

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on
Tuesday 20th September, 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 Administrative Officer, Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer, (Meetings Administrator), Brendan Flynn Senior Executive Engineer, Conor McDonagh Executive Engineer and Patricia O'Neill Staff Officer.

Cathaoirleach Michael Begley opened the meeting by welcoming all present and in particular Ms. Anne Griffin on her upcoming appointment as A/Senior Executive Officer of the Shannon MD. The Cathaoirleach wished Ms. Griffin well in her new role and looked forward to working with her in the future.

1. Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on 26th July 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Pat McMahon and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.
2. Proposed installation of Bring Bank at Tullyglass, Shannon (next to Shannon Leisure Centre and Gaelscoil) on a trial basis - Update by Brendan Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment.

Mr. Brendan Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer addressed the meeting and outlined that following a recent Notice of Motion from Cllr. Flynn, requesting that consideration be given to locating bring banks within the environs of Shannon Town, an assessment of various sites was undertaken and a suitable location has been identified next to Shannon Leisure Centre and the Gaelscoil. The bring banks will consist of two clear glass, two brown glass, two green glass, one can and will be placed at this location on a trial basis. Activity at this site will be monitored including usage and any illegal activity.

Councillor Gerard Flynn welcomed this decision.

3. Section 38 – Traffic calming measures at Smithstown, Ballycasey More and Tullyvarraga, Shannon. Documentation and maps were circulated to the Members with the Agenda.

Conor McDonagh, Executive Engineer, outlined the proposed works under this Active Travel Scheme.

This was proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Donna McGettigan and agreed by all.

4. Section 38 – Traffic Calming measures on the L-3122 Bunratty. Proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman and agreed by all.

The Members raised the issue regarding a recent newspaper notice of proposals to abandon a public road at Bunratty near Durty Nelly's and requested clarification in relation to the wording of the notice and also raised concern about access to the road and the bridge.

Tom Mellett clarified that the proposal is to remove this section of road from the public road network, the road is still within the ownership of Clare County Council, vehicle movement will not be permitted but this does not remove people's right to access the road. Consultation had taken place with the local community and the Gardai. Mr. Mellett further outlined that they are aware of the situation with traders and are currently working with the business owner to resolve the situation. This proposal is the first step towards the progression of a Masterplan for Bunratty and is separate to the Section 38 - Traffic Calming measures for Bunratty which is currently before the Members at this meeting.

It was agreed that Tom Mellett would erect an additional sign next to the notice clarifying the wording of the notice, particularly around the word "abandon".

5. Economic Development – update by Liam Conneally, Director of Services

- MeiraGTx – Gene therapy manufacturing facility was officially unveiled in Shannon within the last week. Currently employs 100 people with potential to increase to 300 jobs within its current phase. Mr. Conneally added that Clare County Council along with the IDA and Shannon Group had engaged in discussions with MeiraGTx back in 2019.
- KPMG Women's Irish Open – Thursday 22nd September to Sunday 25th September. It is anticipated that the event will be attended by approximately 4,000 to 5,000 on Thursday and Friday and up to 10,000 by the weekend. This event will be of benefit to neighbouring town and villages. Clare Local Enterprise Office will also be at this event promoting and show casing micro enterprises. Mr. Conneally thanked all involved in facilitating the running of this event including Adrian Kelly Chief Fire Officer, Tom Mellett Shannon MD, KPMG, and Mark Nolan Dromoland Castle.
- Strategic Development Zone – additional information has been sought by the Government in relation to this application which is currently being addressed.
- The advancement of the Shannon Town and Environs Flood Relief scheme is critical to the zoning of sufficient lands for housing. The improvements to the embankments protecting the town and the airport is a priority. Pre-planning work and surveys have been carried out. When timelines for this project have been agreed, the Members will be shown zoning maps for housing.

The Members welcomed the positives in relation to the new MeiraGTx facility in Shannon and the staging of the KPMG Women's Irish Open in Dromoland. It was also acknowledged that the provision of private housing in Shannon was also an important factor for global companies when considering Shannon as a location.

Cllr. PJ Ryan stated that as there is no bus link between Shannon and Sixmilebridge Railway station and that consideration should be given to a small type of shuttle transport. Tom Mellett agreed to follow up on this.

6. Roadworks Programme – update by Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer.
- Overlay works have been completed in Athlunkard and Sixmilebridge.
 - Local Improvement Scheme in Cratloe has now commenced and is due for completion in October.
 - A footpath linking O'Garney Heights to Sixmilebridge is expected to be completed in 3 weeks.
 - Works on the car park at Illaunmanagh are almost complete.
 - The MD Office continues to liaise and provide support with the event organisers of the KPMG Women's Irish Open which is due to be held in Dromoland.
 - The fourth cutting and lifting of the grass in the pollinator areas in Shannon has been carried out.
 - A public consultation in relation to the Drumgeely TVR will take place on Friday 23rd September in the green space area outside the shops in Drumgeely to brief members of the public.
 - Bunratty TVR – contract documents will be ready for tender in October.
 - Clonlara TVR – design works and on-site meetings have taken place which will be followed by public consultation.
 - Low Cost Safety Scheme at Cratloe National School is nearing completion with lights to be commissioned in the next couple of weeks.
 - Footpath upgrade at Athlunkard Avenue completed.
 - Hedgecutting and tree cutting is currently taking place throughout the MD.
 - Line markings at a number of junctions are in hand.
 - Drainage works are continuing throughout the district.
 - Speed surveys have taken place at Westbury, Shannon and Sixmilebridge

In response to the above the Members raised the following

- Upgrade works to road at Craughan Graveyard. Tom Mellett advised that these works will be completed by the end of October.
- That the sight lines coming out from Illaunmanagh graveyard and the crematorium be revisited.
- Positive feedback has been received from members of the public in relation to the cutting of grass on the biodiversity area.
- Clarification was sought on what speed surveys cover and the outcome of these surveys. Tom Mellett informed the Members that the type of traffic and speed of traffic is monitored and this information may lead to traffic calming measures.
- A leak under the footpath in Shannonbanks. Tom Mellett stated that he is aware of this issue and this will be investigated further.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O'Gorman agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting Clare County Council to repair the road from the roundabout, at Francis Mac's cross, to the Square, Newmarket on Fergus as the road has deteriorated.

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

This office is currently costing the required works with the aim of completing in the Autumn.

8. 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 install disabled parking spaces especially near the apartment complex in Boheraroan, Newmarket On Fergus.

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

I will arrange for an assessment of the existing parking layout and identify a suitable location within current parking allocations for Boheroan.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested clarity in respect of recent car parking spaces marked as disabled parking spaces and if enforcement action/penalties can be taken for persons parking in such spaces without the appropriate disabled person parking permit (blue badge).

Tom Mellett stated that provision of recent disabled parking spaces were curtesy spaces provided following requests from residents and did not go through the statutory process and therefore fines/penalties for persons parking on these spaces without the appropriate permit cannot be enforced.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan agus glacadh leis:

That Clare County Council provide traffic calming measures on the main road in Smithstown due to the excessive speed by some motorists and for the safety of all road users.

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

This Office has installed new signs reinforcing the speed limit along this road. I will arrange for a speed and volume survey to be conducted.

10. 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 erect a stop sign and road marking at Rossmanagher Cross in Sixmilebridge.

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

This request has been added to our works list.

John Crowe added that this was the subject of a previous Notice of Motion in 2019 and this needs to be actioned as soon as possible.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon agus glacadh leis:

That this MD would construct a new footpath between Dromoland roundabout and the Castle gates, as this route is used frequently by pedestrians.

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

The Part VIII for the Latoon Cycling Infrastructure project, recently approved at the September Council Meeting, will provide new cycling connectivity, including crossing points, which joins back into the existing cycle lanes that pass the Dromoland Castle gate entrance from the Dromoland East Roundabout.

12. 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 request a 50km speed limit extension from Craughan Cemetery entrance to O’Gorman’s Cross, Cratloe on the R462.

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

I confirm that an extension to the existing speed limit referred will be reviewed and considered under the next Speed Limit Review Process.

Pat O’Gorman requested that while waiting on the speed limit review that line markings on the Poulawilly Bridge be repainted.

13. 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 the Senior Engineer to have the trees cut back on Bóthar na Rinne to the front of the housing from Lisín to Fearnóg. The trees in question have grown considerably and are reducing light to the adjacent homes.

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

This location has been passed to our contractor for assessment. Any trimming required will be arranged subsequently.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting the removal of a number of trees in the Ballycasey Avenue area, the section that is bounding Ballycasey More Hill properties, there are health and safety issues affecting the residents from the danger of some falling trees .

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

A Survey of this area will be carried to determine the extent of the problem.

15. 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’s Environmental Section to put in place a regular maintenance contract to maintain the River Walk in Shannon Town and also to include other public recreation facilities that are used by the public in the area. The current maintenance arrangements are more reactive to complaints rather than a strategic approach to the regular maintenance of public facilities.

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

Maintenance of public realm areas under the control of Clare County Council falls within the remit of the Municipal District Offices. Shannon Municipal District Office

has been carrying out maintenance along the river walk and is exploring ways to improve on current practice. Significant works have taken place in recent months through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund and this office is committed to continually exploring ways to further enhance this popular amenity.

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

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley agus glacadh leis:

I'm calling on this MD to make contact with Irish water and request the latest information in relation to the sewage issues in Meelick village. The people of Meelick have endured another summer of nauseating smells. It is high time that this issue is resolved.

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

This Motion has been forwarded to Irish Water and we are awaiting their reply.

A discussion followed on the ongoing sewerage issues in Meelick and the need to progress the Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR).

Liam Conneally stated that he will be discussing this with the Senior Engineer in the Project Management Office. Limerick City & County Council are the lead authority dealing with the contract. Details in relation to the re-tendering process will be sought and relayed to the Members.

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

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan agus glacadh leis:

I am requesting that this MD would put road markings and repaint lines for parking spaces and “keep clear” markings on Drumgeely Ave (at the rear of the crossroads pub and at the front of St. John's national school V14 Y970) as a matter of urgency. This is a school zone with a high level of footfall and traffic throughout the day. There is now a risk to pupils and patrons of local businesses as there are no clear parking space lines or road markings. A road traffic accident is now a real possibility.

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

This Office will arrange for the road markings at this location to be replaced.

18. 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 provide a pedestrian crossing on the Drumgeely road Shannon at the bus stop located just above the Gort road cross. At certain times of the day people find it hard to cross the road at this bus stop.

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

The Office will be nominating this location for a Low Cost Safety Measure which if successful will deliver a Pedestrian Crossing in 2023. There is limited fund allocated from 2022 GMA which will be used to enhance accessibility at the bus stop this year.

19. 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 the junction in Smithstown at FHB with a view to widening. There are trucks having issues turning there and at times traffic must reverse to let trucks or lorries swing into this junction.

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

The Shannon Municipal District Office has referred the junction to our colleagues in the Road Design Office for a full assessment of the junction. Any works recommended will need to be discussed and agreed with Shannon Commercial Properties who have responsibility for road surfaces and alignments within the Industrial Estate.

The Office has removed a number of trees at this location to improve visibility and expose the public lighting posts.

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 clear the footpath at the rear of houses in Finian Park. Some of these paths tend to flood during winter and moss gathers on them causing them to be slippery.

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

We will arrange for this laneway to be cleared.

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 link up with Clare Youth Services Shannon with a view to getting the great work they are doing out into the public domain, in particular their Mural/graffiti work with the aim of giving them pieces such as ESB boxes or litter bins to create art on, leading up to bigger scale projects.

These young people are doing great work and I would love to highlight the positive actions in our youth.

It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would follow up on this with Clare Youth Services Shannon.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis

As a matter of urgency, I am requesting that the lock gate at the water weir in Sixmilebridge, across from Gleasons Bar, be replaced before the winter water levels rise. This is a very important weir as it regulates the water levels downstream and prevents flooding.

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

This location is within the Sixmilebridge and Kilkishen Drainage District, under the Arterial Drainage Act this is the responsibility of the Office of Public Works (OPW). Clare County Council has contacted the OPW in relation to this matter.

John Crowe highlighted the urgency of this Motion adding that he has grave concerns if this Motion is not actioned as soon as possible.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis

I am requesting that a footpath be constructed from Sixmilebridge National School to Ballysheen Graveyard to ensure the safety of children walking to and from school, residents on this road and all people using this very popular walking route.

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

Ballysheen Graveyard is approx. 1km from the nearest footpath, with approximately 7 houses between the Graveyard and footpath. There is insufficient width on the existing public road to accommodate a footpath.

This Office is currently completing a footpath linking O'Garney Heights to the main pedestrian infrastructure in Sixmilebridge, this path will provide benefit to any walkers coming from the Ballysheen road.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O'Gorman agus glacadh leis

I am requesting that the remainder of the Ballycar Road L30321 that is within the Shannon MD be resurfaced. Three quarters of this road is in the Killaloe MD and has been resurfaced. This was included in the Roadworks Programme a number of years ago. I am requesting now that this section be included in 2023 Roadworks Programme.

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

It is the intention of this Office to include this road in its 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works Programme, subject to Budgetary provision.

Cllr. Pat O'Gorman added that a lot of tree felling has been carried out in this area and has resulted in damage to the road due to heavy machinery. Tom Mellett informed the meeting that he would check if a condition could be added to the licence requesting a financial contribution.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn agus glacadh leis

That a short section of the L-3062 between the Volvo Premises and Burlington be "Levelled" as it is causing serious problems for tractors and vehicles towing trailers or farm machinery.

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

This road was surfaced dressed in 2022 with some areas receiving hot tar treatment to remove depressions along the road. Drainage works and improved road markings have also been provided. An assessment of the location will be arranged.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis

That the roadside south boundary dry stone wall at Castlebank, Ardnacrusha, where loose stones are regularly falling onto the road, be secured.

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

Roadside boundaries are the responsibility of the landowner. Clare County Council has removed stones from the road where they posed a danger to traffic.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan agus glacadh leis

That this MD would request that new LIS applications be allowed from within the Shannon MD area, as there is only one road left to be done.

John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Transportation replied as follows:

Countywide in Clare there is currently a backlog of approximately 174 Local Improvement Schemes (LIS).

New applications can only be considered and the application process can only be reopened when the number of LIS schemes on the system is significantly reduced from the current level.

A discussion was followed in relation to this Motion with the Members requesting a review of the criteria surrounding this scheme with a more equitable distribution of applications throughout the County.

It was agreed that Liam Conneally would contact Carmel Kirby in relation to this matter.

28. AOB

- Notification from the Rural Development Directorate - Official opening of Illaunmanagh Burial Ground extension on Friday 23rd September at 3.30pm. Invitations will issue to the Shannon MD Members.
- Phayers Road, Meelick. Cllr. Pat O'Gorman queried the speed limit on this road following an email he had received from a resident in which the Gardaí stated that this road has a 60km per hour speed limit. Tom Mellett clarified that this road has a 80km per hour speed limit. It was agreed that Cllr. Pat O'Gorman would forward the email from the Gardaí to Mr. Mellett and he would in turn follow up and clarify with the Gardaí.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator

Dated: _____