chamber of Commerce who led the Information Age Town and former Chair of Ennis Phoenix Twinning Committee.*

**●** *The Mayor expressed his gratitude to the Executive and staff of Ennis Municipal District for all the work being done including funding acquired & the co-ordination of Christmas events in the town.*

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

Mayor of Ennis

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

Meetings Administrator

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