

**Minutes of the July 2020
Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee,
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 7th July, 2020,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

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

Officials: Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer & Meetings Administrator, Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Gemma Culhane, Staff Officer

Item No. 1. Minutes of the June 2020 Meeting of Municipal District Ennis Committee held on 11th June at 2.30pm

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

Item No.2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Item No.3. Section 38 report – Clarecastle UVF

A report on Section 38 process for Proposed Town and Village Renewal Scheme (Traffic Calming) at Main Street (R458) Clarecastle was circulated to the Members

This item was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by members.

Members welcomed this item and looked forward to its fruition. Members acknowledged that the works undertaken will enhance the facilities within the village and lead to a much improved quality of lives for both residents and visitors.

Item No.4. GMA

A report on the General Municipal Allocations 2020 dated the 7th July, 2020 was circulated to the Members

This item was proposed by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by members.

Members expressed their appreciation of the work carried out by the Ennis MD staff.

Item No.5. Earthroutes

Members had a lengthy discussion on the updated report - Recreational Trails in Ennis and Environs 2019 – A revisit of an initial study undertaken in 2009. Cllr. J. Flynn outlined that the initial report was commissioned back in 2008 and unfortunately due to the financial constraints, it wasn't feasible to progress the trails identified.

There was unanimous welcome for the updated report, in particular, the trails identified, with the potential of 5 very important walking and cycling routes from Ennis to Shannon. It was noted that the West Clare Rail Greenway should be incorporated into the report. The benefits of having these routes would promote physical and mental wellbeing for all.

The Members requested that the author of the report be invited to give a presentation on the updated report and it's possible implementation at a future meeting.

Item No.6. Section 183 Proposed Refurbishment of County Museum Building (report herewith)

A report from the Economic Development Directorate dated 6th July 2020 on the P20-8002 – Part VIII for refurbishment of County Museum Building in Ennis, incorporating Ennis Tourist Office at Friary Car Park, Clonroadbeg, Ennis was circulated to the Members.

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

Members welcomed this item and expressed their wish to have a digital hub in Ennis. Carmel Kirby, Director of Service, advised that a number of options are being examined for a digit hub in Ennis.

Item No. 7. Notice of Motions

No. 1 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly

That the approach roads to Ennis be cleared of the weeds, which are particularly high on the Kilrush Road.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The normal weed treatment works were deferred due to Covid 19 guidelines from the Government. Weather conditions last winter and springtime were conducive to the growth of weeds. The Ennis MD Crews have been engaged in clearing areas closer to the town centre since resumption of works were permitted under Covid 19 guidance and works will proceed on the Kilrush Road and other areas as resources are available.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, advised that due to COVID19 guidelines, weed treatment works had only recently re-commenced and confirmed that spraying was generally carried out early in the morning. He advised that improvements should be visible over the coming days and weeks.

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

That Ennis Municipal District identify and develop an overnight parking area for Motorhomes close to the town centre. This is a market that should be targeted, particularly in these current times as foreign travel will not be very prevalent for the foreseeable future. The main requirements are a chemical toilet discharge point, regular wastewater discharge and running water (a tap). The fees recouped would be year round and a facility like this would bring additional business to Ennis. Similar facilities currently exist in Cobh and Bantry and have proven to be a great success.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

Ennis MD will consider the development of overnight parking areas for Motorhomes close to the town centre. This will require the identification of suitable locations where the service provision is available, and amendment of the Ennis Town Council Car Parking Byelaws 2014, particularly "11(3) A car park may not be used for overnight accommodation purposes by camper van, caravan, car or otherwise".

As the process of amending the byelaws and selecting suitable locations will take some time, this facility might be provided on private property locations following consultation with the Ennis MD-County Council.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion. A lengthy discussion ensued on the merits of having this type of facility in Ennis Town which could be a major draw to the town and promote Ennis as a staycation destination. Cllr. P. Murphy noted that 2 types of facilities were required, one near the town centre with a stay of one to two nights, and the other beside a holiday setting, such as Ballyallia Lake, that could facilitate a longer stay.

Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, advised a feasibility study can be carried out to identify possible locations. A workable solution will then be presented to the Members.

No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly

I ask for a report of new footpaths and pedestrian crossings planned to be constructed in 2020/2021 in the Ennis Municipal District area.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

Ennis MD Office intends to proceed with the detailed design and Section 38 traffic calming public consultation process for a zebra crossing on the Kilrush Road to provide safe cycle access to the Ennis National School. This should be before the Councillors for consideration in September this year and works will proceed following approval. The Ennis MD Councillors have allocated €25,000 from their General Municipal Allocation towards this project.

It is noted by Ennis MD Office that the application by St Flannan's College for the reopening of the side gate onto the Clare Road has been declared as withdrawn on May 6th by the Planning Authority as further information was not returned within the required six month period. Therefore it would be inappropriate for Ennis MD to proceed with the public consultation process for the pedestrian crossing at this location. The funding of €25,000 intended by the Ennis MD Councillors from their GMA for this project will be available for other works subject to their approval.

The Ennis MD are extending the public footpath at Newpark Road, Roslevan at the site of the Council Housing Scheme. This work is partially funded by the Ennis MD Councillors allocation of €25,000 from the GMA.

Cllr J. Flynn welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion and thanked Eamon O'Dea, SEE, for the report and the update on the GMA allocation. He noted it was a very significant investment in crossings and footpaths.

Cllr P. Daly voiced his support for plans of a zebra crossing at Ennis National School. Eamon O'Dea, SEE, outlined that discussions are ongoing with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland on the roundabout at Ashline as it's on a National Road. He stated that the development of the pedestrian crossing will increase the transport options for getting to school .

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

This motions calls for the installation of two bins at Fr. McNamara GAA grounds on the Quin road, as I have received a number of complaints regarding litter in the area.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The Ennis MD would not be recommending the provision of two bins at Fr McNamara GAA Grounds at this time. The public using the adjacent amenity area should bring their litter home with them and we would be concerned that the provision of bins would lead to the use of the bins for the disposal of domestic waste. We have spoken to the Environment Section of the Council and they will increase their monitoring activity at this location.

Cllr. M. Nestor informed the meeting that he was disappointed with the response received. He advised that he would follow up with the Municipal District directly.

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

Summerhill.

The residents of Summerhill are requesting that Ennis MD repair and upgrade their road surface and footpaths.

I believe that this project should get priority as the residents are being inconvenienced with the temporary two way traffic system on their street to facilitate the economic viability and life of the town centre.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The road surfacing works in Summerhill are listed in the Road Works Programme for 2021. When the three year programme was being devised, the works in Turnpike were

prioritised due to their condition and traffic levels. The Covid 19 Mobility plan for Ennis requires the use of Summerhill as a temporary two way traffic area. The road condition will be monitored and required maintenance will be undertaken.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion. Cllr. M. Howard acknowledged that it would be nice to have the street resurfaced once it returns back to a one way system. Traffic levels have increased due to the Temporary Mobility Plan.

Cllr. A. Norton had to leave the meeting early. It was agreed to defer her Notice of Motions.

No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton – Deferred.

That the Ennis MD ask the Library management in Ennis examine the feasibility of introducing sign language classes. Following feedback from some residents there is an interest in having classes.

Helen Walsh, County Librarian replied as follows:

The County Library Service programmes approx. 1,000 activities throughout the year for the citizens of the county through its library service. A proportion of these are in the areas of health promotion and well-being and the offer of sign language training to the public is certainly one that can be added to this programme. Presently due to covid restrictions libraries are slowly re-opening services on a phased basis. Programming of library events has stalled and will be reviewed again in the autumn with a view to including the classes in the programme for latter part of the year or in early 2021.

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

I ask Ennis MD to tar and chip the road outside Coughlan's house at Ballynulqueeny on the main Ennis to Barefield road as when it rains it causes to flood down the Stonepark road.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

This is part of the R458 margin. It will be examined by the Ennis MD Office in relation to the restoration improvement grant works on the adjacent L4141 Stonepark Road.

Cllr. P. Daly welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion. Cllr. J. Flynn asked for a culvert to be installed to reduce the risk of flooding.

No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy & seconded by M. Howard

That an updated listing of the Ennis Municipal District Road Works Program be provided, with indication as to delays occasioned as result of the Covid19 Pandemic.

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The majority of the roads proposed in the surface dressing programme will be ready this week for application of emulsion and chippings subject to weather conditions. The Restoration Improvement Roads are being prepared for works. We are co-ordinating

with other districts on the scheduling of specialised contractors and works will proceed when the equipment is available. The asphaltic overlays are included in the Council tender for asphaltic works which is due to be returned this week. The scheduling of this work will be agreed with the successful tenderer and the Councillors will be informed of the schedule for works at Turnpike, Ballaghboy, Cloghleigh and Clarecastle. It is expected that all of the works in the programme will be completed in 2020.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion. Eamon O'Dea, SEE, stated that surface dressing started in the west of the town. Depending on weather, tar & chip should be completed by the second week in August and restoration work will then continue.

No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard

In light of the increase usage of public green and recreational spaces by all ages that a report be provided around the feasibility and cost of provision of seats, similar to those on the extended walk at Lahinch Prom . Public requests would indicate starting with seating at heavily used spaces such as at Tim Smythe Park , John O Sullivan Park and large green areas such as behind Ivy Hill/Glenina.

Tim Forde, Head of Sports & Recreation replied as follows:

In Active Ennis John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road, there are currently the following seating units:

- a) 1 x at the Cross Country Track/Car Park intersection, near the Synthetic Running Track
- b) 2 x similar seating units located outside the Synthetic Running Track, facing both the track and the Rugby Pitch.
- c) 2 x seating units in the Children's Playground, 2 x seating units located at the Trim Trial in the Woodland and plans to install 'Log' type seating throughout the Woodland Walks.

In Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park, there are presently 2 x seating benches located inside the Children's Playground, at the Lifford Road end and another located inside the Teen Activity Unit, at the New Road end.

We are currently working on completing the 'ORIS Measure 1 application for Tim Smythe Park', a refurbishment project and budget permitting, locating 3 x Chess Benches. These are benches with an inlaid chess board.

Also, there are seating units in each of the playgrounds owned and managed by CCC, in Cappa, Kilrush, Rainbow Park, Drumbiggle , and Friends Together Park, Cloughleigh, Ennis.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion. Cllr. J. Flynn acknowledged the need for more seating at strategic locations where they would benefit older people, young families and others.

No. 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor, seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy

This motion requests an update from Ennis Municipal District regarding the maintenance/control of weeds around the town of Ennis as I have received a number of complaints regarding the same.

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

The normal weed treatment works were deferred due to Covid 19 guidelines from the Government. Weather conditions last winter and springtime were conducive to the growth of weeds. The Ennis MD Crews have been engaged in clearing areas closer to the town centre since resumption of works were permitted under Covid 19 guidance and works will proceed as resources are available.

This Notice of Motion was already discussed when discussing Notice of Motion No. 1.

No. 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard , seconded by Cllr J. Flynn

John Sullivan Park/ Lee's Road

It is time to seriously consider the use of CCTV and or trail cameras in the park and I am appealing to Ennis MD to take this course of action.

Over the past number of weeks there has been evidence of vandalism on the walking trails.

Since May there has been evidence of young trees, saplings and branches being broken on a walkway locally called Bluebell Alley, there was also evidence of large rocks being both smashed and removed from the trail. This is creating a very dangerous ground surface for trips and falls.

This destruction was not witnessed but it would appear to have been done after the park closed at night time as the trail is well used by walkers and runners throughout the day.

Tim Forde, Head of Sports & Recreation replied as follows:

From a Sports & Recreation perspective, we have noticed a big increase in cycling activity in Lees Road since Covid-19 arrived and changed the dynamic of exercise. Our users have informed us of this and also the interference to the ‘Bluebell Alley’ area as described by Cllr. Howard. We are monitoring the situation and are doing remedial works to return the area to its original state. Unfortunately, we do not have a budget for CCTV or trail cameras, but the team will continue to discourage this behaviour.

Cllr. M. Howard welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion. She highlighted the need to place CCTV cameras on the building so that it would assist in identifying the culprits causing the damage.

No. 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn

That the Ennis MD get an update on the Ennis Swimming pool and advise us on all the projects that they are involved in and also the activities and classes available to the public.

Tim Forde, Head of Sports & Recreation replied as follows:

Active Ennis Leisure Complex consists of a 25m Swimming Pool and over 30 pieces of equipment in the Gymnasium Facility, Steam Rooms and Saunas. All details of programmes, projects, activities and classes are available on www.activeennis.ie www.clarecoco.ie , our Facebook page as well as monthly updates on the Councils Monthly Management Report, under Social Development –Sports & Recreation.

Here are a few examples of same:

In the Pool:

- Munster Development Gala on 29th February 2020.
- Lifeguard Beach Tests on Good Friday 10th April 2020.
- Morning Adult Swim Lessons
- SWIM A MILE a 12 week training schedule with a coach, promoted by Swim Ireland and Pat Sexton, Clare Sports Partnership
- Community Games Parish finals in February and Clare Community Games Final on March 20th 2020.
- Munster Development gala
- Ennis Invitational Gala
- Ennis Tri Club hosting National Schools Tri Event, Pool and Tim Smyth Park rented out.

Swim programmes/lessons

- Half hour lessons introduced recently permitting significant increases in numbers participating
- Aqua Aerobic classes attracting continued strong support (50+)
- Tai-chi class still going, into its 3rd year now, up to 16 people every Thursday morning
- Both Adult and Children’s Swim Lessons– with all levels 100% fully booked and prepaid for, and a waiting list for places
- Swimming lessons take place 7 days a week over a 7 week period.

In the Gym:

New Fitness Class ‘Barre Ennis’ – is a beautiful intense blend of ballet inspired moves, yoga, Pilates and conditioning. It is incredible for posture, balance, core strength and muscle tone. You shake twitch and burn all over, you will sweat but there is no pounding on the joints

Programmes in partnership with Clare Sports Partnership

- Teen Physical Activity Programme – Mental Health Initiative

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Class & Delivered By:</u>	<u>No.</u>
Week 1: Wednesday 15 th January	4.30-6.00pm	CLSP games - James Murrihy	12

Week 2: Wednesday 22 nd January	4.30- 6.00pm	Intro to Taekwon-Do - Master Tim Forde	12
Week 3: Wednesday 29 th January	-	Cross Fit Ennis	12
Week 4: Wednesday 5 th February	4.30- 6.00pm	Yoga Class - Antoinette	12
Week 5: Wednesday 12 th February	4.30- 6.00pm	Sumba Dance Class - Kasia,	12
Week 6: Wednesday 19 th February	4.30- 6.00pm	Circuits - John Carey	12
Week 7: Wednesday 4 th March	4.10- 6.00pm	Intro to Gym environment – Dermot Ryan	12
Week 8: Wednesday 11 th March	-	Couch to 5K - Active Ennis TSP	12

Teen Girls Exercise Programme

- Initially, it will be a 'girls only' programme. Partners – CLSP.
- 8 – 12 weeks of 1hr physical activity sessions.
- Tutors from Active Ennis Leisure Complex will be delivering.
- A range of different physical activity options all based within the leisure centre to encourage continued exercise once the programme finishes.
- Wednesdays @ 4.30pm.

Classes:

- Sumba
- Unislim
- Pilates
- Karate
- Circuits
- Body Tone
- Lunch Crunch
- Yoga

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion.

No. 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor

I request Ennis MD to make regular contact with Clare Comhaltas with a view to planning ahead in the next 5/6 years, a future Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann possibly celebrating its 10th anniversary in Ennis.

Deirdre O'Shea, A/Head of Tourism replied as follows:

Clare County Council's Tourism Department proactively met with members of the Clare Comhaltas Fleadh Nua committee in late 2019 and early 2020 to explore a business case aimed at expanding the current Fleadh Nua to an annual signature festival for Ennis and Clare. Such a signature festival is also a strategic priority detailed within the draft Clare Tourism Strategy 2030. Once government guidance is issued for festivals and events in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic, such consultations will be resumed and will include planning ahead for a possible future Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion and stated that this was a great opportunity to promote Ennis town.

Item No. 4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence

Item No. 5. Any other Business

- Cllr. J. Flynn requested a co-ordinated submission be submitted on behalf of the Members of Ennis MD in relation to the Clare Tourism Strategy requesting that the role of Ennis, as the county town within the Tourism Strategy should be strengthened. Ballyalla Lake Amenity Enhancement Plan and the Niche Destination Plan should also be incorporated into the Strategy. More focus should be placed on strengthening Ennis as a stayation destination.
- Vote of Sympathy:
 - Members wished to support a vote of sympathy to the family of the late PJ Fitzpatrick RIP, retired WS. May he rest in peace.
 - Members wished to support a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Tom Stack RIP, former Chief Fire Officer. May he rest in peace.
 - Members wished to support a vote of sympathy to the family of our colleague Colm O'Mahony. May he rest in peace.
 - Members wished to support a vote of sympathy to the family of their former colleague Jack Daly RIP. May he rest in peace.
- Cllr. P. Daly congratulated Cllr. M. Howard on her becoming the Mayor of Clare County.

- Cllr. M. Nestor requested that the issue of Knockaderry Grove be kept on the agenda. He looked for update from the ESB for the next meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____