

Minutes - January 2023

Ennis Municipal District meeting

10:45a.m. on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Council Chamber and on-line

**Councillors:** C. Colleran-Molloy, T. O'Callaghan, P. Murphy, P. Daly, M. Howard, A. Norton, J. Flynn.

**Officials:** Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Ian Chaplin, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Niamh O'Connor, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator, Lily McInerney, Staff Officer (minutes).

**Apologies:** C. Kirby, Director of Service

Chairperson Cllr. Colleran-Molloy opened the meeting welcoming all.

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

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

**Item No. 2. Matters Arising**

Cllr. Flynn requested clarity on whether he was required to submit an official notification re GMA allocation of €500 to McTigue Memorial, which he advised at the December Meeting. It was clarified that notification was required and that the item was recorded in December Minutes and has been taken forward for payment.

**Item No. 3. Notices of Motion**

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

Gort Road Pedestrian Crossing

There have been a number of "near misses" of vulnerable road users at the pedestrian crossing at Hogan's Shop on the Gort Road. (In front of Glenina & Pine Grove estates)

Is it possible to upgrade this crossing to make it more visible to traffic to ensure the safety of users.

***Paddy Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, responded as follows:***

*Ennis MD commits to reviewing this pedestrian crossing and will investigate measures to improve the visibility of the crossing. Branches of trees which impact the visibility of the crossing will be trimmed*

*back. Ennis MD will also review the current line marking and advance warning signage and upgrade if deemed necessary.*

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

Cllr Howard outlined safety concerns of residents and questioned if funding can be applied for to remedy this. Cllr Flynn in support added that an upgrade is warranted given the extended housing estate at Hazel Lane. Cllr Daly added that this road also serves two industrial estates and schools.

Ian Chaplin, A/SEE, added that measures like signposts and road lining can provide benefit in these areas. He advised any measures are location dependent and can negatively impact on traffic entering and egressing from estates.

### **No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn**

Since I was elected as a councillor to represent Ennis & district and particularity over the last decade & more I have lobbied for a Town bus service for Ennis . I welcome the news that the National Transport Agency (NTA) plan to have a two route Ennis Bus service in operation by the latest Q1 2025. In light of that news I and my fellow Ennis Municipal District Councillors ask that Clare County Council commence straight away the planning & design for the construction of the essential related on-street bus service infrastructure, such as the up to 70/80 necessary bus stops , in order to ensure that that infrastructure is in place to support the quality and usability of the service by the end of 2024.

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

*The provision of a Town Public Bus Service for Ennis has been a priority for all involved in the delivery of services for the former Ennis Town Council-Clare County Council Ennis Area and Ennis Municipal District Council. At a recent briefing to Councillors, the NTA Public Bus Team outlined their intention to have the detailed design and locations of bus stops completed during Q1 – Q3 of 2023. The Council has outlined to the NTA Public Bus Team that we will assist in the timely completion of the required infrastructure designs and installation for the Ennis Town Public Bus Service.*

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

Cllr Flynn acknowledged the response and again requested that the required infrastructure such as sheltered bus stops, be worked on at the earliest opportunity. All Members supported this Motion, commenting on the positive social impact the service will bring and the removal of traffic from the centre of town. Cllr Howard recommended stops are monitored for usage, highlighting the unsheltered bus stop on Lifford Road used by students travelling to UL.

L O’Neill SEO clarified that existing bus stops can be examined once the stop locations for the new town bus service are known, as there may be overlap. Cllr Flynn also noted the value in raising the issue with NTA of whether any current Bus Eireann stops will be used for the town bus service.

### **No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy**

DeValera Monument: That the DeValera Monument be examined for maintenance and cleaning, & that the works be undertaken as soon as possible.

#### ***Paddy Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, responded as follows:***

*The Council agrees to obtain a conservation report for the monument in the new year so that costs can be determined. Thereafter, a source of funding will need be secured to undertake any works.*

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

This motion was well supported by Members. L O'Neill advised that the initial report is being undertaken by the Conservation Officer and this will provide an initial evaluation as to what, if any, works are recommended to preserve and protect the statue.

**No. 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy**

Re Junction of Barrack Street, Old Road and Church Drive/Creggaunahilla, Clarecastle. I am proposing that a Road Safety application is prepared and submitted as soon as possible seeking funding to improve safety at this location. This is a dangerous junction where three roads meet and there is the added complication of a carpark being adjacent to it also, a number of pedestrians have been knocked down and this needs to be given priority urgently.

***Conor McDonagh, Executive Engineer, Road Design, responded as follows:***

*Road Design will carry out an assessment of the relevant junction and thereafter make a determination on what safety measure / intervention is appropriate at this location*

*This item was seconded by Cllr. T. O'Callaghan and agreed by all Members.*

**This Notice of Motion was addressed in conjunction with similar Notice of Motion No. 6.**

Cllr Murphy advised that the village has outgrown its existing infrastructure and would benefit from a traffic calming measure at this junction, adding that the Roche rehabilitation works will only serve to exacerbate the situation. Members voiced support for this Motion.

**No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly**

I ask Ennis MD to make contact with Bus Eireann with a view to considering putting a bus stop on the Gort Road.

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

*The Ennis Municipal District Office checked the Bus Eireann Expressway Service schedule and there is no listing for a bus stop on the Gort Road. The primary Ennis -Galway service operates from the Ennis Railway Station via Clonroad-Tulla Road to the M18 and onwards to stops in Crusheen and Gort. The Local Link Services operates a R337 Kilrush-Kildysart-Ennis & other service that has stops at Gort Road Business Park and Dulick Centre. The 343 Ennis Limerick Service covers the bus stops on Lifford Road at Tim Smyth Park – Kavanaghs Spar Shop*

*The NTA Ennis Town Public Bus Service will have a route on the Gort Road with bus stop locations. Once the detailed design of the NTA Ennis Town Public Bus Service routing and bus stop locations is completed there should be clarity on the locations where the service will integrate with existing service operators.*

*This item was seconded by Cllr. T. O'Callaghan and agreed by all Members.*

Cllr Daly outlined how Gort Road residents had raised the issue regarding the loss of the bus stop for the Ennis-Galway service which now runs via Tulla Road only. He welcomed the response and the confirmation that the new town bus service would stop on the Gort Road. Cllr O'Callaghan supported the Motion adding that effective connectivity was hugely valuable to the area. Cllrs Howard and Flynn also supported this Motion.

**No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O’Callaghan**

I am requesting Clare County Council review the Church Drive road on safety grounds in Clarecastle due to increased traffic to and from Creggaunahilla Housing Estate.

***John Gannon, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design, responded as follows:***

*Road Design will carry out an assessment of the relevant area and thereafter make a determination on what safety measure / intervention is appropriate at this location.*

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

**This Notice of Motion was addressed in conjunction with similar Notice of Motion No. 4.**

Please refer to Notice of Motion No. 4.

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

Drehidnagower Bridge.

Once again I ask Ennis Municipal District Council to source funding to provide a separate footbridge over the River Fergus and a footpath at the western side of the bridge.

***Conor McDonagh, Executive Engineer, Road Design, responded as follows:***

*Transportation consultants have been appointed under this Active Travel scheme to carry out a transportation assessment, which includes a feasibility and option selection report to examine pedestrian / cyclist permeability over the Drehidnagower bridge. They are currently undertaking necessary surveys on-site and preparing a suitable Multi Criteria Analysis under which all viable options will be assessed to determine the most appropriate solution. When the emerging preferred option has been established, it will be necessary to apply to the NTA for further funding and seek approval to progress that solution from preliminary design through to construction in accordance with the NTA’s Project Appraisal Guidelines.*

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

Cllr Howard acknowledged the response and outlined the urgency of a pedestrian footbridge given the added congestion arising from the recently inhabited 61-home estate nearby. All Members supported this Motion.

**No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy**

I am requesting that parking arrangements as advertised under Section 38 for Old Road, Clarecastle are provided/introduced as soon as possible. This will provide additional, clearly defined parking that is within a short walk of the village centre and will also act as a speed deterrent as it will narrow the road carriageway at this location.

***Paddy Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, responded as follows:***

*Ennis MD will review the Section 38 for Old Road, Clarecastle and will further consult with local community groups and local representatives before implementing the scheme. Ennis MD note there*

may be opportunity to provide for additional parking above what is catered for under the existing Section 38.

Ennis MD also note road and pedestrian safety concerns raised in this area as per Notice of Motion 5 and Notice of Motion 7. Ennis MD believe it would be prudent to examine the need for an all-encompassing revised Section 38 in light of these concerns.

*This item was seconded by Cllr. T. O'Callaghan and agreed by all Members.*

Cllr Murphy acknowledged the response and having discussed the Motion with P. Tiernan A/SEE, highlighted the added benefit of slowing down traffic. Ian Chaplin clarified that the Patrick Street element of the Section 38 had been completed but the remaining issues may require a revised version of the Section 38 by the Road Design Office. Members voiced support for this Motion.

**No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly**

I request Ennis MD to upgrade the road adjacent to the Grotto (Hermitage), as presently it is in poor condition on both sides.

***Paddy Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, responded as follows:***

*Ennis MD will put forward this road for inclusion in the Schedule of Municipal Works for 2023. Subject to inclusion and associated funding this road will be upgraded in 2023.*

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

Cllr Daly mentioned that no maintenance of any significance had been carried out at this location in a number of years and he welcomed the response. Ian Chaplin stressed that the maintenance would be in the form of surface overlay determined by the rating given in the annual Paving Condition Survey Index (PCSI). This Motion was well supported by Members.

**No. 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy**

That measures be undertaken to address the dangerous speeding on the connector road from Kilrush Rd to Clonroadmore at the corner of Cootes Shop.

***Paddy Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, 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. P. Murphy and agreed by all Members.*

Cllr Colleran-Molloy acknowledged the response and highlighted the high usage of the connector road. This Motion was widely supported by all Members who highlighted the popularity of Cootes's shop in determining the rationale for action. Ian Chaplin clarified that the topographic study would aid in providing a solution.

**No. 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn**

Further to public realm upgrade projects completed for in Parnell Street and planned to commence for O Connell Street and Barrack Street, which combined will have costed circa €20 million, I and my fellow Ennis Municipal District Councillors ask that Ennis Municipal District carry out a feasibility study of similar works for Abbey Street in order to apply for Part 8 Planning to enable the lodging an application to Government for Urban Renewable & Development Fund ( URDF) funding under what would be a third phase of the Ennis Town Centre Public Realm Regeneration.

***Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, responded as follows:***

*The inclusion of Abbey Street in future public realm regeneration projects is a priority for Ennis Municipal District.*

*Ennis Municipal District, together with Ennis 2040 recently met with the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund team to determine what the likely priorities under Call 3 of the fund will be. Whilst we are still awaiting the guidelines under the next call, early indications are that there will likely be a focus on Housing for All and Town Centre First.*

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

Acknowledging the response, Cllr. Flynn requested that all efforts are made to push for the feasibility study to be undertaken. Leonore O’Neill, SEO added that the Department had indicated that there will likely be a *Call 4* on URDF, that there is potential that the focus may be on works other than the housing priority.

**Item No. 4. Correspondence**

- (i) Leonore O’Neill, SEO, confirmed that Shannon Group had responded to Ennis M.D. in relation to the Quin Road industrial estate infrastructure and that this response had been circulated to all Members.

**Item No. 5. Any Other Business**

- (i) Members joined Chair Colleran-Molloy in extending sympathy to the late John Carrig R.I.P. of Clarecastle, Uncle-in-law of Councillor Tom O’Callaghan.
- (ii) Members joined Clare Colleran-Molloy in extending sympathy to the family of the late Kieran O’Connor R.I.P, late of Tulla Road Ennis who had passed away suddenly.
- (iii) Members joined Cllr. M. Howard in extending sympathy to the family of the late Anne Wall R.I.P, former owner of Auburn Lodge Hotel and Beehive Café. Ann was a great example of strong capable women with vision and a great worker.
- (iv) Members joined Cllr. Howard in extending sympathy to the family of the late Packie Vaughan of Market Place, Ennis.

- (v) Members joined Cllr. Howard in extending sympathy to the family of the late Denny Vaughan, R.I.P, late of Knockanean, retired CNO from Our Lady's Hospital.
- (vi) Members joined Cllr. Howard in extending sympathy to the family of the late Mike Richards R.I.P, who had passed away at the age of 86, and had been a wonderful contributor to the success of Ennis Tidy Towns.
- (vii) Members joined Cllr. P. Daly in extending sympathy to the family of the late Paddy Loftus R.I.P, of Buttermarket. Paddy had worked as a lorry driver for the Council many years ago and had been a hurler for Eire Og Hurling Club.
- (viii) Members joined Cllr. P. Daly in extending sympathy to the family of the late John Moran R.I.P. late of Abbeycourt, who had worked for Aer Lingus.
- (ix) Members joined Chair Colleran-Molloy in welcoming the latest IBAL results, which ranked Ennis number 5 out of 40 towns/cities surveyed. The outdoor crews and Tidy Towns were commended for the diligent work in this regard.
- (x) Members joined Cllr. A. Norton in extending sympathy to the family of the late Helen O'Loughlin R.I.P. of Clarecastle, and who had been involved in sports over the years and who would be sadly missed by her large family and all who knew her.
- (xi) Cllr Howard highlighted the success of Pat Foudy, of Pat Foudy and Daughter Tyre Centre, on achieving a national award for tyre safety.
- (xii) Cllr Flynn expressed disappointment at the communication from Shannon Group properties regarding the Quin Road industrial estate adding that business owners are now left with the problem of sewerage infrastructure in private rather than public ownership.

The Meeting ended at 12:36 p.m.

Signed:   
Mayor of Ennis

Signed:   
Meetings Administrator

Date: 07/02/2023

