

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 18th September 2018 at 9.45am at the offices of the Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare

Present: Councillors Gerard Flynn (Cathaoirleach), Mike McKee, Cathal Crowe, John Crowe, Pat McMahon, P.J. Ryan.

Liam Conneally Director of Service, Leonard Cleary, Director of Service, Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Eugene O'Shea Senior Executive Engineer, Michael Neylon, Administrative Officer, Jennifer O'Brien, Rural Development Officer, Siobhán O'Reilly, Meetings Administrator, and Patricia O'Neill, Staff Officer.

Apologies: None

1. **Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 18th July 2018**

Cllr Gerard Flynn opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July, 2018 were proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon and agreed by all.

Matters arising:

- Tour of Ardnacrusha Power Station . This item was further discussed under AOB.
- Cllr. P.J. Ryan apologised for his absence, due to health reasons, at the July meeting.

2. **Proposed disposal of land adjacent to Shannon Crematorium.**

Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer addressed the meeting on the proposed disposal of lands at Illaunmanagh, Shannon, Co. Clare.

The owners of Shannon Crematorium (trading as Anput Ltd.) wish to purchase a piece of unused ground adjacent to their site to develop a memorial garden and to provide additional car parking.

An assessment of the site was carried out and it is of no beneficial use to Clare County Council. It is not development land and a buffer will be retained between the land to be disposed of and the other lands in the Council's ownership in order to maintain access to the embankments and Hasting's Cottage. The purchase price proposed is €5,000 with the purchaser agreeing to make a contribution to the Council's legal costs. The proceeds of this sale will go towards the cost of improving the access to Hasting's cottage and the Burial Grounds.

This proposal was proposed by Cllr. Mike McKee and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn.

3. **Update on site selection proposals for the Allotments**

Carmel Greene updated members on site selection proposals for the Allotments. She advised that a newsletter was compiled and circulated to the allotment holders in July. This was followed by a public meeting held in August re the allotments. 25 people attended same. At this public meeting the Council received a lot of constructive feedback. Along with the site south of Mary Immaculate Church, Corrib Drive, Drumgeely another possible site has also been identified at Glaise Na Rinne, Shannon. Trial holes have been carried out on both sites and soil depth and suitability is poor and therefore soil importation will be required.

Ms. Greene also proposed that a working group within the Allotment Group be set up to improve the overall management of the Allotments into the future.

4. **Rural & Community Development Officers.**

Leonard Cleary, Director of Service addressed the meeting in relation to the role of the Rural & Community Development Officers (R&CDOs) who have recently commenced employment with Clare County Council. He stated that there will be a greater focus on the community and community services. This provides a fresh look at the way the Local Authority engages with communities. The R&CDOs engage with communities and support them in developing projects under the 8 targets of the Clare Rural Development Strategy in addition to supporting communities in delivering projects identified by the LCDC as part of the LECF (Local Economic Community Plan).

The R&CDOs are field officers working with community groups and Elected Members within the community. It is intended that there will be a consistent approach throughout the County.

Michael Neylon, Administrative Officer, Rural & Community also addressed the meeting in relation to his co-ordinating role of the R&CDOs. He spoke of the value of community input and the importance of engagement with communities. Clare County Council is the first Local Authority in the country to implement a Rural Development Strategy and to employ Rural & Community Development Officers. The R&CDOs' skill set will contribute significantly to communities that have not have such resources available to them in the past. Many projects place onerous tasks on communities and in many instances communities have to engage consultants or project managers to deliver on projects. It is intended that the R&CDOs will link with these community groups and the team of R&CDOs will meet weekly and through a cohesive approach identify common issues faced by community groups and will work together to address same. Mr. Neylon then introduced Ms. Jennifer O'Brien R&CDO for the Shannon MD.

Jennifer O'Brien welcomed this opportunity to attend the Shannon MD meeting. She also echoed the sentiments of both Leonard Cleary and Michael Neylon. She stated that she is looking forward to working with both the community groups and the Elected Members of the Shannon MD. Coming from a background of working with community groups over the last 12 years she will embrace the challenges and opportunities her new role will bring.

The members in turn welcomed Jennifer O'Brien to the Shannon MD in her role as R&CDO and are also looking forward to meeting with and working with her in the future. Cllr. Cathal Crowe stated while this will bring huge possibilities to rural communities, it will also be dependent on funding being made available by the Government. He expressed concern that South Clare is not often recognised as 'rural' and that rural Clare is often viewed in terms of East and West Clare. Cllr Crowe welcomes the support that the R&CDO position can provide in terms of assistance and the unravelling of red tape issues that arise.

Leonard Cleary took this opportunity to emphasise that this will be a whole county approach and 4 field officers (R&CDOs) have been appointed to ensure this. He also stated that the R&CDOs will have a community presence and will have a hot desk in MD Offices.

Liam Conneally thanked Leonard Cleary, Michael Neylon and Jennifer O'Brien for addressing the meeting and stated that R&CDO's will be given the full support of the Council.

5. **Urban & Rural Regeneration Fund Project Selection.**

Liam Conneally, Director of Service briefed the meeting on the 2 major funds announced by the Government – the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) which has an allocation of €2 billion in the NDP to 2027 and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) which has an allocation of €1 billion to 2027. Councillors were advised that the closing date for receipt of applications under the URDF is Friday the 28th September while the closing date for receipt of applications under the RRDF is Thursday the 27th September.

Both Funding streams are divided into 2 categories as follows:

Category A (URDF) / Category 1 (RRDF): relates to proposals that are in a position to draw down funding and that can be initiated in 2019. Proposals in this category are likely to having necessary consent e.g. Planning, design and ready to go.

Category B (URDF)/Category 1 (RRDF): relates to proposals that will require further development prior to being initiated – these proposals will be put on the run way in the future for Category A.

Carmel Greene advised the meeting that it is a competitive bidding process with the URDF applications being scored under 7 different key categories. Projects under the URDF funding have to cost a minimum of €2 million before they can be considered and they must deliver urban regeneration. For projects in the Shannon/Limerick Metropolitan Area projects must be over €10 million.

Within the Shannon MD, the following projects are under consideration for submission of a funding application:

Category A

- (i) The Venue - Cultural & Civic Centre for Shannon Town.
- (ii) Shannon Commercial Properties – (demolition and re-development of Block K & L in the Shannon Free Zone).

Category B

- (i) Shannon Commercial Properties – Access infrastructure for Shannon Free Zone East
- (ii) Strategic Development Zone UL Masterplan

Liam Conneally emphasised that the lead sector on these applications for funding has to be public sector and Clare County Council want a number of successful applications in the first year so that the Council is in a position to build on future applications.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn voiced concerns he has regarding the future of the Shannon Town Hall building in light of plans for The Venue. While the Town Hall requires some alterations and modernisation it is still a functional building and owned by Clare County Council whereas Clare County Council would not have ownership of The Venue.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan also expressed concern that if public money is going into a project that it would become public/part public and not a private entity with public money.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe stated that population size is a factor in determining who can apply for and raised concerns about a fair geographical spread of funding.

In response to Councillors' comments, Liam Conneally stated that the final detail of use for properties has not yet been agreed. The focus is currently on securing funding for projects. However where 75% of public monies is invested in a project, the predominant lean on that has to be towards the public interest/council. This will be pursued after funding is achieved and he has noted the comments of the Councillors. He concluded that from an executive point of view this requires a very strategic and methodical process and Clare County Council needs success at funding level and is therefore selective in relation to projects being put forward for consideration.

6. **Proposed Declaration of Public Roads at the following locations:**

- (i) **Lough Gash, Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare**
- (ii) **Ard na Greine, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare.**

Proposed by Cllr. Pat McMahon and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.

7. **Proposed Traffic Calming measures at Meelick School.**

Proposed by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe requested that the Shannon MD office liaise with the property owners of the adjacent property when these works are being carried out.

8. **Proposed disposal of property at Castlecrine, Sixmilebridge, County Clare.**

Proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and agreed by all.

9. **Pilot Paint Scheme.**

Further clarification is to be sought from Rural and Community Directorate on the detail of this scheme and the timeframe involved in same.

10. **Shannon Town Park – Procurement Process**

Liam Conneally updated the members in relation to Shannon Town Park. Following the retendering, 5 tenders have been received. Due diligence and assessment of the tenders will be applied. It is anticipated that the cost of this project will be in excess of the original price of €900,000. The funding available under the ERDF for this project is time sensitive but it is anticipated that the project will be delivered within the timelines allowed within the ERDF funding opportunity. The original funding available from Clare County Council is ringfenced. When the full cost is known this will be relayed to the Elected Members. It is anticipated that the timeframe for the commencement of this project will be 3 months allowing for a cooling off period once the tender is offered.

11. **Road Works Programme\Roads.**

Eugene O’Shea updated the meeting in relation to works and projects that have been undertaken in the Shannon MD for 2018 to date which include the following:

- Surface dressing completed in June/July 2018.
- Restoration programme is continuing and due for completion by mid October.
- CIS - Corcase Road, Rossmannagher completed.
- LIS – Cappateemore to be completed by October.
- Low cost safety schemes Meelick National School and R463 Blackwater – Killaloe Road.
- Drainage works ongoing
- Footpaths under IPB and other funding.

Eugene O’Shea has compiled a prioritised programme of works to be carried out in the Shannon Municipal District in the coming months. The GMA allocated to the Shannon MD will be used to fund various infrastructural works across the district over the coming months. These works are based on previous Notice of Motions by Elected Members of the Shannon MD. Works to be undertaken include works on footpaths, street lighting, traffic calming, pedestrian crossing facilities, car park space provision, tree works etc. However works as specified may be subject to change based on prioritisation of works.

This was proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and agreed by all.

At this stage of the meeting it was proposed by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn to suspend the standing orders in order to continue with the business of the meeting.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P.J Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

That this MD would provide road access to house numbers 46-50 at Cill Cais housing estate Shannon. This has been an on-going issue for a number of years, and was promised to the residents by the former Shannon Development.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The dwellings in question, numbers 46 to 50, are fronted by a footpath and green area and have a pedestrian access to the rear. They were originally constructed without the benefit of road frontage and, presumably, occupied on that basis. The cost of constructing a new road access at the front of these houses is well beyond the resources of the Shannon MD and unless a source of funding can be identified then it is unlikely to progress.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P.J Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That this MD would design and construct a footpath on the Gallows Hill road, Cratloe, between Walsh's Cross to Sancta Maria Nursing home.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The total length of new footpath construction required to connect this nursing home to the existing footpath infrastructure in Cratloe village is approx. 350 metres with land acquisition required at the narrower road sections. While there is merit in this proposal the likely cost is beyond the available budget of the Shannon MD and a source of funding will therefore have to be identified if it is to progress.

Cllr. P.J. Ryan requested that funding be made available in the near future to carry out these works.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P.J Ryan

Ar moladh Cllr P.J. Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

That this MD would carry out drainage on the Sixmilebridge to Shannon Road R471 at location of the Forge, Cappa and at the entrance to Sixmilebridge Railway Station in front of McNerney's house.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The drainage issue referred to at the Forge Cappa is a long-standing issue that does not lend itself to a ready remedy. The likely solution will entail the installation of a positive drainage system as an integral part of a restoration improvement scheme that will require the co-operation of local landowner(s). This scheme will be considered for inclusion in the Schedule of Municipal District works subject to availability of resources and prioritisation of works. The drainage issue at the entrance to the Railway station will be monitored with a view to finding a resolution at the earliest opportunity.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahan

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahan

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

I will ask Clare County Council to finish any outstanding works especially the wall on the entrance to Lough Gash Estate, Newmarket on Fergus, Co. Clare.

Brian McCarthy replied as follows:

Repair works to this wall will be carried out as part of a wider remedial works programme for this estate. It is envisaged that such works will commence in early 2019.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

I will ask Clare County Council to put traffic measures in place in Gleann Cora, Newmarket on Fergus as some motorists are using excessive speed that puts young children in grave danger.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

While a recently completed traffic survey in the Gleann Cora estate did not indicate a current speeding issue, a grant of Planning Permission for 29 houses adjacent to the existing Gleann Cora development requires that the developer pay a special contribution in respect of the provision of traffic calming within the existing estate. Arrangements for the installation of appropriate measures will be progressed once this contribution has been made.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

Due to the growing list for Local Authority Housing, that the Housing Department give an up to date position for the Shannon Municipal Area and if available, the plans of the Independent Housing Agencies.

Siobhán McNulty replied as follows:

The current housing list indicates the following approved housing applicants in the Shannon MD:

Area of preference	Total on list	Transfer applicant	Balance
Shannon	255	128	127
Sixmilebridge	65	22	43
Newmarket on Fergus	61	17	44
Meelick	20	7	13
Parteen	26	16	10
Westbury	45	21	24
	472	211	261

To meet the need for social housing the Council has a scheme with the NDFA to deliver 51 social houses in Tullyvarraga by July 2021. The social housing scheme of 22 housing units in Tullyglass is on hold until such time as the issue in relation to flood risk is concluded. Up to now the main delivery mechanism is the acquisition of properties in areas of demand; from 2017 to date the Council has purchased (sales closed) 10 properties in Shannon, 2 properties in Sixmilebridge, 1 property in Newmarket on Fergus and 1 property in Westbury.

The Housing Capital team, through the advertised expression of interest process, are seeking lands and/or property to ensure a viable housing supply into the future in this regard we are considering development opportunities in areas of demand. The Council has purchased a site of 0.091 hectares adjacent to Cappa Lodge which will accommodate 2/3 houses, it is anticipated these properties will be delivered in late 2019/early 2020.

The Council work closely with Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) and in 2017 delivered the following schemes in the Shannon MD area:

- **4 houses at Deilginis Shannon** by Inis Housing Association
- **28 units at Lios Anama, Sixmilebridge** by Co-Operative Housing Ireland
- **1 house acquired by Focus** at Ballycasey Crescent
- **1 house acquired by Banner Housing** at Cluainin, Shannon

The schemes in progress at present in the Shannon MD area are:

- **47 dwellings at Tullyvarraga, Shannon** by Co-Operative Housing Ireland. The DEHLG has approved the financing of this scheme under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF). These are under construction and will be delivered in 2 stages during 2019.
- **4 units at Meelick** by Thomond Housing Association for people with disabilities. These are being financed under the Capital Assistance Scheme and will be delivered during 2019.
- **22 units at Bruachlán, Westbury** by Co-operative Housing Ireland. DEHLG approval has been received for funding under the CALF Scheme and title issues are currently being finalised. These will be delivered in late 2019-2020.

The Council in the delivery of social housing through build, acquisition and leasing is mindful of the social mix of housing in an area. The Council will work closely with stakeholders to achieve balance and ensure sustainable development of an area.

Cllr. Pat McMahon thanked Siobhan McNulty for her detailed response. He stated while progress has been made on the ground there is still a scarcity of land banks for the development of housing and stressed that any house building programme should take into consideration all types of family structure and composition

Cllr Cathal Crowe stated as there is approximately a 2 year wait from planning to turning the key a special purpose vehicle should be considered to deliver housing needs and drive projects.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn stated that the officials of Clare County Council have availed of every mechanism including considerable effort and work to deliver housing in the face of onerous challenges. He acknowledged the overall reduction in the net figure on the housing list and welcomed this.

Liam Conneally stated that the Housing crisis is a National issue and various mechanisms will have to be looked at in order to fast track the delivery of social housing. Affordability is a real issue for society. This is a situation which will not be solved in the short term and will take a considerable length of time.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council remove a number of large trees on Tullyglass Hill as concerns have been expressed by a number of residents residing in the immediate area that issues of Health & Safety should be considered due to the close proximity of the woodland to their Homes .

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Arrangements for the removal of approx. 270 trees along the eastern boundary of Tullyglass Hill are in train and works will commence shortly. The removal of these tall over-mature, mostly sitka spruce trees, overlooking the estate on the eastern boundary of the woodland, is required due to their height and weak structure as they are in wind strike of residential gardens and therefore pose a threat to those properties. Also of concern is the practice by local youths of lighting fires within the woodland.

The Elected Members welcomed this response.

The following item was taken together with item no. 25 from Cllr. Mike McKee

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

I'm calling on the Senior Engineer to expedite the process of replacing footpaths in Shannon Town as a substantial amount of footpaths are showing serious wear and in some cases present safety concerns for the public and especially for older people and those with limited mobility.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

A number of funding sources for footpath works is available to the MD currently including the IPB Public Liability works fund, the GMA as well as a portion of Discretionary Grant funding. These funding sources will be used in Shannon Town as well other towns and villages in the MD and works, already underway, will be progressed through the winter months.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

That SMD conduct an audit on all footpaths within the district, particularly those that have been damaged by manhole covers and repair these as soon as possible. If others are responsible, then they be requested to do so also.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The Shannon MD has an extensive list of locations throughout the district that are earmarked for footpath works in the short to medium-term. These works, focussing primarily on remediation of existing footpath infrastructure, are being carried out on a priority basis with funding provided through the IPB Public Liability Works fund, the GMA and also a portion of Discretionary Grant funding. Third parties undertaking works in public areas are required to obtain Road Opening Licences for this purpose that place an obligation on licensees to reinstate of these areas to a high standard.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

That the Housing & Planning Section of Clare County Council address the deficit in footpath infrastructure to the north of Bothar Mór (N19) Shannon to address the serious safety concerns for Residents of St Helen's Park, Ballymurtagh and also facilitate the development of necessary infrastructure to expedite development in Shannon to the north of Bothar Mór especially in view of the statement from The Senior Planner in August of 2017 highlighting the lack of safe, convenient and attractive pedestrian linkages to the primary retail area in Shannon Town Centre as one of the reasons to refuse planning for development in this area.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The lack of safe pedestrian linkage to Shannon Town centre for residents north of Bóthar Mór is a concern for the Shannon MD and needs to be addressed. The provision of footpath and mobility infrastructure for these areas will be assessed and planned in the context of the overall roads works programmes in the future.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council take a lead role in providing for CCTV cameras in the Shannon Banks / Westbury / Athlunkard Bridge area and that a member of Council staff be assigned to leading same.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

A community based CCTV scheme intended to support local communities wishing to install and maintain CCTV security systems in their areas was rolled out in 2017 by the Department of Justice and Equality and intended

to run for 3 years. The scheme is designed to provide financial assistance to qualifying local organisations towards meeting the capital costs associated with the establishment of local community CCTV systems. Following various communications and meetings with the gardai and local community in Shannon Banks in 2017 funding was provided by the council towards completion of Stage 1 of 3 that included for the preparation of a report setting out the system options and costings. However, earlier this year, a letter was issued by the CCMA to the Department of Justice and Equality asking them to pause the CCTV programme until Data Protection issues have been reviewed. Until such time as the outcome of this review is received and considered it will not be possible for the council's involvement in this scheme to progress further.

Liam Conneally to follow up with the CCMA on progress in this area.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council undertake remedial works, as soon as possible, to deal with surface water problems on the hill between Brennan's Cross and Meelick Stores. Note: During sub-zero weather this surface water freezes to a sheath of treacherous ice making the hill impassable for vehicles.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The topography of the area, from Cappateemore and areas up-gradient of Brennan's Cross, present challenges in dealing with the volumes of surface water flow during periods of intense rainfall. While some remedial works were carried out recently at this location the area will continue to be monitored and further maintenance works undertaken if required.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr Cathal Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council liaise with Coillte, RTÉ (owners of transmission mast at Woodcock Hill) and the Irish Aviation Authority (owners of 2 radar stations and multiple antenna towers at Woodcock Hill) with the view to installing permanent CCTV cameras, on a co-location basis, for the purposes of detecting illegal dumping, along the mountain road between Gallows Hill, Cratloe and Woodcock Hill, Meelick.

Marie O'Neill replied as follows:

Clare County Council (CCC) can explore this proposal with the entities referenced above to determine in the first instance if they are willing to consider such a joint initiative. Pending the outcome of those preliminary communications the practicalities in relation to legal agreements, GDPR, access, maintenance and power supplies for instance may have to be examined. For these reasons, this may not be a short term solution to the problems of illegal dumping being experienced now between Gallows Hill, Cratloe and Woodcock Hill, Meelick.

In the interim, CCC's Environmental Community Warden (CW) for the area will continue to carry out routine inspections of this area and deal with individual cases as they arise. The CW also routinely clears up smaller occurrences of littering and illegal dumping and, where necessary, will liaise with the Shannon Municipal Office to have sites of illegal dumping cleared in a timely manner.

In late 2017/early 2018, CCC in co-operation with An Garda Síochána carried out Environmental check-points in this area in a pro-active patrol capacity and in response to complaints received from members of the public. CCC will also continue to work with voluntary and community groups to tackle this issue and to assist with clean-ups of the area.

Funding provided under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2018 is being used to tackle illegal dumping throughout the county and this area forms part of that initiative. Over the coming weeks, CCTV cameras are to be installed in this area of South-East Clare, along with additional signage as a deterrent to those involved in illegal dumping.

The primary responsibility for the management of any waste, including costs for removal or disposal, lies with the holder of the waste, i.e. the natural or legal person in possession of the waste, or the producer of the waste. In this regard, CCC will liaise with Coillte, RTE and the Irish Aviation Authority to advise them of their responsibilities under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe commended Norah Murphy, Environmental Community Warden for her excellent work in responding to cases of illegal dumping in this area.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council erect more litter bins both for general litter and dog waste along the River Walks and the Points.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

The recently completed improvement works on the 3km stretch of the River Walks from Drumgeely to Illaunamanagh have undoubtedly improved accessibility and lead to increased usage by residents and visitors to this wonderful asset in Shannon Town. This proposal will be considered in the context of the disproportionately high number of litter bins already serviced by the council in Shannon Town and accessibility for council vehicles along the river Walks and Points and the council's Environment Section will also be consulted in this regard.

Item No. 25 was dealt with earlier with item no. 19.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr Mike McKee

Cuidithe ag Cllr P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

That SMD seek an urgent meeting with Bus Éireann in relation to the service from Shannon to Limerick/Ennis and also the servicing of Sixmilebridge.

It was agreed that the Shannon MD would write to Bus Éireann requesting a meeting.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr P.J. Ryan agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting that the Shannon Municipal District investigate the possibility of providing a car park in the centre of Sixmilebridge. Due to all the housing developments that have taken place over the last 15 years, provision was not made for adequate car parking or infrastructure which has now resulted in the town being congested with traffic.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

Recent and planned residential developments in Sixmilebridge, in combination with the number of business premises operating in the centre of the village, are putting extreme pressure on the available parking spaces. This dearth of available spaces also leads to traffic issues on the R471 outside the Centra shop in close proximity to the busy 4 cross-roads junction. In light of the foregoing the possibility of providing additional car

park spaces in close proximity to the village centre will be investigated. It is noteworthy that the provision of additional car parking in or adjoining Sixmilebridge centre is one of the stated Transport Objectives in the current County Development Plan.

Cllr. John Crowe highlighted the concerns of business people and the local community of Sixmilebridge on this issue.

Liam Conneally advised that he is acutely aware of this issue and the Council are currently looking at a property close by that is for sale for the provision of parking. However, the cost of this property is too high to justify its use solely for parking purposes. Therefore, consideration will have to be given by the Council to potentially combining the use of this property for parking along with other uses. The Director emphasised that this is at an early stage at this point in time.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Pat McMahon agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting that road markings be installed in the Low Road, Bunratty for the safety of pedestrians and all road users.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

This busy local primary road, the L-3040, serves Bunratty Castle and Folk Park as well as a number of B&B's along its length and links Bunratty with the R471 Shannon – Sixmilebridge road at Ministers Cross. Given the nature and volumes of traffic traversing the road it is appropriate that the road markings be reviewed and any necessary improvements made to enhance road safety for all.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Cathal Crowe agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting that all villages within the Shannon Municipal District be installed with traffic calming measures for the safety of the people that are living in these areas.

Eugene O'Shea replied as follows:

In recent years Driver Feedback signs were installed and have been successful in reducing traffic speeds in Shannon, Sixmilebridge, Cratloe and Westbury amongst other locations in the Shannon MD. Due to increasing traffic volumes and speeds on our road network it is intended to continue to expand the network of these signs subject to availability of resources. Other traffic calming measures funded by the Safety Improvement Works Grant on Regional and Local Roads have recently been installed in Parteen and in Shannon at Bóthar na Rinne and Bóthar na Luachra with further schemes to be constructed in 2018 at Meelick and Blackwater.

This Motion was supported by all the Members.

30. Correspondence

Cllrs welcomed this response from the HSE and some progress has been made in this area. Cllr Mike McKee is to arrange to give a copy of letter from the HSE to Garry Fitzgibbon.

31. AOB

- Tour to Ardnacrusha Power station to be organised for the Elected Members within the coming weeks. Date to be agreed with the Elected Members.
- Cllr. John Crowe requested a follow up on a response to his previous Notice of Motion in relation to a request to the OPW to have the River Garney dredged while the water levels are low. Eugene O'Shea said he has spoken with the OPW Office in Mungret and he has been informed that the river will be dredged by the end of September.

- A brief discussion also took place in relation to the new road layout at N18/N19 Junction 9 as constituents have raised their concerns with the Elected Members. While this is under the jurisdiction of the TII, Eugene O'Shea informed the meeting that he has made contact with the TII in relation to same.
- Cllr. Cathal Crowe requested that as Clonlara is coming under the jurisdiction of the Shannon MD in 2019 that consideration be given to additional resources in terms of staff and finances.
- The date for the Shannon MD Draft Budgetary Plan meeting was agreed for Tuesday 30th October at 9.45am.

Cathaoirleach Gerard Flynn took this opportunity to lead his fellow Elected Members in paying tribute to Eugene O'Shea on his imminent retirement. Cllr. Flynn acknowledged the commendable working relationship that exists between Eugene and the Elected Members down through the years. He acknowledged the manner in which Eugene carried out his job in a professional and courteous fashion and lauded Eugene in delivering many of the projects in the Shannon MD. Cllrs Flynn's sentiments were also echoed by all the Elected Members. The Elected Members concluded by congratulating Eugene on a wonderful career and wished Eugene, his wife Edel and family long life, health and happiness in the future.

Liam Conneally also contributed that Eugene showed great leadership in the Shannon MD and brought great qualities including leadership and management to the job. His kind and respectful manner is testament to the way he carried out his duties on a daily basis. He thanked Eugene for his valued contribution to Clare County Council and wished him every good wish for the future.

Eugene responded saying he was humbled by the kind words and was honoured to have served in the Shannon MD. He thanked the Elected Members for their co-operation and assistance in facilitating him in carrying out his role in the Shannon MD over the years.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____

**Cllr. Gerard Flynn,
Cathaoirleach.**

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator

Dated: November, 2018