

**Minutes of the April 2022
Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis,
held in Boardroom in Clare Museum, Ennis and on-line
at 10:30am on Tuesday 5th April 2022**

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

Officials: Leonore O'Neill, A/Director of Service, Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Carmel Greene Senior Executive Officer (Item 3 only), Niamh O'Connor, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator, Lily McInerney Staff Officer.

Apologies: Carmel Kirby, Director of Services.

Chair, Cllr. A. Norton, opened the meeting welcoming all present.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the March 2022 Meeting of Municipal District of Ennis held on 1st March 2022

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

Item No. 2. Matters Arising

None.

Item No. 3. Section 183 Disposal of Property by way of lease at County Museum Building to Ennis 2040 DAC

Report and map circulated in advance of meeting.

This item was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all Members.

The lease to Ennis 2040 DAC was welcomed by Members and SEO Carmel Greene clarified that the area, subject to this lease, comprises office space on the first and second floor only and that other areas, particularly the boardroom facility, was available for Clare County Council's use.

Item No. 4. GMA Councillor Specific Allocations for approval

Project	Amount Allocated
Arts/ Culture Project - Oliver O'Connell	€2,800.00
Clarecastle Show Society	€1,500.00
Cloughleigh Residents Association	€2,900.00
Ennis Track Club	€2,557.00

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

Item No. 5. Notices of Motions

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

That assessment be had at the Maid Eireann Roundabout to accommodate pedestrian crossings to accommodate the high volume of students (and others) to the Ennis Community College.

Barry Conway, Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

A pedestrian crossing was constructed on St. Anthony's Terrace/Harmony Row as part of the recent school extension to assist access to the school grounds. The existing pedestrian crossing at the Mill Bridge allows pedestrians from the Cloughleigh & Circular Road area safe access to the new crossing on St. Anthony's Terrace. The MD office will liaise with the road design section to determine whether further pedestrian facilities are required on Cusack Road or Sandfield Park.

This item was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Colleran-Molloy acknowledged the response and welcomed the potential for further pedestrianisation measures. The Motion was supported by Members with comments made on the busy location and increasing popularity of the school. SEE Eamon O'Dea clarified that a 2-bay school bus parking bay was to be developed in Sandfield Park. Some Members questioned the aesthetics of the building design of the new school and it was confirmed that an abstract drawing from the planning file would be circulated.

No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly

With the closure of businesses throughout the town, such as The Rowan Tree (Harmony Row), Food Haven (Market Street), O'Brien's Deli (Salthouse Lane) and Twomey-Walsh (Parnell Street), I ask Ennis M.D. to co-ordinate with Chamber of Commerce and the owners of the particular properties with a view to getting new tenants established in these properties.

Carmel Greene, SEO, Economic Development responded as follows:

Where business premises are considered to be derelict, there is active engagement with the Derelict sites team in the Economic Development Directorate and their works is leading to improvements being made in some town centre premises and a number of planning applications on derelict properties are being lodged. In addition, through the work of the Ennis 2040 Team, a lot of engagement is underway with property owners in the town to examine development opportunities.

Leonore O'Neill, SEO, responded as follows:

Ennis MD do not generally initiate or intervene in commercial rentals between private parties. We continue to support economic activity and ensure conditions are favourable within the physical environment through a number of initiatives including public realm enhancements and outdoor dining licences. I note that the Rowan Tree premises referred to above is currently on the market for sale.

This item was seconded by Cllr. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all Members.

Cllr Daly acknowledged the two responses and the limitations of tackling this issue and he voiced disappointment at the loss of a hostel in the town which had always been a popular venue for the upcoming Fleadh Nua. The motion was supported by Cllrs. Colleran-Molloy and Flynn.

No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor

This motion is requesting that Ennis Municipal District erect temporary barriers at the end of the pedestrianised section of Parnell Street, to stop vehicular traffic coming up the street.

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

The contractor is awaiting for ESB connections to the retractable bollard to be completed and then the bollards can be commissioned. The Ennis MD will arrange temporary traffic management to obstruct errant drivers from entering from Cabey's Lane.

This item was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy and agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Nestor, in acknowledging the response, reiterated that this type of behaviour warranted a temporary measure be put in place pending commissioning of bollards referenced in the response.

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

Doora

The Ennis Municipal District Councillors recently attended a meeting with the community of Doora village. As a result of that meeting I request our road engineers to do an analysis of the road issues raised, due to the proximity to the M18 Motorway and the roundabout at Kilbrecken, the R469 road leading into Doora has caused an increase in vehicles through the village. The speeds - Speed is a serious issue for all those in the area, can the engineers specifically look at

*The road from the motorway at Killoo Exit 12 - Noughaval Drive

*The Bog Road passing the church and heading towards Frank Lynch's Cross

Barry Conway, Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

The Ennis MD has recently installed driver feedback signs as a reminder to motorists of the 60kmph speed limit along the L-4114 through Doora. A traffic survey can now be undertaken by the district office to determine the traffic speeds and volumes on the route. The outcome of this survey will help determine if speeding issues are present in the area and if so, how best to address them.

This item was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Howard advised the speeding issue and increased volumes of traffic on a road with no footpath is a major concern at this location and that the 'settlement' zoning should influence appropriate speed limits. She acknowledged the response. This Motion was well supported and it was recommended that An Garda Siochana be requested to have a more pronounced presence in what is a very busy settlement area.

No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn

That Ennis municipal district councillors request in the interest of public safety that Ennis Garda to look at feasibility of embracing the "See it Say It " system that has been a success supporting the work of the Garda in Tralee , Swords , etc

No response required.

This item was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by all Members.

Cllr Flynn corrected the wording of the Notice of Motion which should read “See Something Say Something” and he described the successful implementation of this text-based system in Tralee whereby persons can anonymously text reports of anti-social issues directly to An Garda Siochana. Discussion ensued and this Motion was well supported generally. It was agreed that Ennis Municipal District would write to An Garda Siochana to request them to consider its implementation in Ennis.

No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr C. Colleran-Molloy

That the protruding rocks at both sides of the Quin road in Keevagh (before Sheehan’s house) be assessed as I have multiple reports of car wheels being seriously damaged by them.

Barry Conway, Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

The MD will examine the section of road in question and any material interfering with the surface of the road will be removed.

This item was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Colleran Molloy acknowledged the response. Cllrs. Norton and Murphy supported the Motion. Cllr. Murphy advised he had previously requested a low-cost safety measure at this location. SEE Eamon O’Dea clarified that the ‘widening of the road’ element of this Motion would fall within the realm of a *specific improvement scheme* which unfortunately there is no allocated funding for presently.

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

I request Ennis M.D. to discuss with the landowner the possibility of widening the road leading up to Knockanean N.S. from the Ennis side, particularly with the huge increase of pupils at the school which is causing major traffic congestion on a daily basis.

Michael O’Grady, Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

Road Design have completed the design for the upgrade of the road leading up to Knockanean N.S., however there is no funding available for the purchase of lands to facilitate the upgrade or to carry out the works.

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

Based on the planning application made by the Board of Management of Knockanean School and Condition 2 of the final grant of permission there is no significant increase in school pupils attending and this is set at 297 persons unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Planning Authority.

There is a requirement for the BOM of Knockanean School to submit a detailed operational stage mobility and traffic management plan for agreement with the Planning authority and this plan is to be subsequently implemented.

There is currently no funding for road improvements on the L4106 , and it would be difficult to prioritise works on this road over road improvements on busy Regional and Local Primary Roads.

This item was seconded by Cllr. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Daly expressed disappointment, outlined the potential benefit for school users and queried if a CPO was warranted to address the issue. This Notice of Motion was strongly supported by Cllr Colleran Molloy and by Cllr Flynn who raised the point that development contributions from housing developments in Roslevan should be used to fund this much needed work. Cllr Norton

confirmed that this issue will continue to be highlighted in the hopes that the specific funding required may be forthcoming in the future.

No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor

This motion is requesting an update on the timeline for repair works to be carried out on damaged fencing in the Fioruisce estate on the Gort Road.

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

The Ennis MD has no specific budget for this fencing works and the Councillors can consider the inclusion of the work in the General Municipal Allocation Works. Estimated cost is €12,500.

This item was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy and agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Nestor acknowledged the response, outlined his disappointed that the required funding was not available and advised the meeting that he will take the details of the response back to the residents and see what can be agreed to take the matter forward.

No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard

N85 at Ballyknock, Kilnamona.

The residents of this road that is less than half a kilometer long request that it is taken over by Council.

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

We note that the private road referred to in the Notice of Motion exits directly onto the N85. The Ennis MD Office needs to examine the criteria under the Council’s Taking in Charge Policy for Private Roads (2015) and have concerns that this private road may not meet the criteria for “General Public Utility” as set out in the policy. We will revert following a further examination of the issue.

This item was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Howard acknowledged the response.

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

That Ennis municipal district councillors in the interest of both enhancement of the public realm and the original layout public consider re-introduction of the wrought iron railings that originally were located around the O Connell Monument in the town centre.

Please note extract from minutes of EMD September 2021 meeting:

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No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn

I ask Ennis Municipal District to commence a public consultation process on the potential or otherwise of re-instating portion of wrought iron railings, in the style of the original railings, around the O Connell Monument. Such works could complement and enhance the Part 8 Planning Permission which has funding for public realm works in the Square/Bank Place and the conservation works currently underway on the O Connell Monument itself. Such works could also be seen to be complementary to proposals incorporated in the current Part 8 planning application for welcome public realm upgrades to O Connell Street and Barrack Street.

Candace Ingram, Executive Planner, responded as follows:

The O'Connell Monument is listed on the Record of Protected Structures (Reference RPS 702) and is also included on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (Reference NIAH 20000001). Neither the RPS or the NIAH descriptions of the monument make reference to railings around the monument. It is an objective of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) (CDP15.2) "To protect, as set out in the Record of Protected Structures, all structures and their settings, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest".

There would be no exemption under the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) for the erection of railings around the monument. Therefore, any such proposal would require Part 8 consent.

The proposal for the upgrading of the public realm of O'Connell Square was informed by the Ennis Town Centre document entitled "A detailed study of the potential of Parnell Street as a Heritage and Cultural Quarter including the feasibility of covering part or all of the street and the redesign of O'Connell Square to enhance civic use, pedestrian comfort and a better setting for the monument" (December 2016), commissioned by Clare County Council in association with the CEDRA Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) initiative. As part of the overall redevelopment of O'Connell Square new seating areas to the west of the O'Connell Monument and also stepped areas to the south contribute to creating a flexible space which can accommodate various uses/events. It is important to consider any potential impact of installing railings on both the context and setting of the protected structure, as well as on future active uses of this public space. The maintenance of the area within the railings would also need consideration, in particular the potential for littering to occur.

It is suggested that should this proposal progress further that there should be consultation with the O'Connell Square project design team and also with the Planning Department to determine the appropriateness for the inclusion of the railings in the reconfiguration of the Square.

This item was seconded by Cllr P. Murphy who clarified it was seconded to facilitate a further discussion on the item.

Discussion ensued on this issue with several councillors suggesting that a more detailed discussion on the matter take place at a separate time. Cllr Flynn requested a vote be called on motion. The Motion was not carried, with a vote of 6-1 against.

Item No. 6 Correspondence

None.

Item No. 7 Any Other Business

- (i) Chair A. Norton acknowledged the work of the Ennis MD staff in delivering a successful St. Patrick's Day parade, the positivity of seeing the community come together again after two years and the opportunity it presented to honour frontline workers.
- (ii) Cllr Howard briefed the meeting that at a recent Twinning Committee meeting, Chair Tony O'Brien recommended regular briefing on the activities of this committee. Cllr Howard highlighted that Phoenix Committee, who will next year celebrate their 35th anniversary, celebrated this year with an array of musicians, traditional bagpipes, harpist as well as *sean nós* dancing. Additionally Langenfeld twinning will be celebrating its 10th year anniversary in 2023 and events will be planned for next year.

It was agreed that Ennis M.D. agenda will include a quarterly update on Twinning Committee activity.

- (iii) Cllr Howard queried why Ennis Tidy Towns is not included in the upcoming Mayoral Reception and it was clarified by Cllr Norton that Ennis Tidy Towns are to be honoured at a County Council level.
- (iv) Cllr Colleran-Molloy sought an update on the Cisco Project. SEO Leonore O'Neill updated on the Cisco Parking initiative; this project is being progressed. Some technological and signage issues are currently being addressed and an update will be provided thereafter.
- (v) Cllr Flynn sought an update on the O'Dea reception. It was clarified that the Dysart O'Dea Clan reception will take place in July 2022 and this will be formally approved at an Ennis M.D. meeting nearer that date.
- (vi) Members joined Cllr Daly in extending sympathy to the family of the late Mary Moroney, mother of Brendan Moroney who works in the Gardening Section of Clare County Council. May she rest in peace.

The Meeting ended at 11.50am.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____