

Minutes - November 2022
Ennis Municipal District meeting
10:30a.m. on Tuesday 1st November 2022
Council Chamber and on-line

Councillors: P. Murphy, M. Howard, P. Daly, J. Flynn, A. Norton

Officials: Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Patrick Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Niamh O’Connor, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator, Lily McInerney, Staff Officer (minutes).

Apologies: C. Colleran-Molloy, Chair, L. O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer.

Deputy Mayor of Ennis, Cllr. M. Howard chaired the meeting, welcoming all present.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the October 2022 Meeting of Municipal District of Ennis

This item was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by all Members.

Item No. 2. Matters Arising

Cllr Flynn referenced October Minutes A.O.B. Item (vi) and requested an update on a potential child safety measure at the exit from Ashline onto the Kilrush Road. P. Tiernan A/SEE to report back to Cllr. Flynn on this matter.

Item No. 3. (i) Section 183 Disposal of Property at 86 Clancy Park, Ennis, V95 Y34C.

Report and map had been circulated in advance of Meeting.

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

(ii) Section 38 Report – Rockmount L4176 footpath & carriageway narrowing [Phase II – works between Radharc na hInse and L8326 Kildysart Road.

Report and map had been circulated in advance of Meeting.

This item was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by all Members. Cllrs Daly and Howard commended the completion of upgrade works.

(iii) Christmas in Ennis programme

Niamh O'Connor, AO, outlined the 'Christmas in Ennis' programme of events. She also advised 1) that current temporary pedestrianisation measures on O'Connell Street would apply over the Christmas period 2) that festive lighting would be switched on between 3pm and 3am daily 3) additional locations for parking, in addition to the free parking from 2pm daily in all public car parks between November 25th and January 2nd 2023.

The issue of festive lighting and energy conservation was raised. Members agreed that limiting the festive lighting to the hours between 3pm and 3am was a good compromise, however they highlighted the importance of providing festive cheer in town, to families who are burdened by the current cost of living crisis.

Item No. 4. GMA Allocations for approval

	Project	Total
1	McTigue Memorial	€1,500.00
2	Holy Family Junior School	€1,000.00
3	Kilnamona GAA	€500.00
4	Bushypark Treatment Centre	€1,500.00
5	Eire Og	€500.00
6	Clare 22nd Battalion Association	€500.00
7	Clarecastle Development Company Ltd	€11,292.86

- *Items 1 & 2 proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy and agreed by all Members.*
- *Items 3, 4 & 5, proposed by Cllr. M Howard, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy and agreed by all Members.*
- *Item 6 proposed by Cllr A Norton, seconded by Cllr P Daly and agreed by all Members*
- *Item 7 proposed by Cllr P. Daly, seconded by Cllr A. Norton and agreed by all Members.*

Item No. 5. Notices of Motions

No. 1 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard

Courtesy Junction.

This motion requests Ennis MD and Clare County Council to co-operate with TII in facilitating a "Courtesy Junction" at the Shanaway Road and N85 (Lahinch Road) Junction, until such a time as a permanent solution is found to solve traffic issues at this location.

John Gannon, SEE, responded as follows:

The Road Design Office (RDO) will and have been engaging with the TII in developing design solutions for the existing Shanaway Road Junction on the N85 as part of a larger active travel proposal for the N85 from Claureen Roundabout to Loughville. The RDO will co-operate fully with the TII to seek an interim measure that is compliant with TII requirements.

This item was seconded by Cllrs Flynn & Norton and agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Howard suggested that an interim traffic calming measure, such as flashing lighting, would go some way towards alleviating the constant back-up of traffic, whilst awaiting roll-out of the longer term solution to be agreed with the TII. Cllr. Flynn suggested that TII be invited in to discuss. All Members supported this Motion.

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

I am requesting a progress update on provision of a much needed local bus service for Ennis Town and environs.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, responded as follows:

Ennis MD had recent on-line meeting with the NTA Public Bus Team who have advanced their design and are due to undertake a route inspection with the proposed bus type in November with the intention of briefing the Councillors in December.

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

Cllr. Murphy emphasised the importance of a town bus service for climate change reasons and expressed frustration at the numbers driving to and from schools. Members voiced strong support for this Motion and welcomed the proposed briefing to Members. The Director of Service advised EMD are working closely with the NTA, adding that a public bus service is important in terms of climate action and town experience. It was agreed to invite NTA & Oireachtas members to December MD meeting, if available.

No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly

I ask Ennis M.D. to upgrade a small area of footpath close to the old Bus Stop at Station road and adjacent to the back gate of Ennis Cathedral.

Paddy Tiernan, A/SEE, responded as follows:

During a recent walkability study of Ennis this section of footpath has been identified to be in need of an upgrade. Ennis MD is happy to report that funding has been secured under the Ennis Town Enhancement and Co-Creating Scheme. It is envisaged that an upgrade of this section of footpath will be complete before Christmas 2022.

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

Cllr. Daly acknowledged and welcomed the response.

No. 4. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr A. Norton

I am asking Ennis M.D to support the service users that attend *streetwise* by supporting their requests by giving them

- A safe route into/out of Clonroad Business park
- A designated, fit for purpose, accessible walkway
- Also to feel safe accessing our community

[Cllr Norton to request play of 2 minute video clip by Street Wise Service users]

Paddy Tiernan, A/SEE, responded as follows:

Ennis MD will engage with Streetwise and any other affected party to discuss and establish a workable solution to the issues encountered. It is noted that there is potential for the existing walkway via French Park to be upgraded. Following on from these discussions Ennis MD will liaise with the Road Design office to determine if a project of this nature could be considered for future active travel funding. As the Clonroad Business Park is within private ownership the extents of any potential project would be external to the business park.

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

All Members supported the Motion and joined Cllr. Norton in welcoming those attending from 'Streetwise'. She thanked them for their excellent input into the video clip which helps raise awareness of day-to-day access challenges faced by those with disabilities. She also acknowledged tutor and key-worker Ruth O'Keeffe who is doing immense work to bring these issues to the public domain. Chair M. Howard acknowledged the work of the group and advised that the video would be circulated. Director of Service, Carmel Kirby added that the attendance by Streetwise service users had a valuable impact on the Meeting.

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

In light of the effects of Climate Change in terms of increased levels of rainfall causing flooding of farmland due to the increased water levels upstream of the weir at the Maid of Erin I ask that Ennis Municipal District Executive engage with the relevant State bodies, such as the

OPW , to look at the provision of automatic gates at the weir to let off water downstream of the weir.

Paddy Tiernan, A/SEE, responded as follows:

Ennis MD will liaise with the Office of Public Works and discuss the possibility of automating the flood gates at the Maid of Erin. This process will commence within the upcoming weeks. Currently the flood gates are operated manually by Ennis MD staff and are not reliant on an electric power source. In establishing the optimum height of the gates at any given time Ennis MD consider several variables including upstream water levels, downstream water levels, the operation of the fish pass and weather forecasts. It is envisaged that the automation of these gates, although not impossible, will be a very complex process.

This item was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Flynn strongly outlined not only the risk of damage caused by flooding generally, but also the particular public health risk associated with the flooding of farm lands which are located adjacent to a main town, as groundwater may find its way into the drinking water supply. He suggested that it was important that controls are in place to prevent farmland flooding so close to town.

No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr M Howard

Peace Park.

I request Ennis MD provide bins for rubbish at this location and cut back the overgrown Weeping Willow trees.

Paddy Tiernan, A/SEE, responded as follows:

Ennis MD staff inspect Peace Park on a daily basis and carry out a litter pick as part of normal operational duties. Follow review of the litter situation within the park Ennis MD will install a bin within the vicinity of the war memorial. This will be completed within the next 4-6 weeks.

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

Cllr Howard acknowledged the response and commented on recent vandalism of benches at this lovely quiet park which appears to have gained popularity since lockdown times, especially as a place to take time out and have lunch outdoors. She added that she would be happy to provide for two more benches from her GMA allocation. Cllr. Flynn, in support, added that the park warranted due care as this area holds an emotional significance for Ennis, being the focal point for memorials.

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

I request Ennis M.D. to look at the possibility of putting some sort of pedestrian crossing at the top of Abbey Street (from O'Connell's Bar over to the 3 shops) as its seriously dangerous crossing the street at this particular area of town.

Paddy Tiernan, A/SEE, responded as follows:

A need for a pedestrian crossing at this location has been identified and is planned. The pedestrian crossing is currently planned to be delivered under the Ennis Town Centre Public Realm Regeneration Project B. This project is programmed to commence construction in 2023.

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

Cllr. Daly welcomed the response and stated he was delighted that the pedestrian crossing would be provided at what is a hazardous area where people cross the street regularly without due care. Cllrs Flynn and Howard voiced support for this Motion and Cllr Flynn added that this crossing would serve to emphasise the priority of pedestrians over drivers in the centre of town.

No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton

I am asking that the Ennis MD on behalf of Clare County Council would submit a proposal to the TII for their consideration on this stretch of road at Gauras to put traffic calming measures in place before there is a serious accident.

Paddy Tiernan, A/SEE, responded as follows:

A traffic survey will be undertaken by the district office to determine the traffic speeds and volumes on the route in question. The outcome of this survey will help determine if speeding issues are present in the area and if so, how best to address them. The results of this survey will inform a potential submission for funding.

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

Cllr. Norton advised that several residents had contacted her with this request, as well as it being raised by Deputy Michael McNamara T.D. She expressed satisfaction that a survey was to be undertaken at the outset. Cllrs. Flynn, Murphy and Daly also supported this Motion and vouched for the volume and speed of traffic at this hazardous stretch of roadway.

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

That Ennis Municipal District carry out alterations to the cycling infrastructure installed along by St Flannans to the Kilrush road in order to improve access in and out of houses particularly those affected by flowerbeds constructed in that scheme.

Paddy Tiernan, A/SEE, responded as follows:

Ennis MD has carried out a recent inspection of the entrances/exits along this route. The scheme in question was designed and installed in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS). Narrow radii junctions were installed in order to reduce vehicular speeds and in turn improve the safety of cyclists and pedestrians. Flowerbeds were incorporated into these junctions as part of the design. The species of plants within the beds tend to grow vigorously during the summer months which in turn can hinder sightlines. Ennis

MD together with the Gardening Section will review planting arrangement of these beds and, where appropriate, plant more appropriate species.

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

Cllr. Flynn emphasised the number of residents affected by the poor visibility created by the planted beds. This Motion was supported by Cllrs Daly, Murphy and Howard and it was highlighted that a cycle or walkway should not pose a hindrance to safety. P. Tiernan, A/SEE agreed to meet with Cllr. Flynn and some local residents to address the issue of concern.

Item No. 6 Correspondence

None.

Item No. 7 Any Other Business

- (i) Members joined Chair Cllr Howard in paying tribute and sending condolences to the family of the late Jack Heaslip R.I.P.
- (ii) Members joined Chair Cllr Howard in sending condolences to the family of the late Nora Wilson (nee Monaghan), R.I.P. Nora and Jack's passing, together with the recent passing of Oliver Moylan R.I.P. represented a great loss to the town of Ennis. Cllr. Flynn added that the passing of Jim Brogan R.I.P. was also a great loss to the character of the town.
- (iii) Cllr Howard advised of recent achievements for Ennis. The *Ennis Age Friendly Town Strategy* won the 'Age Friendly Environment' award at the *National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards 2022*.
- (iv) Cllr Howard briefed on Ennis being crowned 'Ireland's Tidiest Large Urban Centre for 2022', at the recent National Tidy Towns competition. She commended the work done by all those involved.
- (v) Members joined Cllr Howard in congratulating *Eire Og CLG* for winning the County Football Final on Sunday which was a great source of pride for everybody. Cllr Norton acknowledged the determination of the club. Cllr Daly stated it was a very proud moment for him to see Captain Gavin Cooney lift the *Jack Daly Cup* particularly after the Club losing out one week earlier at the County Hurling final. He wished them every success in the next game in the Championship.

Cllr Murphy reminded the Meeting that congratulations was also due from the Municipal District to Ballyea CLG for their great win at the Hurling County Final and to wish them every success in the next game against St. Finbarr's from Cork.
- (vi) Cllr Howard briefed on Ennis' success in retaining **Purple Flag** status in 2022 adding it is a very positive achievement for Ennis as it helps establish a successful night-time economy. She commended the dedication of Director Carmel Kirby and Margaret O'Brien of Ennis Chamber as well as the support of Cllrs J. Flynn and M. Nestor in this regard. Cllr Norton also acknowledged and commended the long

standing contribution of Cllr Flynn . Cllr Flynn, as Chair of *Purple Flag* extended an appreciation for the commitment of Ennis M.D. and he added that the public lighting of bow-ways will further enhance the night-time economy. He raised concerns regarding some small elements of criminality which take from this type of success. Cllr Howard stated she will raise the criminality issue at the next Joint Policing Committee. Cllr Daly recommended inviting a delegation from Cloughleigh to the Joint Policing Committee as this was key to the success of remedying the ongoing antisocial and criminality elements.

- (vii) Cllr Norton briefed on the success of Doora-Barefield at Tidy Towns 2022, having been awarded 10 extra points since the previous year. She commended the financial support provided by Ennis MD in helping enhance the area and thereby increase its competitive standing.
- (viii) Cllr. Daly raised the issue of the uneven surface at the entrance of the national school which needs attention.
- (ix) Cllr Murphy acknowledged and commended the work of *Ennis Mental Health Association* over the past 30 years, advising that it will cease operating this year. He acknowledged the dedication of Chair Maria Molloy and members Sean Conlon and John-Joe Burns. Cllr. Murphy recommended that their work be recognised at a future Mayoral Reception.
- (x) Cllr Murphy briefed on the positive news for Clarecastle in the *Tidy Towns Awards 2022*, gaining more points than in the previous year.
- (xi) Cllr. Howard commended the great success of the '*Ennis Fantastic Film Fest*' which had generated a great atmosphere, adding that this festival and the Ennis Book Club festival were huge assets for the district.

The Meeting ended at 11:50am.

Signed: 
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: 
Meetings Administrator

Date: 06/12/22