

**Minutes of the November 2017 Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting  
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2017,  
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,  
Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:**

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

**Officials:** Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Services, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer & Orla Shanagher A.S.O.

**Apologies:** Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator.

Mayor of Ennis, Cllr. Paul Murphy together with members of Ennis MD, wished to acknowledge the absence of Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator, following the death of her father Patrick Reynolds and proposed a vote of sympathy to the Reynolds family on this very sad occasion.

Members also wished to congratulate those involved in the recent success of Ennis being awarded Irelands Friendliest Town at this year’s Retail Excellence Awards. Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr. Tom McNamara and Brian McCarthy A/Director of Services, Clare County Council, accepted the Award at the Retail Excellence Awards on Saturday night in Killarney. Ennis beat off competition from Swords, Limerick City, Trim and Waterford City to claim the overall accolade. A location for the Plaque awarded to Ennis will be decided in due course. Retail outlet Willow, O’Connell Street, Ennis was placed in the top five shops in Ireland, while Bambinos was named in the top 30.

The awards ceremony marks the significant contribution being made by Ennis Municipal District, retailers, residents, and all the stakeholders involved in receiving the overall award for the town of Ennis.

Members congratulated all those associated with making Ennis the No. 1 Friendliest Town in Ireland and believe that Ennis can maximise further on its other recent successes with Fleadh Ceoil na hEireann, Coach Park Accreditation, Tidy Towns etc.

**Item No. 1. Minutes of the October Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.**

This item was proposed by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by Members.

***Matters Arising from Minutes - Update on the synchronising of Ennis traffic lights.***

E. O’Dea, S.E.E. confirmed that once the traffic lights at the Kilrush Road Cross are replaced with a new set, further works can proceed in this regard. This is a key factor in the loop which will allow the works to progress further.

Works already done on traffic lights were also acknowledged as traffic lights can now be used by trained dogs to assist their owners throughout Ennis town.

**Item No. 2. Minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting 2018 held on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.**

This item was proposed by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. J. Breen and agreed by Members.

**Item No. 3. Christmas 2017 Report.**

This item was noted by members.

Members welcomed the Christmas 2017 Report and in particular the Christmas Parking Initiative 2017 which allows free parking in public car parks from 3pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, to Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

**Item No. 4. S183 Disposal of Property – 15 Cregaun Toberteascain.**

This item was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by members.

It was further proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy and agreed by members that new owners of properties sold by Clare County Council should include the following conditions as part of the sale:-

1. A full clean up of the property and its site within one month of the close of sale.
2. The property should be maintained to a satisfactory level.
3. The property should be brought back into use.

**Item No. 5. Notices of Motion.**

**No. 1. NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn, & Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.**

Ennis Municipal District Councillors request the Chief Executive to purchase Our Lady's Hospital site as an Ennis strategic project to align with National policy and capital funding being prepared under National Planning Framework Ireland 2040 . This strategic site and the adjoining IAP site owned by Shannon Commercial Group combined is of a suitable size (40 acres in total ), zoned and well serviced with infrastructure for necessary new job creation opportunities , new housing & apartment provision and community/recreation development that Ennis and Clare needs.

**Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Services, replied as follows:-**

Following the consideration of the Notice of Motion and having considered all aspects involved, the purchase of the property does not form part of the strategic or financial objectives of Clare County Council at present.

*A lengthy discussion took place regarding the sale of Our Lady's Hospital, Ennis. Various uses were suggested for consideration as well as the maintenance of the property and the ownership of the entrance and exit to the property. It was also noted that the property and its setting is listed as a protected structure.*

*Cllr. J. Breen proposed a vote to request the Chief Executive of Clare County Council to re-consider the purchase of the property. This was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by members.*

*A vote then took place. Five members voted in favour, therefore, the vote was passed to request the Chief Executive of Clare County Council to re-consider the purchase of Our Lady's Hospital at tomorrow's auction.*

**No. 2 NOM submitted by Cllr James Breen**

I'm again asking this Council what plans they have for the development of the Post Office field in Ennis?

**Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Services, replied as follows:-**

The Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 identifies a number of Opportunity Sites in towns and villages across the county, the redevelopment of which will make a significant positive contribution to the settlements in which they are located. In Volume 3(a) of the County Development Plan, which provides the town plan for Ennis, the Post Office Field is identified as an Opportunity Site (ref. OP5).

The County Development Plan recognises that the Post Office Field is a significant natural open space asset in a strategically important location in the town centre. The Plan promotes improved pedestrian/cycle access to the field, enhancement of the important ecology of the site and the protection of the natural flood plain function of the area.

In recent months, work has been undertaken by the Planning Department to further progress the development of the Post Office Field so that it can provide a greater level of amenity to the residents of Ennis and the surrounding areas and also to visitors to the town. It is envisaged that a master plan for this significant riverside site in Ennis should be prepared. The aim of the master plan would be to

- To improve access and connectivity to the Post Office field and enhance usage and enjoyment of the Post Office Field as an amenity
- To maintain and enhance the ecological quality of the area
- To ensure that issues in relation to flood risk are incorporated into the masterplan
- To ensure that the design respects the historic built environment of the surrounding area.

*Members further discussed this Notice of Motion and some members suggested that the Post Office Field be retained as an amenity area in the town. In the current County Development Plan, it is zoned as open space and more detail will be outlined in an overall Masterplan for the area.*

**No. 3. NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy**

That explanation be provided about the decision to erect railing & gate barriers at the Rocky Road Roundabout & why one set of gates are being left permanently open since their installation.

**William Freney, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment, replied as follows:**

In early 2017, Minister Denis Naughten, T.D., Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA) launched an Anti-Dumping Initiative to identify high risk or problem areas, develop enforcement responses and carry out clean-up operations. The environment section of Clare County Council (CCC) applied for an allocation under this funding through the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) for the Rocky Road area of Ennis Town due to the highly visible nature of the illegal dumping from the N68 and N85 National roads.

This application was successful and the environment section carried out a suite of works which included a clean-up, purchasing and erecting CCTV cameras and the installation of fencing and gates for future site security post works. One set of gates is open as there are people currently residing inside them.

**No. 4. NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy**

As the impending full closure of Latoon Bridge is going to discommode a high number of road users, both local and from beyond, I am requesting that a high visibility/impact campaign of warning is carried out in advance of Clare County Council's intended period of closure from Monday, November 20th to May 28th. I am also requesting that locals are provided with "a mail drop" advising them of the likely timescale of works, and that some form of local shuttle bus service is provided to those that are in need of it.

**Ann Cronin, S.E.E. Transportation, replied as follows:-**

It is anticipated that the road closure will commence on Monday November 27<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Clare County Council will provide information regarding the works at Latoon in the local press , on the Clare Co Co website and on social media. A dedicated email address will be made available so that queries can be forwarded and replies issued.

An information leaflet will be distributed to residents along the R458 and surrounding roads within the closure area. The leaflet will describe the works, indicate the timescale and show a map of the road closure and diversion routes. It is intended that residents will receive this leaflet later this week. Local access will be available to the R458 north and south of the bridge but no access will be available through the construction site. In addition business owners along the route will also be issued with the information leaflet.

The normal notification procedures for Gardai, Emergency Services and other service providers will be undertaken.

Clare County Council will not be in a position to provide a shuttle bus in the area of the road closure.

Demolition and reconstruction of the bridge deck along with repair works to the piers and abutments is anticipated to take six months.

**No. 5. NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly**

I request the Ennis MD to investigate the possibility of purchasing the derelict site at the Buttermarket, for use as a carpark, so that we can alleviate some bit, the serious lack of parking in the town of Ennis

**Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Services, replied as follows:-**

The Ennis Municipal District will progress the resolution of this site through the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act. In terms of the purchase of the site, there are no plans to purchase the site. It is noted that further to the Ennis MD September 2017 meeting, it was agreed that a long-term sustainable traffic and mobility plan for Ennis should be commenced. It would not be advisable to purchase and develop individual areas for car-parking in Ennis in the absence of an overall traffic management and mobility plan for the town.

**No. 6 NOM Submitted by Cllr. Tom McNamara**

I call on Clare County Council to extend the footpath along the Newpark road to Our Lady,s Church in Roslevan; These works could be undertaken as part of development of the new eight unit housing scheme in Roslevan that is scheduled for completion in 2019.

**Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E, replies as follows:-**

The Municipal District Office will examine the proposed development at Bridge View and see what footpath provision is proposed and whether additional footpath provision could be included in the project subject to funding.

**No. 7. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen**

That double yellow lines be put on each side of the street at Maville Housing Estate on the Kilrush Road, Ennis

**Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E, replies as follows:-**

The concerns of the Residents at Mayville are similar to those in other housing schemes in close proximity to the town centre where the housing scheme roads are being used for long term daily parking. The roads are public roads therefore there is no specific restriction except those identified in Traffic and Parking Regulation regarding parking at entrances, adjacent to junctions and road width-single white lines. The Municipal District Office are observing the location to see what is feasible however the provision of double yellow lines will restrict parking for Residents, their visitor and members of the public. Resident parking signs have been provided previously at other locations however they rely on voluntary implementation.

**No. 8. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard**

I request a report from the relevant department or agency on the current status of the Ennis Sewage Treatment Facility.

Is the treatment primary, secondary or tertiary and what is the current capacity of the Ennis Sewage Treatment Plant and are there plans in place to increase that capacity?

**Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer Water Services, replied as follows:-**

The Members will be aware that Ennis town and environs are served from a wastewater perspective by two plants, namely Clonroadmore and Clareabbey.

Clare County Council in conjunction with Irish Water has recently completed a €7.3m upgrade to the Clonroadmore Waste Water Treatment Plant. Clonroadmore WWTP has primary, secondary and tertiary treatment available. The plant was originally constructed in the 1940's with a capacity of 5,000 PE (Population Equivalent). Following an earlier upgrade of the plant to 17,000 PE, the capacity has been further expanded to its current capacity of just over 30,000 PE. Having consulted with Irish Water, there are currently no plans for further upgrade works at the Clonroadmore plant.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant at Clareabbey is a smaller plant of 6,000 PE. This plant provides primary and secondary treatment only and services parts of the greater Ennis and Clarecastle Agglomerations. The Clareabbey Plant is being reviewed as part of the UTAS (Untreated Agglomeration Study) project which intends to deal with untreated coastal/estuarial discharges by 2021 and is one of 5 such projects proposed in Clare. Work to be done at all 5 locations including Clareabbey is currently at design stage with the exact scope of works involved yet to be determined. I will update the members when further information is to hand.

**No. 9. NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy**

That the road approaching Quin village at Quinville Hill be surfaced due to its poor condition & that EMD members be advised on when the village streets in Quin. are to be resurfaced.

**Eamon O'Dea, S.E.E, replies as follows:-**

Surfacing works are proposed on the R469 Quin Road in 2018 in the Keevagh area. There is a need for realignment works and road widening in this area, so the surfacing funding may be moved to another section of the Quin Road following consultation with the Department of Transport. The Road Design Section has submitted a proposal for traffic calming in Quin Village under the Low Cost Safety Schemes for 2018. It would not be prudent to consider significant resurfacing work in Quin Village until traffic calming, planned maintenance of the Rine Bridge and the extent of broadband works are known.

**No. 10. NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn**

Ennis Town Bus. Ennis Municipal District Councillors request Clare County Council to urgently seek the National Transport Agency (NTA) to plan to provide for the first time a bus service in Ennis as the NTA are currently in the process of doing similarly for rural towns of Carlow, Mullingar and Letterkenny.

**Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Services, replied as follows:-**

Clare County Council is interested in working with a local group proposing such a project together with state supported agencies, in order to achieve the objectives as set out in the Clare County development plan 2017-2023 and the rural development strategy.

*Members welcomed this Notice of Motion and suggested that it should be an Ennis Municipal District bus service. This would be particularly welcomed in light of the current drink driving laws.*

**No. 11. NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly**

I call on the Ennis MD to give an update on the proposed works to facilitate the change of use of the property adjacent to Summerhill Vets on the Clare Road, particularly with the right of way to residents and businesses in the laneway.

**Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Services, replied as follows:-**

A planning application was received under Pl. Ref 17/696 to carry out works to the laneway adjoining the above property. This included for the realignment of the laneway, the provision of car parking and the demolition of existing cottages. As of date of writing This application was under determination and as such it would be inappropriate to comment.

**Item No. 6. Correspondence**

- Letter to Dept. of Env from Brian McCarthy (06/11/17) seeking funding for unfinished estates in County Clare, in response to issues raised by the members at the October, 2017, meeting.

**Item No. 7. Any Other Business.**

- Update on Clare Abbey Roundabout – The Road Design Office is currently commencing work on a design and feasibility study for an off road cycle/walk way on the West side of the roundabout. This will then be submitted to the T.I.I. for approval.
- Once the new library is in place in Glor grounds, the Members suggested that the old library in Harmony Row should be retained by Clare County Council for cultural use.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meetings Administrator

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