

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on
Tuesday 15th November, 2022 at 9.45am in Treacy's Oakwood Hotel, Shannon,
Co. Clare.**

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

Officials Present: Liam Conneally Director of Service, Anne Griffin A/ Senior Executive Officer (Meetings Administrator), Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer and Patricia O'Neill Staff Officer.

Cathaoirleach Michael Begley opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

1. Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on 20th September 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.

Matters arising

In relation to issues surrounding the installation of the Bring Banks at Tullyglass, Shannon (next to Shannon Leisure Centre and Gaelscoil) Cllr. Gerard Flynn stated that progress had been made and the installation of the Bring Banks will take place in the coming weeks. The importance of having the Bring Banks in place prior to the Christmas period was highlighted.

With reference to Item no. 16, Cllr. Pat O'Gorman's Notice of Motion regarding sewerage issues in Meelick village. Cllr. Pat O'Gorman questioned if Irish Water had provided an update on this matter. A discussion followed in relation to an email issued by Irish Water to the Members regarding upgrade works to the pump station in Elton Court due to commence on 28th November. It was agreed that this was not a response to Cllr. O'Gorman's Motion and a reply will be sought in relation to same. Liam Conneally stated that he will make contact with Irish Water at management level and request a response.

2. Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District draft budgetary plan held on 8th November 2022 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.
3. Disposal of lands at 9 Carraig Hill, Shannon, Co. Clare was proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.
4. Declaration of Public Roads at Deerpark – Ministers Cross was proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman and agreed by all.
5. Economic Development – update by Liam Conneally, Director of Service.
 - Following a request by the IDA Regional Manager, Liam Conneally made a presentation to IDA clients in the Mid-West Region in relation to large scale residential planning and in particular private sites. There is a considerable pipeline of projects in the planning system with over 1,000 units of permission granted in 2022.

A question and answer session followed this presentation which provided beneficial feedback. Mr. Conneally agreed to circulate the presentation to the Members.

- Mr. Conneally highlighted the urgency in progressing the Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme. At the recent full Council Meeting the Members were provided with a brief summary in relation to the stage this scheme is at.
- Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive and Linda Earlie, Town Regeneration Officer recently attended a meeting with Shannon Chamber of Commerce and a number of business interests in Shannon in relation to the One Shannon Hub, providing an update on the procurement of the Design Team and the application for funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). Mr. Conneally further advised that if the application for funding under the URDF is successful, Clare Co. Co. will have to provide 25% of the funding. It is anticipated that this application will be made in 2023.
- N19 Shannon Airport Access Road – it is intended that this application will be with An Bord Pleanála in mid-2023.
- Mr. Conneally acknowledged the significant volume of work the Member are doing in relation to the Co. Development Plan and how their input will strengthen the plan.

In response to the above the Members highlighted the following:

- A definite timeline for the delivery of the Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme was emphasised and need to keep this scheme to the fore was crucial.
- A request for an update at the next MD Meeting on a suitable site for a carpark in the village of Sixmilebridge. It was stated that the lack of adequate car parking within the village has been highlighted for a number of years.
- An update on the appointment of a Rural & Community Development Officer for the Shannon MD was requested. Liam Conneally informed the Members that this is currently being progressed and he agreed to follow up on this.

6. Roadworks Programme – update by Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Green area maintenance works are continuing including grasscutting, hedging and tree maintenance. The 15th cut of the grass has been carried out.
- Drainage works throughout the district are continuing. A private contractor is currently carrying out works in urban areas.
- Completion of footpath works from O'Garney Heights, Sixmilebridge accommodating direct pedestrian access to the town. Works also incorporated improvements outside the GAA pitch.
- Illaunmanagh carpark upgrade has been completed.
- Public consultation has taken place for Clonlara Town & Village Renewal.
- ML Boland Ltd. has been appointed to complete the pedestrian crossing adjacent to Gleasons, Sixmilebridge. Footpath improvements to the Broadford Road junction have been incorporated.

- Accessibility swing has been installed in Tír na nÓg playground. This is a wheelchair friendly swing. Access for same is available from our colleagues in the Leisure Centre.
- Springfield, Clonlara – continuous monitoring of water levels is taking place. Materials are in stock in the event of flooding. The Shannon MD Office have engaged with the OPW so that in the event of a flood incident we can operate at the new embankments.
- Christmas in Shannon Town Park – the lights will be extended this year and a contractor has been appointed for these works. A Christmas tree is on order for delivery to the park.
- Local Improvement Scheme at Craughaun Burial Ground has been completed.
- The footpath contract work for the district is currently at the tender stage. It is aimed to have the contractor on the ground as soon as possible.

In response to the above the Members raised the following:

- Efforts to increase the number of applications under the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) within the district was highlighted.
- The uneven surface on the Bóthar Mór Road, Shannon due to pipe laying work and resurfacing works currently being carried was raised. Mr. Tom Mellett stated that works have not yet been completed, this is a temporary surface and the Road Opening Licence granted for the works requires permanent reinstatement.
- Double yellow lines on the Fergus Road to be done.
- Sightlines on the Slí na Mhara Way, towards the treatment plant to be improved by cutting back trees.
- Overgrown hedging and trees next to footpaths in Coill Mhara, Bealach Buí and from Purcell Park to St. Tola School need to be cut back.
- Work carried out at Craughaun Burial Ground under the LIS was commended.

Ms. Anne Griffin, A/Senior Executive Officer updated the meeting on the following:

- Minister Patrick O'Donovan visited the site at Springfield last week to inspect the flood relief works. Pumps and materials are on standby in the event of a flood risk. This scheme will provide protection to residential properties and reassurance to the community of Springfield.
- Clare County Council has been shortlisted for Local Authority of the Year. The Shannon In Bloom initiative formed part of this application process and stood out as a notable project.
- Under the Shannon MD Community Grant Scheme 33 community groups have benefitted from funding under this scheme through GMA funding.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council request Irish Water to expediate the upgrade works to the waste water treatment plant in Newmarket On Fergus, as the delay is holding up the building of new houses in the area, both in the public and private sector.

Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Water Services & Environment Section replied as follows:

We have forwarded the Notice of Motion to Irish Water and are awaiting a formal reply. However, from discussions with Irish Water they have outlined their intention to lodge the required planning application for the upgrade works, complete with new rising main outfall, for the Newmarket on Fergus waste water treatment plant in the coming weeks. Subject to planning approval they will then proceed to engage with their supply chain to deliver the project through a competitive tendering process.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn proposed that the Motion be circulated to the Oireachtas Members.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting Clare County Council to extend the double yellow lines at Lough Gash Cross, Newmarket On Fergus due to cars parking on the village side which is obscuring visibility.

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

The Shannon Municipal District has prepared a design incorporating adjustments at this junction which will improve sightlines. The measures will address the parking situation on the town side.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting Clare County Council to extend the yellow traffic lines toward the village square, Newmarket On Fergus as it is causing a genuine traffic hazard for motorists turning right past Obair.

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

Shannon Municipal District Office will arrange for an assessment and design for this location.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis:

I am calling on Shannon Municipal District to contact the CEO of Shannon Airport PLC, Mary Considine, and arrange an urgent special meeting with Elected Members to discuss the serious issues facing employees of the Shannon Heritage sites that are located in our district. The current situation and lack of engagement and transparency is bringing uncertainty and having a negative impact on the lives of employees and their families.

Anne Griffin, A/Senior Executive Officer, Shannon Municipal District replied as follows:

Commercially sensitive discussions are ongoing between Shannon Group and Clare County Council in relation to the transfer of the Shannon Heritage sites in Clare and as such, a meeting with Shannon Municipal District on this matter is not deemed appropriate at this stage. However, the Shannon Airport Group have confirmed that they will attend a future Municipal District meeting to give a wider, general briefing and update on the Group's activities.

A discussion ensued in relation to this Motion and it was unanimously supported by all the Members. Disappointment was expressed on the lack of engagement from Shannon Airport PLC. The Members acknowledge the concerns of the employees. The financial cost to the Council to upgrade these sites given their current state and the provision of funding from the Government for the transfer was discussed.

Mr. Liam Conneally stated that Clare County Council has the skillset and knowledge in relation to tourism and an understanding of what is involved in running a tourist business and the financial requirements of same. Mr. Conneally acknowledged the need to upgrade Shannon Heritage assets and that this has been communicated to the Department. He added that he would convey the sentiments expressed by the Members back to Management Team.

It was suggested that the Oireachtas Members be invited to a meeting in the future to discuss this and other issues of concern.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan agus glacadh leis:

I am calling on Clare County Council for improvements to the fence and a clean-up of the area located towards the western boundary of Illaunmanagh Graveyard, the section that was opened in 2009. The area in question needs enhancement and is very unsightly and reflects negatively on the graveyard.

Joe Spellissy, Senior Staff Officer, Rural & Community

Timber post and rail fencing on this boundary has been in place for more than fifteen years and sections of it have become decayed and are leaning towards the Burial Ground . A quantity of spoil and other debris has also built up at the back of the fence line .

A quotation for the removal and replacement of the fencing has been sought from a contractor and the Municipal District office will assist with the landscaping element.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley agus glacadh leis:

I am calling on The Housing Section of Clare County Council to urgently submit an application for funding to The Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien for the development of a scheme of affordable housing in Shannon to support the lower to middle income earners that want to purchase their own homes locally.

**Anne Haugh, Director of Service Social Development (Housing, Culture and Sport/Recreation)
& Killaloe Municipal District Co-Ordinator.**

Clare County Council initiated engagement with the Dept. of Housing Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) in July of this year regarding the potential to have Ennis and Shannon approved for eligibility to the Affordable Purchase Scheme. The decision to extend access to the Affordable Housing Fund for these two urban centres will have to be supported by a detailed and robust evidence based submission which will demonstrate an affordability constraint in the local market. While there is a toolkit and model for conducting this analysis on a countywide basis there is no specific template

for the sub county level and the Council are reliant on advice and direction from the Dept of Housing for the purpose of compiling this submission. We have sought a meeting with the DHLGH and we look forward to scheduling of this meeting where we are hopeful we will be advised of the application criteria / process for Clare County Council.

Based on outcome of this meeting and clarification of the data and process required the Housing Department will apply all necessary resources to the compilation of a submission seeking access to the Affordable Housing fund for delivery of affordable schemes on suitable sites to be identified in both towns.

This Motion received the full support of the Members.

Cllr. Flynn questioned why Clare County Council required clarity on the process of applying for the Affordable Housing fund.

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

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting that this MD install public street lighting on Regional Road L3120. This road connects Cratloe, Ballymorris & Portdrine on both side of the dual carriageway and is an access point for residents including walkers, cyclists, and motorists to travel from one side of the dual carriage to the other.

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

Installing public lighting along this road is not an appropriate measure at this point as there are inconsistent pedestrian specific facilities. Installing public lighting on a road running adjacent to a national road would also require careful consideration due to the potential impact on road users along the National Road.

There is a longstanding desire locally to have the underpass at Ballymorris lit up, while Clare County Council do not have control of this piece of infrastructure, we have engaged with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

Following a discussion in relation to this motion it was agreed that this issue would be raised with the Oireachtas Members at a special meeting to be convened.

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

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan agus glacadh leis:

I request that this MD would resurface and realign the pedestrian crossing at the junction of Tullyglass, Coil Mhara as this pedestrian crossing is not fit for purpose as the surface is very rough for wheelchair users and people pushing prams.

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

An assessment of this crossing will be carried out with any required works to follow. The Gaelscoil adjacent to the crossing will be carrying out works on their site at some point, we will need to ensure that our timelines do not clash with the schools.

It was decided to take the following three Motions together, item no. 15, 20 & 24.

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

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis

I request that this MD would arrange for the jetting of drains in Cluain Airne, Shannon as they are all blocked and the water on the ground has nowhere to go and is causing flooding.

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

Shannon Municipal District has appointed a private contractor to work alongside our own teams to clear drains and gullies within the District. It is anticipated that Cluain Airne will be treated in the next week.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis

I call on this MD to seek funding for the alleyways in Cluain Airne and Drumgeely that are subject to flooding regularly. Residents cannot get their bins in or out of their backyards without having to go through dirty water, at times the water comes into their gardens and sheds.

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

Shannon Municipal District has appointed a private contractor to work alongside our own teams to clear drains and gullies within the District. It is anticipated that Cluain Airne and Drumgeely will be treated in the next week

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis

I am requesting that all drains in the housing estates and streets in Sixmilebridge be cleared. As a result of the leaves falling and heavy rain it is causing major flooding that will only be exacerbated as the winter progresses if this is not addressed. I would also ask that all drains in the Shannon MD be checked for same.

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

Shannon Municipal District has appointed a private contractor to work alongside our own teams to clear drains and gullies within the District. It is anticipated that Sixmilebridge will be treated in the next two weeks.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman agus glacadh leis

That this MD would install traffic calming measures on the lower section of Gallows Hill Road Cratloe, as there are ongoing problems with speeding vehicles and cyclists in this area

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

It is the intention this office the provide thermoplastic rumble strips at the lower end of this road, these strips provide sensory feedback to drivers and so discourages speeding.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan agus glacadh leis

That this MD would investigate the possibility of providing a digihub in Shannon Town Centre in the near future, as there presently seems to be a great need for this service.

Anne Griffin A/Senior Executive Officer, Shannon MD replied as follows:

Clare County Council is committed to the delivery of the One Shannon Hub in the heart of Shannon Town centre. The project, which is a key objective of the Shannon Town Masterplan will incorporate the provision of a Digital Hub/Multi-service centre. The proposal will include remote working facilities similar to those being provided in other locations through Clare Co Council's DigiClare initiative. A design team is currently in the process of being appointed and a funding proposal under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) will be submitted when the next funding call is made available.

Cllr. PJ Ryan requested that in the interim that consideration be given to putting a temporary hub in place. It was agreed that this would be referred to the Broadband, Digital and IT Department for consideration.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe agus glacadh leis

That this MD would carry out drainage works to elevate major flooding on the Sixmilebridge Rossmanagher Road adjacent to the railway bridge, as it is causing problems for local residents and has caused numerous damage to cars in recent times

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

This is acknowledged as an ongoing issue and has been raised on previous occasions in this forum. Shannon Municipal District Office has carried out improvements here and continuously monitors the situation during periods of heavy rainfall. We are currently investigating potential funding streams for a permanent solution.

It was agreed that all options would be considered to alleviate the flooding issue in this area. Cllr. PJ Ryan requested that adequate signage be put in place notifying motorists that the area is subject to flooding.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis

Following reports of anti-social community hotshots in Shannon, I am calling on this MD to work with local Gardaí to form a multi-agency group to help resolve these issues that are being caused by a small few.

Anne Griffin, A/Senior Executive Officer, Shannon Municipal District replied as follows:

Shannon Municipal District is committed to working with the relevant communities and other key stakeholders to explore collective solutions to tackling anti-social community hotspots in Shannon. Community-based, collaborative interventions such as promoting positive behavioural change will be considered in addition to other appropriate practical measures.

Cllr. Donna McGettigan welcomed the response to this Motion.

It was proposed at this stage of the meeting to suspend the Standing Orders to continue with the business of the meeting.

20. This Motion was dealt with earlier.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis

I call on this MD to look at speed survey measures on Dún Áras Avenue leading down to the Ballycasey Craft Centre as residents are complaining that there is speeding on that road.

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

This office will arrange for a speed and volume survey to take place on Dun Áras Avenue. This will determine level of user, types of vehicles, speed and peak periods of activity by motorised vehicles. Should the data show an issue, a design will be prepared to alleviate the situation.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis

I am requesting an update in relation to the proposed Low Cost Safety Scheme at the Rossmanager junction, Main Street, Sixmilebridge, which includes the provision of a pedestrian crossing.

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

Shannon Municipal District Office has submitted this location for consideration as a Low Cost Safety measure for 2023. If successful we also intend to complete a footpath from the junction to Ashview Drive.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis

Due to the difficulties experienced by motorists exiting the Cuirt Droichead Estate, Sixmilebridge, I am requesting Clare County Council to introduce measures to alleviate this problem as a matter of urgency for the safety of all road users.

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

Clare County Council completed works at this location as part of a Town and Village Renewal scheme in 2021 and the Schedule of District Works 2022. Improvements to sight lines were introduced as part of those works. If motorists are experiencing further issues these can be assessed.

Cllr. PJ Ryan added that due the speed of the traffic travelling from the Shannon direction that consideration should be given to putting rumble strips in place.

24. This Motion was dealt with earlier.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman agus glacadh leis

That an overlay of Derryvinna housing estate, Clonlara, be included in the Shannon MD Roads Programme 2023.

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

This estate will be considered for the 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis

That Irish Water be requested to complete the up-grade of the water main between Larkin's Cross and Connors Cross.

Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Water Services & Environment Section replied as follows:

We have forwarded the Notice of Motion to Irish Water and are awaiting a formal reply. However, from discussions with Irish Water we can confirm that the section of watermain from Larkins cross to Connors cross is included in the Irish Water Leakage Reduction Programme. There are ongoing discussions between Clare County Council and Irish Water on how to deliver this project in the most economical fashion taking due consideration of the road resurfacing works completed here in recent years.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis

That an overlay of the L-7052 (Shrawickeen, Clonlara) be included in the 2023 Roads Programme

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

This road will be considered for the 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works 2023.

28. AOB

- Cllr. Donna McGettigan requested an update on the Slí na Slainte Project. Mr. Tom Mellett stated that part of the footpath on this route was removed 12 months ago by a 3rd party. While he acknowledged that there is a keen interest locally in re-establishing this walking route and the Shannon MD office has engaged with a local representative of the sponsoring community group, there are complicating factors that have to be taken into account such as the roundabout and the detail of the design. At this stage it is difficult to provide a timeline.
- Mr. Tom Mellett informed the Meeting that Shannon Tidy Towns have submitted a design proposal for the Ballycasey Roundabout. Shannon Tidy Towns have engaged with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), seeking permission to maintain this roundabout. The TII have stated that they need to establish that the Shannon Municipal District Office do not have any objections to this proposal. Mr. Mellett further advised that the Shannon MD are commenting on the aesthetics of the design only and the technical elements are between the TII and Shannon Tidy Towns.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Dated: _____