

Minutes - October 2023

Ennis Municipal District meeting

10:30a.m. on Tuesday 10th October 2023

Council Chamber and on-line

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

Officials: Carmel Kirby, Director of Service, Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Patrick Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Julie Kenny, Assistant Staff Officer, Niamh O'Connor, Administrative Officer and Meetings Administrator.

Apologies: Lily McInerney, Staff Officer

Chair Cllr. Pat Daly opened the meeting welcoming all. As members of the 'Save Ennis Town' group were in the public gallery it was agreed to deal with correspondence at the beginning of the meeting.

Correspondence

The Mayor acknowledged receipt of a petition from the 'Save Ennis Town' group, following the presentation of a box to him in advance of the meeting. It was subsequently noted that no correspondence was included for Clare County Council or Ennis Municipal District. The box contained sealed correspondence addressed to each Clare County Councillor. No petition was included. After the meeting, Cllr. Flynn clarified that the petition was not included due to concerns around GDPR. He advised that it was held securely for independent verification purposes if required.

Item No. 1 Minutes of the September 2023 meeting of Ennis Municipal District held on Tuesday 5th September 2023.

Proposed by Cllr. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy

Item No. 2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Flynn requested the following amendments to the minutes of September 2023 meeting

Pg 5 NOM 2

The Director of Service outlined that the legislation does in fact allow for the creation of a sub-committee to the JPC.

Pg 8 paragraph before NOM 8

However Cllr Flynn outlined the importance of current traffic flow down Old Friary Lane as it operated as part of a roundabout flow of traffic in the immediate town centre area ie traffic flow down old friary lane- up salt house lane - up the Height into the Square and across bank place.

Amendments agreed by all Members.

Superintendent John Ryan was joined by Sergeant Catriona Houlihan, they addressed the meeting with reference to Notice of Motion Nos 2 and 3 from the September Meeting of Ennis Municipal District.

Cllr. Colleran Molloy thanked them for attending and voiced concerns regarding anti-social behaviour

in Ennis. She emphasised the need to ensure lines of communication are open between Clare County Council and An Garda Siochana. She acknowledged the current situation in Ireland where Gardai are under pressure, due to management issues and resources, and suggested that the need to rethink the national model and look at the best possible model for Ennis.

Cllr. Johnny Flynn acknowledged the great work the Gardai are doing in relation to the teenage disco. He stated that the JPC in Ennis worked well from 2009-2014 and there was disappointment following its loss. He believes Clare JPC should consider setting up an Ennis JPC. He expressed concern that Ennis has been overtaken by outside individuals and that a small sector of society believe they are untouchable. He added that businesses want the streets open.

Superintendent John Ryan provided statistics, comparing 2019 figures to 2023 year to date, to enable a better understanding of the current situation, given that resources are down and investing in systems can take time.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Minor assaults	7	24
Assault causing harm	15	12
Thefts	191	371
Domestic incidents	202	305
Drugs for sale & supply	171	70
Drink related offences	99	53
Public order incidents	227	171

He acknowledged the criticism from local people in relation to why Gardai are not ‘moving people on’, highlighting they cannot do this if people are not causing a disturbance. He advised that to run Ennis a minimum of six gardai were required. He referred to the ‘new model’, which involves calls to Tulla, where a car could be gone for 15/20 minutes.

Sergeant Catriona Houlihan highlighted the great collaboration between agencies e.g. in relation to the teenage disco where 1,900 children are in attendance and the 19 County Clare agencies on the board in relation to domestic violence. She advised that (a) the Gardai work with all the different agencies to support people, focusing on early intervention (b) relationships between agencies have been established and trust exists between all the support agencies. Sergeant Houlihan recommended that the way forward is for those relationships to continue and that members of the community policing team remain proactive.

Superintendent Ryan acknowledged Councillors concerns and highlighted the channels of communication that exist. He also acknowledged the role of other organisations in helping to resolve issues, stating that members of Gardai are before courts.

Cllr. Tom O’Callaghan acknowledged (a) the issue with under resourcing for the Gardai, the deficit of Gardai on the ground (b) that ‘issues’ have changed. He recommended that administrative work should be taken from Gardai.

Cllr. Mary Howard apologised for joining late advising that she had a meeting with the French Ambassador. She commended the collaborative approach of the Clare Local Area Network, which she and Sergeant Houlihan are members of. Cllr. Howard highlighted the level of aggression that exists out there now and the pressing need for Garda foot patrols. She concluded by saying she has always felt welcome at the station.

Cllr. Paul Murphy commended the Gardai on the great response to requests from Councillors. Cllr. Pat Daly added that issues in Ennis have changed, now drugs etc. He added that he has a notice of motion regarding litter at the O'Connell Monument and would appreciate if guards could investigate. He acknowledged the 'good discussion' today. Cllr. Collieran-Molloy asked Superintendent Ryan what should the call out to national government be. Cllr. Flynn asked that if elected members pushed for a JPC in Ennis, if Gardai would be in favour of same.

Superintendent John Ryan advised he had no issue with informal meetings every 6 months, if Elected Members tell him what they need.

He advised that if young people or new people are not coming in a team fades and that is what is happening currently within the force. He highlighted the need for new people from Templemore adding that three members in community engagement is not sufficient adding the current gaps that exist in Ennis, in 2019 there were twelve members in every unit, in 2023 there are only 7/8 members in every unit. He stated that bodycams need to be pushed and highlighted the absence of replacements when people are out injured. He recommended that it is better to ring the call centre in Cork or 999, rather than Ennis Garda Station if people are seen drinking on the street. The Superintendent referred to issues in Ennis and that while making an arrest he experienced difficulty getting somebody down to him as the streets were closed. He added Gardai do not have access up and down the street and has heard of vans reversing down O'Connell Street to do deliveries.

Item No. 3

(i) Section 179A Housing Development 26 no. houses at Drumcliff, Ennis.

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Cllr. Flynn expressed his dissatisfaction with Section 179A as it is removing the standard part 8 planning, adding that is not democratic. He advised he is not in favor of this emergency power given to CE and queried whether any appeal process exists or if it is just a judicial review. Cllr. Mary Howard queried the level of engagement with residents and if there is a mechanism to appeal. Cllr. Tom O'Callaghan acknowledged the housing crisis and expressed concern that planning could be forced through.

Senior Executive Engineer, Niamh Madden advised that the Part 8 process was previously quashed. She added the design has not been changed and that under the current legislation, Clare County Council had no choice but to use the S179A development route. She clarified this is not an 'An Bord Pleanala' application, She reiterated that this development had previously gone in front of Members as a Part 8 and advised that An Bord Pleanala has confirmed that no environmental impact assessment report is required.

Cllr. Collieran-Molloy queried if Section 179a is a transitional power and if it lapses after a period. Niamh Madden confirmed it is a temporary provision and that construction must commence before 31/12/2024.

(ii) Section 38 Proposed Traffic Calming Measures at Clonroadmore, Clonroadbeg and Lifford. Items (e) and (g) deferred from September Meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Ann Norton and seconded by Cllr Mary Howard

- (iii) Section 183 Proposed Disposal of laneway at Oak Park, Ennis.
Proposed by Cllr. Paul Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Johnny Flynn
- (iv) Section 11 Roads Act 1993: Declaration of Public Roads: Proposed “Taking in Charge”
- (1) Ballymacaula View (Radharc Bailie Mhic Amhlaoidbh)
It was agreed to defer until clarification was received from the transportation section if conditions could be attached to the Declaring of the Road to be a public road in line with the objections received as part of the public consultation process.
- (2) Sycamore Drive (Céide an Seiceamair).
Proposed by Cllr. Ann Norton and seconded by Cllr. Clare Colleran-Molloy

Item No. 4 GMA for approval

Members were reminded to take note of any conflict(s) of interest for this item.

Beneficiary	Amount
Quare Clare (Clare Pride March)	€1,000.00
Ennis National School All Weather Pitch	€950.00
Pantaloons	€2,000.00
Cloughleigh Amateur Drama Group	€500.00
Clare Garden Festival	€2,500.00
Ennis Men’s Shed	€300.00
	€7,250.00

Proposed by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy and seconded by Cllr. Mary Howard

No. 1 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn [deferred from September]

In light of public concern over increased anti-social and criminal activity in the Ennis Municipal District (EMD), I seek the support of fellow elected members of EMD, in requesting that the Clare Joint Policing Committee (JPC) consider setting up a sub-committee within the structure of the Clare JPC, to focus on these Ennis MD issues. Such a sub-committee is allowed for under related JPC legislation and guidelines.

The loss of the successful Ennis JPC in 2014 which had operated effectively and efficiently since 2009 has I believe been detrimental to crime prevention and public safety in Ennis Town Centre, suburbs and wider municipal district. The former Ennis JPC enabled focused positive collaboration, connection and support of local Ennis businesses and residents with and of the Gardai. Large Urban centres of 25,000 population like Ennis and its municipal district face significantly different policing and public safety challenges to more rural municipal districts.

No response required.

Cllr. Flynn proposed Elected Members meet with gardai at the garda station, twice a year adding if there was agreement to same, he would withdraw his motion. Cllr. Colleran Molloy added her understanding was that it was a formal discussion. Cllr. Howard added Gardai are under resourced, Elected Members should not be taking up time with a 'talk shop'. Cllr Flynn queried if there is agreement re going to the Garda Station, adding that it was a pity the Director of Service wasn't present to hear about the lack of access to streets. Cllr. Norton clarified that Gardai have been open to communication.

This motion was subsequently withdrawn.

No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy

Laurel Lodge:-

There is a real concern that a small number of residents of Laurel Lodge are continuing to pose a real challenge to the sense of safety that residents and visitors to Ennis are experiencing, consequently, I ask that the following information be ascertained by the Ennis Municipal District:-

- (1) When was Laurel Lodge in Ennis first established as a homeless hostel?
- (2) What were the conditions attached to its use for homeless accommodation?
- (3) It is understood that in recent years, the hostel has transformed from a "dry" hostel to a "wet" hostel for its residents. Is this transformation from "dry" to "wet" in compliance with the planning conditions?

Padraig MacCormaic, A/Senior Executive Officer, responded as follows:

- 1) *Laurel Lodge was established as homeless support hostel in 2008.*
- 2) *Planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanala in 2007 and it was a condition that a detailed management plan outlining the access, security and staffing arranging for the facility were to be agreed with the planning authority prior to occupation of the house. This condition was complied with in 2008 by St Vincent de Paul.*
- 3) *The terms "dry" or "wet" hostel are not referred to within the planning condition. In 2021 Management of the service was transferred from St Vincent de Paul to MidWest Simon and there is a Service Level Agreement [SLA] between MidWest Simon and Clare County Council in relation to provision of services. This SLA is reviewed annually. Mid West Simon provide a Low Threshold Service at the facility.*

Low Threshold Service provision is available to all homeless households, where prevention has not been successful, and includes the following target groups:

- a. *Persons with support needs related to mental ill health*
- b. *Persons with needs related to enduring drug / alcohol dependency*
- c. *Persons and dependents fleeing domestic violence*
- d. *Individuals with mild disabilities*
- e. *Ex offenders (including sex offenders)*
- f. *Persons discharged from institutional care*
- g. *Young persons leaving care*
- h. *Individuals with a valid NTQ*

MidWest Simon provide intensive one to one supports to each resident and operate a harm reduction model. All efforts and supports are sought for each individual who presents to best cater for their individual and complex needs.

Laurel Lodge is a service which forms part of the Pathway to Home model of provision of emergency accommodation and support services in the Mid-West Region for 2022. This service is in line with current National and Regional Homeless and Housing Strategy, along with Regional Homeless Action Plan 2022- 2025. Laurel Lodge provides care and support services on a 24/7 basis, 365 days per annum. This is a low threshold service which provides full suite of programmes and activities to the service user or household to meet their emergency temporary accommodation and varying support needs. Laurel Lodge provides staffing with competencies, knowledge and skills in line with the nature of supports required in a low threshold service. Support staff will be responsible for comprehensive assessment, (including individual risk assessments if required), support planning, key working and interagency case management of service users.

The elected members of Clare County Council adopted a Homeless Central Placement Policy at the July Monthly meeting, held on 10th July, 2023. A Conditions of Stay within Emergency Services is included within this adopted policy. This is the “rules of stay” within EA service that all client’s need to adhere to and if this is broken or an individual is in breach of this, services may be withdrawn. Since adoption of this policy Clare County Council, along with a number of Emergency Service providers, have withdrawn emergency accommodation from some clients who fail to adhere to same.

The management in Laurel Lodge have adopted a good neighbouring policy and have engaged actively with local residents around any matters or worries that have been raised. Sthe management strive to link in with neighbours around any issues or fears they may have. Laurel Lodge’s contact number is 065 682 8005 and staff are present at all times so any concerns can be logged which will in turned be relayed to Laurel Lodge’s contact number is 065 682 8005. The facility is staffed 24/7 so any concerns can be logged here which will in turned be relayed to the management.

Clare County Council continues to liaise the Management Team of Laurel Lodge on a weekly basis where any issues within the facility are discussed and resolved.

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

Cllr. Howard queried if there was a memorandum of understanding with Mid West Simon Community. Cllr. Flynn advised, his understanding was that there would not be people with drug addiction or alcohol problems here adding that one has to recognise there are residents being impacted. Cllr. Flynn added that the majority of homeless not natives to the town.

A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing, Pdraig McCormick clarified that the term ‘wet/dry hostel’ was never part of the management plan. He added that the people that were being referenced are not current residents of Laurel Lodge. He briefed members on the difficulty in overseeing the removal of people from emergency accommodation. It was clarified that Clare County Council is not housing homeless people from other counties, adding that persons presenting for services who became homeless elsewhere are offered one nights B&B/hotel accommodation before being referred back to the jurisdiction in which they became homeless (centre of last connection). He made reference to a workshop next Tuesday morning (October 17th), in Woodstock, for HSE, Accord and other service providers and reiterated the need for a collaborative approach .

No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard

A number of months ago we were invited to a presentation for Parnell Street - "The Parnell Street Canvas Project" can we organise an evening to share this presentation with the business owners of Abbey and O'Connell St.

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

The Parnell Street Canvas Project was an Experience Ennis project. Unfortunately, Experience Ennis / Promote Ennis is no longer trading.

If this motion is carried, Ennis MD can approach the Urban Designer, Edward Fitzgerald to give the presentation.

There may be a cost associated with same and a source of funding would need to be identified.

Seconded by Cllr. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all Members

Cllr. Howard sought clarification on whether 'Experience Ennis' material had been transferred to Clare County Council. Senior Executive Officer, Leonore O'Neill advised it would be more beneficial if the presentation was presented by the designer and it could be made available online.

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

That Ennis Municipal District call on, and engage with the National Transport Authority in providing a Bus Shelter at a location in Clarecastle Village to serve the Ennis bound route. Also, that provision of seating be considered at this proposed shelter and the already existing shelter on the Shannon bound route.

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

Ennis MD together with our colleagues in Active Travel will approach the NTA regarding both shelters and request for inclusion in their current Bus Shelter Programme.

Seconded by Cllr. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Murphy reiterated there is no shelter and no seating on the route to Ennis. Cllr. O'Callaghan added he wanted to see the buses being used and advised a shelter was required.

No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. O'Callaghan

Considering the shortage of public car-parking spaces in Ennis Town Centre I request Ennis Municipal District remove the unused steel shipping container that is taking up a minimum two car spaces. I understand a similar temporary steel container at the Friary carpark during Covid has been already removed.

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

The shipping container located in Abbey Street Car Park was procured under the Failte Ireland Weatherproofing and Outdoor Dining Scheme and currently stores street furniture for use by a number of hospitality businesses in the Abbey Street Car Park area. The street furniture referenced has been previously well utilised. Ennis MD can make contact with the various traders to confirm their continued usage of same, and if not being utilised, we can consider its relocation.

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

Cllr. O'Callaghan advised he has had representations claiming that there was no need for the container and doors of same were difficult to open. Cllr. Flynn highlighted that a similar container at the Friary carpark was removed after covid. He outlined the opportunity cost of the car parking spaces and recommended the container go to Ballyallia to be used as a changing area for swimmers. Cllr. Howard recommended levels of usage should be assessed before making a decision. Following commentary relating to carparking in Ennis, Cllr. Daly advised the motion was in relation to the container. Leonore O'Neill clarified a grant had been received for two storage containers from Failte Ireland for the specific purpose of storing outdoor dining furniture. She agreed to review usage of same following consultation with the business community.

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

I ask Ennis M.D. to put down possible two speed ramps on the road from Ballymacahill Cross to Gaurus Cross (via Fahy Hall), as the speed on this road is too fast.

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

Ennis MD will investigate the issue and if justified will propose a suitable traffic calming measure for this area. We wish to advise that Section 38 approval is required for any proposed traffic calming measure. A funding source will also have to be identified for the scheme.

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

This motion was supported by Cllrs. O'Callaghan, Howard, and Colleran Molloy

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

Tulla/Gort Connector Road

With respect to the Gort Road to Tulla Road connector road which is identified in our current County Development Plan, that the Ennis Municipal District seeks the following information from the Roads Design Office:-

- (1) When was this connector road first identified as a strategic infrastructure objective in the Clare County Development Plan?
- (2) Identify the chronology of steps taken by the Roads Design Office to obtain funding from the Department of Transport or the responsible government department?
- (3) What is the situation regarding the design and funding of this important strategic infrastructure for Ennis?

John Leahy, Senior Engineer, responded as follows:

The route is included as an Undefined Infrastructure Safeguard in the County Development Plan 2017-2023 and in the County Development Plan 2023-2029.

In 2018 the Design Office of Clare County Council completed of a 450m section of the Inner relief road, this linked the R458 Gort Road to the Ennis Information Age and Clare Technology Parks.

There is no funding stream available from the Department for infrastructure development of this nature.

It is intended that the provision of this infrastructure will be developer led and will be achieved in parallel with the development of housing on zoned lands adjacent to and served by the lands in this infrastructural safeguard. To that end there is cross sectional Council engagement with proposed

developers of these lands. Design of the infrastructure will be by the developer to the standards required as permitted by Clare County Council.

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

The Ennis Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) and Local Transport Plan (LTP) project has commenced and part of that process is to undertake traffic studies. It is anticipated that the traffic flow models will identify constraints at certain locations that will result in alternative rotational routes being considered. The priority at this time in National Transport Authority funding is towards the provision of Active Travel projects.

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

Cllr. Collieran Molloy emphasised that we are relying on the private sector to fund infrastructure, adding that houses may not be built at this location as there is a heavy cost burden. Cllr. Flynn added that Clare County Council have spent close to €6m for the purchase and construction of this road that goes nowhere, adding that it should not be left up to developers. He highlighted that there has been significant development contributions collected from developments in Rosslevan over the last 3 years.

Cllrs. Howard and Daly added their support, with Cllr. Daly recommending that Ministers and seven Oireachtas members be contacted on same. Cllr. Collieran Molloy concluded the discussion, highlighting that it does not make sense putting infrastructural safeguards within the County Development Plan and then advising there are no funds available to develop same.

No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard

As we prepare for LE2024, I request Ennis MD consider the creation of designated sites for election posters,

This is to encourage responsible consumption, climate action and reducing the visual impact of posters, while also ensuring equity between new & existing candidates.

This has been adopted in many European town in cities for many years.

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

The rules for election posters are covered in section 19 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009 and are generally as follows:

- Posters can only be erected after the polling day has been fixed by ministerial order, and for a maximum of 30 days before polling day
- Posters must be removed within 7 days after polling day
- Posters must include the name and address of the printer
- Posters may not be displayed within 50 metres of a polling station.

Additionally, under the Road Traffic Act 1961, posters may not be erected if they obstruct a traffic sign, could be confused with a traffic sign, or obstruct road users' view of the road.

Laws on election posters and leaflets do not cover:

- Posters erected on private land (with the owner's permission)
- Billboard advertisements, which come under regular planning laws
- Cars or trucks with election signage or pictures, so long as the signage is secured

The Regulation of Display of Electoral and Polling Posters and Other Advertisements Bill 2022 sought to amend the law relating to the display of posters and other advertisements for elections through the making of Ministerial regulations to provide:

(a) that advertisements relating to—

- (i) a presidential election within the meaning of the Presidential Elections Act 1993,*
 - (ii) a general election or a bye-election, within the meaning, in each case, of the Electoral Act 1992,*
 - (iii) a local election within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2001,*
 - (iv) an election of members of the European Parliament under the European Parliament Elections Act 1997, or*
 - (v) a referendum, within the meaning of the Referendum Act 1994,*
- shall only be displayed for the purposes of any of those Acts on a structure which has been designated by the local authority for such advertisements (in this subsection referred to as a 'designated structure')*

(b) that advertisements, as far as practicable, shall be clearly visible and easily legible,

(c) a method for the calculation of the number of designated structures to be permitted in each polling district,

(d) the minimum and maximum dimension of designated structures,

(e) the minimum and maximum dimension of advertisements,

(f) a method for the calculation of the maximum number of advertisements allowed in respect of each candidate, or proposal which is the subject of the referendum, on each designated structure,

(g) the permissible locations for designated structures restricting the display of election posters to a structure which has been designated by the local authority for such advertisements

This bill has not been enacted to date.

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

Cllr. Howard advised the meeting that Ennis Tidy Towns are taking down the cable ties. She suggested looking at a centralised location. She encouraged fellow Councillors to act in unison, to be climate friendly and innovative like other European cities. Cllr. O'Callaghan stated he agreed, if everyone agreed collectively. Cllr. Norton noted sitting councillors had agreement, however if other candidates don't follow it defeated the purpose, she offered support for a designated area. It was agreed that EMD would identify possible locations.

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

I request Ennis M/D. to assess the increase on litter particularly at the O'Connell Monument in the Square, with a view to alleviating this very serious problem.

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

Ennis MD dedicates significant resources into ensuring the streets of the Ennis are cleaned and maintained to the highest possible standard. Approximately €1 million has been committed to street cleaning operations for 2023 with crews working in all weather conditions 7 days a week. Five public litter bins are located within a 50m radius of the O'Connell Monument and these are emptied daily, with a twice-daily service occurring on Saturdays. Unfortunately some members of the public decide not to use these bins resulting in a recent increase in both cigarette butts and beverage cans being discarded in the public areas around Ennis. We will continue to monitor the situation.

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

This motion was moved without further discussion.

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

I ask that Ennis Municipal District liaise with others, such as the Office of Public Works (OPW), to maintain and sensitively upgrade Steele's Rock located over the Fergus River-wall opposite O'Keefe's Pub, Newbridge Road, Ennis and the immediate surrounding area.

Steele's Rock is an important local Ennis landmark which is described in the book "An Ennis Heritage" as having "three shields carved on it, one with a lion passant. The shields are said to have been put there as a memorial to Thomas Steele, a supporter of Daniel O'Connell". Sean Spellisey author of "The Ennis Compendium" said that the rock is "said to be the seat from which Honest Tom Steele vainly serenaded Miss Crowe of Abbeyfield House", a house located across the river which is now part of the older Garda Station building.

Candace Ingram, A/Senior Executive Planner, responded as follows:

Steele's Rock is included on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS No:732) and is described as a 'Pile of large limestone boulders rising above the flow of the river close to the access steps, with three large painted shields with lion carved on each face'. An initial inspection of Steele's Rock has been undertaken by the Acting Heritage Officer and, based on reference to historic photographs of the artefact, the base boulder appears to have become mildly silted resulting in the moderate propagation of grasses, ivy, and sycamore saplings. However, the rock itself is in excellent condition. Ennis Municipal District will liaise with the Acting Heritage Officer and Biodiversity Officer to assess what, if any, intervention is required to conserve and maintain the artefact in its original condition.

This item was seconded by Cllr. Tom O'Callaghan and agreed by all Members.

It was agreed that Ennis Municipal District would engage with the Office of Public Works, on removing shrubbery and painting.

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

Having received representations in relation to excessive speed, I am requesting that speed surveys are carried out and that traffic calming (ramps and signage) is installed on the road behind Maddens Terrace, Clarecastle.

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

Ennis MD will arrange for speed surveys to be carried out at this location. The result of these surveys will assist in determining the most appropriate next steps. We wish to advise that Section 38 approval is required for any proposed traffic calming measure. A funding source will also have to be identified for any proposed scheme.

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

This motion was moved without further discussion.

Item No. 6. Correspondence

Leonore O'Neill read out response below from Planning in relation to nom 1 from July '23 meeting from Cllr. Colleran Molloy.

That the road located 2nd on the right down from the Water tower be taken in charge by the Council, so that the lighting and footpath upgrade needs can be finally addressed.

Response :

This is not a development that can be taken in charge.

The only option open to the Residents is for Ennis MD Office to declare the road to be a public road under the provisions in the Roads Act.

Item No. 7 Any Other Business

- (i) Members joined Cllr. Howard in extending sympathies to the families of the late ;
 - Martin Daly, College Road RIP
 - Nancy Coote Guilfoyle RIP
 - Bernie Gallagher RIP
 - P.J. Kelly RIP
 - Sarah Mescall RIP

- (ii) Members joined Cllr. Colleran Molloy in extending sympathies to the family of Christy O'Leary, Knockanean/Spancillhill RIP

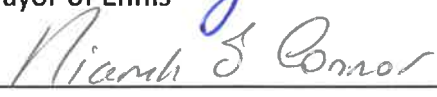
- (iii) Members joined Cllr. Ann Norton in extending sympathies to the families of;
 - Stella McNamara aged 92 from Barefield RIP
 - Noel Purcell, Barefield RIP
 - Sinead Dillon sister of Caimin Dillon who works in the Council RIP

- (iv) Cllr. Howard congratulated all involved in the success at the recent 'Communities in Bloom' awards in Fort McMurray, Canada where Ennis won 5 Blooms, Gold and winner of the 'International Challenge – Medium' category.

- (v) Cllr. Ann Norton lead members in wishing Tommy Scott, Ennis MD all the best in his retirement.

The Meeting ended at 1:00p.m.

Signed: 
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: 
Meetings Administrator

Date: 07/11/23