

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on
Tuesday 16th March, 2021 at 9.45am in the Boardroom, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road,
Ennis, Co. Clare and via MS Teams.**

Present: Councillors Pat McMahon (Cathaoirleach), PJ Ryan and John Crowe.

Attending remotely: Gerard Flynn, Donna McGettigan, Pat O’Gorman and Michael Begley.

Officials Present : Jason Murphy Senior Executive Officer and Patricia O’Neill Staff Officer

Attending remotely: Liam Conneally Director of Service, John Leahy Senior Engineer, Carmel Greene Senior Executive Officer and Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer.

Cathaoirleach Pat McMahon opened the meeting and welcomed all attending in person and remotely.

The Cathaoirleach proposed that the meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes as a mark of respect on the sad passing of Noel Phelan, husband of Cllr. Donna McGettigan. The Members supported the adjournment and sympathy was extended to Cllr. McGettigan. The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District held on 19th January 2021 were proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.
2. **Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) 2021. Presented by John Leahy.**
The SMDW 2021 was circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting.

A breakdown of the grant allocation for 2021 is as follows:

	2021(€)
Transport Infrastructure Ireland - National Routes	5,312,040
Department of Transport - Non National Routes	25,266,904
Own Resources	3,177,779
IPBMI	800,000
Total	34,556,723

Appendix 3 refers to the Shannon SMDW 2021, which has a total budget of €3.2m, a significant overall increase in last year’s figures.

The Elected Members raised the following in relation to the SMDW 2021

- The level of input the Members have in the SMDW process.
- Shannon MD disadvantaged in the provision of financial resources by comparison to the West Clare MD, given the MD’s big rate base and high compliance with payment of property tax.
- Reduction in Discretionary Grant from previous years.
- Low Cost Safety scheme reduced from €140,000 in 2020 to €70,000 in 2021.
- Restoration Improvement – Westbury Junction to Larkins Cross budget of €582,000.
Cllr Michael Begley questioned the delivery of this project in 2021, in light of proposed works to be carried out by Irish Water to upgrade the mains on this road.

Liam Conneally thanked John Leahy for addressing the meeting and requested an update on the Phase 2 of the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR). He also requested clarity in respect

of the allocation of €30,000 under the Disability Access fund given the quantity of footpaths in the district.

He acknowledged the Members comments in relation to Shannon having the highest rate collection from the business community in the county, however the redistribution of funding has to be countywide.

John Leahy responded to comments raised as follows:

- Discretionary grant of €200,000 does not include footpath works as these works have now been placed under the IPB allocation of €200,000, which is also considered discretionary expenditure.
- Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance up by 7% on previous year.
- PMO to provide update on Phase 2 of the LNDR.
- Disability Access Fund is last years unspent allocation that is brought forward to 2021 and also considered discretionary expenditure.

The SMDW 2021 was proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all. The SMDW for 2021 was adopted by the Shannon MD.

3. Disposal of land at Ballycalla, Newmarket On Fergus, Co. Clare.

Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer informed the meeting that the land in question is adjacent to the runway of Shannon Airport and had been acquired by Clare County Council in the 1990's. The lands have been let for grazing since they were acquired. An assessment of the lands has been carried out and they are now surplus to requirements with no beneficial use to Clare County Council.

This disposal of land at Ballycalla, Newmarket On Fergus received the full support of the Members and it was proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon.

4. Economic Development

Jason Murphy updated the Members in relation to the economic development and included projects/plans in the Shannon MD

- Grass cutting contractor for 2021 has been awarded to Amarek Landscaping Ltd.
- County Development Plan 2022 to 2028 – workshop to be arranged for the Members to make a direction on the preparation of the draft Co. Development Plan by 25th March 2021.
- Shannon Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme - submissions to be made on stage 1 of the pre-planning and design process by 9th of April 2021.
- Town and Village Renewal (TVR) Schemes – Sixmilebridge and Bunratty TVR Scheme are progressing. Shannon MD staff are working with the communities on this scheme.
- Webinars on Biodiversity have been well attended by the Tidy Towns groups and staff. Proposals for 5 pollinator zones and information boards to be put in place in Shannon.
- Shannon Town Masterplan – Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner is currently working on the draft and will be put before the Members when ready.
- GMA – Tom Mellett is liaising with the Members on identifying projects for the current years allocation.
- URDF- awaiting announcement from the Department on application made by this MD.
- Housing in Shannon – Carmel Greene is preparing a report on the serviced sites within Shannon. The findings will be presented to the Members.
- Green Flag application will be submitted to An Taisce in respect of Shannon Town Park.
- Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) – The Chief Executive and Director of Economic Development have met with the Interim President of UL and work has continued by the both teams on the SDZ DAC legal arrangements. Further engagement between the partnership will

take place to prepare for the making of an application to Government to seek the designation of the UL South Clare SDZ.

The Members raised the following:

- Tree cutting contractor to be in place for September each year to maximise the works that can be carried out for the period from September to February which is outside of the breeding and nesting season for wildlife and birds.
- GMA process – engagement with Elected Members is vital.
- A requirement for private serviced sites in Shannon to meet demand.
- Update on Springfield flood defences – timeframe involved.
- Cycleway at Drumline

Liam Conneally added that in building communities it is important that a balance is achieved between a private and public mix of housing. A survey of serviced sites is being carried out initially which will help to activate the land bank. The findings of this report will be presented to the Members when complete.

In relation to the Biodiversity plan, he welcomed the work to date on this plan and highlighted the importance of education in this area.

He also added that Clare Co Council are working with the new owner of Shannon Town Centre, Shannon Chamber of Commerce and other sectoral interests to activate projects and to bring these proposed projects back to the Members for further discussion.

In Tom Melletts response to comments raised by the Councillors he stated that the Road Design Section and the Shannon MD are working on upgrading the cycleway from Latoon to Clonmoney which will incorporate Drumline. In relation to Springfield, he stated there is no concern at present and materials are in place in the event that there is a significant rise in water levels. Water levels are monitored on a regular basis.

Cllr. Michael Begley clarified that he was requesting a time frame for the commencement of the Springfield Flood Defences project. It was agreed that the PMO would provide an update at the next MD meeting.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn emphasised that democracy is vital in the development of the Shannon Town Masterplan. Liam Conneally stated that he has noted Cllr. Flynn's concerns. Everybody will have a part to play in the future of Shannon Town. The first draft of the Shannon Town Masterplan will go before the MD Members prior to going on public display.

5. Roads

Cllr. Michael Begley requested that the velocity patcher be more readily available to the Shannon MD. Tom Mellett replied that the velocity patcher is shared between the Shannon MD and the Killaloe MD and when available to the Shannon MD work is scheduled around its availability to maximise its usage to this district during that period.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested that works be carried out to the Strand Road, Rineanna, and a Low Cost Safety Scheme for Monument Cross has not yet been delivered.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I call on Clare County Council to prepare a public lighting design plan with full technical specifications for the Fairgreen, Newmarket On Fergus as a matter of urgency.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

An initial inspection of the carpark has indicated that one additional light standard to the front of the car park along with an upgrade of the four existing light standards would provide adequate lighting for the area.

The Municipal District will be resurfacing the rear carpark to the church this year and will include the area for lighting also.

The Office will programme these works for 2021.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

Due to the increase in population in the greater Ballycar Road, Newmarket On Fergus area including Gleann Cora and Goodwood housing estates, that Clare County Council provide a pedestrian crossing/traffic calming measures due to health and safety concerns of the local population.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

There is currently a pedestrian crossing at GAA grounds approximately 120m from the raised table at the entrances to these estates. There are bollards along the edge of the raised table to segregate pedestrian and vehicles. An additional crossing at this location is not warranted, however the Office will assess the existing crossing at the GAA grounds to ensure it is fit for purpose and we will also repair any bollards that have been damaged at the Gleann Cora/Goodwood entrance.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr PJ Ryan

I am requesting Clare County Council to provide traffic calming measures opposite the main Green area in Gleann Cora, Newmarket On Fergus due to the volume of pedestrians, particularly children in this area.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

A planning contribution to cover traffic calming measures was a condition of Planning for the second phase of this estate. The Municipal District Office will use this funding to implement traffic calming measures within the estate.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That this MD would carry out repairs and resurface Main Street, Sixmilebridge, as its condition has deteriorated considerably in recent times due to inclement weather conditions.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Essential maintenance of this road has been carried out in the past few days, the Office will continue to monitor this location.

Cllr Ryan acknowledged that while essential works have been carried out in recent days, a major resurfacing job needs to be carried out on this road.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

That this MD would erect no parking signs on Gallows Hill Road, Cratloe, adjacent to the woods entrance, as indiscriminate parking is causing major problems for residents in the area and is also a health and safety issue.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

An order for “No Parking” signs will be placed this week. The signs will be erected as soon as possible after delivery.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

That this MD would carry out realignment work at the cross known locally as Fianne Cross, Meelick, and also reduce the speed limit between the said cross and Gavin's Cross.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

In relation to this junction, this office will liaise with the Council’s Road Design Office to determine what options there are in relation to realigning the junction.

In relation to the speed limit, these are reviewed periodically. When the next review commences this road will be considered.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

That this MD take whatever steps are necessary to advance the completion of the Clonlara Sewage Scheme as originally designed and planned.

Cyril Feeney replied as follows:

Clare County Council are no longer a Water Services Authority for the provision of such infrastructure following the establishment of Irish Water in 2013. The local authority no longer have a legislative basis or powers to provide municipal water/wastewater services infrastructure. Those functions which are outlined under Section 32 of the Water Services Act 2007 reside solely now with Irish Water.

Under Section 10 of the Water Services No 2 Act 2013 the Council are only a Water Services Authority, under an Excluded provision, for the operation and provision of storm water systems, Inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems and the Rural Water Programme.

We will forward this Notice of Motion to Irish Water for their response.

Cllr. Michael Begley requested that a letter of support be issued by Clare Co Council with this Notice of Motion to Irish Water.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That provision be made in this year’s road programme for the restoration/improvement of the L-7052, Shrawickeen link off the L-7050.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

We have included 2000m of the L-7050 on the Schedule of Municipal District Works for this year, the L-7052 is a Cul-de-Sac off this road. We have been unable to include the L-7052 for this year. It will be considered for inclusion in 2022.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

That the chain link fencing on the parapet of the footbridge between Summerhill, Clonlara and Castleconnell be replaced with more secure fencing for health and safety reasons as a matter of urgency.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

A number of sections of chain link fence have been replaced by wire panels recently.

An application to upgrade this bridge has been submitted by Limerick City and County Council, this application is through the Active Travel programme and is currently being assessed by the National Transport Authority.

Shannon Municipal District will continue to liaise with our colleagues in Limerick in relation to the application.

Cllr. Begley stated that a large number of people use this bridge on a daily basis. It was agreed that Tom Mellett would continue to liaise with Limerick County Council on the upgrade of this bridge.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Unfortunately the 'leave no trace policy ' does not seem to be working, so, I am calling on this MD to place more bins in the Shannon area with a particular emphasis on dog waste bins.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997-2003, dog-owners are required to clean up after their animals if they foul in a public spaces. Failure to do so can result in an on-the-spot fine of €150.

Dog waste bags are available at MD offices free of charge and they can be placed in any waste bin.

The Municipal District Office will be carrying out an audit of existing bins and their condition with a view to ensuring the current stock is fit for purpose.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Following on from my previous motion on bins, I am calling on this MD to continue to strengthen the "Leave No Trace ' campaign involving community groups and schools.

Brendan Flynn replied as follows:

The Leave No Trace message is promoted on a county wide basis. Clare County Council are signed up as members of Leave No Trace and have actively promoted "Love This Place, Leave No Trace" throughout the year, using the various media outlets. The Environment Sections Greener Clare programme will work in conjunction with the Shannon Municipal District Office and Shannon Tidy Towns to strengthen the Leave No Trace campaign within the Shannon MD area. Both primary and secondary schools will be encouraged to actively participate in the An Taisce Green School

programme and promote this message as an integral part of this programme. There is also an opportunity to promote this message on the Information Boards along the Estuary Loop walk and Shannon MD have confirmed that this will be actioned.

A discussion followed in respect of this Motion. Liam Conneally acknowledged the encouraging response to this Motion but added that responsibility rests with the individual and that education is key in delivering this message.

It was agreed that Shannon MD Office will work in conjunction with Karen Foley, Environmental Awareness Officer and Norah Murphy Environmental Patrol Warden in promoting this campaign, commencing with the schools in the area.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I am calling on this MD to develop the forest area behind the Slí na Mara boreen. This area already has walkways, the trees had been removed in this area but nature is slowly growing back. I think starting slowly and over time this area with historic stone walls could turn into a lovely walkway/picnic area that would serve both human and wildlife.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

The Green Infrastructure Plan for Shannon includes provision for an upgrade of the existing track through the hill to an 'off-road' cycle/footpath route, and the retention of an open and wide walkway through the woodland.

The Shannon Municipal District Office is committed to delivering on this Plan and will continue to incorporate elements for funding under appropriate schemes.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahan

I am calling on the Senior Engineer to have a look at the exit for Drumgeely Road in regard to speed reduction signage coming off the main N19 dual carriageway at Drumgeely roundabout as the speed limit on the dual carriageway is 100 Kilometres and there appears to be no visible signage indicating a reduction in speed as you exit on to the local road apart from a repeater sign of 50 Kilometres located some distance away from the exit off the N19.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Signs will be ordered and located at the appropriate locations on this road.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I am requesting Clare County Council to finish the small section of road at Bonnabinnia Cratloe. Most of this road was dealt with by the Council through a Local Improvement Scheme last year but unfortunately sufficient funding was not secured to finish the section at the very end of this road and it needs urgent attention. I would hope some additional funding could be secured from the LIS in order to complete the road.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

An announcement on the LIS scheme funding is expected later this month. Once the funding available is known, the Transportation Dept will notify the Municipal Districts and applicants on the application list will be informed and given the opportunity to access the fund.

If the residents in Bonnabinnia would like to apply for the scheme I will arrange for an application form to be sent to them.

At present the scheme is oversubscribed and so there is no guarantee that an application will be successful this year, however given that a section of this road has been previously completed under the scheme the Municipal District Office will support the application.

Cllr. Flynn further added that only one project was delivered in the Shannon MD in 2020 under this scheme when considering the overall budget for the county last year was €480,000.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am requesting that a flooding issue outside the property of Moore's on the Urlanmore road be addressed by the Council. The situation has been notified to the Council on previous occasions and the Engineer was on site some time ago. I would hope this can be resolved.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This issue will be investigated by the Office to determine a solution. Once this has been completed, appropriate funding will be sought to allow works be completed.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I am asking that a street light be erected in the Shannon Road housing estate, Sixmilebridge between house numbers 32 and 33 as this is an extremely dark section of the estate and there is already ducting in place for this light.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This will be referred to the Transportation Dept for a report on the adequacy of the lighting at this location.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

There has been continuous flooding at the Railway Bridge at the Rossmanagher Road, Sixmilebridge. This has been a serious problem over the last few years as the road has been closed on a number of occasions each year causing major difficulties to the local community and road users. I am requesting Clare County Council to address this matter.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office has engaged a contractor to clear the drains at this location recently. We will continue to monitor the location and clear drains as and when required.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon

I am requesting that traffic calming measures be put in place at the older section of Gleann Cora housing estate, Newmarket On Fergus as a matter of urgency due to the volume of traffic coming

from the new estate, which has tripled in the last few months and for the safety of the children and residents this is of utmost importance. A fantastic job has been done in the new section of the estate with regard to traffic calming measures and I am requesting that this be continued onto the old section of this estate.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

A planning contribution to cover traffic calming measures was a condition of Planning for the second phase of this estate. The Municipal District Office will use this funding to implement traffic calming measures within the estate.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley

Can the Director of Economic Development for Planning outline the background to the grant of planning permission for a wind turbine in Parteen without any consultation with the local community and further clarify if he is satisfied that set back distance guidelines of 500m from residential property has been adhered to and if he is further satisfied that the relevant appropriate assessment had been carried out before the Planning Authority granted permission and further extended same.

Gareth Ruane replied as follows:

It is assumed that the motion in this instance relates to a turbine as recently erected in Parteen. This turbine was permitted under Pl. Ref 10/453 and permission for same was granted on the 11/01/2011. At the time of assessment of the application there were no third party submissions received with respect to this development.

Under Pl. Ref 15/812, an extension of the appropriate period of the application was permitted for an additional five years.

All planning and technical reports are available on the files for inspection both in the Planning offices and on the Councils website.

Liam Conneally stated as this development is now the subject of an Enforcement process, comments in respect of this issue will not be made in the public domain.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I ask the Engineer to liaise with Irish Water now that the Northern Distributor Road from Coonagh to Knockalisheen has got the go ahead by Minister Ryan, with the view of putting the Infrastructure in place to ensure that Meelick will be ready for connection to the Limerick Main Drainage at Knockalisheen.

Cyril Feeney replied as follows:

We will forward this Notice of Motion to Irish Water for their response.

Cllr. O’Gorman added that as LNDR is progressing, and due to the ongoing sewerage issues in Meelick that the infrastructure should be in place to ensure Meelick is ready to connect to the Limerick Main Drainage. This was supported by all the Members emphasising that this issue needs to be kept to the fore.

Liam Conneally noted the comments of the Members and stated that this is part of a bigger issue in relation to unsewered settlements in the County. There is a need to engage with Irish Water in a

constructive manner at senior level on behalf of the Executive and Elected Members of Clare Co Council on this matter.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

I am calling on the Engineer to liaise with Irish Water with the view of putting a mains water pipe into 40 to 50 Farmers at Rossmanagher, Sixmilebridge. As the regulations are changing by the Department of Agriculture and cattle will no longer be allowed to drink out of a trench.

Cyril Feeney replied as follows:

We will forward this Notice of Motion to Irish Water for their response. In the absence of any domestic connections unfortunately there are no Group Water Scheme grants available for such a mains extension.

27. AOB

This concluded the meeting.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____