

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on
Tuesday 16th November, 2021 at 9.45am in The Inn at Dromoland, Newmarket On Fergus,
Co. Clare.**

Councillors Present: Councillors John Crowe (Cathaoirleach), PJ Ryan, Pat McMahon, Gerard Flynn, Donna McGettigan, Pat O’Gorman and Michael Begley.

Officials Present: Liam Conneally Director of Service, Jason Murphy Senior Executive Officer (Meetings Administrator), Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer, and Patricia O’Neill Staff Officer.

Cathaoirleach John Crowe opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on 21st September, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr. Gerard Flynn referenced the response to Notice of Motion no. 17 from the meeting of 21st September. He stated that he along with other Members had received a number of representations from constituents regarding safety concerns at the junction linking Cronan, Inis Ealga and Rineanna View. These concerns were echoed by Cllr. Donna McGettigan and Cllr. Pat O’Gorman regarding the proposal to install bollards at this junction.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer outlined that there was a two part response to this Notice of Motion. Firstly, the introduction of bollards at this junction was initially to improve road safety and secondly the findings from the mobility survey will address the capacity issue at this junction.

2. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan held on Tuesday 8th November, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Pat McMahon and agreed by all.
3. Declaration of public road at Gleann Cora Ph2, Newmarket On Fergus, Co. Clare was proposed by Cllr. Pat McMahon and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.
4. Economic Development – update by Liam Conneally Director of Service.

Liam Conneally, Director of Service updated the Members on the following:

- Work is ongoing on the Shannon Town Masterplan. Workshops are continuing to be held with the Elected Members and particular concerns raised by Members in relation to the Town Park are to be addressed. The contribution from the Members is significant and feedback from the Members will be taken into consideration. Liam thanked the Members for their engagement on the Masterplan. He further added that the second public consultation period will follow within the coming weeks. The views of the public will be brought back to Members for consideration. The Masterplan will provide the platform to making an Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) application.
- Liam Conneally attended a recent meeting with the proprietor of Shannon Town Centre. It was highlighted to the owner of the significant work by Shannon MD and Clare County Council in respect of Masterplan, that it is not just a spatial plan and that there is a significant economic requirement which will place substantial demands on all stakeholders if it is to be delivered. The willingness of the proprietor to increase the retail space was

acknowledged. There is currently significant discussion ongoing with other retailers and retail development on the covered area of the Town Centre.

- Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) – Clare County Council continues to work in partnership with the University of Limerick (UL) in the preparation of the SDZ application to be made to Government. The Board of Governors at the University are currently considering the legal entities and feedback in respect of same should be available in the coming weeks. An Economic report has also been prepared by the University and all work will be collated for inclusion in the application to Government. Communication with local communities was also highlighted and discussions on how this will be facilitated is ongoing with UL. It is intended that this will take place early in 2022. Liam concluded that there will be progression in the next number of weeks on the application and the SDZ will form the basis of a masterplan on the north side of the University of Limerick for the next 30 to 40 years.

In response the Members raised the following:

- While the progress on the SDZ was welcomed, concern was raised in relation to the impact on local communities particularly for landowners and future planning applications for families bordering the SDZ.
- The report and update in relation to Shannon Town Masterplan and also the progress to date due to active participation by the Members was welcomed.
- A notable enthusiasm within the Town Centre was acknowledged and the occupation of vacant units was commended.
- Owner of Town Centre to be invited to a future meeting of the Shannon MD.

5. Road works programme – update by Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Bus stop at the Radisson and Westbury are now substantially complete. Works on the Newmarket on Fergus bus stop has been rescheduled to commence in early 2022 due to issues with the supply of materials.
- Upgrade of footpaths in Shannon town is progressing well and the contractor will be moving to other areas within the district in the weeks ahead.
- Restoration Improvement works at Larkins Cross are now complete.
- Winter preparation works have commenced, including clearing gullies and drainage works in Cratloe and Newmarket On Fergus.
- The final cut in the grass cutting contract will take place this week.
- Sixmilebridge Town & Village Renewal - phase 6 commencing this week . Project is advancing well. Thanks was expressed to Sixmilebridge Community Development/Tidy Towns and business owners for their engagement and contribution on these works.
- Pedestrian crossing at Clonmoney is substantially complete and a skid resistance surface will be completed in 2022.
- Lights have been installed in the Paddocks, Westbury.
- Speed display signs in Clonlara and Cratloe complete.
- Treatment of approximately 7,000 Hogweed plants with pesticide free products in private and public lands at the Erinagh Canal, Blackwater riverbanks and surrounding properties was carried out in the month of October.

Jason Murphy, Senior Executive Officer addressed the Members and updated them on the following:

- He acknowledged the success of the “Shannon In Bloom Project” with the planting of 50,000 pollinator friendly bulbs throughout the district in October. The project was funded through the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) with the support of the Shannon MD Members

while engagement with communities was coordinated through the Rural and Community Development Officer. This initiative was broadly welcomed by all the communities involved and it anticipated that such projects including biodiversity will be expanded further in 2022.

- Shannon Looped walk (Yellow route) which received funding under the Outdoor Recreational Scheme has been completed.
- Clonlara and Newmarket On Fergus have been selected for inclusion in the Streetscape Enhancement Measures for 2021.
- Under the Active Travel Funding programme, preliminary design works for the footpath in Meelick have been completed and design works have also been completed for Ballycasey, Shannon. Both projects will be referred to the NTA for funding.
- The Shannon MD are engaging with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in the development of the Greenway and also with Waterways Ireland to develop the greenway from the University of Limerick to Lough Derg. The office is also involved in the process to develop the Shannon Estuary Way for the benefit of businesses, communities and visitors alike.
- It is intended to expand on the Christmas festivities from last year in the Shannon Town Park for Christmas 2021.
- The Shannon MD office is currently working with Dúchas na Sionna on a feasibility study for Hastings Cottage.
- Following on from an invitation from Shannon College of Hotel Management to host a meeting of the MD, it is intended that this will take place in the new year which will provide an opportunity to build on relationships between both organisations.
- He also welcomed that the GMA allocation for 2022 is in keeping with last year budget.

The Members raised the following:

- The Members unanimously agreed on the positivity the Shannon In Bloom Project generated within the communities in the district and looked forward to working on similar projects in the year ahead.
- An update was also sought in relation to the recently installed pedestrian crossing at Clonmoney. Tom Mellett informed the members that they are now waiting on the ESB.
- That an assessment be carried out on the road at Cratloe Cross, which is subsiding.
- Concern was raised by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and Cllr. Donna McGettingan in regarding to the poor accessibility for wheelchair users at the new bus stops installed in Shannon Town and requested a review of same.
- A review was requested of the traffic calming at Bóthar na Rinne.
- Speed sign into Sixmilebridge, near Killeen Burial Ground is currently not working.
- The Members also requested an update on the wall at the entrance to the Westbury estate. Tom Mellett replied that works will include a plaster finish which will be painted. It is anticipated that such works will be carried out early in 2022.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

I am requesting Clare County Council to take over and repair the footpath to Kilnasoolagh Church and Graveyard. This footpath has deteriorated significantly and is a health and safety hazard.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

This footpath is recorded as a protected structure under the County Development Plan 2017-2023 due to its Cultural, Design and Architectural significance.

This Office will engage with our colleagues on the Heritage Team to ascertain what would be possible with regards to maintenance.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

That Clare County Council request the TII to extend the public lighting from Newmarket On Fergus to Carrigoran roundabout.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

This section of public footpath lies outside of the remit of Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The Municipal District Office is aware that the path is popular with walkers and is a connection from the nursing home to the town. It is the Offices intention to nominate the path for inclusion in the next round of the National Transport Authorities Active Travel projects. If successful, this would involve extending the path to Bellsfort and include public lighting.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

I am requesting Clare County Council to carry out repairs to the footpaths and cut back the overgrowth at Woodland Heights Newmarket On Fergus.

Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

These repairs will be included in our Footpath Maintenance Contract which is currently underway. I would anticipate repairs being complete before the end of the year.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am calling on Clare County Council to address the amount of green waste been dumped in woodlands and adjacent to walkways throughout the district of Shannon and I would suggest that our Environmental Warden would attend our next meeting and give a presentation on the measures in place to tackle this illegal activity and advise on what can be done to strengthen the policy currently in place.

Brendan Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment replied as follows:

The Environment section operate a Civic Amenity Site at Smithstown, Shannon where green waste is accepted at a charge. Green waste may also be disposed of in household brown bins and presented for collection to a waste service provider.

The Environment Section provides a Community Warden in the Shannon Municipal District where the Warden carries out daily patrols which would cover the dumping of green waste.

Awareness campaigns taken to help address illegal dumping of green waste in Shannon during 2021 were as follows:

- *Shannon Tidy Towns were provided with social media content outlining the impacts of green waste on the environment and steps homeowners can take to reduce their green waste.*
- *Reducing green waste was promoted as part of the Shannon MD Pollinator site biodiversity initiative in March 2021. Shannon Municipal District area are leading by example in terms of*

grassland management by reducing mowing (and hence green waste) and enhancing biodiversity. A media release was issued with coverage on The Clare Echo Green Page. This was also widely promoted on social media @ClareCoCo and @GreenerClare at the time.

A total of 13 complaints regarding green waste in the Shannon MD were logged on our Customer Relationship Management system in the 12 month period ending this week.

The Environment Enforcement team have issued letters to residents, in locations where green waste has been dumped, advising of how to manage green waste responsibly.

Allocation of Anti Dumping Initiative funds to remove green waste from the following locations was also provided in 2021:

- *Rossbracken Estate,*
- *Approach road to Ballycasey House,*
- *Kilnasoolagh Park,*
- *Westbury Estate.*

In addition to the above, the Municipal District cleared green waste from Shannon banks and Westbury.

The Environment section will continue to work closely with Shannon Municipal District staff to identify locations of dumping and take appropriate action where required.

We will also continue to work with local community and tidy towns groups to combat illegal dumping.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn further suggested that CCTV be used to identify those that dump green waste as it is currently being used by Limerick City and County Council in the prosecution of such offences. He also requested that an invitation be extended to the Environmental Warden to attend the next meeting of the Shannon MD.

10. 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, drainage and surfacing to the Moneen Road, Meelick

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

The Mooneen road is a Cul-de-Sac serving approx. 12 houses in Meelick, any repairs required will be scheduled.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

That this MD would fit larger type water grates on the road at Portdrine Lower, Cratloe, as the type now fitted are not able to take the large volume of water after heavy rain.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office recently completed extensive drainage related works in the Portdrine/Ballymorris area. This issue will require assessment by the Local Authority to determine the extent of works at this location. I will make arrangements for this process to begin.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That this MD would install LED lighting and a footpath on Bóthar Mór (R471) from Ballycasey Roundabout to the Shannon Springs Hotel.

Anne O'Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation replied as follows:

The Transportation Department will examine this request with a view to engaging with the National Transportation Authority regarding the submission of a proposal for their consideration under the Active Travel Programme.

This motion was supported by all the Members and it was agreed that this section of road requires enhancement as the main route to the town centre. Tom Mellett informed the Members that an assessment will be carried out.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I am calling on the MD to look at putting traffic calming measures on Corrib Drive. Residents are worried about the speed of cars and the fact that children use that road.

Tom Mellet, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

Corrib Drive, Shannon consists of two one-way lanes, each one approx. 500m in length. It serves a number of residential developments, with a church, national school and soccer club at its south eastern end. A number of residents with properties fronting onto the road, park on the road edge.

This office will arrange for speed survey on each lane to determine the extent of the problem and will refer the issue to our colleagues in the Road Design Office to determine suitable Traffic Calming Measures.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I call on this MD to place more lights along the black path and to move the sign indicating the black path to its correct location.

Anne O'Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation replied as follows:

The Public Lighting Section will examine this request in further detail and will prepare a cost estimate for the public lighting element with a view to seeking funding for this project.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

The sign will be relocated to the correct location.

15. 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 look at the possibility of placing more parking spaces in the Tradaree housing area. Residents are concerned about emergency vehicles gaining access due to cars having to park on street.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

Potential for additional parking spaces in Tradaree is limited. Houses are served by a large number of off street parking in the main. It is acknowledged that for convenience and necessity

some residents park immediately outside their property on the public road and is at these locations where space is most limited.

The Municipal District Office will assess the general area and seek solutions to this issue.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I am requesting that the Main Street in Sixmilebridge would be included in the 2022 Roads Programme for resurfacing.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

It is the intention of this office to include Main Street, Sixmilebridge in the 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works, subject to budget approval.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

That traffic calming measures would be installed from Poulawilly to Lackyle, Cratloe as a matter of urgency for the safety of the community due to the volume and speed of traffic through the village.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

The section of road runs the length of Cratloe moving between a 50kph zone and an 80kph zone, in order to facilitate a comprehensive design, I will refer it to Clare County Council's Road Design Office.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley

I am requesting that the drains from the Church to Fairyfield, Parteen be cleaned due to the amount of fallen leaves and to avoid the risk of flooding in this area. The provision of the Road sweeper in this area would also facilitate.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office has engaged a contractor to work alongside our own crews to free up drains along the public road network throughout this month. This location will be included in that program.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley

I am calling on Clare County Council to liaise with Irish Water to resolve the ongoing issue with the old water mains that supplies water to Westbury Shannon banks, Carraig Midhe and the greater Parteen area. There has been quite a number of leaks on this stretch in recent years making the pipework not fit for purpose.

A discussion ensued on this Motion, whereby it highlighted the disruption caused to householders following water outages due to burst pipes and the frequency of such incidents. Tom Mellett stated that Irish Water have been informed that overlay works will be carried out

on this road in 2022 but Irish Water have not provided a timeline for the upgrade of the watermain line between Westbury and Larkins Cross.
It was agreed that the Shannon MD would write to Irish Water in this regard.

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

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I request that this MD would provide speed ramps/traffic calming measures at the entrance to Ballycannon Cemetary. There are 12 houses inside this entrance with children playing and the road is being used by speeding cars.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

Clare County Council has received funding from the National Transport Authority for an upgrade to footpaths in Meelick. The path will cover the area within the speed limit zone, with a terminal point at Ballycannon Cemetery. This project is currently at design stage and will include measures to control traffic movements here.

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

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I request that Clare County Council would liaise with the relevant authorities with the view of installing two bus stops with bus shelters on both sides of the dual carriageway at Setrights Cross.

John Gannon, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design replied as follows:

I confirm the Road Design Office, Clare County Council will request that bus shelters, at these existing bus stops, are added to the NTA Bus Shelter Programme list already circulated to the NTA.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon

That the stormwater blockage opposite Powells house in Roo West, Ardnacrusha be corrected.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office has engaged a contractor to work alongside our own crews to free up drains along the public road network during November. This location will be included in that program.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

That the road gullies on the Castle Road be cleared as they are badly blocked and the road is being damaged as a result.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office will be carrying out works using a specialist contractor working alongside our own crews to free up drains along the public road network throughout this month. This location will be included in that program.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That the link road between the R463 and the R465 near Barry's Cross, Blackwater be surface dressed.

Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

This road will be assessed for inclusion in the 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

25. AOB

- Cllr Michael Begley proposed a vote of sympathy to Chief Executive Pat Dowling on the passing of his brother Sean Dowling. This was seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn.
- Cllr. Donna McGettigan informed the meeting that she had been contacted by Jonathan Slattery from Halo Care, an organization which aims to facilitate older people with independent living in their own homes with the aid of monitoring systems. Cllr. McGettigan requested that consideration be given to inviting Halo Care to make a presentation to the Members in the near future.
- Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested that the Senior Executive Engineer follow up on the replacement of a manhole cover on the footpath near Tola Park. Tom Mellett replied that he had made contact with Eir and is hoping for positive feedback and will revert back.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____