

Minutes - May 2023

Ennis Municipal District meeting

10:45a.m. on Tuesday 2nd May 2023

Council Chamber and on-line

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

Officials: Carmel Kirby, Director of Service, Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Patrick Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer (for Item 3 (ii) only), Lily McLnerney, Staff Officer (minutes).

Apologies: Niamh O’Connor, Meetings Administrator

Chair Cllr. Colleran-Molloy opened the meeting welcoming all. As a group of Coláiste Muire TY students were to make a presentation to Ennis Municipal District Members under item 3 (ii) with their fellow students and teachers joining in the gallery, the Chair proposed dealing with this item first. This was agreed by all Members.

Item No. 3. (ii) ‘A sustainable vision for Ennis in 2040’ – Coláiste Muire Transition Year Students

Introduced by Kevin Corrigan, Chief Operating Officer for *Ennis2040 DAC*, a group of Coláiste Muire TY Students made a presentation to Ennis Municipal District on their winning Sustainability project due to be hosted at *Dáil Éireann* on 10th May and whose aim is “to become the exemplar large town in Ireland for sustainable transport to school”. Each of the students - Maya Hogan, Ciara Fitzpatrick, Amy Gibbons, Aisling Hammond and Victoria Burns - contributed to the presentation which focussed on key changes required in terms of sustainable transportation. Statistics were provided on baseline findings, and how the implementation of simple changes, such as *Walk to School Wednesdays* assisted with reducing the carbon emissions associated with school drop offs /pick-ups.

The presentation was warmly appreciated by Members and they thanked the students for the thought provoking ideas, extensive research, outstanding graphics and survey data on a project which was agreed to be at University level. Members commented on the positivity of young people leading the way in shaping the sustainable future of Ennis, the dedication and courage of the individual students in speaking and taking their initiatives forward, the startling statistics provided from the research and how just one small weekly change in habit can lead to positive outcomes. Students were commended for their work and congratulated and wished every success when their project is hosted at *Dáil Éireann*.

Director of Service Carmel Kirby praised the high standard of the presentation, expressing astonishment at the sophistication and depths of research undertaken within the relatively

short school term. These outcomes, she stated, would serve to influence and contribute to the rollout of upcoming Ennis Municipal District plans.

Chair Clare Colleran-Molloy concluded by thanking all participants; she stated that she aimed to truly set a precedent as Mayor in facilitating presentations by the younger generation in Council Chamber, that this group of students were a credit to the Coláiste and that each possessed the ability to lead their parents and elders in engendering healthful and sustainable lifestyle habits which will positively shape the culture of Ennis into the future.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the April 2023 Meeting of Municipal District of Ennis held on 4th April 2023.

It was agreed by all members that the adoption of the April Ennis MD minutes would be deferred. Cllr. Flynn and Cllr. O'Callaghan highlighted that they felt there were issues of accuracy with the minutes. It was agreed that minutes will be amended, with input from all Members, and brought for approval at a subsequent date.

Item No. 2. Matters Arising

Item No. 3. (i) S183 - Disposal of a portion of land - Cnoc na Scoile, Ashline, Kilrush Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

Report and maps had been circulated before the Meeting. Niamh Madden, Senior Executive Engineer, gave a brief overview and invited any questions from Members. Cllr Flynn raised a concern that Council assets tend to be disposed of for nominal fees to entities like ESB or Irish Water who themselves tend to charge high fees when disposing of their assets and he highlighted that this does not represent best value for money for Clare County Council.

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

(ii) 'A sustainable vision for Ennis in 2040' – Coláiste Muire Transition Year Students'

See first Item above.

(iii) Twinning Committee - Update, Cllr. Mary Howard

Cllr. M. Howard provided a brief update on Twinning activity with much activity in the offing for 2023.

- August/September 2022 had seen an impressive schedule of twinning events arranged by the Tourism Unit of Clare County Council.
- June 2023: four youth ambassadors from Phoenix will stay with host families for three weeks; this has now been taking place for 30 years and is very rewarding for all involved.
- June 2023: arising from last years successful visit by delegates from Langenfeld, over 30 persons from Langenfeld will be visiting Ennis.
- September 2023 is designated as an official celebration for Langenfeld 10th anniversary and Phoenix 35th anniversary. An official delegation (30-40) from Phoenix will spend most of their time in Clare. A smaller delegation will arrive from Langenfeld. Both will be honoured at a Mayoral Dinner in Ennis.
- Langenfeld are involved in a student placement programme, currently involving a placement at Barefield National School teaching German.

Item No. 4. GMA for approval

A discussion took place regarding the list of items for GMA approval 2023 for Festivals & Events, Community Projects and some Ennis M.D. Projects. It was highlighted that these had been discussed and agreed at a GMA workshop on 18.04.2023 following the closing date for receipt of all applications. Cllr. T. O’Callaghan voiced his opposition to approval of the list on the grounds of fairness, due to the fact that an application he advocated for, Clare County Agricultural Show, was not included on the list. The application, he stated, had been submitted late due to a clerical error. It was clarified that the error was on the part of Clare County Show in having applied for a grant under the Rural Development Directorate of Clare County Council rather than applying to Ennis M.D. Community Projects. It was clarified that as the application was received late to Ennis M.D., it was not discussed at the GMA workshop on 18.04.2023, and therefore was not on today’s list for approval.

Discussion ensued and Members voiced strong concern that projects which had been applied for in good faith should not now be prevented from going forward. Comment was made as to the time taken to reach agreement on the projects and that Members whilst not always agreeing, have always worked hard to arrive at the best possible funding decisions for all projects.

After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the list of all application allocations agreed at the GMA workshop on 18.04.2023 would be approved at todays meeting, and that there would be consideration then given to late-received applications.

The below items were proposed for approval by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy, and agreed by all Members.

Festivals & Events 2023	
Applicant name	Amount Agreed
Clare Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann	€1,500.00
Clare Food & Drink Fleadh	€7,000.00
Clare Garden Festival c\o Clare Agricultural Show Society	€2,000.00
Clarecastle Lights Committee	€2,000.00
Clarecastle Regatta Committee	€2,000.00
Emer O'Flaherty Music	€500.00
Ennis Book Club Festival	€7,500.00
Ennis Players	€1,000.00
Kilnamona Development Association	€500.00
Experience Ennis	€2,000.00
Relay for Life Ennis	€1,000.00
Traditional Irish Music Promotions Ltd	€7,500

Community Grants 2023	
Applicant name	Amount Agreed
Barefield Tidy Towns	€2,100.00
Bushypark Treatment Centre	€1,500.00
Clare Crusaders	€7,000.00
Clare Family Resource Centre	€1,300.00
Clare Roots Society	€4,000.00
Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife Group	€2,500.00
Clarecastle Show Society	€3,500.00
Ennis Brass Band	€2,100.00
Ennis Tidy Towns	€12,500.00
When In Doubt, Pedal it Out	€1,000.00
Clarecastle Tidy Towns	€2,500.00
Cappahard Residents Association	€5,000.00

Ennis M.D. Projects to be funded from GMA 2023	
Project name	Amount Agreed
Clonroad Business Park – pedestrian safety measures	€30,000
Templegate Plaza – public realm enhancements	€32,000
De Valera Monument	€23,000
Monument at the Maid of Eireann	€8,000
Statue at Hermitage	€6,000
Mill Wheel/Island car park - public realm enhancements	€5,000
Hidden disability car spaces	€5,300
Disabled and Age Friendly car parking	€35,000

Item No. 5. Notices of Motions

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

That a report be obtained on the recurrent illegal dumping onto privately owned lands adjacent to the Knockanean Tulla Road Traveller Accommodation, where the report will specifically:

- (1) itemise the number of times over the years (specify dates) that the Council (prior to and since the establishment of the Tenancy Enforcement Team) have addressed this ongoing illegal dumping;
- (2) itemise the number of times (dates) that the Council have had to clear/clean up the private lands of the illegal dumping caused by the Traveller Accommodation Site at Knockanean;
- (3) provide the actual costs to the Council for each clean-up undertaken;
- (4) clarify whether the residents at the Knockanean Traveller location have refuse bins and whether these bins are provided free to the residents;
- (5) What fines that have been issued to the residents? Have any proceedings been taken for the illegal dumping?
- (6) address the private landowner's request to have the existing timber fence barrier separating the Council property from the private landowner's property replaced and height raised with the installation of a more substantial fence such as Palisade fencing or green V-Mesh in order to stop the rubbish from spreading onto the field and to stop the livestock from escaping onto the road.

Brendan Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment, responded as follows:

The Environment Section of Clare County Council are responsible for waste/litter enforcement, waste management, environmental monitoring, and enforcement measures. It is unfortunate that a limited number of the public continue to blight our County by indiscriminate illegal dumping.

The County must be protected from environmental damage caused by the threat of waste/litter, and this is undertaken by multi agency and inter-departmental cooperation. The Environment Section work with our colleagues in Housing on several incidents and specifically

the incidents highlighted in the Notice of Motion at the Knockanean Tulla Road Traveller Accommodation.

For information there are several ways to report illegal dumping:

- Contact the Environment Department directly or via the Anti-Litter Hotline 1800 606 706.
- Contact us using our online contact form.
- Web link: [Report illegal dumping | Enforcement | Environment | Services | Clare County Council \(clarecoco.ie\)](#)

Incidents of Illegal Dumping are investigated and where possible, action taken under the Waste Management and Litter Pollution Acts is taken through:

- the issue of Section 55 Notices, which require certain measures to be carried out within a specified time frame
- the issue of litter fines
- the issue of Section 18 Notices under the Waste Management Acts,
- the issue of warning letters etc.

Specific to the Knockanean, Tulla Road, Traveller Accommodation, the Environment Section have liaised extensively with the Tenancy Enforcement Unit regarding this site, dating back to April 2021.

The Environment Section have issued litter fines, initiated legal proceedings, and secured a conviction under the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

Pádraig McCormaic, A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing, responded as follows:

- 1) The Housing section has engaged contractors on 4 separate occasions to remove material dumped on land adjoining the Traveller Accommodation site at Knockanean on the Tulla Road in Ennis, Co. Clare. Waste material such as domestic refuse, glass bottles, cans, tyres, mattresses, beds, non-metal car parts such as dashboards and number plates, pallets, plastic bags, cardboard etc. has been removed by contractors from this land.
- 2) Clean up operations were undertaken by contractors engaged by the Housing section on the following dates
 - 15th June 2021
 - 27th April 2022
 - 12th October 2022
 - 14th December 2022.
- 3) The costs incurred by the Council in removing refuse on these dates are outlined in the table below:

<u>Date of Clean Up Operation</u>	<u>Cost including disposal of material</u>
15/06/2021	€10,580.95
27/04/2022	€637.42
12/10/2022	€2,320.85
14/12/2022	€351.85
Total Cost	€13,891.07

- 4) *All Council tenants in the Knockanean traveller accommodation site have been provided with domestic refuse bins and the council pays a waste collection company to collect and dispose of refuse on a weekly basis.*
- 5) *See response from Environment Section.*
- 6) *Clare County Council staff will inspect the post and rail timber fence between council and private lands and examine the possibility of fixing a plastic coated galvanised mild mesh steel wire to the fence to prevent rubbish from spreading onto private property. Repairs of damaged timber posts and rails will be arranged to make the boundary fence more secure.*

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

Cllr Colleran-Molloy in acknowledgement of the responses, highlighted that the €13k cost to Clare County Council over the past few years strengthens the argument for a permanent fencing solution at this site. She could not accept the remedy proposed under Item 6 from Housing as this was inadequate in this case. Most Members voiced support for this Motion with comments made as to the obligation to support a local farmer burdened with the illegal dumping, and that the high costs of regularly removing illegal dumping is ultimately borne by the taxpayer so a permanent fencing solution was the preferred option.

No. 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly

I ask Ennis M.D. to highlight (in light blue) the disabled parking bays at Upper Turnpike Road (opposite Gallows Hill Green) similar to the two at Lower Market Street.

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

These parking bays will be arranged to be inspected and painted within the coming weeks.

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

Cllr. Daly thanked Paddy Tiernan, A/SEE for his positive response to this Notice of Motion.

Due to time constraints, it was agreed by all members to bring forward Notice of Motions 8 and 10 for discussion. These would be dealt with jointly.

No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly

I request that Ennis M.D. to consider opening O'Connell Street to traffic until works begin in the upgrade of the street in September.

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

Temporary Pedestrianisation was introduced in Ennis Town Centre following a collaborative process with a representative stakeholder group to allow for social distancing in Ennis Town

Centre during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The pedestrianisation measures were introduced under emergency road closures that lasted from March 2020 until September 2021.

Ennis Municipal District undertook a pedestrianisation survey in October 2021 which was conducted online and in paper format. The data captured and analysed, provided us with an overview of the profiles of a large sample of individuals using the town centre, how they navigate it, as well as their preferences in relation to potential pedestrianisation. A total of 1,796 completed surveys were received – 1,600 individuals completed the survey online with 196 respondents completing the survey in paper format.

The following are some of the survey findings:

- Overall, 71.2% of all respondents would like to see some form of pedestrianisation 'immediately', 20.3% in the 'medium/long term dependent on provision of new infrastructure/service' and 8.5% indicated 'no-never'.
- 54 business owners completed the survey: 38.9% favoured introduction of pedestrianisation immediately, 24.1% in the medium to long term, 37% selected No/Never.
- 204 respondents were over 65 years of age: 67.6% favoured introduction of pedestrianisation immediately, 21.1% in the medium to long term, 11.3% selected No/Never.
- 102 respondents declared as 'having mobility issues'. 47.1% favoured introduction of pedestrianisation immediately, 21.6% in the medium to long term, 31.4% selected No/Never.
- Of those who indicated they would like to see some form of pedestrianisation (1,643 of 1,796), 44% would prefer 'pedestrianisation 11-6, 7 days a week', with a further 36.5% favouring 'full-time pedestrianisation'

On the basis of the results of the pedestrianisation survey showing a majority of respondents from the general public and business community in favour of the introduction of pedestrianisation measures in the short to medium term, Ennis MD advertised a temporary road closure to run from April 8th 2022 to March 19th 2023 to accommodate planned works in the town centre. It was clarified that the road closure would remain in place until the commencement of the Ennis Public Realm Works, which had been anticipated to commence in 2022. Unfortunately, the Ennis Public Realm works are awaiting final approval from the Department but are expected to commence during late summer 2023.

As the previous road closure for temporary pedestrianisation was due to expire, a new road closure for temporary pedestrianisation was advertised from the 20th March 2023 until the 7th January 2024 or until the commencement of the Public Realm works. This closure was advertised through the publication under Section 75 of the Roads Act 1993 of a Notice of intention to close O'Connell St. for temporary pedestrianisation on the 17th February 2023 with a closing date for submissions of the 3rd March 2023. The Notice of the decision by the Executive of Clare County Council to affirm the road closure was published on the 10th March 2023.

All submissions received during this statutory process were reviewed and considered, and the local authority is committed to addressing the key concerns raised, including those

relating to Wayfinding and the resultant traffic congestion in the ancillary areas, and the loss of access to 19 parking spaces on O'Connell Street to accommodate pedestrianisation.

Signage has been installed at 34 additional locations throughout and on approach roads to the town centre advising motorists of the revised traffic and pedestrianisation arrangements. The cost of installing the signage is €12,000. Furthermore, Clare County Council is engaging with Google to have the pedestrianisation and new traffic arrangements reflected in Google Maps and Google Streetview for road users who are unfamiliar with the town. Clare County Council is working actively towards the provision of additional public car parking in the town centre and its environs to complement existing parking facilities in the vicinity of O'Connell Street, namely Lower Market Street, Friar's Walk, Abbey Street, the multi-storey Car parks in Market Street and at Dunnes Stores, and the on-street parking options at Station Road, Drumbiggle Road and Carmody Street. An additional 85 public parking spaces will be provided at the Waterpark campus in Drumbiggle subject to Part VIII planning approval being secured in late summer 2023. Planning permission also has been granted for the allocation of a further 129 permanent spaces at the Cloister Carpark, which currently offers 70 parking spaces.

As outlined above, the second phase of the Ennis Public Realm works encompassing O'Connell Square, O'Connell Street, Bank Place, High Street, Barrack Square and Barrack Street is awaiting approval from the Department to appoint a contractor to commence the works, albeit we anticipate it will start in Q3 2023.

Clare County Council acknowledges the concerns of businesses and particularly the challenges they are facing with rising energy costs, rising cost of materials, cost of living etc. It is critically important therefore that the Local Authority takes the necessary steps to deliver an increase in footfall in the town centre. The completed public realm works will greatly enhance the streetscape of Ennis town centre and this in turn will increase the town's attractiveness as a shopping destination.

Clare County Council will work closely with the business community and the Elected Members of Ennis MD to ensure that any disruption to commercial activity in the town is minimised during the period of works. All stages of the Public Realm works will be promoted through local media outlets and Clare /County Council's social media channels to ensure that traffic/pedestrian access arrangements are fully communicated and the message that Ennis remains fully open for business is relayed. In the meantime, the Local Authority remains committed to working with Ennis Chamber to develop new opportunities for promoting the local retail sector and the town's status as an attractive shopping destination.

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

The response was acknowledged by Cllr Daly but he strongly advocated on behalf of the traders in town who he stated were being negatively impacted by the extended closure of O'Connell Street and he again requested that this street be re-opened pending commencement of the public realm works later in the year.

The response was acknowledged by Cllr Flynn who stated that the first element of the response was not relevant as it did not deal specifically with the recent public consultation pertaining to the latest closure of O'Connell Street and he advocated on behalf of retailers who had submitted numerous written objections to the closure. He highlighted how the road closure only exacerbated anti-social behaviour and suggested that a closure just for Friday and Saturday would be more appropriate. Cllr Flynn and Cllr O'Callaghan both highlighted that they were not against pedestrianisation, but that issues around parking had to be resolved in the first instance.

Carmel Kirby, Director of Services responded that with reference to the parking issue raised, it is important in the context of ongoing and future discussions that information is made available on currently available and planned car parking facilities. A map of all available car parking was distributed showing that the total number of car parking spaces in Ennis currently lies at 2,923 and C. Kirby outlined that this figure is expected to exceed 3,000 later this year. She elaborated that an additional 85 public parking spaces will be provided at the Waterpark campus in Drumbiggle subject to Part VIII planning approval being secured in late summer 2023. Planning permission also has been granted for the allocation of a further 129 permanent spaces at the Cloister Carpark, which currently offers 70 parking spaces. She outlined that planning has been granted for 156 temporary spaces at the site of the former Boys National School. She outlined that there currently is 1 parking space for every 13 people living in Ennis and by comparison Waterford City has 1 parking space for every 29 people and Navan has 1 parking space for every 24 people. She added that while Clare County Council will continue to work actively towards the provision of additional public car parking in the town centre and its environs to complement existing parking facilities, it is important to note that the delivery of a bus service in Ennis by 2025 and the rollout of Active Travel during 2023 and 2024 will further improve access to the town.

C. Kirby continued adding that in recent weeks, there had been significant media and public focus on Ennis 2040 plans for Francis Street and Abbey Street, and the potential positive and negative implications for parking facilities in the town as a result of proposed developments at these locations. The Ennis 2040 DAC was established in 2021 to complement the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy, which was completed following two years of study, analysis and consultations with Elected Members, businesses, and the local community. Francis Street and Abbey Street are amongst 9 locations identified in the Strategy as transformational sites. The six properties at Francis Street were purchased for Ennis 2040 by Clare County Council in late 2022 to maximise the green field site owned by Clare County Council at the rear of the properties. They were assessed and found to be in varying states of disrepair, while some had been derelict for a number of years. The costs to refurbish them were deemed to be exorbitant and unviable and an architectural feasibility study was undertaken to deliver a significantly higher number of modern, energy efficient residential units on the overall site. She outlined that it was understandable that the public are concerned about demolishing houses at this time without the reassurance of them being replaced with a comprehensive housing development. She stated she wanted to reassure people that until such time as the mixed-use development is designed the 6 properties will not be demolished. It is anticipated that the mixed-use development will yield up to 45 housing units at this site. She said the detailed designs will be presented to the public and to Elected Members for their consideration in late autumn or early winter 2023. The delivery of the redevelopment project

at the Abbey Street Carpark also is at an early stage. While the Ennis 2040 Strategy identified the potential for a large retail and office development at the site, it should be noted that the existing use of Abbey Street as a public car park would continue for the foreseeable future. It is anticipated that a retail/office design for the site will be presented to the public and to Elected Members during late Summer/early Autumn 2023. She concluded by saying that Members will continue to be kept informed and consulted throughout the process.

Lengthy discussion ensued, each Member giving their opinion either in favour of or against current temporary daily closure of O'Connell Street. Issues were raised such as the necessity to provide adequate car parking, the importance of supporting local businesses, the need to take heed of the younger generation who just earlier today had advocated very strongly for reducing levels of traffic on the streets of Ennis, the requirement to respond to the strong advocacy for "immediate" pedestrianisation from the public survey of 2021, and to strike a balance between all of these arguments.

It was clarified to Members that the temporary closure of streets, which is always subject to public consultation, is an executive function, and the decision ultimately rests with the executive.

Cllr Flynn called for a vote following clarification that the outcome of any such vote was not binding on the executive. Some members questioned that rationale of holding such a vote but it was further clarified that members were entitled to call such a vote. A vote was taken by Members on whether to support this Motion and request the Executive to re-open O'Connell Street to traffic pending commencement of public realm works.

The Members voted as follows:

For the Motion: P. Daly, T. O'Callaghan, J. Flynn, C. Colleran-Molloy. Against the Motion: P. Murphy. Abstain: M. Howard, A. Norton. The Motion was passed by a vote of 4 For, 1 against, 2 abstained.

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

I ask the Ennis Municipal District Executive to provide a report on the recent public consultation that led to the District Executive using its executive powers to make the decision to continue and extend the road closure of O Connell Street for a period of time when there is no road works.

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

Temporary Pedestrianisation was introduced in Ennis Town Centre following a collaborative process with a representative stakeholder group to allow for social distancing in Ennis Town Centre during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The pedestrianisation measures were introduced under emergency road closures that lasted from March 2020 until September 2021.

Ennis Municipal District undertook a pedestrianisation survey in October 2021 which was conducted online and in paper format. The data captured and analysed, provided us with an overview of the profiles of a large sample of individuals using the town centre, how they navigate it, as well as their preferences in relation to potential pedestrianisation. A total of

1,796 completed surveys were received – 1,600 individuals completed the survey online with 196 respondents completing the survey in paper format.

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All submissions received during this statutory process were reviewed and considered, and the local authority is committed to addressing the key concerns raised, including those relating to Wayfinding and the resultant traffic congestion in the ancillary areas, and the loss of access to 12 parking spaces on O'Connell Street to accommodate pedestrianisation.

Signage has been installed at 34 additional locations throughout and on approach roads to the town centre advising motorists of the revised traffic and pedestrianisation arrangements. The cost of installing the signage is €12,000. Furthermore, Clare County Council is engaging with Google to have the pedestrianisation and new traffic arrangements

reflected in Google Maps and Google Streetview for road users who are unfamiliar with the town. Clare County Council is working actively towards the provision of additional public car parking in the town centre and its environs to complement existing parking facilities in the vicinity of O'Connell Street, namely Lower Market Street, Friar's Walk, Abbey Street, the multi-storey Car parks in Market Street and at Dunnes Stores, and the on-street parking options at Station Road, Drumbiggle Road and Carmody Street. An additional 85 public parking spaces will be provided at the Waterpark campus in Drumbiggle subject to Part VIII planning approval being secured in late summer 2023. Planning permission also has been granted for the allocation of a further 129 permanent spaces at the Cloister Carpark, which currently offers 70 parking spaces.

As outlined above, the second phase of the Ennis Public Realm works encompassing O'Connell Square, O'Connell Street, Bank Place, High Street, Barrack Square and Barrack Street is awaiting approval from the Department to appoint a contractor to commence the works, albeit we anticipate it will start in Q3 2023.

Clare County Council acknowledges the concerns of businesses and particularly the challenges they are facing with rising energy costs, rising cost of materials, cost of living etc. It is critically important therefore that the Local Authority takes the necessary steps to deliver an increase in footfall in the town centre. The completed public realm works will greatly enhance the streetscape of Ennis town centre and this in turn will increase the town's attractiveness as a shopping destination.

Clare County Council will work closely with the business community and the Elected Members of Ennis MD to ensure that any disruption to commercial activity in the town is minimised during the period of works. All stages of the Public Realm works will be promoted through local media outlets and Clare County Council's social media channels to ensure that traffic/pedestrian access arrangements are fully communicated and the message that Ennis remains fully open for business is relayed. In the meantime, the Local Authority remains committed to working with Ennis Chamber to develop new opportunities for promoting the local retail sector and the town's status as an attractive shopping destination.

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

It was agreed to deal with Notice of Motion No. 10 in conjunction with Notice of Motion No. 8.

Please see Notice of Motion No. 8.

As insufficient time remained to discuss all Motions, the following Motions will be deferred to June 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.

**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.

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 are the plans to alleviate these issues not only for staff but for the patients as well.

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?

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 ie Limerick Road/St. Flannan's Drive, Lahinch Road, Clareabbey Roundabout, Lahinch Road and Ennis to Latoon and onwards.

No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran-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.

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.

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 (Icarius) Roundabout for both pedestrians and cyclists.

It was clarified that All Members whose Notices of Motions were not discussed at May Meeting, will still have an allowance of 2 Notices of Motion for June Meeting, in addition to the Notice of Motion deferred from May.

Item No. 5. Correspondence

None.

Item No. 6. Any Other Business

None.

The Meeting ended at 13:20 p.m.

Signed: 
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: 
Meetings Administrator

Date: 06/06/'23

