

**Minutes of the March 2018 Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 13th March, 2018,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

Councillors: J. Breen, C. Colleran Molloy, P. Murphy, M. Howard, P. Daly, A. Norton & J. Flynn.

Officials: Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Services, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, Bernie Haugh, Meetings Administrator and Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. Tom McNamara, Mayor of Clare, who is away on official Council business.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the February Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee held on 13th February, 2018.

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

Item No. 2. Budget Allocations

Cllr. J Flynn queried his presence during proposed allocations under Festival and Events considering the fact he is a committee member of some committees involved and asked B. McCarthy, Acting Director of Service, if he was of the same opinion as the previous Director of Service had advised him that there was no conflict in this instance as he does not directly benefit financially from his involvement nor hold an officer position. The Director agreed with advice previously given.

The Budget Allocations, as circulated, were proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy and agreed by members.

Item No. 3. Report on the distribution of the IPBMI Dividend.

Members welcomed this report and complimented Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy on her work as the Council’s representative on this Committee. Members queried the breakdown of the €2.371m funds available as they were concerned that they had only just received the breakdown detail at the meeting. Members had envisaged more consultation on the figures and felt that they had not adequate time to consider the report.

Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy requested consultation with the Members regarding the works to be addressed from the footpath improvement fund of €50k from the General Municipal District Allocation for 2018.

It was then confirmed to members that an email had indeed issued from the Administrative Officer, Roads Dept., on the 21st February, 2018, outlining the breakdown of the monies involved. At the request of the members, Tom Tiernan then

clarified the breakdown of the figures involved. Members of Ennis MD welcomed the clarification and details outlined.

This item was then proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy and adopted by members.

Cllr. James Breen did not support the adoption of this item.

Item No. 4. Schedule of Municipal District Works 2018.

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer outlined in detail the individual allocations under the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2018 as circulated to members. There is a significant increase in the budget over the last few years which is especially welcome due to the significant damage to the roads following recent weather events.

Members welcomed the increase in funding and in particular the new grant under Drainage which will also have a positive impact on the road network.

The Members raised queries regarding parts of the programme of works and these queries were responded to by the Senior Engineer and the Senior Executive Engineer who confirmed that works would be carried out on Abbey Street and at the Kilrush Road Cross as part of the works programme.

Cllr. J. Breen proposed the adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2018, Cllr. J. Flynn seconded this item and it was adopted by Members.

Item No. 5. Ennis Town Centre Health Check Report January, 2018.

Brian McCarthy, A/Director of Services, gave a very informative presentation on this report which had been circulated to members. The basis for the report was a survey carried out by the Planning Dept. of Clare County Council, with the people of Ennis on various trends and activities in Ennis Town Centre.

Members congratulated Brian McCarthy and the staff of the Planning Dept. and welcomed the evidence based report. Ennis has won a number of awards recently which echoes the information in this report. The report itself is very impressive and of excellent quality which highlights Ennis as a vibrant mediaeval town. There is very valuable information in the booklet which can be utilised going forward.

Members queried the following in relation to the Report:-

- *If disability groups were considered as part of the report.*
- *A traffic survey was raised as being important to get a more complete picture.*
- *Option to pedestrianise the streets.*
- *Parking was raised and in particular the amount of employees using parking spaces which could be used by visitors and shoppers in the town.*
- *The possibility of vacant commercial premises being converted into residential homes.*

B. McCarthy, A/DOS, acknowledged the concerns raised by members. There is a lot of work going on and considerable improvements have been made over the last number of years. The same methodology was used in this report as in other similar towns nationwide for this particular type of survey. Further funding could be sought to assist

in some of the suggestions from members but overall the majority of the public looked positively on Ennis.

Item No. 6. Declaration of Public Roads regarding the following developments:

- **Cluain Ard/Cluain Iseal, Kilmaley**

This item was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by members.

- **Gort na mBláth, Rathbán and Lios Ard, Tulla Road, Ennis**

This item was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by members.

Item No. 7. Notices of Motion

No. 1. NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

I request Ennis Municipal District to consider giving access to the Lee's Road facility to the 6 Bungalows on the Fountain Road adjacent to the facility, through the existing gate beside their homes (A former Town Clerk promised them same).

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

The general principle of enhancing public pedestrian connectivity between Lee's Road Sports and Amenity Park and the surrounding area is a worthy suggestion. In order to make a full and complete assessment of the implications however, issues such as to the management of public access to/from Fountain Road and associated traffic safety and residential amenity considerations must be investigated and clarified. In addition, more detailed issues such as the implications of managing an additional entrance to the facility, insurance requirements, maintenance and rights of way need to be researched. Ennis MD together with Active Ennis Lees Road will investigate these issues over the coming weeks and revert to the Elected Members.

No. 2. NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

In light of serious road safety concerns, particularly around the Tulla Road itself, as expressed by the large number of signatures on petitions I have recently lodged to Ennis Municipal District Executive I ask that the 2018 Ennis District Roads programme would prioritise safety works on junctions, footpaths, provision of bus stop, road signage, etc on the main Tulla Road and side roads in the area. In addition to the original resident population there has been an explosion of housing developments in the Roslevan area over the last two decades which when added to by large traffic generated by the M18 link via Tulla Road to and from Ennis Town, Clare Mart and Quin Road Business Park has resulted in concerns among Roslevan residents around proper road infrastructure needed for their community to have safe access by car, cycle or on foot to schools , church , shops , community halls , neighbours, etc.

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

The Ennis MD Office correctly deferred footpath works on the Tulla Road as these footpaths are being excavated to provide broadband infrastructure to the area. Footpaths requiring upgrading on the Tulla Road are included in the MDWP. The junction signs and road markings were checked in the area and the small number of

missing or damaged signs and road markings will be replaced. It should be noted that advance side road warning signs are not provided in urban areas.

The Ennis MD Office is aware of new footpath infrastructure that is required on Millstream Road (Fahy Hall Road), Gaurus Road/Newpark Road and Ballymacahill Road. A section of this footpath will be provided in the proposed housing development at this location and the Ennis MD Office will be bringing proposal for footpaths in the Millstream Road area to the Councillors later this year.

The Ennis MD Office expects that broadband and other infrastructure work will be completed on the Tulla Road between the Lifford Road and Cappahard Roundabout and pavement surfacing works will be carried out in this area from funding provided from Road Opening Licence Fees.

No. 3. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

I request that the footpaths in both Fergus Park and Ashfield Park be repaired and maintained as a matter of urgency. The footpaths in both of these areas are not safe, the paths are sunken, uneven and covered in moss in places.

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

The footpaths in Fergus Park are in good structural condition and may require surface treatment at some locations. The Ennis MD are awaiting final confirmation from broadband contractors as to their work proposals in Ashfield Park before any decision is made on repair or replacement of footpaths.

No. 4. NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

That the Road Markings requested some time back for the Ballyhannon bends be applied to alert motorists to slow down.

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

The Municipal District will provide additional signs at this location. The use of road centerline markings is restricted by the road width at this location.

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

I would like the Ennis municipal district to present a schedule of works that will be undertaken in the next year in order to make sure the public are aware of road works and disruptions around the municipal District.

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

The Municipal District Works Programme will require works to be carried out at various locations in the District. The road structural works will commence once weather conditions permits and are generally completed by September. The larger asphalt overlay works have to be tendered and works scheduled to suit both the Council and the Contractor.

The Ennis South Flood Scheme was approved and will be proceeding to construction this Spring and when the construction programme is agreed, the Councillors will be informed of the scheduling of the works.

The Broadband works in the Ennis MD (Ennis Town) is nearing completion and most of SIRO & Eir work is completed and Virgin Media has road opening licences for three areas (Area 1 Highfield Park-Elm Park-Drumcliff Road, Area 2 Westbourne-Watery Road- College Rd-Sandfield Park, Area 3 Rosanore, Marion Avenue-New Road-Newbridge Road-Harmony Row). The Councillors will be informed of other works once the MD Office has confirmation from the broadband provider.

CBS Primary School and Gael Colaiste at the Community School are expected to proceed this Spring/Summer

Irish Water have not indicated that major works will be carried out in the Ennis MD however we are anticipating that a road opening licence application for site investigation on the R458 between Clarecastle Pumping Station on Quay Road and Clareabbey will be submitted in Spring.

No. 6. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

I ask Ennis MD for a flooding report at Claureen, Ennis

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

The Ennis MD Office will be forwarding details of the existing drainage and flood defences at Woodgrove, Shallee Drive, Shallee Park to the Transport Section so as a Hydrologists report can be procured to define the flood defence works, design levels and outline cost benefit for a flood scheme. Once this is established the detailed design, planning permission will be sought and the scheme will be forwarded to the OPW for approval under the Minor Flood Scheme Funding. The Ennis MD will have the details forwarded to the Transport Section before the end of March.

No. 7. NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

I am calling for an overhaul/upgrade of the existing traffic lighting and pedestrian crossing system at the junction of the Kilrush road/Carmody street/Market street in Ennis, to include overlay of road surface on all four exit arms of the junction. Also, that serious consideration be given to installing a push button crossing from Drumbiggle road (Kenny's Bar) to Gauraunakilla.

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

A number of notices of motions have been received regarding the traffic lights at the Kilrush Road Cross. The MD Office has deferred works at this location last year as we were trying to co-ordinate our work with broadband and power supply networks ducting work. We will be proceeding with works as soon as the work can be procured. It is intended that Carmody Street from Darcy's Corner to Kenny's & Market Street will be surfaced on completion of the ducting works as part of the asphalt surfacing contract in this year's works programme.

The pedestrian crossing on Carmody Street was submitted in the list of low cost safety projects to the Department of Transport however no funding was received for the project. Funding was provided for work on St Flannan's Drive from the R458 Clare Road to the R475 Kilrush Road and for work at Kilmaley Post Office Cross. The MD Office will progress the design of the pedestrian crossing at Carmody Street and seek funding for the work.

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

I ask Ennis Municipal District to provide adequate signage on the Shanaway Road indicating the location of Kilnacally & to upgrade footpaths at Kilnacally to link to Shanaway Road. (This road is widely used due to the facility of the G.A.A).

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

The MD Office will clear off the moss from the footpaths and carry out necessary repairs to the footpaths at this location. The Council will provide a road number and location sign at the entrance. There is an existing Banner GAA Club sign at the junction with Shanaway Road.

No. 9. NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

That Ennis Municipal District request that Clare County Council urgently engage consultants to prepare a scheme to provide a minimum of 1,000 additional public car parking spaces in Ennis Town Centre by 2020 in light of following ;

(a) The recommendation from the 2007 Ennis Town Council (ETC) commissioned expert report on “ Car Parking in Ennis 2008-2018 “ which stated that “Projections of parking requirements under two scenarios show a requirement for between 830 and 1,050 additional spaces in the town Centre by 2018 “

(b) The obligation to spend the €1,284,208.62 collected during the period 2003 to 2008 from the private sector by Ennis Town Council to provide 510 public car parking spaces under the then statutory Ennis Development Plan. That policy provided that where planning applicants could not provide the necessary on-site parking at town Centre developments that the Council would charge €2500 special capital contribution for each space , that was short to meet the planning standard , that the Planning Authority was to subsequently provide those spaces.

(c) the annual commercial rate increase of over 11% by Clare County Council have placed on Ennis businesses since 2014.

(d) the findings of the REI survey of Ireland’s top 100 cities and towns.

(e) this significant loss on public car parking spaces in Ennis Town Centre since the 2007 commissioned report due to various public projects by the Local Authority.

(f) the findings of the Clare County Council and Ennis Town Council commissioned 2003 “Ennis Town Centre Concept Plan “ prepared by Colin Buchanan and Partners in conjunction with the preparation of the “Ennis and Environs Development Plan 2003” . The May 2003 draft of that Concept Plan at p22 stated that “a car park study has been undertaken by the council which has concluded the town Centre is currently operating at under-capacity in the region of 1000 spaces.”

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

Presently a tender for an overall traffic and mobility management plan for Ennis is under preparation which will investigate, on evidence based approach, the mobility requirements of the existing and future development of Ennis whilst also looking at patterns of development and trip generators. It is anticipated that any such plan would look not only at parking requirements in terms of number and location across the town, but all forms of pedestrian, cycle and others forms of transport in a holistic and sustainable manner using up to date data. As indicated currently a brief and scope is

under preparation to inform the seeking of any such consultants and it is respectfully considered this is the optimal approach to addressing the issues raised in this Notice of Motion.

Members further discussed this Notice of Motion and requested a Briefing on the issue of Parking ahead of the next monthly meeting of Ennis M.D. Progress needs to be made on these key issues but we need to look at the entire town. A traffic and mobility plan should be agreed for the entire town.

No. 10. NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly (if sponsored)

I request that Ennis Municipal District Council investigate the possibility of dyeing the River Fergus green for the St Patrick's Day celebrations of 2019, as I realise it is a short lead in time to the 2018 celebrations.

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

The river is a Special Area of Conservation and any proposal would require approval by NPWS and Fisheries. The cost of this proposal would be based on two items (a) the system that would be required to discharge the dye in a uniform way over the width of the river and (b) the cost of the dye materials which would be dependent on river flow. A basic cost estimate for item (b) would be a river flow of 10 cumetres per second (very moderate flow for March) which is 36,000 cumetres per hour which would require 36kgs of dye (light green colour) at estimate cost of €83 per kg. This would be an hourly estimate cost of €2,988 for the dye alone. A more significant flow in the river would require a multiple of this cost per hour.

Members further discussed this Notice of Motion and agreed that it should not be supported at this time. There are elements that need to be considered in greater detail with other agencies involved in this matter as was outlined in the response from the Senior Executive Engineer, Eamon O'Dea.

No. 11. NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

That a footpath and a light pole be investigated and costed on the Tulla Road, opposite Clooney Church to run from the Petrol Station and Shop to the Garage to the first turn off to the left.

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

The public lighting on the R352 was inspected and the following improvements are recommended. (a) Change the existing light standard beside the R352 and church car park area with a higher level double head LED light standard (b) Provide a lighting unit on the existing ESB pole within the car park area. This might be considered by the Councillors from Ennis MD funds in 2018. The estimate cost is €2,000.

The distance from the junction of the L4074-R352 to the petrol station-local shop is 430m. The Ennis MD Office will draft a footpath layout for this small village at Clooney for submission to the planning section. A means of funding the provision of new footpaths at clusters (e.g. Doorra), small villages (e.g. Clooney) and villages (e.g. Barefield) needs to be sourced.

No. 12. NOM submitted by Cllr. Ann Norton was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

Can we have an update on the window and door replacement schemes for the Ennis municipal area for council tenants?

Siobhan McNulty, S.E.O. Housing replied as follows:

The Council is to commence an entire housing stock condition survey in 2018 which is the first phase of the planned maintenance project. In this regard a loan of €10 million has been sanctioned by the Members for drawdown for planned maintenance works on the entire local authority stock over the next 5 years. The stock condition survey will provide a full picture of the condition of the Council's housing assets; this condition survey will inform a cost plan for priority works to upgrading the housing stock over the next 5 years.

In parallel the Council has applied for SEAI part funding the energy efficiency upgrade of 40 dwellings, located in Ennis and Kilrush, with solid/hollow block wall construction. This programme will see the replacement of windows and door for this older stock in order to achieve the energy reduction target set for funding under this scheme.

Aside from the above schemes and due to funding constraints the Council can only address reported window and door defects on a case by case basis.

No. 13. NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

I ask Ennis MD to take steps to eliminate water logging outside Kevin Keane's house and Mark One betting office, Turnpike Road, Ennis

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

Cllr Breen has brought this location to our attention last year and the MD Office has not been in a position to rectify the problem to date. Readjustment of the road levels at this location to eliminate the water logging may cause drainage problems elsewhere. There is an existing gully on the opposite side of the road and provision of a new gully on the businesses side of the road should provide a solution to the problem.

No. 14 NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

I am requesting an update as to the current status of proposed traffic calming at Clareabbey Roundabout and a likely anticipated timescale for construction/implementation of same.

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:

Design work is ongoing and should be ready in draft format to present to TII for its consideration within 2 weeks. Once agreed with TII, it would be our intention to seek formal planning approval for the proposal – following which we would seek to have construction implemented as soon as possible thereafter – this would depend on confirmation from TII when the required funding would be made available. It is likely that the construction works would be implemented under direct control of TII by its Motorway Maintenance contractor as the Clareabbey Roundabout is within its jurisdiction.

Item No. 8. Correspondence

- Email correspondence from Mayor Dr. Helmut Steiniger, Mayor of Landau, Germany.

An email had been received by the Mayor of Ennis to advise that the Mayor of Landau would be visiting Ennis in early May 2018. This included a request to meet some members of Ennis Municipal District to exchange greetings.

This item was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and it was agreed by members to support a reception in this regard.

Item No. 9. Any other Business

- *Members welcomed the recent news that the final phase of the Ennis Flood Relief Scheme would go ahead. This announcement had been made by Minister Kevin Boxer Moran on his recent visit to Ennis.*
- *St. Patrick's Day Parade – Mayor of Ennis, Cllr. P. Murphy, reminded the meeting that the Ennis St. Patrick's Day Parade was on Saturday 17th of March, 2018, and that John Burke of the Elevate foundation was the Grand Marshall. It is important to support mental health awareness and all the agencies involved in this cause throughout County Clare.*
- *Springfest – Ennis Market is hosting “Springfest” on St. Patrick's Day which is an event supported by Ennis M.D. to increase footfall to the Market area of Ennis while there is a large crowd in the town.*
- *Members wished to support a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Pierce Lyons RIP who was instrumental in facilitating the visit of Mohammad Ali to Ennis in 2009.*
- *Cllr. J. Flynn wished to advise the meeting of a personal payment in the amount of €851 for kerbs laid at his property during works by Virgin Media at this location. A receipt in the amount of €851.00 was handed to the meetings administrator.*

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____