

Minutes – Special Meeting of Ennis Municipal District

12:00p.m. on Monday 12th June 2023

Council Chamber and on-line

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

Officials: Patrick Tiernan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Niamh O’Connor, Administrative Officer and Meetings Administrator, Lily McInerney, Staff Officer (minutes).

Apologies: Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer.

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mary Howard chaired the meeting for Cllr Colleran-Molloy who joined on-line but experienced issues with connectivity. Cllr Howard opened the meeting welcoming all and outlining the purpose of the Special meeting namely to conclude outstanding Notices of Motion from June Meeting on 6th June.

Item No. 1. Outstanding Notices of Motion from June 2023 Meeting of Ennis M.D.

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.

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

Cllr Paul Murphy acknowledged the data provided and the positive impact for this catchment with cleaner river waters, bringing the potential for more recreational use, like the annual regatta festival. Cllr Daly supported this Motion and Cllrs Colleran-Molloy and O’Callaghan welcomed the response as excellent news for Clarecastle residents. Cllr Flynn, in support, added that whilst the upgrade was positive, it fell short of what was anticipated in 2002 when the Clareabbey facility was to be expanded to avoid the river Fergus and be piped into the estuary. On request, confirmation was provided by Paddy Tiernan A/SEE, that resurfacing was scheduled in the coming months for the road from Clareabbey roundabout at Kildysart Cross, to the traffic lights in Clareabbey.

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.*

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

Cllr Colleran-Molloy outlined that the Motion was on foot of several complaints and requests from the general public and that the response will assist in this regard. Cllr Murphy supported this Motion stating that he had advocated also for upgrade works between Captain Mac's Cross to Station Road roundabout. Cllr O'Callaghan, Daly and Flynn also supported this Motion highlighting the level of traffic on these roads, incidents of damage to vehicles and the need to ensure any upcoming works by Irish Water and the Council be aligned to minimise upheaval. Cllr Flynn remarked on the positive improvements in the last ten years with regular condition assessments now taking place. He also supported Cllr Daly who advocated for the completion of the proposed link road between Gort Road and Tulla Road.

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.

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

Further to the response from Planning, Cllr. Flynn stated that the four components should be included in the health check as recommended under the *Clare Retail Strategy*. *He was not satisfied that this ‘essential toolkit’ for Ennis would only be carried out if funding emerged, it should be done automatically.* He added that we are operating in a vacuum when we are making decisions in terms of car parking.

Cllr. Flynn outlined how Sixmilebridge got a *Town Centre First* healthcheck despite being located within the Limerick catchment. He stated that a ‘healthcheck’ for Ennis is now overdue and essential to determining if the town centre is functioning. Cllr. T. O’Callaghan supported this Motion, stating that it was timely in that the very viability of businesses in town was in question.

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.

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

Cllr. Howard outlined that a designated space for waste flowers and wreaths which used to be cleared at intervals by the Council, had ceased. She also reminded the meeting that grave visitors tend to be elderly and that there is a sensitivity attached to this issue and it would be good to facilitate in this case. Cllr P. Murphy supported the Motion, explaining that the 3rd graveyard area was parish-owned, and that the green waste area had fallen subject to misuse with stones and concrete being dumped and therefore this facility had discontinued. Cllrs O'Callaghan and Daly also supported this Motion.

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.

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

Cllr Daly, in acknowledgement of the response, highlighted that the road by St. Flannan's would benefit from an upgrade similar to the Tulla Road cycle scheme. EMD should look at possibly removing bollards with agreement from residents. Cllr O'Callaghan supported this Motion and commented on the difficulties at night-time when armadillos are not visible. Cllrs Murphy, Flynn and Howard also supported this Motion, adding that Clonroadmore should be prioritised for the next scheme as it is a busy route, which lacks appropriate signage.

Item No. 2. Correspondence

None.

Item No. 3. Any Other Business.

- (i) Members joined Cllr M. Howard in extending the following condolences ;
- to the family of the late Haulie Kelleher R.I.P, Clarecastle, a great community man who had worked for Air Rianta. Cllr Murphy added that Haulie had been a great contributor to the locality and was involved with Tidy Towns and Comhaltas. Cllr Daly

acknowledged Haulie as a great local activist. Cllr O'Callaghan remarked on Haulie's great work in the local community and his tendency to shun the limelight.

- To the family of the late Susan Tuttle-Costelloe R.I.P.
 - To the family of the late Paddy Brogan R.I.P. Ennis.
 - To Benny, Niamh and the family of the late Eileen Kears R.I.P.
 - To the family of the late Donal Kenny R.I.P, of Lahinch.
 - To the family of the late Marisa Enright R.I.P., of Iniscarraigh and O'Connell Street.
- (ii) Cllr Howard congratulated EMD for facilitating the screening of the Munster Final on Sunday 11th June at the Fairgreen which was a great success.
- (iii) Cllr Johnny Flynn issued a thank you to Clare McGrath, Water Safety Officer, for securing a lifeguard for weekends at Ballyallia, as well as a full-time lifeguard from July onwards for the Summer season.
- (iv) Cllr Flynn welcomed the funding for the following projects under the Community Recognition fund 1) public lighting enhancements and footpath remediation on a section of walkway to Ballyallia Lake 2) installation of safety gates at Quin Rd. greenway connecting Ennis to Clareabbey.
- (v) Members joined Cllr Paul Murphy in extending sympathy to the following:
- The family of the late Eamon Slattery Jnr. R.I.P who had died suddenly and whose father Eamon had worked for the Council.
 - To Eugene and the family of the late Gabriel Moylan R.I.P. Gabriel could always be seen around the Clare Road, was a great GAA fan, had a smile for everyone and was loved by all.
 - To the family of the late Val Bredin R.I.P. who was born in Ennis, educated at CBS and who had gone on to achieve in the engineering world. During his lifetime he made a valued contribution to the regeneration of the Barrack Street area, transferring it from dereliction. He also contributed hugely to the renewal of Summerhill. His duty of care had been so prevalent, and it would be fitting to have a plaque erected to honor his great contribution. It was confirmed that an application should be made to the Memorial Committee in this regard.
 - Members joined Cllr P. Daly in extending sympathy to the family of the late Lucy O'Halloran R.I.P., in her 101st year. Originally from Miltown Malbay, New York, and late of Gallows Hill and who had enjoyed playing bingo and never liked to lose.

The Meeting ended at 12:45 p.m.

Signed: *Clare Callaghan Molloy*
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: *Niamh O'Connor*
Meetings Administrator

Date: 29/06/23

