

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2021 at 9.45am in Treacys Oakwood Hotel, Airport Road, Shannon,  
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 Meetings Administrator, Padraic McElwee Head of Local Enterprise Office, Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer, Carmel Greene Senior Executive Officer and Patricia O’Neill Staff Officer.

**Apologies:**

Cathaoirleach John Crowe opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.

*Matters arising from the Minutes*

Cathaoirleach John Crowe advised that following the July Meeting an invitation was issued to the Management of the Shannon Town Centre to attend the September meeting of the Shannon MD. The Management of the Town Centre had responded thanking the Members for their invitation and welcomed the opportunity to address the Members, however due to work commitments on a number of ongoing projects they requested that this invitation be extended to a later meeting whereby the Management of the Town Centre will be in a position to attend and brief the Members on their ongoing projects. This was agreed by all.

2. Local Enterprise Office – presented by Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise  
Padraic McElwee addressed the meeting and thanked the Members for this opportunity to address the Shannon MD Meeting.

He outlined the business supports that are available, the focus going forward and the challenges ahead.

- Grant funding – 23 projects with grant funding of €625k approved to date, indicating a record year for approvals.
- Trading Online Vouchers – provides grant support to small businesses to develop an ecommerce website. A strong uptake on this funding in 2020, with companies moving quickly to establish an online platform. This scheme continues to attract strong interest in 2021 with 106 applications approved to date.
- Training/mentoring – Training provided to 1,307 clients to date, webinars and training courses delivered include start your own business programme, Trading Online Voucher workshop, a Facebook Adverts Workshop, Digital Marketing Course and a LEAN information evening. Free mentoring is also provided with 274 businesses availing of this to date
- Covid supports - Small Business Assistance Scheme – in Q1 2021 €300k to 75 applicants. With an additional €300k approved.
- Under the Client Stimulus – Covid Recovery, 69 enterprises are receiving support under a number of schemes for businesses, which include Green for Micro, LEAN, Leadership, Innovation Capability Development, Financial Strategy and New Market Development.

- Strategic Focus for 2021 to 2024 focusing on innovation, sustainability, digitalisation, competitive capabilities, export development, entrepreneurship development and networks/clusters.
- Challenges faced – Covid, inflation, supply chain (4 to 6 weeks for delivery), Brexit (business challenge extra costs), labour shortage (hospitality, logistics, manufacturing) digitalisation (upskill business to operate in digital world).

He further added that in respect of the Shannon MD, there has been a welcomed growth trend in the Engineering Sector, which has seen the employment net figure in this MD up by 22.

This was followed by a discussion with the Elected Members in relation to assistance available for small businesses that are operating for a number of years and need to replace equipment, the importance and promotion of apprenticeships, assistance and encouragement for women in business.

3. Section 183 Disposal of Property at 115 Tradaree Court, Shannon, Co. Clare. Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Donna McGettigan and agreed by all.
4. Disposal of property at Laghile, Cratloe, Co. Clare - proposed purchaser Mr. & Ms. Patrick Keane. Proposed by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.
5. Disposal of property at Laghile, Cratloe, Co. Clare - proposed purchaser Mary & Patrick Quinn. Proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. P. O’Gorman and agreed by all.
6. Economic Development – update by Jason Murphy, Senior Executive Officer.

At the outset Jason Murphy wished to congratulate Caitriona Gallagher on her recent promotion to Senior Executive Technician in Limerick City & Co. Co. He commended Caitriona for her fantastic work and the projects she helped bring to fruition during her tenure in the Shannon MD. He welcomed Sean Haugh to the team, who will be replacing Caitriona as Executive Technician in the Shannon MD.

He updated the Members on the following:

- Shannon In Bloom – proposed planting scheme for across the MD, which is funded through the GMA, will see the distribution of 50,000 bulbs to 11 communities during the month of October. The Shannon MD Office is working in partnership with Community Groups through the Rural & Community Directorate with the support of the MD Councillors.
- Springfield Flood Relief Scheme commenced in late July. The scheme is being constructed for Clare County Council by the staff of the OPW under the supervision of the scheme consultants.
- Town & Village Renewal (TVR) project for Sixmilebridge has commenced.
- Awaiting outcome of the Green Flag award for Shannon Town Park and funding applications applied for under the Outdoor Recreation Improvement Scheme (ORIS) and TVR Scheme. Proposed projects including upgrading the retail centre in Drumgeely, enhancement of Clonlara village centre and developing walking routes in Newmarket On Fergus.

Liam Conneally advised the Members in relation to the following:

- Shannon Town Masterplan (STMP) – following on from the first public consultation period which was extended up to 3<sup>rd</sup> September, a total of 94 questionnaires and 55 written submissions were received. A report will issue by the end of September to the Shannon MD Members. A further Workshop will be held to amend mapping and text aspects of the Masterplan prior to the next period of public consultation. The progression of this plan will enable applications to be made under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF). In tandem with this he stated that considerable work is ongoing by the Property Management Section of Clare Co Co regarding land acquisition in Shannon Town Centre.
- Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) – significant work has been ongoing over the last 2 months both by Clare County Council and the University of Limerick in lodging an application for the SDZ to Government. A briefing will be delivered to the full Council in the coming weeks and it is expected that the application will be lodged in October.

The Members raised the following

- Cllr. Michael Begley stated that the support from Limerick City and Co Co in the advancement of the plans for the SDZ will assist the process.
- Cllr. Gerard Flynn conveyed his congratulations and thanks to Caitriona Gallagher in her new role. His sentiments were echoed by all the Members.  
Cllr. Flynn also wished to thank Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner for his engagement and time in the STMP.

Liam Conneally responded in relation to Cllr. Begley's point raised, stating that a further presentation will be made to Limerick City & Co. Co in respect of the SDZ. He added that the importance of this application for the entire region will be highlighted and that all stakeholders have a full understanding.

7. Road works programme – update by Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer.
  - Under the NTA Active Travel programme the Riverbank walkway in Shannon Banks has been upgraded to improve accessibility and enhance the route. Preliminary designs have been carried out in Ballycasey Close and Meelick.
  - Two accessible bus stops at the Town Hall, (Bóthar Linne, Shannon) have been installed in recent months.
  - The footpath contract for the MD was recently signed for the upgrade of 3750sq. m. of footpath. A walkthrough has been carried out with the contractor and it is expected that these works will commence in the coming weeks.
  - Restoration Improvement works (overlay) have largely been completed. One adjustment to the schedule of works had to be carried out due to a recent decision by Irish Water to upgrade a mains line between Westbury and Larkins. This schedule of works will be carried out again when the mains works have been completed. As these works could not be carried out at this time it was agreed to carry out works to the entrance to Shannon Banks.
  - Hedgecutting is currently ongoing.
  - Line Marking – the remainder of these works will be carried out over the next 2 weeks.
  - Climate Action – Westbury pumpstation works completed.
  - Entrance wall to Westbury housing estate – Tenders received in respect of these works were well in excess of the budget available. A new revised tender will be advertised for these works.

- The Surface Dressing programme of works has also been completed.
- Bike maintenance kits and racks along with new signage were installed in Shannon Town (at the park and along the loop walk), with further bike racks to be installed in Westbury and Cratloe in the coming weeks.
- Signs will be erected in the coming weeks, following locations identified by the Members.

The Members responded as follows:

Cllr. PJ Ryan requested an update on the Killnacreagh Road from Ballycar to Sixmilebridge, as this road spans the Shannon MD and Killaloe MD and is in need of resurfacing

Cllr. Gerard Flynn – requested that consideration be given to bi-lingual names of roads on signs.

Cllr. John Crowe – requested if there were further plans for the upgrade of bus shelters throughout the MD. Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer responded that the bus shelters at the Radisson and Westbury have been identified.

**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 put barriers/bollards in place at the junction where the Loughash Road meets the Ennis Road, R458, due to cars parking at this junction which is causing a hazard for road users as they emerge from this junction.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*The Shannon Municipal District Office will assess the most appropriate layout and arrangement of bollards required to achieve a successful outcome for this motion.*

**9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That Clare County Council install pedestrian traffic lights in front of the GAA grounds Newmarket On Fergus for the safety of all road users.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*The Shannon Municipal District Office will consult with our colleagues in the Road Design Office in relation to this motion.*

**10. 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 provide additional parking for the residents of Glencragga, Newmarket On Fergus due to inadequate parking spaces within the estate.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*Having assessed this location there are limited options to provide additional parking in this estate. It would require a setback from the road edge into the green area to achieve any substantial gain for parking, this would not achieve parking in the*

*immediate vicinity of houses 1 through 12. Further engagement with the local community would be required before implementing any changes.*

**11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That this MD would have all road markings on the streets and approach roads in Sixmilebridge refurbished as they have become very worn over time.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*Following an overlay from the railway bridge to the Garda Station this year the Municipal District Office arranged for the markings to be renewed. We have recently completed upgrades to markings on Church Road, Shannon Road and Rossmanager road. The recently commenced Town and Village Renewal Scheme will deliver a Pedestrian crossing between the Square and Funeral Home, this will include an upgrade to road markings in this area. The office will assess the outer approach roads and complete line marking renewal where necessary.*

Cllr. John Crowe also requested that the condition of manhole covers on the roads mentioned in this Motion be looked at as a number have become worn over time and in need of replacement.

**12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

That this MD would carry out repairs and resurfacing on the section of road between Nix's Bridge and Brennan's Cross, Meelick.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*This road will be assessed as part of the preparation process for the 2022 Roads Programme.*

**13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

That this MD would provide an update on projects in Cratloe, i.e. the pedestrian crossing at Cratloe National School, the footpath and lights from the Portdrine flyover to the GAA Cross and the resurfacing of Craughan Graveyard Road.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*The Pedestrian Crossing is currently at design stage. This will proceed to completion once the design is finalised. I expect it to be delivered in Spring 2022.*

*The proposed footpath between Portdrine flyover and the junction to the G.A.A. grounds is currently at design stage and is programmed to be surveyed in the coming weeks. As part of the Design process a costing will be carried out. A provision has been made from the General Municipal Allocation fund for this project.*

*In relation to Craughan Graveyard Road, the Burial Grounds Unit in the Rural and Community Department responded that the cost of resurfacing this road would greatly exceed any budget available to the Burial Grounds Unit. It should also be noted that the road is through private land and it does not have the benefit of a Public Right of Way. As this road serves the burial ground, several landholdings and houses, consideration could be given to an application under the Local Improvement Scheme.*

In relation to the road serving Craughaun Graveyard, Cllr. PJ Ryan requested that Clare Co Co give further consideration to the resurfacing of this road and an alternative source of funding be identified for such works, given that a local landowner donated land for the extension of the graveyard.

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

I am calling on the Council to carry out a full inspection of the trees located in The Scenic Garden next to Mary Immaculate Church in Drumgeely. There is a concern for public safety as this is a public area and a huge attraction for visitors. Over recent years some of the large branches have come away and thankfully no one was injured, but there is a risk that needs to be assessed by the Council. (I have made previous representations on this issue).

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*The Municipal District Office requested a contractor to assess this area in 2020 after a number of branches fell. No further works were required following that assessment. However as there are ongoing concerns the Office has arranged for another assessment. Contact with the group maintaining the Garden to discuss any measures arising will also be required.*

Cllr. Flynn emphasised that the safety of volunteers and all users need to be taken into account.

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

I am calling on the Council to take urgent action in regard to the number of footpaths in Shannon that are a risk to the public due to roots of trees causing damage to the surface and in other areas some serious cracks on older footpaths. Also, briars and other vegetation growing out on the edge of some pathways is limiting the width available for the public. A large number of compromised footpaths are in the Drumgeely area namely: the section from Dun an Óir to Delginish, the Foyle Park area, Upper Road (old N19) path running parallel to Fergus road, the section from Gort Road junction on to Drumgeely towards the mini roundabout. I would hope a planned program of work could be put in place by the Council to enhance the large volume of pathways in Shannon as soon as possible.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*The Municipal District Office recently signed the footpath maintenance contract with PS Carmody's Ltd. This contract covers a large volume of footpaths within the District.*

*Works on the ground will commence in the coming days in the Drumgeely area of Shannon Town. Works are expected to be completed by the end of the year.*

*Each year an extensive effort is required to compile the list of paths for this contract, while there will always be more footpaths that require attention the Office must prioritise works for the contract within the confines of available resources.*

*Over the last three years the Office has increased spending on this contract by 25% and anticipate another significant increase this year.*

*In addition to this contract, we are utilising other sources of funding to improve pedestrian infrastructure and are continually assessing footpaths for maintenance. Where the paths listed above have not had works carried out recently they will be included for consideration as part of this ongoing assessment.*

**16. 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 carry out work on the storm drain network in Shannon, Bóthar na Luachra, the section of road at the back of Lisin & The Grove, Gort Road and the last exit off Corrib Drive near Mary Immaculate Church. Over recent years a considerable amount of surface water is occurring on a number of locations in Shannon and the network needs to be improved.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*The Office will arrange for CCTV and jetting at the locations mentioned in the motion. We intend to dedicate a crew in support of a drain contractor for approximately four weeks commencing in October in order to cover the Municipal District area.*

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

I call on this MD to look at any way of making the junction at Cronan/Inis Ealga/ and Rineanna view safer. This is an extremely busy junction to navigate and needs action taken.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*The Municipal District intends to introduce bollards at this junction to improve safety for cyclists. This will tighten the junction slowing vehicle turning movements and so improving the overall safety of all road users at this junction.*

*Funding has been granted through the National Transport Agency for a Mobility survey in Shannon Town and this junction will be assessed as part of that work.*

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

I call on this MD to find funding to install exercise equipment in the park as per original plans. This type of outdoor exercise equipment has been successful in other areas and we have noted that they have also helped the mental health and wellbeing of those using them particularly during lockdown.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*The Office will investigate options around providing this type of equipment in the Town Park.*

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

I call on this MD to include the cutting of the grass along the paths in the Wetlands as part of the grass cutting contract. So far this work has been carried out by volunteers, which isn't always feasible.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*The Municipal District Office is currently exploring ways to ensure existing footpath widths are maintained. This path is one of several in the town where vegetation has encroached onto the surface thereby narrowing the effective width, unfortunately the Office does not currently have the resources to remedy each path in this condition and so must prioritise based on use. I will arrange for a crew to edge this path. The Office acknowledges the stellar effort of different community groups when it comes to issues such as this.*

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That remedial works to make safe face of roadside ditch on L-3062 at Heffernan's bend, Larkin's Cross as jagged stones are projecting and have caused vehicle damage.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*The Municipal District Office will liaise with the relevant landowner and take the appropriate measures to ensure this obstacle is removed.*

Cllr. Begley added that the stones needed to be removed as a matter of urgency. Tom Mellett stated that these works will be carried out within the next week to 10 days.

**21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

That the MD would consider putting a temporary 15km speed limit at Bellisle between the entrance to Landscape house and the entrance to the OPW site, for the duration of the construction of the Springfield Flood embankment.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*Having consulted with my colleagues in the Project Management Office (PMO) I have summarised their response in relation to this motion;*

*there were a number of initial complaints with regard to the movement of trucks around the construction site at Springfield through elected representatives*

*These included*

- 1 *Going over the Waterways Ireland Bridge at Springfield*
- 2 *Losing material on the turns*
- 3 *Driving behaviour at the turn in to the site*
- 4 *Speeding through the Village*
- 5 *Speeding on approach roads to the Village*

*It should be noted that there is a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) in place for the movement of vehicles around the site and in particular for vehicles delivering material to the site. The contractors involved are fully aware of the TMP and have been briefed on its contents and objectives. Following the complaints received, the Council as Client again spoke to the OPW as Contractor and asked them to inform/instruct their Hauliers to adhere to the TMP. I understand that the OPW spoke to all Drivers involved and the PMO were assured the issue has been dealt with by the OPW management team on site.*

*To add to this, the statutory process (Section 10 of the 2004 Roads Act) to temporarily reduce a speed limit, would then pass responsibility for enforcement to An Garda Siochana, the approach described by the PMO is likely to bring about changes in behaviour in a more efficient manner.*

**22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

That Part of the L-7048 (section north of Mountcathrine bridge) be included in the 2022 Roads Programme.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*This road will be assessed as part of the preparation process for the 2022 Roads Programme.*

**23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley**

I am asking that Clare County Council would look into the possibility of upgrading, strengthening and resurfacing the road known as Earl Hill, Clonlara as it is in a bad state of repair.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*This road will be assessed as part of the preparation process for the 2022 Roads Programme.*

**24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

I am asking Clare County Council for a low cost safety improvement scheme a Killeen Cemetery on the Limerick Road, Sixmilebridge as visibility coming from the Cratloe side is very bad and in the interest of safety of visitors to the graveyard.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*This location will be put forward for consideration as a Low Cost Safety Scheme for 2022.*

This motion was supported by all the Members.

**25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

I am asking Clare County Council Roads Department to line the Low Road in Bunratty from the Ministers Cross to Bunratty Folk Park as there is no road marking on this road as a matter of road safety.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*Having considered this motion the Office has determined that it would be detrimental to introduce central road markings on the road. Where a road is narrow introducing central line markings gives drivers a false impression of space and belief that there is adequate space for opposing lanes of cars to pass. It can also lead to over running of the edge increasing the likelihood of damage to the road and vehicle.*

Cllr. John Crowe requested that this motion be given further consideration in order to slow down traffic due to the number of tourists on this road.

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

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon**

I request that this MD would include the stretch of road running in front of Eircode V95F6K7 to the crossroads that leads to Clenagh Castle, Newmarket on Fergus in the 2022 Roads Program.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*This road will be assessed as part of the preparation process for the 2022 roads programme.*

**27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon**

I request this MD as a matter of urgency to arrange the cutting of the hedge overhanging the public footpath at the Dairygold Co-op Clonmoney, Newmarket on Fergus.

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*Following an inspection by this office I can confirm that this hedge has been cut back to the path edge. The Office will continue to monitor the situation.*

**28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley**

I request this MD would include the square to the rear of the house numbers 9-14, 15-24 and also 25-32 at the Token houses Shonnon Banks in the 2022 Roads Program

**Tom Mellett replied as follows:**

*This road will be assessed as part of the preparation process for the 2022 Roads Programme.*

**29. AOB**

- It was agreed by the Members that both the owner and manager of the Shannon Town Centre would be invited to the November meeting of the Shannon MD.
- Following an invitation from the Shannon College of Hotel Management to host a meeting of the Shannon MD in their building, it was agreed that the November meeting would take place in the Shannon College of Hotel Management.
- Cllr. Pat McMahan requested that the Wells School be included in the Winter Maintenance programme for the coming winter.
- Cllr. Pat O’Gorman requested clarification in respect of the burning of smoky coal in built up areas. Clarification to be sought from Environment.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meetings Administrator**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_