

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th March 2019 at 9.45am at the office 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.

Pat Dowling Chief Executive, Carmel Greene Senior Executive Officer, John Leahy Senior Engineer, John Corry Administrative Officer, Aidan O'Rourke Senior Executive Engineer, Siobhán O'Reilly Meetings Administrator, Patricia O'Neill Staff Officer.

Apologies: Liam Conneally, Director of Services.

Cathaoirleach Gerard Flynn opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He proposed a minute's silence in respect of the lives that were tragically lost over the last week particularly in Northern Ireland and offered condolences to all the families. This was supported by all the Members and a minute's silence was observed.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd January 2019.

The minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd January, 2019 were proposed by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon and agreed by all.

2. Brian Connolly Regional Manager West, Bus Éireann, Bláithin McElligott Services Manager, Bus Éireann and Tony O'Brien Bus Éireann. (In response to Notice of Motion from Cllr. Mike McKee at the September 2018 Meeting).

Tony O'Brien welcomed this opportunity for staff from Bus Éireann to address the Members and introduced his fellow colleagues Brian Connolly and Bláithin McElligott.

The Elected Members raised the following concerns in relation to Bus Éireann services:

- Adequacy of Services 343 from Ennis to Shannon and Shannon to Limerick and connectivity in general.
- Provision of bus shelters and enhancement of same,
- Transportation for children with disabilities and school transportation,
- Efficiency, affordability and punctuality
- Cost of service
- Frequency of services to Sixmilebridge
- Lack of promotion of services at the Shannon Airport.
- Information on bus routes and timetables at bus stops.

At this stage of the meeting it was proposed by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Mike McKee that the representatives present from Bus Éireann would also address item no. 18 on the agenda as it related to Bus Éireann services. Cllr. Cathal Crowe requested that the Meetings Administrator formally write to the Bus Éireann in relation to the content of this Motion.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr. Cathal Crowe.

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

That the Shannon Municipal District calls on Bus Éireann (Colbert Station, Limerick) to:

- (i) extend the Moyross (303) bus route to give an improved service to the housing estates of Meelick.
- (ii) extend the Caherdavin (302) bus route to include stops at White's Cross, Gavin's Cross and Scoil Mhuire N.S. to provide a bus service to people living in the rural townlands of Meelick.
- (iii) reinstate the recently removed bus stop at Ballymorris, Cratloe (in front of Ormston's B&B on the dual-carrageway. Coordinates: (52.6930313, -8.7726316)
- (iv) install a sign at Poulawooly Bridge to give formal recognition to the long established bus stop there. Coordinates: (52.7092104, -8.7719671).

Brian Connolly, Regional Manager responded to a number of the issues raised by Councillors:

- Routes 343 and 51 are the principal routes through Shannon. Route 51 – Galway/Shannon/Limerick/Cork is operated by commercial operators and receives no state funding provided. Route 343 is operated under contract to the National Transport Authority (NTA), and as a result a lot of consultation takes place between Bus Éireann and the NTA regarding timetables, routes, punctuality, etc.
- Route 343 has also been under review in recent months. Data has been collected using the vehicle location system which provides a significant amount of information on punctuality and reliability of services. This information is analysed and will assist in the current review and subsequent enhancement of services.
- Direct services to and from Shannon Airport are tied in with flight times. Electronic signage and real time information is available at Shannon Airport. Services are to be reviewed to provide greater connectivity for passengers.
- With regard to the Sixmilebridge service, changes may come about once a review of the service has been carried out. This is likely to take place in the latter half of the year.
- Passenger fares are set by the NTA and incentive schemes such as Tax Savers and Leap Cards are available whereby passengers can also avail of cheaper fares.
- The limited availability of wheelchair accessible buses is a significant issue for Bus Éireann. However, a fleet of 40 buses with low floor accessibility will be coming on stream in 2019 and the NTA will determine the allocation of these buses throughout the country.

Bláithin McElligott addressed the Members and confirmed that

- There were punctuality issues in September/October 2018 with route 343 and these were largely due to the commencement of the new school/college term.
- With the implementation of a punctuality improvement plan and the recent review of the service, it is anticipated that there should be significant improvement in the service with greater reliability.
- Bus shelters are the responsibility of the NTA and the County Council should liaise with them in relation to same. Bláithin will also forward NTA contact details to the Meetings Administrator for the Members.
- The bus stop at Ballymorris, Cratloe had not ceased but the sign had fallen off the pole which will be replaced as soon as possible.

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive stated that the voice of the Elected Members should be listened to as they are the public representatives. He also emphasised the importance of public transport to the county as a whole. Under the Limerick/Shannon Metropolitan Area Transportation Strategy, public transport will be a critical.

Cathaoirleach, Gerard Flynn and all the Members, thanked the representatives from Bus Éireann for attending and addressing this issue and it was agreed that they would return to a meeting in 6 months to review the service.

3. Schedule of Municipal District Works 2019 (attached) – Presentation by John Leahy.

John Leahy, Senior Engineer addressed the meeting with regard to the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) 2019. This Schedule was circulated Members in advance of the meeting.

Non-National Roads Grants	2019
Strategic R & L	€8,100,000
Safety improvement works	€ 304,000
Discretionary	€3,613,500
Restoration Improvement	€9,418,500
Training	€60,000
Bridge rehabilitation	€771,420
Specific Improvements	€270,000
Drainage works	€896,500
Restoration Maintenance	€2,408,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€735,000
Total	€26,576,920

- Overall there is an increase of 18% on funding when compared with 2018 figures giving a total fund available of €33,544,957 for 2019 to maintain and manage the county's existing road network.
- The funding available from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTas) in respect of non-national routes shows an increase of 12.9% when compared with 2018 and it is anticipated that 228km of non-national roads will be improved in 2019 from a fund of €26,576,920.
- For 2019 Clare County Council will not be able to transfer money from the Restoration Improvement Grant to the Discretionary fund as was the practice in previous years. The increased funding under various grant headings partially compensates for this.
- Appendix 3 of the Schedule relates specifically to the Shannon MD roads area. Allocations to Municipal Districts in the county are based on the current boundaries.

John Corry, Administrative Officer addressed the Members in relation to the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS).

- Under the Local Improvement Scheme 30 non public roads were approved funding and works were completed in 2018. An initial allocation of €480,811 has been provided under the 1st allocation of funding for the 2019 LIS and it is anticipated that further funding will become available during 2019.
- Under the Community Involvement Scheme 2018 an allocation of €600,000 was provided which enabled the completion of works on 22 public roads. An allocation of €735,000 has been provided for 2019.

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive added that while Shannon has the highest rate collection from the business community in the county, the redistribution of funding has to be county wide. He thanked both John Leahy and John Corry in their presentation of the SMDW for 2019. He emphasised that the bigger issue for Shannon, Clare's second largest town, is that it needs to be treated as such in terms of planning and investment going forward. The need to develop a town spirit and heart is a priority for Shannon.

The Members thanked both John Leahy and John Corry for their presentation.

The adoption of the proposed Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2019 was proposed by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Mike McKee and agreed by all.

Pat Dowling took this opportunity to thank the staff and Councillors for their continued work and support in the Shannon MD.

4. Proposed Traffic Calming measures at

- Junction of R462 and L3102 Cratloe Cross Roads, Co. Clare. (Report attached).
Proposed by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon and agreed by all.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe while welcoming these proposed works, requested that consideration be given by the SMD to repair the existing footpath.

- R458 Limerick Road, Newmarket-on-Fergus (115m Sough of Town T-Junction) Co. Clare (Report attached).
Proposed by Cllr. Pat McMahon and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.

5. Proposed disposal of property at 12 Finian Park, Shannon – Proposed by Cllr. Mike McKee and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.

6. Community Grant Scheme 2019.

A total sum of €35,160 was proposed for distribution between community groups and an allocation of €1,305 was proposed for the Shannon allotments. This was proposed by Cllr. P.J. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Cathal Crowe and agreed by all.

7. Roads Works Programme/Roads.

- Cllr. John Crowe raised concerns re the number of potholes around the village of Sixmilebridge and requested the Senior Executive Engineer to address this.
- Cllr. Cathal Crowe requested in light of any proposed developments at the Northern campus of UL that development levies to improve public infrastructure be attached to the conditions of planning permission.

8. 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 repairs, surfacing and strengthening to the R471 at Cappa adjacent to Quinn's Forge, Sixmilebridge.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The road at this location will be repaired as necessary and will be considered for inclusion in the 2019 Roadworks Programme subject to availability of resources.

9. 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 install drainage and new pipe on road known locally as the Line Road Cratloe adjacent to Aherne's residence.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This issue will be examined with a view to determining what measures are required to mitigate the drainage problem at this location and actioned subject to available resources.

10. 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 provide me with an update on the provision of a footpath between Brennan's Cross and Ballycannon Cemetery, Meelick, and also that repairs to road surface, drainage and upgrade street lighting to LED be carried out in this area.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The upgrade of existing street lighting to LED will progress as part of a national project which is expected to roll out during 2020. Whilst the provision of a footpath, drainage and public lighting from Brennan's Cross along the L3068 is desirable, the emphasis of the Shannon Municipal District in respect of footpath works is to deal with the huge backlog of repair works to the existing infrastructure throughout the district within the resources currently available. In order to progress this matter, an outline estimate of cost for this project will be prepared. All avenues of prospective funding will be examined.

Aidan O'Rourke further outlined that the provision to improve road surfacing and drainage will be considered under the 2020 Roadworks Programme.

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

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr. Mike McKee.

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

That the footpaths at the rear of Corrib Drive, from Foyle Park up to Slaney Park, be replaced as a matter of urgency.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

These footpaths will be examined and consideration given to their inclusion in the next round of footpath repair works. We await clarity on the amount of funding which will be available for footpath work in 2019.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Mike McKee

Ar moladh Cllr . Mike McKee.

Cuidithe ag Cllr . Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

That when funding becomes available, extra car parking facilities be provide to the front of numbers 17 to 23 Purcell Pk.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The available parking at this location will be examined with a view to determining a suitable location for additional spaces. This work will be listed for action when a source of funding becomes available.

13. 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 repair the road surface at the rear of numbers 1 to 4 and numbers 75 to 78 Rossbracken.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The road at this location will be repaired as necessary and will be considered for inclusion in the 2019 Roadworks Programme subject to availability of resources.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn.

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

I'm calling on Clare County Councils Director of Physical Development to put in place an assessment of all the older residential estates in Shannon and create a program of enhancement to bring the infrastructure in these areas up to a higher level as some of the older estates are in a very dilapidated state and are now suffering from lack of investment due to the fact that Clare County Council took over Shannon Town with no additional budget in 2004.

Carmel Kirby replied as follows:

Roads across the Shannon district are assessed each year under the Road Management office pavement management system and are assigned a rating based on their condition. This informs the priority areas for grant monies received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Footpaths are assessed as advised and are prioritised for repair based on condition. There has been very limited funding available for footpath repair up until recent years, but the recent grants received from Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance have facilitated the repair and replacement of footpaths across the district and including estates in Shannon. To supplement the councils own construction crew, a contract for the repair of footpaths is expected to be awarded shortly and this will see contractors starting on footpath repair works in the Shannon Municipal District within coming weeks. This contract includes for footpath repair in many of the older town estates such as Cronan, Aidan Park, Drumgeely, Finian Park amongst others.

A national programme of replacement of light standard heads is going to tender in 2019 with work expected to start in early 2020 which will see all lighting heads upgraded to LED fittings and other public lighting infrastructural improvements.

These measures demonstrate a commitment to maintaining and enhancing public infrastructure in the Shannon Municipal District. Much of the infrastructure in the older estates in Shannon has been assessed however we will carry out a review later this year which will inform future enhancement works and funding streams.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn.

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

I'm calling on the Senior Engineer in Shannon to identify some meaningful way to progress the completion of the Shannon Tullyvarruga Woodland that was the victim of a scheme put in place some years ago by the Council and unfortunately due to the adequacy of the funding it was never completed and the recent effort by the former Senior Engineer and the Rural Directorate to secure funds under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2018 to complete the community facility was not approved by the Department.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The progression of this project is desirable. No budget is currently available to meet this project cost. The project will be re-applied for under the Outdoor Recreation Scheme should this source of funding be available in 2019.

Carmel Greene informed the meeting that the original funding was provided under the Neighbourhood Enhancement Scheme. It was agreed that both Carmel and Aidan would explore other sources of funding for the progression of this project.

16. 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 Director of Economic Development in consultation with Skycourt Management and the public take over Slí Cara in Shannon with an objective of Taking responsibility for the road located between the Shannon Library and Kincora apartments that is named Slí Cara. This road could become a public street and go along way to giving the people of Shannon a sense of ownership of their Town and could form the basis of the Socio-Economic Strategy for Shannon Town.

Brian McCarthy replied as follows:

On foot of the URDF funding recently secured for the development of a Shannon Town Masterplan, the Planning Department are currently preparing a brief to go to tender for consultants to be engaged for the drafting of this plan. It is expected that consultants will be appointed in the coming months. Central to this master-planning process will be an examination of the pedestrian and vehicular mobility linkages that exist and are required within Shannon Town.

In light of this it is considered that the identification of Sli Cara as a main street for Shannon Town and commencement of discussions with all stakeholders are premature pending the commencement of the masterplanning process. However the sentiments of this Notice of Motion will be examined as part of the overall process.

Following a discussion by the Members on this Motion, Carmel Greene informed the meeting that Shannon is a key priority for Clare County Council and consultation is key to any plan and this will be part of the brief.

This Motion was supported by all the Members.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr. Cathal Crowe.

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

That in light of its large population, urban centre and recognised large settlement status in the Clare County Development Plan the Shannon Municipal District :

1) calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government to grant town status to Westbury, Shannon Banks & Carraig Midhe.

2) requests that, subject to a favourable outcome to point 1, public consultation be held to decide what name should be given to this new town.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe further added that town status would put this area on the map, giving it an identity and would be hugely positive for the area. In relation to a name for the town Cllr. Crowe suggested that consideration be given to the place name Athlunkard but public consultation would have to take place on the naming of this town.

It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Item No. 18 was dealt with earlier.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Cathal Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr. Cathal Crowe.

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council prioritise the completion of a footpath between Parteen School & Larkin's Cross and examine all potential funding channels including the levying of special contributions on large scale developments.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Whilst the provision of a footpath, drainage and public lighting from Parteen School & Larkins Cross along the L3060 is desirable, the emphasis of the Shannon Municipal District in respect of footpath works is to deal with the huge backlog of repair works to the existing infrastructure throughout the district within the resources currently available. In order to progress this matter, an outline estimate of cost for this project will be prepared. All avenues of prospective funding will be examined.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe requested that all further planning applications for this area include conditions for development contributions to fund such works.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahon.

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Mike McKee agus glacadh leis:

I will ask Clare County Council to repair the footpaths at Monument Cross, Newmarket on Fergus in the vicinity of O'Donnell's and Tobin's residence as it is in a dangerous condition.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

These footpaths will be examined and consideration given to their inclusion in the next round of footpath repair works. We await clarity on the amount of funding which will be available for footpath work in 2019.

21. 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 extend the footpath at Ballinacragga, Newmarket on Fergus leading up to Woodlands Heights, Newmarket on Fergus as it is currently dangerous for pedestrians and particularly with the volume of traffic on this roadway.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Whilst the provision of a footpath, drainage and public lighting to Woodland Heights along the L3158 is desirable, the emphasis of the Shannon Municipal District in respect of footpath works is to deal with the huge backlog of repair works to the existing infrastructure throughout the district within the resources currently available. In order to progress this matter, an outline estimate of cost for this project will be prepared. All avenues of prospective funding will be examined.

22. 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 provide traffic calming measures near the entrance to Boheraroan Estate as it is a very dangerous junction for residents to negotiate.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

A driver feedback sign and pedestrian crossing point are scheduled to be installed along this regional road shortly. These measures should serve to increase driver awareness of speed at this location and improve pedestrian safety.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe.

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

That Clare County Council extend the footpath from Ard Ratha Housing Estate to Cluain Droichead Housing Estate.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Whilst the provision of a footpath, drainage and public lighting to the Ard Ratha Housing Estate along the L3016 is desirable, the emphasis of the Shannon Municipal District in respect of footpath works is to deal with the huge backlog of repair works to the existing infrastructure throughout the district within the resources currently available. In order to progress this matter, an outline estimate of cost for this project will be prepared. All avenues of prospective funding will be examined.

Cllr. John Crowe stated that a small section of footpath is required at this location and requested that consideration be given to the extension of this footpath and that planning applications in the area should have a development contribution levied on them to facilitate such works.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe.

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

In the interest of safety I request the Shannon MD to install a pedestrian crossing at the Greyhound Bar, Sixmilebridge.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

A traffic count and study will be carried out at this location which can then be used to assess the suitability of this location for a crossing point.

Cllr. John Crowe further added that there are 5 housing estates within this vicinity, with a significant number of pedestrians crossing this busy roadway and a pedestrian crossing would be desirable at this location.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe.

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

I request the Shannon MD to carry out footpath repairs in the Sixmilebridge area, particularly from Gillys Bar, Sixmilebridge to the new National School, Sixmilebridge.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

These footpaths will be examined and consideration given to their inclusion in the next round of footpath repair works. We await clarity on the amount of funding which will be available for footpath work in 2019.

Cllr. John Crowe stated that with approximately 550 pupils attending the National School these repair works are a priority.

26. Correspondence

- Property Marking Equipment – Telesis Dot Peen Machine (Co-funding request).
Each MD is making a contribution towards the acquisition of this equipment which will be shared between each Municipal District Office. It was agreed by all the Members that a contribution of €850.00 would be made from the Shannon GMA budget towards the provision of this equipment.
- Correspondence from Bunratty Local Development Association (BLDA).
BLDA are seeking funding from Clare County Council towards the provision of grass cutting equipment. It was agreed at the meeting that the Council would look into other grant aid opportunities that BLDA could potentially avail of.
- Correspondence from Limerick City & County Council re Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (reply to Notice of Motion from January Meeting). – Noted by the Members.
- Correspondence from Irish Water and Water Services (reply to Notice of Motion from January Meeting). Cllr. Cathal Crowe welcomed this reply.
- An invitation from Dúchas na Sionna was circulated in relation to a forthcoming information evening on the Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project to be held on Friday 22nd March, 2019 at 6.15pm in Shannon Library, Shannon Town Centre.

27. AOB

- Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested that Aidan O'Rourke liaise with the TII in relation to removing overgrown shrubbery from the Shannon Town Roundabout.
- The Meetings Administrator will again follow up with the Department of Education in relation to the provision of an ASD Special Class in Ballycar National School as no response has been received to date.
- All Members commended the work of the local organising committees in Shannon and Sixmilebridge in organising another successful St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- Cllr. P.J. Ryan raised concerns about flooding at Craughan Cemetery. Aidan O'Rourke will liaise with the Rural Development Directorate in relation to this.
- Forthcoming Election posters – A discussion took place in relation to the erection of posters for the forthcoming election. While there was some support for not erecting posters others felt it helped them connect with the public.
- It was agreed that the next Shannon MD Meeting would take place on Tuesday 14th May, 2019 at 9.45am.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cathaoirleach.

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator.

Dated: **May, 2019.**