

**Minutes of the January 2018 Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held
at 10.30am on Tuesday 9th January, 2018,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

Councillors: J. Breen, 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, Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator, Bernie Haugh, Incoming Meetings Administrator & Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy

Item No. 1. Minutes of the December Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee held on 13th December, 2017.

This item was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by Members following a slight amendment to bullet point 4 in Any Other Business with the insertion of “following on from the completion of Latoon bridge repairs”.

Item No. 2. Budget Allocations 2018.

This item, as circulated to members, was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara and agreed by members.

Members welcomed the budget allocation for 2018 and requested that the projected €100,000 extra income, due to the harmonisation of rates in the Ennis area, should be made available as funding for the Ennis Municipal District area.

Item No. 3 Notices of Motion

No. 1. NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

Ennis Environmental proposal - compounds to help get bins off the lanes & Streets. Further to my previous requests to Ennis Town Council I now ask Ennis Municipal District to provide for at least two additional Town Centre Commercial Bin storage compounds, at Lower Market and Parnel St car park, to deal with the unsightly storage of rubbish bins (some large) in the historic streets & lanes of Ennis. Particularly with Ennis seeking the National award of Tidy Town. These compounds to be similar to that provided recently at Abbey St Car park which has successfully dealt with the problem in that area.

Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Service, replied as follows:

Clare County Council’s Planning Department is undertaking a Study on the historical laneways of Ennis and also a public realm of Barrack Street. Both studies will look at public realm, public design, lighting and also pedestrian accessibility and bin storage. It

is considered appropriate to wait until the outcome of this Study prior to identifying any locations for bin storage areas.

It is clear, however, that a concerted effort working in collaboration with business owners, traders and Clare County Council is required to address this issue.

Members noted that this issue is ongoing for a number of years and even though numerous requests have been made to progress a resolution, this has not happened. The Abbey Street bin storage compound is very successful and members considered this model could be expanded to the other locations as requested.

No. 2. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

In order to eliminate traffic congestion in the centre of Ennis, I am proposing that a link road be provided between the Friary car park and the Temple gate car park and Dunnes car park.

Eamon O’Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The Clare County Development Plan 2017 to 2023, Ennis Settlement Plan Map identifies an infrastructural safeguard between the Friary Car park and the Friars Walk Car park (Museum). There is no infrastructural Safeguard in place between the private Dunnes Stores Car park and the Friar’s Walk Car park. The Clare County Development Plan identifies in the section relating to the Friary Car park that “a possible link to the Temple Gate Car Park will all be subject to a detailed design brief and appropriate consent process” Any proposal would have to take consideration of the Strategic Aims for Travel and Mobility in the Town.

Progressing further works on the link at this location should proceed following careful consideration after a new Mobility Management Plan for the Town and its immediate environs has been completed.

E. O’Dea further outlined that this work could be done as part of another project and under an overall plan for the area.

No. 3. NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

I request Ennis Municipal District to erect a sign “No Dumping” at Claureen cul de sac Green (adjacent to the junction where Cusack Road meets up with Cloughleigh Road), particularly as there has been regular dumping on this green in the past.

Eamon O’Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows

The MD Office will arrange with the Environment Section of the Council for the installation of the “No Dumping” sign at Claureen Drive.

No. 4. NOM submitted by Cllr. Tom McNamara was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

I call on Clare County Council to carry out necessary drainage works to relieve the ongoing problem of water accumulating in front of the driveways of the houses on the right hand side of the road immediately outside the new roundabout on the Tulla Road.

Eamon O’Dea, S.E.E., replied as follows:-

The drainage is working at this location and the shape of the existing road and footpath surfaces are causing small areas of shallow ponding to occur on the road edge and the

footpath. These locations will be dealt with when this section of road is being resurfaced or the footpaths are being upgraded.

Members wished to acknowledge the work done by E.O'Dea, S.E.E., and his team, on flood prevention throughout the entire town to date.

No. 5. NOM submitted by Cllr. Ann Norton was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

Can Clare County Council cut the grass and hedges North of Barefield Village around the fly over as most of the farmers have done there bit.

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

The MD Office will examine the locations and make arrangements for hedge trimming verge cutting. There are locations of Japanese Knotweed growth that cannot be cut until they are fully treated.

No. 6. NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton

I am proposing that Radharc na hInse, Ballybeg is taken in charge by this council.

Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, replied as follows:-

This development was recently added to our register following receipt of complaints from the residents in relation to the public lighting. The Planning Authority has not received an application from the developer for Taking in Charge nor has a request under Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) been received from the majority of the homeowners to date. The Developer is active and remains responsible for this development until taken in charge. The development will be subject to a file review & site inspection in due course.

No. 7. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

I acknowledge the recent great work in improving the road access to the carpark at Ballybeg Woods. I request that the carpark area is cleaned and appropriate bins be provided.

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

The MD Office will arrange the cleaning of the car park area however bins will not be provided at this location as provision of bins at this location would lead to inappropriate use and dumping. The appropriate action for the public using the amenity facility is to return home or to the nearest waste bin with litter.

Members wished to acknowledge works done in this area already by the Council and appealed to the public using this amenity not to litter the area.

No. 8. NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

Ennis Hub- Further to previous requests I now ask for an update on the development by Clare County Council of an "Ennis Hub " (including its functions and likely users/occupants) to compliment what's happening in Clare with; the 3 micro business Hubs currently being developed by the Council in Kilrush, Miltown & Feakle, the Shannon Group Hub, and private sector delivery of a Killaloe Hub. I would ask that in addition to micro-businesses having access to the Ennis Hub that it be expanded to be able to cater for community, Innovative and Creative sectors.

Urban Mc Mahon, H.I.S & Broadband Officer, replied as follows:-

The Business hub in Ennis is being developed as part of Clare County Councils programme for the provision of facilities where users have access to a suitable working environment combining Hot Desks and incubation units with hi-speed broadband, meeting rooms and training rooms. Other facilities include Printing, Scanning and copying as well as full audio visual. These hubs are seen as critical success factors for the implementation of County Clare Rural Development Strategy and Digital Strategy.

It is proposed that similar to the other Hubs being developed by Clare Co Council these facilities will be made available to the majority of sectors including Community, Innovative and Creative sectors. This will also include making available the meeting and training facilities to these sectors. At present a premises has been identified and negotiations regarding a suitable lease are nearing completion. It is expected that a decision on this location will be confirmed in the near future.

No. 9. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

In view of the proposed refurbishment of Barrack Square and the laneways of Ennis that an immediate step be taken to remove the rubbish bins from the laneways. This is my 5th time asking this question in the past year and a half. I am now asking for a yes or no answer and a time scale for this work to be carried out.

Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Service, replied as follows:

Clare County Council's Planning Department is undertaking a Study on the historical laneways of Ennis and also a public realm of Barrack Street. Both studies will look at public realm, public design, lighting and also pedestrian accessibility and bin storage. It is considered appropriate to wait until the outcome of this Study prior to identifying any locations for bin storage areas.

It is clear, however, that a concerted effort working in collaboration with business owners, traders and Clare County Council is required to address this issue.

As in Notice of Motion No. 1... Members noted that this issue is ongoing for a number of years and even though numerous requests have been made to progress a resolution, this has not happened. The Abbey Street bin storage compound is very successful and members considered this model could be expanded to the other locations as requested.

No. 10. NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.

I ask Ennis Municipal District to investigate the flooding situation at Greendale Estate, on the Francis Street side of Clonroad, which is occurring on a regular basis.

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

There is localised shallow ponding at this location. The ponding on the road at Greendale is caused by settlement of the housing scheme road and is similar to other location in Ennis. The rectification of the ponding on the road is to resurface this section of the housing scheme road which would be a low priority for available road funding.

No. 11. NOM submitted by Cllr. Tom McNamara was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy

Following the completion of a number of roads in the Ennis Municipal District under the Local Improvement Scheme I call on Clare County Council to take these roads in charge at the request of all the road users.

John Corry, Administrative Officer replied as follows:-

“Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 provides that where a road authority proposes to declare a road as a public road it must satisfy itself that the road is of general public utility and consider the financial implication of the proposed declaration for the Road Authority. The provisions in Section 11 apply to routes over which a public right of way exists and where it is considered desirable to declare such routes as public roads. Any proposals for taking in charge private roads must be considered under Clare Co Councils policy for Taking in Charge Private Roads”

The Taking In Charge Policy for private roads was circulated to members and the application process outlined.

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

Can Clare County Council look at the visibility at putting in an attraction to bring people into the town centre at Christmas similar to Eyre Square and Limerick.

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

Following the success of the events over Christmas 2017 in Ennis, the examination of putting in an attraction to bring people to the town centre next Christmas as set out in the notice of motion would be of benefit.

In that regard, Ennis Municipal District, over the next couple of months, will be liaising with Ennis Chamber and other interested parties to plan for events for Christmas 2018.

No. 13. NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

I am proposing that sections of Drumcliffe graveyard are named and that appropriate directional signage is erected as a means of helping visitors to find graves in an easier fashion.

Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer replied as follows:-

The Council welcomes this motion and will investigate the possibility of erecting directional signage as proposed and an appropriate naming of the relevant sections of the burial ground. The burial grounds unit of the Council will report back to the Municipal District on this proposal at their next meeting in February.

Members welcomed the proposal and positive response and agreed that it has been difficult for family members and visitors to find graves particularly since the expansion of Drumcliffe Burial Ground. It was suggested that rather than introducing signage, that the planting of native Irish Trees would serve as an identifier for areas of the graveyard and assist the public in locating graves. Members congratulated Flan Hehir and the Clare Roots Society for all their work to date in this regard. Members also expressed their concern in relation to the fact that there is only a part-time caretaker for Drumcliffe Burial Ground and requested that this role should be increased to a full time position.

B. McCarthy, A/Director of Services, acknowledged the work already done on this matter and wished to endorse the comments. He also agreed to recommend these proposals to the Director of Rural Development.

No. 14. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

2017 was a hugely successful year for the town of Ennis. As a correlation of Ennis being awarded Ireland's Friendliest Place I suggest we along with the Ennis Chamber consider an annual friendliness award for staff working in the retail, service and hospitality sector.

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

The awarding of Ennis as Ireland's friendliest place was a collaboration by Clare County Council, Retail Excellence Ireland, Ennis Chamber and the traders of Ennis. The award recognised and rewarded a number of retail outlets in Ennis town for their commitment to meeting and exceeding customer expectations as well as in-store and in service delivery.

In relation to the suggestion that an award would take place regarding individual staff in the hospitality sector, it may be appropriate that such an initiative would be run by Ennis Chamber or Retail Excellence Ireland.

Members also referred to a similar Initiative in 2011 called "Create the Magic" where 25 Ennis businesses participated and created hugely positive publicity at the time.

Item No. 4. Munster Fleadh – Comhaltas Presentation.

Members welcomed speakers from Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan, as follows:-

- Joe Arkins, Cathaoirleach, Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan*
- Tadhg O' Maolchatha, Cathaoirleach, Comhairle na Mumhan*
- Mícheál Ó Riabhaigh, Leas Chathaoirleach. Fleadh Cheoil na Mumhan*

A detailed presentation was given by Munster Fleadh Committee on the upcoming Munster Fleadh Competitions in Ennis from July 15th to July 22nd, 2018.

Members of Ennis MD congratulated each speaker on their detailed and excellent presentation. It is now much clearer what is planned and while there are two key elements to the Munster Fleadh i.e. Competition Element and the Festival Element, the objective is to bring a further Festival Element back to Ennis town centre in order to continue the goodwill following on from the success of Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann. The use of Ennis Market building by Fleadh TV in 2017 was acknowledged and it is hoped that this year's programme will further utilise this area. Members wished the Munster Fleadh Committee success in their plans for July 2018.

Clare County Council has already committed to financial support of €25,000 towards the Munster Fleadh, however, it was hoped that further funding would be made available from the Municipal District of Ennis. This will be considered by members.

Item No. 5. Correspondence.

None

Item No. 6. Any Other Business.

- The O’Dea Clan gathering will be held in May 2018 in the Buttermarket Building, Drumbiggle and will be supported by the Mayor of Ennis.
- The Delegation travelling to Phoenix from Ennis in April, 2018, as part of the 30th Anniversary Twinning Link Celebrations, should try and include a visit to Phoenix University.
- Following the recent success of Ennis in winning the cleanest town in the IBAL awards, which includes €40,000 towards a project, some members suggested the redevelopment of The Height area as part of any plans.
- Members acknowledged the work of Council Staff during recent weather events and in particular Barry Conway E.E., for his prompt attention and assistance especially during the Christmas holidays.
- Members acknowledged that this was Ann Reynolds, Meetings Administrator, final meeting with Ennis MD. They wished to thank her for her work over the last 18 months. Members also wished her success in her new role as Business Review Leader with Clare County Council.
- Bernie Haugh, Incoming Meetings Administrator, was welcomed to her new role and was also wished success in this remit.
- Ann Reynolds thanked members for their sentiments and very much enjoyed working with Ennis MD over the last year and a half.
- Members were reminded that Carmody’s Hotel Book launch is to take place on Sunday 14th January next.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis.

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____