

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting  
held at 3.30pm on Tuesday September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, in the  
Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,  
Clare County Council,  
New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:**

**Councillors:** P. Daly, C. Collieran Molloy, A. Norton, T. McNamara, J. Breen, P. Murphy, J. Flynn and M. Howard.

**Officials:** Leonard Cleary, A/Director of Services, Ger Dollard, Chief Executive (Interim), Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, Barry Conway, Executive Engineer, Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator, & Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer.

**Item No. 1. Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting held on the 05.07.2016**

Minutes of the Ennis Municipal District July 2016 monthly meeting were proposed by Cllr. T. McNamara, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy and adopted by members.

Members queried the status of Notice of Motion No. 10 of the July meeting in relation to the Clare Cycle Safety Initiative. As Eamon O'Dea, SEE, was not present to deal with this matter members requested it to be an Agenda item for the next monthly meeting.

With regard to Motion No. 2 of the July meeting, it was queried if payment plans are available for the payment of rates for businesses that were negatively affected by the construction of the new market facility. Leonard Cleary confirmed that the option for payment plans is available as confirmed in the reply from the Financial Accountant and is a matter for the Finance Department.

With regard to motion No.5 of the July meeting the members voiced their dissatisfaction at the letter of response from the TII. It was agreed to deal with Item no. 9 (Correspondence from TII) at this point. Leonard Cleary advised that the matter was discussed at September CPG meeting and it was agreed that the deputation from the Council would consist of Chairs of each Municipal District, together with Cllr. Richard Nagle and the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Bill Chambers. It was also suggested that the Council delegation would consist of the Chief Executive/Director of Service and Senior Engineer Transportation.

Members accepted this and requested that a strong delegation be organised to meet with the TII to voice their concerns from all four Municipal Districts of County Clare.

### **Item No. 2. Draft Speed Limit Bye-Laws**

T. Tiernan, Senior Engineer, outlined the steps involved in this process of drafting new County Speed Limit Bye-Laws. This is one step in this process and a follow up on the initial consultation process. 112 submissions were received from the public and members of the Council. The Council in conjunction with the Gardaí have assessed the submissions which have been included in the proposed amendments.

The next stage of the process is the formal public consultation process.

The formal public consultation process will run from the end of September to the end of November 2016 when Draft No. 2 will be considered.

The final draft will go before the full Council for consideration.

Members expressed their disappointment on the omission of the reduction of the speed limits to 30kph near schools and housing estates. A pilot scheme was initiated in the Shannon area and it was noted that it hasn't made any significant difference based on pre and post speed surveys. However, the Council hasn't reached any firm conclusions in relation to this matter and a change may evolve through the forthcoming public consultation process.

This matter was noted.

At this point members voiced their concerns on the proposed Ennis Active Travel Route. Cllr. J. Flynn proposed and Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy seconded that the Municipal District of Ennis write to the Director of Services for Roads, Ann Haugh, to "pause" the progress of any works on this project until a Health and Safety Report is done. Members further requested that an alternative route be considered.

L. Cleary, A/Director of Services, agreed to raise this matter with the Director for Roads but pointed out that the Part VIII process has already been adopted and could not guarantee any changes at this stage.

### **Item No. 3. Review of Standing Orders for Monthly Meetings**

- **Change of day of meeting**

Cllr. A. Norton proposed and Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy seconded that monthly meetings change from Tuesday afternoons to Friday mornings.

Cllr. M. Howard proposed and Cllr. P. Murphy seconded meetings be held at 10.30am.

- **Any Other Business**

Cllr. M. Howard proposed and Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy seconded that "Any Other Business" be added as an Agenda item under the Standing Orders.

### **Item No. 4. Community & Arts Grants**

Cllr. J. Breen proposed and Cllr. P. Murphy seconded and members agreed the following payment be made under the Kilnamona Environs funding:-

€1,520 towards the erection of solar/electric street lights at Kilnamona Cross.

#### **Item No. 5. Report on the Market Rejuvenation Project**

Ann Reynolds, Administrative Officer, outlined the following:-

The market building is substantially complete with the following minor works outstanding:

- Grinding of the floor surface
- Flashing on the roof
- Painting
- Snag items

The new Market will be launched on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, 2016, from 3pm.

Members welcomed the news that the new Ennis Market will be open for business next week. It was proposed by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara to officially name the new covered market "Ennis Market".

There has been significant interest from traders to trade in the market building. Casual Trading applications are currently being reviewed and assessed. The Council will continue to engage with traders in order to obtain optimum use of the trading spaces on the designated trading days.

Arrangements are being put in place for the management of the building - staffing, security, cleaning, insurances, etc

An Advisory committee is to be set up to consult and advise on the operation, promotion and rejuvenation of the market area.

#### **Item No. 6. Terms of reference of the Market Advisory Committee and nomination of Members.**

Cllr. P. Daly proposed Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy as the nominated member to the Market Advisory Committee, T. McNamara seconded this proposal alongside the presiding Mayor. This item together with the Terms of Reference was then agreed and adopted by members.

#### **Item No. 7. Report on Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann**

G. Dollard, Chief Executive (Interim), gave a detailed report on a very successful Fleadh 2016. Fleadh 2016 was seen as an outstanding success. There was seamless interaction between the various agencies which was very positive overall. G. Dollard acknowledged that there will be some tweaks for 2017 which will come about through the feedback from the various sources as part of the de-brief meetings. G. Dollard wished to acknowledge the hard work of the staff of the Municipal District of Ennis both indoor and outdoor. The Fleadh was not just about Ennis but the wider County as was shown through Fleadh TV. There will be a number of de-briefs in the coming weeks where feedback will be assessed and considered from various sources.

Members also complimented the staff of Clare County Council, the Fleadh Committee, the volunteers and all the various agencies involved in the success of Fleadh 2016. The feedback from the public was very positive overall and a special mention was given to the Volunteers and a special mention was given Dolores and Sharon of the Volunteer Centre. Members also acknowledged that some tweaks would be necessary for 2017 and this should be looked at ahead of the planning for 2017.

**Item No. 8. Notices of Motion.**

**No 1. NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.**

What criteria are applied to allocate footpath repair funding in the Ennis Municipal District? This question prompted in light of recent works undertaken in a newer estate in Ballybeg (where some residents were surprised to see such works being undertaken as were felt to be unneeded) while Knocknamana Heights in Clarecastle is waiting for footpath replacement for 42 years?

**Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:-**

The works at Ballybeg were carried out either as part of a taking in charge process or part of a road opening licence and not as part of scheduled road maintenance works. Maintenance of footpaths is funded from either the Discretionary Maintenance Grant or from own resource funding. Not wishing to sound like a broken record it is not possible to provide a footpath maintenance programme with the level of Discretionary Grant and own resources funding provided to Municipal District of Ennis. It should be noted that €300,000 of the €500,000 allocation to the Ennis MD in Discretionary Funding cover the former Block Grant provided to the Town Council.

**No. 2. NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.**

That Clare County Council change the name of Lees Road to O'Sullivan Park in memory of John O'Sullivan who had a huge impact on sporting life in the County.

(No formal reply required)

This Notice of Motion was discussed and agreed by a majority of members of the Municipal District of Ennis and will be moved forward to the full Council for consideration.

**No. 3. NOM submitted by Cllr. T. McNamara was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.**

I call on Clare County Council to extend the footpath along Newpark Road and connect it with footpath leading to Church Of Our Lady Roslevin.

**Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:-**

The provision of this footpath will require some traffic calming measure or land acquisition on a short section of Newpark Road. There is pedestrian access between Newpark Road and Fahy Hall Road through Bridge View and Bridge Court. The provision of a footpath along Newpark Road to the junction of Fahy Hall road will require input from the Road Design and a means of funding the works. The Council completed the footpath from Ballymacahill Cross to the Church of Our Lady Roslevin a number of years ago using funding from the Block Grant to Ennis Town Council.

**No. 4. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

Management Plan for Covered Market.

That the Management Plan as required by the planning permission for the Covered Market be considered and agreed with locals residents, Ratepayers , stall holders and elected members, including a timeline for phase two works into Barrack Street area .

**Leonard Cleary, A/Director of Services, replied as follows:-**

The Management Plan for the covered market at Garraunakilla will be prepared by the Ennis Municipal District Office of Clare County Council. Contributions from all interested parties are most welcome as are creative ideas to propel the rejuvenation of the market area of Ennis. The Council has both a regulatory function and management role at the covered market. This plan will be discussed with Elected Members.

The Covered Market will officially open on 16th September 2016. There is a high level of interest in the facility from quality casual traders / producers.

The timeline for Phase 2 such as Barrack Street needs to be considered and financially provided for as part of the Budget 2017 process commencing in September 2016. The Covered Market was funded by way of a loan. Phase 2 at Barrack Street would need a funding mechanism also. In due course Phase 3 at Lower Market Street and Moran's Car Park will need similar funding.

Key strategic projects such as this can contribute much to the rejuvenation of parts of Ennis Town. The ongoing funding of these loans and projects would benefit from a strategic approach to the discretionary 15% for LPT prior to budget time. The public need to be in a position to connect LPT with strategic projects and core services.

**No. 5. NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

That Ennis Municipal District Council request Iarnrod Eireann/ Bus Eireann to maintain their property to an acceptable standard in Ennis.

(No formal reply required)

Members requested that a letter be issued to the Management of the Train/Bus Station to ensure the upkeep of this private property. It should not be up to Ennis Tidy Towns to constantly be relied on to clean this area. A management plan should be put in place by management of Bus Eireann/Iarnrod Eireann for the maintenance of this

area. The Flooding of the railway line to Limerick should also be addressed. People with disabilities had no choice but to avail of taxis to Limerick for months on end. Iarnrod Eireann should be liable for the costs of providing this service.

**No. 6. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.**

I am requesting that the Roads Department review and consider improving safety measures from Main Street, Clarecastle through Patrick Street and up as far as the junction of Claremount and Lissane Roads. The junction at the Castle Cafe and bend near Wards shop are of particular concern.

**Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:-**

The Municipal District Office will arrange for traffic surveys at different locations along this road to determine the number and speed of vehicles travelling on the road. This will determine what if any measures are required along this road. The Municipal district will discuss the findings of the survey with the Garda Traffic Corps. There is a pelican pedestrian Crossing on Patrick Street adjacent to Wards Shop giving safe access across the street at this location and the Council recently installed repeater 50kph speed limit signs between Lissane Cross and the bend adjacent to Wards Shop.

**No. 7. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen was seconded by Cllr.P. Murphy.**

I am asking this Council how many enforcement notices have been issued to farmers to cut their hedges and how many have been issued per Parish.

**Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:-**

The Municipal District of Ennis has not issued enforcement notices to landowners in regard to maintenance of hedgerows along public roads. The Council announced the Community Hedge Cutting Scheme Grant in August and hopefully landowners will avail of this scheme thus reducing the requirement to issue enforcement letters to landowners.

Members further addressed this issue and felt that Clare County Council should now review their hedge cutting policy. Coillte should also address this issue in relation to lands owned by them.

**No. 8. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.**

With the great success of Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann it is important that the Council support and encourage new business in the entire town but in particular Parnell Street.

**Leonard Cleary, A/Director of Services, replied as follows:-**

In the post Fleadh review we can involve the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) in the review process with a view to supporting the objectives of this Notice of Motion.

**No. 9. NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy - was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy**

That an update on efforts to upgrade the Clareabbey Roundabout and Clare Abbey be provided.

**Leonard Cleary, A/Director of Services, replied as follows:**

Clare Abbey is in the charge of the Office of Public Works and we are not aware of any plans for works at Clare Abbey. Correspondence from the TII to be considered at the meeting, with regard to the upgrade of the roundabout, and it is for the Councillors to decide whether they wish to meet the TII regarding this particular matter.

**No. 10. NOM submitted by Cllr. T. McNamara was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.**

I call on the Senior Executive Engineer to use the opportunity to complete the resurfacing of the remaining sections of the R474 Kilmaley road in conjunction with the laying of the power cable along this road which is scheduled to commence in the Ennis Municipal District on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2016.

**Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:-**

The R474 between Beechpark Roundabout and Inch Bridge in the Municipal District of Ennis will have an asphalt overlay carried out on completion of the WRCE Windfarm Cable Contract works. This road surfacing will not commence before early November and is being funded by road works programme grant funding and long term damage to public road fund provided by WRCE Windfarms as part of their road opening licence.

**No. 11. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.**

Update on study for development of Parnel Street , The Height and The Square .  
As a member of the Clare Cedra working group which sought in 2014 and allocated circa €90,000 grant obtained from government for a development plan to upgrade Parnel Street , The Height and The Square I am asking for an update on progress of same.

**Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner, replied as follows:-**

At the outset I wish to clarify the scope and timescale for the CEDRA funding sought and obtained for Parnell Street.

In October 2015, funding was approved under a pilot initiative for the Rural Economic Development Zones outlined in the CEDRA report. The focus of the funding provided was to prepare "*A Feasibility Study on covering Parnell Street to include potential use of Parnell Street and wider area as a heritage/cultural quarter*". A smaller element of funding was provided to prepare a Draft Public Realm Plan for O'Connell Square.

Following a procurement process in accordance with EU requirements, in early 2016 consultants were appointed to undertake the feasibility study and plan, in conjunction with Clare County Council's Planning and Enterprise Development Department. The study comprised of a number of elements including detailed topographical survey, traffic and pedestrian counts and analysis. This took place over the last number of months.

The preparation of the study and plan concluded in August. I have contacted the Mayor of Ennis with a view to presenting the findings to the Elected Members of Ennis Municipal District in early September for your consideration.

**No. 12. NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. A.Norton.**

That this Municipal District Council recognise the fantastic effort by everyone involved in Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.

(See Fleadh Report)

**No. 13. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.**

I am requesting that additional gullies are installed on the Claremount road ( between Quinn's and Murphy's ) to alleviate flooding on the road.

**Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:-**

This location on the Clearmont Road will be examined by the Municipal District Roads Engineer and Supervisor to determine what drainage work is feasible at this location. Once the extent of the work is determined a source of funding for the work will have to be found.

**No. 14. NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.**

I request the passing bays on the N85 both East & West of Kilnamona Cross be upgraded to an acceptable standard

**Barry Conway, Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-**

Tenders are currently being sought for the resurfacing of a 2.8km stretch of the N85 in Kilnamona, west of Kilnamona cross. It is the intention of the Municipal District to engage the successful tenderer to carry out improvement works to these lay by areas subject to funding being made available by the TII.

Two photographs were presented clearly showing the condition of the lay by on the N85.

Members were shocked at the condition of this road and the slow pace of any remedial works by the Council. This road is the gateway to the Cliffs of Moher and the Wild Atlantic Way. Members wanted answers to the following questions:- When was funding



applied for? What paper was the tender advertised in? Were there any presentations made to the TII?

B. Conway, Executive Engineer, pointed out that while this road is under the Council's remit, the Council is reliant on funding through the TII for roads in the County. There has been a cut of 50% in funding in general under the roads budget for County Clare.

**No. 15. NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.**

I request Ennis Municipal District to upgrade the road at Hillcrest, Roslevan, as it's in poor condition presently.

**Barry Conway, Executive Engineer, replied as follows:-**

The road at Hillcrest is not on the 2016 Road Works Programme. Any routine maintenance will be carried out as required by the Ennis MD roads crews and the road will be assessed in relation to inclusion in future road works programmes.

**Any Other Business.**

- A "right of way" which has been closed at St. Senan's Road should be examined.
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

L. Cleary referred to the new Town & Village Renewal Scheme which is now in place through the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Applications are currently being sought under this scheme.

Cllr. P. Murphy proposed that The People's Park, Clarecastle, be put forward under this scheme, this was seconded by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy and agreed by members.

The meeting then concluded.

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Mayor

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Meetings Administrator

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Date