

**Minutes of the June 2022
Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis,
held in Council Chamber, Áras Contae and Chláir, and on-line
at 2:30pm on Friday 17th June 2022**

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

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

Apologies: None.

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

Item No. 1. Minutes of the May 2022 Meeting of Municipal District of Ennis held on 3rd May 2022

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

Item No. 2. Matters Arising

None.

Item No. 3. (i) Section 38 Realignment of footpath at R475 Woodhaven, Kilrush Road

Report and map had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. SEE Eamon O'Dea recommended adoption of this Section 38 proposal as this low-cost realignment work would be beneficial to all road users in the area.

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

(ii) Section 183 Disposal of Property at Ard na Greine, Ennis.

Report and map from SEO Carmel Greene had been circulated in advance of the Meeting.

This item was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly and agreed by all Members.

Item No. 4. GMA Funding – Items for approval

Community Projects 2022

Applicant Name	Amount
Ennis Tidy Towns	€7,400
Clarecastle Tidy Towns & Playground	€3,000
Barefield Tidy Towns	€3,000

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

Councillor Specific Allocations

Project	Amount
Clare Agricultural Show	€3,000.00
Doora Barefield Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann	€500.00
Cappahard Residents Association	€1,500.00
"Clare Footprint" book of poetry - Oliver O'Connell	€2,500.00
Willow Counselling Services	€500.00
Pantaloons	€2,000.00
Ennis West Men's Shed	€500.00
Ennis Educate Together	€1,050.00
Eire Óg	€1,000.00

This item was proposed by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. C. Collieran-Molloy and agreed by all Members.

Item No. 5. Notices of Motions

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

That the Ennis Municipal District take all necessary steps to respond to the numerous petitions from the residents of Dalcassian Park & Upper Turnpike Road to extinguish the public right of way on the lane way adjacent to the rear of Turnpike Road necessitated by the ongoing intimidation being experienced by residents due to antisocial behaviour.

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

Ennis MD are aware of intermittent anti-social behaviour at the rear vehicular access lane for houses on Turnpike Road and Dalcassian Park adjacent to the pedestrian access point at Dalcassian Drive.

The Ennis MD Street Cleaning Crews have previously attended at this location with the road sweeper to clean up debris and litter following anti-social activity. An Garda Siochana local patrols check this location also.

The closure of, or providing for, a secure access gate on a pedestrian lane requires an extinguishment of a public right of way. Ennis MD are not aware of any specific petition or plebiscite requesting the closure of the pedestrian lane onto the public road at the rear of the properties. It should be noted that the extinguishment of the public right of way would not be in line with Government Policies on "10-minute towns" and pedestrian connectivity.

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

Cllr Colleran-Molloy, whilst acknowledging the response and the impact of extinguishing a public right of way, submitted petitions to the meeting from residents of the area and outlined details of two notable incidents of anti-social behaviour. She advised that since the management of Laurel Lodge appears to have been taken over by the Simon Community, the problem has been recurring. The Motion was supported by all Members, with many comments made as to the duty of care to both the elderly residents and the persons from Laurel Lodge.

Director of Service Carmel Kirby confirmed that she understood the difficulties described. She outlined that there would be a reluctance to extinguish a public right of way but advised she would engage with the Director of Services for Social Development regarding the management of Laurel Lodge.

No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard

Ennis and Langenfeld in Germany celebrate 10 years of a formal twinning relationship next March. We are expecting delegations over the coming months and I request that the Twinning of Ennis with Langenfeld be acknowledged on the signposts on the approach roads to Ennis.

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

Ennis MD is reviewing the existing twinning signage on the approach roads to Ennis to determine the appropriate approach to be taken in regard to Ennis Twinning signs with Phoenix, Saint-Paul de Fenouillet and Langenfeld. Funding for any additional signage will be sought from the Twinning Committee or alternative sources.

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

Cllr. Howard welcomed the response adding that it would be beneficial to have signage in place in advance of the 10-year anniversary. Cllrs Norton and Murphy supported this Motion.

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

I ask that Ennis Municipal District Executive include the maintenance of trees & cutting of the wide trances of grass on either side of the main estate road at the Cappahard Estate within the areas identified that it annually tenders for contractors to carry out. With the residents obliged to maintain the smaller areas within their groupings of housing. All of this enormous green spaces and trees along that main road have currently been left to the residents to maintain.

With the exception that the Council currently cut the grass at very initial sides of this Main/distributor road at the Cappahard/Oakleigh Wood roundabout.

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

Clare County Council has engaged a contractor to carry out remedial works on this scheme with the intention of completing the taking in charge process this year. At present the Council do not undertake grass cutting in housing schemes that are taken in charge by the Council.

The Council has a well-established policy on what areas are included in the grass cutting contract.

- *Areas traditionally maintained by the Council.*
- *Areas of significant public interest (along approach roads etc.).*
- *L.A. Housing Developments.*
- *Public amenity areas.*

Adding additional areas will add cost and set precedence. A significant budget increase would be required.

Resident Associations are encouraged to seek a Community Grant from the Council to assist in their open space maintenance costs.

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

Cllr. Flynn outlined his argument on behalf of Cappahard residents that they are unfairly treated in relation to the extent of the green area they maintain, given that the planning application was approved on the basis of an expected distributor road linking Tulla and Quin Road, and that the costs being incurred to maintain the green area rendered this a special case for Council assistance. Cllr Flynn requested again that the Municipal District would agree to maintain either side of the distributor road. This Motion was well supported by Members. SEE Eamon O’Dea reminded the Meeting that the distributor road may yet serve for the expansion of the estate. Following discussion, Director of Service, Carmel Kirby, advised that Ennis MD would liaise with the Rural Development directorate to tease out what supports may be available to assist the community of Cappahard to carry out the grass maintenance.

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

This motion is requesting Clare County Council to engage with Ennis hockey club with the intention of providing a 2G playing surface at a suitable site within the Ennis Municipal District.

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

Clare County Council is available to engage with and support Ennis Hockey Club in the provision of a playing facility for the club. It should be noted that the Council depend on grant funding being available from the Department of Transportation, Tourism and Sport under the Sport Capital Grants for the continued development of the playing facilities. These grants are open to Ennis Hockey club should they wish to submit an application once the call is made later in 2022. Clare Sports Partnership are undertaking a study on the availability of sports facilities in the County with the objective of this report being to identify deficits in order to target grant funding to meet the needs.

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

Cllr Nestor outlined the broad reaching benefits of establishing a hockey club as the pitch surface is the same as soccer and basketball and that the Ennis club, which is known for inclusivity for children with disabilities, currently has to field home games in other counties due to having no base in Ennis. He added that the lack of a base also prevents the club from hosting Summer Camps. He recommended engagement with Hockey Ireland who provide grants in support of this. The Motion was well supported, and many comments made by Members. At the recommendation of Cllr Norton it was agreed that Tim Forde, Head of Sports and Recreation

would be invited to brief Ennis M.D. Members on current state of play regarding various requests for developing sports amenities.

No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy

I am requesting that all Notices of Motion that I have submitted regarding the need for traffic calming at Clareabbey Roundabout are collated and forwarded to Transport Infrastructure Ireland along with my latest call, which is that traffic lights/signalling is introduced here in a bid to make this roundabout safer for motorists and vulnerable road users. A call for urgent response to be requested with this correspondence from Ennis Municipal District.

John Gannon, Senior Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

A design has been forwarded to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to calm traffic and improve pedestrian & cycle connectivity. The TII safety team carried out an inspection and appointed a consultant to carry out modelling and will revert once same has been completed.

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

Cllr Murphy acknowledged the response again expressed frustration at the protracted process involved in getting approval from TII. This motion was strongly supported by all Members, who described it as the busiest roundabout in Clare which in its current state renders it difficult for cyclists and pedestrians to navigate, adding that the rollout of this project will deliver the much-needed safe link between Clarecastle and Ennis. Director of Service Carmel Kirby reminded the Meeting that TII manages all national road projects, and its funding of this project via the Active Travel programme is very positive and that the progress to date is welcome.

No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly

I ask Ennis M.D. to consider putting down traffic calming measures at McNamara Park, Turnpike, because in recent times the volumes of traffic has substantially increased in this particular road.

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

The Ennis MD are forwarding the Notice of Motion to the Active Travel section of the Road Design Office for consideration. Based on recent observations of the parking of vehicles it is difficult to determine how vehicles are speeding on this road.

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

Cllr Daly described the increased volume and speed of traffic in what should be a quiet residential area, adding that he would welcome any traffic calming measures. This Motion was supported by Cllrs Nestor, Howard and Murphy.

No. 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard

Ashfield Park/ Girroga Heights Footpaths.

A number of years ago I requested that the footpaths in this area be inspected as the estate's footpaths had not been touched since the estate was built. A number of footpaths were repaired, which the residents appreciate.

However there are paths still in need of remediation works.

I request a further inspection and these works be scheduled as soon as possible.

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

Ennis MD will be carrying out further footpath works at Ashfield Park/Girroga Heights this year and over the next couple of years depending on available funding. The availability of Council resources to carry out the footpath work is being reviewed following completion of the Road Construction and Surface Dressing Programmes and we will have a further update at the July meeting.

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

Cllr. Howard welcomed the response and would welcome any available funding going towards this much needed upgrade.

Item No. 6 Correspondence

None.

Item No. 7 Any Other Business

- (i) Chair A. Norton acknowledged the IBAL results for Ennis as very positive despite a drop in the rankings from 2021 and she commended the diligence of all those involved in keeping the town clean. Cllr Howard added that it is positive that Ennis remains in the top ten and that IBAL’s focus is limited in that it focuses on litter only and is based a single viewing date.
- (ii) Cllr Howard reminded the Meeting of the significance of next year in relation to Twinning; that Langenfeld will be celebrating the 10-year anniversary while Phoenix USA will celebrate the 35th anniversary. Representatives from Langenfeld will be visiting Ennis from August 8th-10th and Phoenix “Cailin”s will celebrate on 15th and 16th August and a heritage celebration will be held on 20th, 21st and 22nd August. She highlighted the opportunity for the new Mayor to invite delegates to lunch as a welcome.
- (iii) Cllr Howard raised the issue of collection of the first cut of grass for Dalcassian Park as these residents are vulnerable, many elderly and widowed.
- (iv) Cllr Flynn raised the issue of “neighbours from hell” bringing crime into estates where many homeowners are in negative equity. He requested a report from the Director of Housing regarding Laurel Lodge Homeless Shelter and that a briefing be arranged with Housing to bring Members up to date on what is being done to manage this difficult situation. Leonore O’Neill SEO replied that she would seek a report and aim to facilitate a briefing on this matter.
- (v) Cllr Murphy was joined by Members in extending sympathy to the family of the late Mary Lynch of St. Flannans Avenue, Clarecastle who had been widowed some 45 years. A real “townie” and a regular visitor to Lees Road. May she rest in peace.

The Meeting ended at 3.54pm.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____