

Minutes - June 2023

Ennis Municipal District meeting

10:30a.m. on Tuesday 6th June 2023

Council Chamber and on-line

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

Officials: Carmel Kirby, Director of Service, Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Patrick Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Niamh O'Connor, Administrative Officer and Meetings Administrator, Lily McInerney, Staff Officer (minutes).

Apologies: None.

Chair Cllr. Colleran-Molloy opened the meeting welcoming representatives of the McTigue family seated in the gallery.

Item No. 1. (i) **Minutes (deferred) of the April 2023 Meeting of Municipal District of Ennis held on 4th April 2023.**

Cllrs Flynn and O'Callaghan acknowledged the executive for amendments to the Minutes of April meeting as presented at the May Meeting.

Cllr Flynn commented that the amended April minutes presented at today's meeting contained an inaccuracy on page 3, that it was incorrect to state that 499 no. car parking spaces would be delivered. Director of Service Carmel Kirby clarified that circumstances had changed since the April Meeting, but that the number of car parking spaces quoted on page 3 of the April minutes was accurate at the date of the April Meeting.

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

(ii) **Minutes of the May 2023 Meeting of Municipal District of Ennis held on Tuesday 2nd May 2023.**

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

Item No. 2. **Matters Arising**

- (i) Cllr Flynn reiterated that the development of Abbey Street Car Park was something he could not support. He also wished records to reflect that the issue of adequate car parking provision was not being dealt with to his satisfaction, namely that private car parking should not be included in overall car parking numbers.

- (ii) Cllr O'Callaghan reiterated that he fully supports *Ennis2040* but is not in favour of the development of Abbey Street Car Park and would welcome a discussion on alternative approaches.
- (iii) Cllr Flynn raised the previous allocation of €2,000 to *Experience Ennis* under Festivals & Events 2023 as it appears that this entity may now be folding. Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, responded that clarification would be sought on this issue but confirmed that Promote Ennis T/A *Experience Ennis* was currently trading.
- (iv) Carmel Kirby, Director of Service, in response to a query from Cllrs Flynn and Daly with reference to objection letters from retailers, clarified that the decision to continue the daily closure of O'Connell Street to traffic pending the public realm works was fully explained in the May minutes.

Item No. 3. (i) **Section 83: Traffic Calming at Clonroadmore, Cappahard, and Lifford Ennis.**

Report and maps had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. Paddy Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, clarified that the 8 no. pedestrian crossings installed earlier in the year had attracted further funding from NTA under *Active Travel* to enable these measures to now take place and that a total of €300,000 had been secured for all "co-creating" measures. Members welcomed the proposed works and particular mention was made of the benefits for walkers, cyclists, disabled and other vulnerable road users. Senior Executive Officer Leonore O'Neill acknowledged the GMA contributions made by Members towards the SAUL School of Architecture 'connecting & co-creating' project. This work enabled the identification of accessibility issues to walking routes around the town and informed much of Ennis's Active Travel successes.

This item was proposed by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by all Members.

(ii) Section 11: Declaration of Public Road at Curates Court, Roslevan, Ennis.

Report and maps had been circulated in advance of the Meeting.

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

(iii) Section 183: Proposed disposal of house known as "Grey Gables", Station Road, Ennis.

Report and maps had been circulated in advance of the Meeting.

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

(iv) Section 183: Proposed disposal of small piece of ground at Drumquin, Barefield, Co. Clare (M18 off slip at Junction 14).

Report and map had been circulated in advance of Meeting.

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

(v) Public consultation on the proposal to rename Victoria Bridge.

This item is as a result of an adopted Notice of Motion by Cllr P. Daly proposing to rename Victoria Bridge to “Mike McTigue Bridge” in honor of the World Champion boxer. In accordance with *Section 196 of the Local Government Act 2001*, a public consultation process was held from 24th March to 7th April 2023.

190 submissions were received. 108 in favour, 82 against the proposed renaming.

Two pieces of correspondence have been received and circulated to Members, in relation to this item. Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, read out the contents of the letters received, one letter in support of the renaming, the other raising concerns about the renaming.

Discussion ensued. Cllr Daly recommended honoring the results of the public consultation by adopting the change of name.

Members voiced opinions on the proposal. Cllr Flynn supported Cllr Murphy’s recommendation to defer the decision until the next Ennis M.D. Meeting to give adequate time to fully consider the proposal. Cllr Howard requested assurance that she had not taken inappropriate action in having delivered voting cards to some local residents who would not be able to access the online platform. She also sought clarification that the correct procedure was followed. Cllr O’Callaghan supported Cllr Daly’s recommendation to adopt the change of name, stating that it was an incredible achievement to have a World Champion to honor in this way.

It was confirmed that Cllrs Murphy, Flynn, Howard and Collieran-Molloy had no objection in principle, just sought to ensure procedure was followed and adequate time was allocated to fully consider the proposal. Cllr Collieran-Molloy requested assurance from the executive that the correct process had been adhered to in accordance with the appropriate legislation. Leonore O’Neill confirmed same. The motion was carried.

Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, confirmed that the necessary steps would now be followed to arrange for the change of name on all mapping and on signage.

Item No. 4 GMA for approval

Cllr. Flynn withdrew from the meeting, during discussion around allocation of GMA to Clare County Agricultural Show. Whilst he had no financial benefit, he wished to avoid a potential perception of conflict of interest.

The following items were proposed by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly and agreed by all Members:

	Amount
Festival and Events Coordinator	€20,000
Christmas Lights Ennis	€15,000
Administration	€3,000
Specific Financial Contributions (4 x €1,000, see below) *	€4,000

*Specific Financial Contributions 2023	Amount
Franciscan Friary	€1,000
St. Vincent de Paul	€1,000
St. Columba's Church	€1,000
St. John Community Games	€1,000

Festival and Events 2023	Amount
Clare County Show	€2,000

Community Grants 2023	Amount
St. Michael's Villas	€4,000

Project	Amount
Banner GAA	€1,500.00
Banner GAA walking route	€1,000.00
Clarecastle Agricultural Show	€5,000.00
County Clare Agricultural Show	€1,000.00
Ennis Educate Together	€1,075.00
Ennis National School All Weather Pitch	€2,000.00
Clare Going Well Programme	€3,000.00
Eire Óg GAA	€500.00

Honest John Purcell Memorial	€2,000.00
Lions Club – Bursary	€500.00
RNLI	€500.00
Soroptimists Club Bursary	€500.00
Spencilhill Fair	€5,000.00
St Michael’s Villas Anniversary Celebrations	€500.00
Total	24,075.00

Item No. 5. Notices of Motions

Deferred Notices of Motion for May 2023 Meeting

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

Following complaints from concerned residents I request Ennis Municipal District (MD) to review maintenance arrangements in place for green areas that the Ennis MD contract out to be cut to ensure, among other things, that

- 1) grass is not allowed to grow to an excessive height and then left on the ground to be blown onto the road
- 2) any trees which are now dead should be removed
- 3). trees that are very tall should be cut back.
- 4) deal with the roots of trees growing onto the footpaths which create potential trip/slip hazard for pedestrians.

Tommy Scott, Senior Executive Technician, responded as follows:

1)The 2023 Grass cutting programme is underway, mulching mowers are in use. Grass debris is blown off the roads as part of the process.

2) Each year trees, situated on public lands, which are noted as dead are inspected. Their details are then added to a list for removal. This list is sent out for procurement. Trees are then removed in sequence at the appropriate time. Tree removal on public roads requires specialist services, traffic management and is high risk and very costly.

3) All complaints relating to trees are compiled into lists and inspected. All items reported are addressed, depending on the nature of the matter external professional advice and assistance may need to be procured. Each case is dealt with on its own merits.

4) *Tree roots can and do damage footpaths. Where this problem is reported or encountered each situation is carefully assessed on its own merits and a solution devised to protect the public and preserve the tree where possible.*

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

Cllr Flynn acknowledged the response from Tommy Scott, adding that it was important that the grass cutting contract is improved year on year. Cllr Murphy supported this Motion and urged that more funding is sought for dealing with volumes of grass at the beginning of cutting season.

No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T O'Callaghan

Westbourne Court

Walking entrance trees require trimming with a full sweep needed in the interest of safety also grass needs a cut. Consideration should be given to install public bins ensuring a general improvement for the estate with ground rubbish build up.

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

The walking entrance will be examined, and resources assigned to address the issue reported.

The 2023 grass cutting programme has commenced at this location.

The installation of a public bin within a residential housing estate would not be appropriate.

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

Cllr O'Callaghan acknowledged the response and highlighted the health & safety aspect of ensuring regular maintenance in these estates.

No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton

As the new primary care centre is now open and a welcome to Ennis unfortunately there are issues with parking on the premises and surrounding areas. Can we write to primary care in head office and ask Maria Bridgman what the plans are to alleviate these issues not only for staff but for the patients as well.

No response required.

No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard

Has there being any progress in finding a solution to the issues at the Shanaway Road junction with the N85 - Lahinch Road?

Conor McDonagh, A/Senior Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

The Road Design Office are continuing to engage with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) – as the funding and standards authority for national roads – in devising potential design solutions for the existing Shanaway Road junction on the N85 national road. Separately and in addition to that, the National Transport Authority (NTA) has recently announced Active Travel funding to facilitate the commencement of a concept design for cycling facilities on the N85 national road from Loughville to the Clareen roundabout and beyond. The existing junction with Shanaway Road will be required to be modified to accommodate this Active Travel scheme. It is therefore our intention to continue to liaise with both TII and the NTA as the concept design is developed later this year to resolve the ongoing issues as part of the larger Active Travel scheme.

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

Cllr Howard acknowledged the response but registered disappointment that a remedy to such a hazardous junction is taking so long to reach. She referenced the increasing traffic serving a golf club, hotel, GAA clubs and over 1000 homes and the daily back-up of traffic emerging onto the N85. She added that a left lane would at least free up traffic due westbound. Cllr Daly and Cllr Flynn supported this Motion and commented that an interim solution was necessary and that the Corovorrin upgrade was an example of a successful remedy. Paddy Tiernan, A/SEE clarified that as there was a double layer of works planned for this junction – ie. a cycle lane as well as traffic calming roundabout measures, this required dual planning, and it is regrettable that these plans take time to get right but should provide a good solution.

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

As part of the development of the cycling network within Ennis Municipal District, I'm requesting an update on all proposed cycling schemes i.e., Limerick Road/St. Flannan's Drive, Lahinch Road, Clareabbey Roundabout, Lahinch Road and Ennis to Latoon and onwards.

Conor McDonagh, A/Senior Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

The following is the status of design development for cycling infrastructure within Ennis town:

- *Tulla Road: A non-statutory public consultation has now concluded with minor amendments being made to the design to incorporate additional traffic calming measures requested by members of the public during the process. It is intended that the scheme will be advanced through a Statutory Process presently.*
- *For the following schemes, funding for conceptual design development only has been made available in 2023:*
 - *Limerick Road including St. Flannans Drive: Concept development underway.*
 - *Lahinch Road: Concept development initiated; and*
 - *Gort Road: Concept development expected to commence in Quarter 4 2023.*

In respect of cycling infrastructure proposed via Latoon, this project is on-hold pending the outcome of a Planning application by Irish Water for installation of pipework beneath the proposed route of the cycle track.

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

Cllr Murphy acknowledged the response and registered concern regarding the stalling of the Latoon project as quoted in the response. He welcomed the other elements of the response and praised the works at the front of St. Flannan's college as being very positive. Cllrs. Collieran-Molloy and Flynn supported this Motion.

No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Collieran-Molloy

That signage (including footpath stencils) to warn dog owners of the ramifications of dog-fouling be installed in the Cahercalla Road area which is experiencing high levels of dog fouling in recent times.

Maria Carey, Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

This complaint has been assigned to our Community Warden for action. Dog Fouling Stencils will be placed on the footpaths along Cahercalla Road and metal, pole-mounted signs will be placed on this road also.

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

Cllr Colleran-Molloy welcomed the response. Cllr Howard supported this Motion highlighting that though it is only a minority who are at fault, this issue is a health & safety concern for all. Cllrs Daly and O'Callaghan also supported this Motion and the importance of the public being made aware of penalties for this offence.

No. 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T O'Callaghan

Roche Clare Castle Demolition:

Please confirm what safety measures is considered with work's expected to intensity though Clare castle Village shortly.

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

Ennis MD have engaged at length with Roche including elected members over the past few months with respect to the decommissioning works which are underway at the site. All vehicular movements to and from the facility will be via Patrick Street and will enter and exit Clarecastle Village from the direction of Junction 11 on the M18 motorway (Dromoland). This arrangement has been conditioned as part of the current planning permission for the site and is designed to minimise disruption within the village. Furthermore, Roche have also deployed Traffic Marshalls within the village to assist with both pedestrian and vehicular movements. Though Roche are in the early stages of decommissioning the plan is currently operating extremely well with no negative impact to the village reported. During maximum productivity it is envisaged the works will generate one additional truck movement every 5 minutes through the village. This is a very low level of intensification. Ennis MD will continue to liaise with Roche and will continue to the monitor the situation.

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

Cllr O'Callaghan welcomed the response, commenting on the volume of materials to be removed from the site and that it was encouraging to know that proper procedures are in place. He added that there will be a positive future for this site once the clearance is completed. Cllr Murphy supported this Motion adding that there has been very strong engagement locally both from Ennis M.D. and from Roche and those most affected are being facilitated.

No. 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard

In the interest of Health & Safety can the roads department of Ennis MD apply for finance under Active Travel or other to facilitate the safe crossing at the Rocky Road (Icarus) Roundabout for both pedestrians and cyclists.

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

The Rocky Road Roundabout forms part of the N85 and N68, both of whom are National Roads. As such engagement will be required with the TII in terms of any alteration to the existing layout. Ennis MD will commence this engagement process and expect to be in a position to provide a more comprehensive response at the June Municipal District meeting.

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

Cllr Howard highlighted that school children cross this very busy road at the Icarus roundabout as there is no pedestrian crossing to the national school. Cllr Collieran Molloy supported this Motion stating that it would be a positive outcome if the school route could be safeguarded by way of a safe crossing. Cllr. Daly also supported this motion.

June Notice of Motions

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

Bicycle Library

That Ennis Municipal District, in conjunction with the NTA "Active Travel" Scheme investigate the possibility of establishing a pilot Bicycle Bank programme at one of the national schools in Ennis, where the alleviation of car traffic would be optimised.

Conor McDonagh, Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

The Active Travel team within Clare County Council will, in the first instance, liaise with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to determine the feasibility of this proposal for implementation at national schools within the town. Subject to a positive response from the NTA, the Active Travel team will work with Ennis Municipal District thereafter to identify suitable locations.

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

Cllr Collieran-Molloy, stated that this Notice of Motion was inspired by the presentation 'sustainable travel to school' given by TY students from C laiste Muire at the May meeting. She added that she would very much welcome developments on this issue. Cllr Howard, in support, praised the innovative ideas from the students as part of the Ennis 2040 D.A.C. education and public consultation programme. Cllr Murphy strongly supported this Motion and the importance of younger generations being encouraged to do more walking and cycling.

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

At a recent meeting in Barefield I was asked to bring these items to our MD for consideration.

- The speed of traffic going through Barefield village is excessive. Traffic calming needed (not ramps)
- Parking on footpaths in the vicinity of Barefield school and on the new footpath/cycleway opposite Barefield church.
- Extension of proposed Ennis town bus route from its proposed termination point of Ballymaley Business Park to Barefield Village as there is only one bus serving the village on a Saturday from TFI Local Link.
- The signage in Barefield village is both dirty and faded, there are a number of these signs. - Can these be inspected and cleaned?

Ian Chaplin, Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

Speed of traffic going through Barefield village: An assessment of the current situation as well as a speed survey will be conducted as soon as possible and resources allow. An engineer from this office has recently been at the school and met with the principal and noted some of the schools concerns which are similar to the NOM. The MD will liaise with the Road Design office to ascertain what solutions are possible here and what potential funding sources are available.

Parking on footpaths: It is illegal to park on a footpath or in a cycleway. There is parking available along the R458 on the hard shoulder, but it is recognised that the school likely needs to acquire land to provide for staff parking. This would free up space for visitor parking.

Signage in Barefield Village: The signs in and around the village will be inspected shortly and where found to be in need of cleaning, this will be done by the MD Outdoor staff.

John Nott, National Transport Authority, responded as follows:

Extension of proposed Ennis town bus route: It is unlikely that any alteration will be made at this time as the scheduling is based on the route timing that sets the number of buses required to maintain the schedule and an alteration may require an additional bus which may make a schedule less/non-viable.

The matter of the termination point was raised with the NTA Town Bus Team on a recent site visit to Ennis and we are evaluating the consequences of any alteration to the present schedule.

The need at Barefield will be examined under the Connecting Ireland Programme.

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

Cllr Howard acknowledged the response and commented that Barefield residents would be disappointed that the bus route will not extend to them. Cllr Murphy and Flynn supported this Motion and the value of elements of this Motion to elderly and vulnerable road users. Cllr Daly supported Cllr Howard's recommendation that the bus service extends to Barefield.

No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. 3 by Cllr. T. O'Callaghan

Ennis Municipal District GMA Allocations

To ask the Executive and Fellow Councillors engage a root and branch discussion on the workings of Ennis Municipal District GMA Allocations including comparison with the process in the other Clare Municipal Districts.

Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, responded as follows:

The legal basis for the General Municipal District Allocation (GMA) is prescribed in the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

The budget allocation at Municipal District level is agreed annually with members as part of the budget process.

It is a reserved function of the Councillors of each Municipal District to decide how the General Municipal District monies are expended within their own MD.

Ennis Municipal District continues to meet and work in partnership on various matters (including GMA) with the MD Members and the executive will facilitate a GMA workshop should that be requested by the Ennis MD councillors. The ultimate aim of this collaborative approach is improving the quality of life for the citizens of the Municipal District of Ennis.

This item was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn

Cllr O'Callaghan acknowledged the response. He outlined that the inspiration for this Notice of Motion was that he considers GMA allocations to help local sporting and community groups to be

relatively small. He added that capital and strategic projects should be funded from central government. He questioned if there is full transparency in procedures for allocation of GMA monies and if a cost-benefit analysis was appropriate. He stated that he would appreciate a full allocation per Councillor similar to rural Municipal Districts.

Discussion ensued. Cllr Flynn in support commented that Ennis contributes more per capita than its rural counterparts to the Local Property Tax fund, yet does not benefit from a corresponding GMA allocation.

Cllr Murphy whilst supporting the Motion, stressed that the current process was transparent, that workshops and discussions take place and that it works well as each Member still has a discretionary amount to spend.

Cllr Howard reminded the Meeting that a decision had been made in the past that local sporting groups were not to be included for consideration in GMA funding and that the discretionary amount was available to support those groups if any Member wished to. She outlined how Members meet annually to discuss the merits of supporting any group with no governing body and that current support from GMA is assisting groups with older people running them who would not get support elsewhere. She added that the tone of this Motion could be seen as somewhat disrespectful to the executive.

Cllr Colleran-Molloy commented that the use of terms like “due diligence” and “transparency” appeared to suggest that this is not currently happening, when it is. She added that there is little value in another workshop this year as most of the allocations for 2023 have been approved by all Ennis MD members.

Cllr O’Callaghan expressed frustration at the responses and stated that there may be a better way of allocating GMA which should be given consideration. He reminded the Meeting that €11k discretionary funding was very low in comparison to approx €40k available to Municipal District rural counterparts. He reiterated that capital monies should be sought from central government and that sporting groups should not be omitted from GMA allocation. Cllr. O’Callaghan added that he had the utmost respect for the executive but simply wished to see a change in how GMA is used.

Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, responded that two separate issues have been raised (a) actual distribution of GMA monies, and (b) overall allocation in the first instance.

Regarding the latter, this discussion needs to take place as part of the overall budgetary process via Corporate Policy Group and that the actual value of GMA for adoption comes from the Finance Section and is approved by each Municipal District.

Regarding the first issue of local distribution of monies, the executive is happy to support any workshop and one is arranged annually at the start of the year for the purpose of agreeing allocations. The discretionary allocation is based on the consensus of all Members and the current format and funding mechanisms are agreed by all. Much of the 2023 allocation is now formally approved but smaller amounts remain to allocate. For 2024 a workshop will be held at start of the year.

No. 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn

Ennis Municipal district request Clare County Council to prepare a master plan for the regeneration of the town centre of the properties it owns in Bindon Street and Harmony Row (the TUS building and the current Library which will be unused from Q1 2024). Part of the master plan to consider the potential purchasing any adjoining vacant sites to maximise the regeneration potential.

Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, responded as follows:

The Four storey building and adjacent two storey building at 1A Bindon Street, owned by the Council, is currently under a Lease to the Technological University of the Shannon (formerly LIT). The establishment of this educational centre within the town centre was an important milestone in the development of the town.

The other buildings owned by the Council,

- Library Headquarters Building (a protected structure)*
- Manse Building (a protected structure)*
- De Valera Library building and surrounding space*
- Former Church (a protected structure)*
- Storage building which was used to house De Valera's Car*

are part of the Abbey Riverside Transformational Project outlined in the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy.

Clare County Council does propose to review the future use of these buildings in the context of current and emerging needs in line with the Ennis 2040 Strategy. Clare County Council, in conjunction with Ennis 2040 DAC, will assess and advance proposals for this area in due course. Clare County Council and Ennis 2040 DAC will continue to liaise with property owners of commercial and residential sites in the Ennis town centre as part of the implementation of Ennis 2040.

Cllr Flynn acknowledged the response.

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

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

I ask Ennis M.D. to install two ramps on the Millbank Road [from Ballymacahill Cross to Fahy Hall] due to serious speed on this particular road.

Ian Chaplin, Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

The MD will assess the need for ramps at this location. Ramps are not always the first solution if an issue exists at a location such as speeding traffic.

Cllr Daly acknowledged the response from Ian Chaplin and looks forward to the outcome of the assessment.

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

As John Nott, Senior Transport Planner from the NTA was due to give a scheduled briefing to Members at 12:15, it was agreed Notices of Motion 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11 would be deferred to a special meeting (date tbc).

No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy

An estate taking in charge request was submitted to Clare County Council by me on behalf of the residents of Radharc Na hInse, Ballybeg a number of years ago. I am requesting that this request is expedited as a matter of urgency considering that currently, all four streetlights are out of order.

Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer, responded as follows:

The taking in charge of this development is not something Clare County Council can progress in the short-term as there is a Developer Provided Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) on site and Clare County Council cannot legally take this WWTP in charge while Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) also argue that the taking in charge of developments with Developer Provided Infrastructure falls outside the MoU they have with local authorities. This is a national issue across all local authorities but is a major issue in Clare with many developments in a similar position. The Government are looking at ways/initiatives at resolving the issue.

For this development, the closest public sewer is approximately 220 meters to the east (Kildysart roadside) of the entrance to the site. The obvious long-term solution is to eliminate the requirement for the existing treatment plant, but this would require a new pumping station (to Uisce Éireann standards) and a rising main of over 300 meters long connecting to the existing gravity sewer on the public road. Works of this scale would require national funding.

There is a small bond held by the Council in respect of this development and the Planning Department are confident that a successful claim on the bond may materialise in the coming weeks and these monies will be used to prioritise urgent repairs to the public lighting.

Cllr. P Murphy acknowledged the response.

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

Deferred NOMs**No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy**

Following the upgrade of the Clarecastle Sewage Mains Network, I am requesting data regarding the volume of raw sewage that is now being pumped from Quay Road pumping station, Clarecastle, to the treatment facility at Clareabbey, and the extent to which it now gets treated before discharge into the River Fergus.

Colm Clohessy, A/Senior Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

The following response was received from Uisce Éireann:

Since commissioning, on the 14th of March 2023 until the 25th of May 2023, a total of 46,328 m³ were pumped from the Quay Road Pumping Station to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Clareabbey. The Clareabbey WWTP itself is a secondary treatment facility which provides primary treatment for screening and grit removal followed by secondary treatment for removal of organic matter before discharging to the River Fergus.

**No. 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy
Ennis Roads**

Due to the poor conditions on the roads in Ennis, that an update be provided on the planned road works for the surrounding roads in Ennis, specifically:

- (1) Quin Road roundabout towards Captain Macs;
- (2) Quin Road roundabout towards Tulla Road;
- (3) "Made in Brazil" shop to Kelly's Corner roundabout;
- (4) McDonalds roundabout towards Maid of Erin;
- (5) Maid of Erin along Mill road towards Captain Macs;
- (6) McDonalds Roundabout towards Ballyallia Lake.

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

- (1) *The resurfacing of this road is programmed for the forthcoming school holiday period. The works will be carried out in conjunction with a planned watermain replacement. Ennis MD are currently liaising directly with Irish Water to co-ordinate these activities in order to minimise disruption to vehicular traffic as a result of the works.*
- (2) *This section of road is not part of Ennis MDs Road Works Programme for 2023. An assessment of the road will be carried out later this year and if deemed appropriate this road will be considered for resurfacing in 2024.*
- (3) & (4) *These sections of road are not part of Ennis MDs Road Works Programme for 2023. However, we are currently engaging with Irish Water regarding a potential watermain replacement in these areas. Irish Water have yet to commit to these projects – however should the projects go ahead Ennis MD will then consider these roads for resurfacing under the 2024 Road Works Programme.*
- (5) *There are currently no plans to resurface this road. However Ennis MD will continue to monitor the condition of the surface and will intervene when appropriate.*
- (6) *This road is a former National route and is likely be eligible for specific funding by the Department of Transport. It is the intention of Ennis MD to put the Gort Road forward for resurfacing in 2024. The exact location and length of these works will be determined by a condition assessment of the existing road and the quantity of funds (if any) made available by TII.*

No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn

Ennis Municipal district request Clare County Council to carry out post Covid-19 a comprehensive Ennis Town Centre Health Check incorporating the four essential components; footfall survey, shopper survey, business owners survey and land use assessment.

Helen Quinn, Senior Planner, responded as follows:

The planning department conduct an annual Ennis Town Centre health check which is completed by the planning department staff and which in its current format does not include for all of the components listed in this Notice of Motion. A Health Check for the town centre is planned for 2023 and is currently timetabled for the end of Q3. It is intended that the format of this annual check would follow that of the last number of years, which I note will fall short of the current request. Given current available resources within the Planning Section it will not be possible to deliver on all components as set out in the Notice of Motion without external consultants being appointed and without a budget for same being identified. The Planning Section are happy to explore all funding opportunities that may exist around how best to expand the scope of the health check and in the event of a funding source being identified we are happy to manage the project to delivery. Should a funding source be identified I will arrange for an update to be provided to the members.

Linda Earlie, A/Town Regeneration Officer, responded as follows:

The Town Centre First policy, through the National Town Centre First Office, sets out to develop a national toolkit which will include 'A national, integrated and scaled-up Health Check Model which utilises existing progress through the Heritage Council's Collaborative Town Centre Health Check approach and builds a national database on our towns'. This is currently still under development by the National TCF Office. At local level, a detailed healthcheck which would incorporate some of the above components including shopper survey, business owner survey and land use assessments will be conducted for Town Centre First funded towns. Sixmilebridge as our first pathfinder Town Centre First town in Clare has been completed. We are awaiting details on criteria from the Department in relation to the selection of the next Town Centre First town, and as part of this funding a healthcheck will be completed. We do not have any additional funding or resource outside of this to complete such healthchecks across all towns at this time.

No. 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard

Clare Hill Graveyard.

Is it possible to facilitate those who maintain graves with a bin or a designated place where they can leave spend flowers and wreaths to be disposed of.

Joe Spellissy, Senior Staff Officer, responded as follows:

The Council provides a refuse collection service at a small number of its operational Burial Grounds - where grave plots are still available. As both public sections of Clarehill are now full and as a community extension is available, the Council would not normally provide a collection service in this situation. The Burial Grounds Unit will monitor the situation and arrange a collection where necessary. The local community can also avail of the Council's Community Support Scheme Grant to assist in the maintenance of these Burial Grounds.

No. 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly

In view of the revised design schedule being proposed for the Tulla Road which includes Cycle lanes, could that similar design be used at Clonroadmore (from St. Flannan's College to Riverside estate) in accordance with the wishes of residents on that particular road and adjoining estates.

Conor McDonagh, Executive Engineer, responded as follows:

The Active Travel team within Clare County Council has secured Active Travel grant funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA) to commence concept design development to upgrade the cycling infrastructure on the Limerick Road including St. Flannans Drive. Subject to the successful delivery of the Tulla Road Cycle Scheme, the NTA has committed to continue to provide Active Travel grant funding to progress the Limerick Road Cycle Scheme which will include enhancements along St. Flannans Drive similar to those now proposed for the Tulla Road.

Item No. 6. Correspondence

None.

Item No. 7. Any Other Business

None.

The Meeting ended at 12:30 p.m.

Signed: *Clare Colteran Kelly*
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: *Niamh J Conroy*
Meetings Administrator

Date: *29/06/23*