

**Minutes of the March 2019 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee,
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 5th March, 2019,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare**

Present:

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

Officials: Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Bernie Haugh, Administrative Officer, John Corry, Administrative Officer, John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Tommy Scott, Senior Ex. Technician, Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Liam Brett, Senior Executive Engineer, Eugene Crimmins, Staff Officer, and Sinead Armstrong Lynch, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the February 2019 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held on 12th February, 2019

At the outset of the meeting Cllr. J. Flynn, sought two amendments to the minutes of the February meeting as follows.

No.14 NOM

Insertion of "Cllr J. Flynn withdrew from the meeting while this topic was discussed due to a potential conflict of interest."

Item No. 8 Any Other Business

Coach Friendly Accreditation

To read "Members noted the recent Coach Tourism & Transport Council of Ireland (CTTC) Conference which took place in Ennis recently. Cllr Johnny Flynn requested that directional signage to the coach park at friars walk be provided as per the recommendations of the CTTC, as these signs are a requirement prior to the renewal inspection in August 2019 by the CCTC."

Item No. 2. Matters Arising

Drumcliffe Graveyard

The Meetings Administrator read a response to the Notice of Motion No. 8 raised at the February 2019 meeting by Cllr. J. Breen with regard to caretaker at Drumcliffe graveyard.

Members rejected the response and requested that the matter be reconsidered. The Director agreed to revert to the Rural Development Directorate with the Members concerns seeking a further review of the matter.

St Senan's Road & Kincora Park

The Members welcomed residents of St Senan's Road and Kincora Park to the public gallery.

Cllr. J. Flynn noted that 158 residents had signed a petition to have a traffic management plan put in place during large GAA matches, due to the negative effect on adjacent residential estates as a result of illegal parking and through traffic using estates as a short cut during match days.

Cllr. M. Howard supported Cllr J. Flynn and noted that funerals at St. Joseph's Hospital had a similar impact on the area and queried if additional parking could be looked at and/or raised kerb heights to dissuade parking on the grass.

Knockanean School

Members queried if there was an update on the upgrade works required to the road at Knockanean School in order for them to apply for planning permission?

The Director advised she would revert with an update to the Members in advance of the April meeting

Right of Way between St Anne's School and Corrovorrin

Cllr. J. Flynn queried if there was an update from the Co Solicitor in respect of the right of way from St Anne's School.

The Director advised she would revert with an update to the Members in advance of the April meeting

Gort Leamhan Housing Estate

Cllr M. Howard voiced her concern in regards to the poor road surface at Gort Leamhan and queried when was the last update from IBRC received by the Planning Department in respect of the claim on the bond?

Cllr J. Flynn withdrew from the meeting while this topic was discussed due to a potential conflict of interest.

In response to the Matters Arising from the members the Director noted that due to unforeseen circumstances there was no Senior Executive Engineer available to attend today's meeting and she undertook to revert to the Members on all the issues raised, in advance of the April meeting.

Item No. 3. Presentation of the Schedule of Municipal District Works

Proposed by Cllr A. Norton seconded by Cllr M. Howard and agreed by the Members.

Item No. 4. Public Realm Improvements to Parnell Street and the laneways

Proposed by Cllr T. McNamara seconded by Cllr A. Norton and agreed by the Members.

It was agreed by the Elected Members to support the Part 8 application for the Public Realm Improvements to Parnell Street and the laneways with two conditions attached:

- *Vehicular access from Fahy's Lane, Parnell Street through Riverlane onto Summerhill not be impeded and will continue as is;*
- *Concerns in relation to the removal and replacing of current street signage to be considered at the detailed design stage.*

Item No. 5. Section 183 for Mill House

Proposed by Cllr C. Collieran Molloy seconded by Cllr M. Howard and agreed by the Members.

Item No. 6. Declaration of Public roads regarding Haggart View, Creggaunahilla, Clarecastle

Proposed by Cllr P. Murphy seconded by Cllr M. Howard and agreed by the Members.

Item No. 7. Proposed Taking in Charge of:

- Lane at Ashline, Kilrush Road

Proposed by Cllr J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr A. Norton and agreed by the Members.

- Islandmcgrath, Clarecastle

The members requested to postpone this item relating to the Taking Charge of Islandmcgrath, Clarecastle until the April meeting.

Item No. 8. Notices of Motion

No. 1 NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard

Can I have an update on the defibrillator that I had put a motion in about a year ago to see was it possible to get them running in a proper and safely managed. There was communication to be had with the Civil Defence and the Red Cross.

Leonore O'Neill, SEO replied as follows:

This Notice of Motion was originally raised in February 2018 and the response that issued outlined that the Ennis Defibrillator Committee was formed in 2012, consisting of representatives from Ennis Chamber, Clare Branch of the Irish Red Cross, local sports clubs, and individual members of the public and business people, however this committee is no longer in existence. The response highlighted the care and maintenance program required to service these devices regularly which is essential to ensure they are available for use when required. It was respectfully suggested that this matter should be raised via the HSE West Health Forum to bring the matter to the HSE for its

consideration as it is the most appropriate agency for assuming responsibility for the devices. Ennis MD also contacted the HSE who advised that the responsibility for defibrillators was not within their remit.

Ennis MD understands that a new Committee has since been established consisting of the Civil Defence, HSE and the Clare Branch of the Irish Red Cross to address this issue and you will be aware that on 4th December 2018, €5000 has been provided by the Members of Ennis Municipal District to support the specific project put forward by Cllr. Mary Howard to fund the purchase of two AED machines and associated training. A further update will be provided to the Members as matter progress.”

No. 2 NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

I request that Ennis Municipal District engineering department co-ordinate and assist property/business owners with repair and cleaning of gutters and downpipes along the streets and lanes of Ennis town centre

Barry Conway A/SEE replied as follows:

If there is a coordinated approach taken by the property owners of the town to address the issues associated with defective guttering & downpipes, some practical assistance will be forthcoming from the MD technical staff, subject to resources being available at the time.

No. 3 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

That consideration is given to addressing safety concerns at the junction of the Lissane and Claremount roads in Clarecastle. This could be addressed with rumble strips and a VMS "STOP" sign in advance of the junction.

Barry Conway A/SEE replied as follows:

In recent weeks shrubbery at this junction has been removed which may have been impeding the view of the STOP signage. In addition to this, line marking contractors have been engaged to supplement existing markings with additional cautionary markings. On completion of these works the area will continue to be monitored by the MD and the use of a VMS sign may be considered if deemed necessary. The use of rumble strips is generally not considered in a residential due to the noise they generate.

No. 4 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

That Clare County Council proceed with preparing plans to install traffic lights and controlled pedestrian crossings at Corrovorrin Junction.

Barry Conway A/SEE replied as follows:

As you are aware the junction at Corrovorrin was raised under matters arising at the February meeting and the Members were advised that the preferred option would be a signal light solution. A draft design proposal will be prepared and brought to the stakeholders in the area for consultation when completed. Since the February meeting initial contact has been made with an Agent representing the business owner at this location and further consultation will ensue.

The Director advised that consultation on an outline proposal will take place with the business at this junction. Cllr J. Flynn advised that he would be happy to assist with any consultation with the business owner.

No. 5 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

The restoration works at Gigs Forges at Fountain, Ennis, that Clare County Council provide a public light.

John Corry AO replied as follows:

A contract is being developed in 2019 for LED rollout in 2020. Some additional public lights may be considered under the contract. We will keep them under review in 2019 as funding becomes available

The Director, welcomed the works done and commended the voluntary effort by the community at Gigs Forge and committed to have this location prioritised on the schedule of public lighting works, which is currently being prepared.

No. 6 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard

That the Ennis Municipal District members, the Council Executive and the Local Comhaltas work on a proposal to secure the Fleadh Cheol na hEireann for Ennis within the next 5 years.

This Notice of Motion was unanimously welcomed and agreed by the Members. The Council Executive was requested to give consideration to same.

No. 7 NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

That the provision of public lighting be costed and resourced for Ballyhannon, Quin in light of the density of the housing in the area and the recent experience with burglaries.

John Corry AO replied as follows:

A contract is being developed in 2019 for LED rollout in 2020. Some additional public lights may be considered under the contract. We will keep them under review in 2019 as funding becomes available.

Cllr C. Colleran Molloy raised concerns regarding the glare from LED street lights which is currently being rolled out in towns and asked if an alternative less glaring option could be considered in residential areas?

The Director committed to having this location included on the schedule of public lighting works, which is currently being prepared and agreed to raise Cllr C. Colleran Molloy concerns regarding the LED's.

No. 8 NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. J. Breen

Can the road section of Ennis MD look at resurfacing the road between Durra crossroads to drum gloom cross Barefield.

Barry Conway A/SEE replied as follows:

The L-8122-11 as described is included in the 2019 Restoration Improvement schedule of works.

No. 9 NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton

In light of recent serious collisions on the Limerick Road at St Flannan's College, I demand a pedestrian crossing be provided midway between Captain Mac's Cross and the Roundabout at Lynch's Joinery.

Barry Conway A/SEE replied as follows:

The MD will assess this location to determine the requirement for a pedestrian crossing. Currently on the western side of the road referred to, the only access to the footpath is the pedestrian entrance to St. Flannans College which is catered for by the pedestrian crossing at Captain Mac's junction. There are currently three pedestrian crossings funded in this year's draft schedule of works in the district - Ballymacahill, Carmody Street and St. Flannans Drive.

The Members discussed this item at length and raised concerns associated with the large numbers of students attempting to cross a busy artery road to nearby shops/food courts. The members requested that an additional controlled crossing be considered at this location which would be timed to operate a busy school times during the day i.e. morning, lunchtime and after school.

The Director committed to raise the issue with the Road Design Team, requesting that they look at the requirement for an additional controlled crossing and at the overall safety of the area taking account of both pedestrians and motorists.

No. 10 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

That Ennis Municipal District call on Transport Infrastructure Ireland to rectify the anomaly that is the lack of adequate signage for Clarecastle along the N85 Motorway, particularly on the approach to the Dromoland/Quin exit as one travels Northbound.

No response required.

The Members requested that Ennis MD write to the TII with regard to the inclusion of Clarecastle on the Junction 11 exit signage.

No. 11 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly

I ask for a report on the failure to spend dedicated budgets of circa €50,000 since 2014 on recreational facilities at both Ballyalia Lake and the Rocky Road.

Cllr. Flynn requested to have NOM No. 13 submitted by Cllr. P. Daly added to this motion for discussion

Leonore O'Neill, SEO replied as follows:

In relation to the ring-fenced monies for the Rocky Road, the position remains as outlined to the Members at the December meeting.

Extract from the December Minutes:

“The Director confirmed that the asking price on the property for sale at the Rocky Road exceeds the value of it as an amenity area. The Council must prove a value for money

outcome in this regard. There is currently €25,000 ring fenced for the Rocky Road and it may be possible to re-visit this matter in the future.”

GVA Consultants, who are preparing the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy, were also asked to examine the future potential of the Rocky Road as an amenity area and have provided the following update: “In relation to the Rocky Road it is currently the emerging intention that it would be identified in Ennis 2040 as contributing to the network of recreational, amenity, historic and cultural assets which contribute to the overall Ennis offer and quality of place.”

A workshop with Members on the Ennis 2040 Economic & Spatial Strategy is planned.

In relation to Ballyallia, as has been communicated to the Members, a feasibility study is currently in preparation and once finalised the intention is to make an application for its implementation under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme. The Members will be aware that the ring-fenced amount for Ballyallia in the sum of €50,765 is being retained as match funding for this purpose.

Rocky Road:

The Members expressed a unanimous interest in the acquisition of the Rocky Road as an amenity site for the South West of the town.

In response, the Director acknowledged the large appetite in the chamber for the purchase to proceed. However she noted that the Council had to show Value for Money on all procurement. She further noted that the Ennis 2040 Plan was at draft stage and that the Rocky Road would be specifically included in the plan. She advised the Members they would have an opportunity to input into this document. However they still need to consider how any proposed purchase of the Rocky Road would be funded

Ballyallia:

The Members acknowledged the update on the imminent publication of the feasibility study for Ballyallia however concerns were raised regarding the current condition of the footpath network in this area with the approach of the Summer months.

In response, L O’Neill notified the members that it is the intent following publication of the feasibility study for Ballyallia by Paul Hogarth, to make an application under the 2019 Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), using the ring-fenced amount as match funding. It is anticipated that the study will be completed in April for inclusion as an application for URDF funding in May. She advised she would arrange for an inspection of the footpaths through the Area Engineer with a view to the possibility of having the footpaths addressed in the interim.

No. 12 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen , seconded by Cllr. A. Norton

I ask Ennis MD that the two signs at the exit from Lees Road to N85 be raised or moved as they are obstructing sight distance.

Barry Conway A/SEE replied as follows:

Signage at this junction will be examined by the MD staff and any items causing an obstruction will be moved.

No. 13 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly

I ask Ennis MD to seek funding with a view to purchasing the Rocky Road for the people of Ennis and its Environs.

No response required - See NOM No. 11

No. 14 NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy

In the interests of health & safety, & the increased usage as a "Rat Run," that the Roads Section of Clare County Council prepare the necessary road design and upgrades to the Ballybeg Road from the Water Tower to Kildysart Road to address the following:- 1. Lack of footpaths; 2. Lack of public lighting; 3. Lack of road markings; 4. Dangerous presence of telegraph poles; 5. Dangerous dips & bends; and 6. Include traffic calming measures.

Barry Conway A/SEE replied as follows:

The L-4176-0 (Ballybeg Road) has been included in the 2019 draft SMDW for resurfacing and road markings. There will also be approximately 150m of footpath constructed at the eastern end of the road. In terms of the road realignment and public lighting infrastructure - as previously advised, survey and preliminary have been completed on this section of the Ballybeg road. Both MD and Road Design resources are fully expended on work that is currently funded by the DTTaS. Should resources become available a detailed design and costing for the footpath and public lighting on the Ballybeg road will be progressed.

The Director informed the chamber that a preliminary design survey has been completed. She confirmed she would ask the Roads Design team to progress a detailed design and would revert to the Members with a time line as to when a detailed design would be available.

Item No. 9. Correspondence

- The Meetings Administrator read a response from Irish Rail dated 18th February 2019 following correspondence which issued from Ennis MD on 25th January 2019 at the request of the Members arising from the recent IBAL results which outlined some litter issues at Ennis Bus and Train Station
- The Meetings Administrator read a letter from Barefield Tidy Towns in regards to a voluntary charter for member's to discourage the use of election posters in the run up to the forthcoming election campaign. Ennis Municipal District has formally acknowledged the correspondence and advised that the Members have signed up to voluntary charter which cannot be enforced. Similar correspondence has issued to Clarecastle and Ennis Tidy Towns Committees.

Item No. 10. AOB

- Cllr. J. Breen requested that a report be presented on 4 houses on the Watery Road. Cllr C. Colleran Molloy suggested to Cllr J. Breen that he submit this as a Notice of Motion for the next monthly meeting.

- Cllr. J. Flynn noted that he had been contacted via social media in regards to the works at the Kilrush Road/Carmody street junction and requested an update on these works.
The Director committed to having an update on these works prior to the next Ennis Municipal District meeting.
- Cllr J. Flynn reported the potential movement of the barrage at Clarecastle, as the sea levels are rising and the relocation of this should be included in Ennis 2040. *The Director agreed to notify GVA of his request for consideration under the Ennis 2040 plan.*
- Cllr J. Flynn highlighted that the National Planning Framework Ireland 2040 identified towns with a population over 10,000 should have a 24 hour A & E facility, this should also be an objective of Ennis 2040. *The Director agreed to notify GVA of his request for consideration under the Ennis 2040 plan.*
- Cllr. P. Murphy noted that as the winter was so mild could Ennis MD consider engaging the grass cutting contractors earlier. *The Director noted his request.*
- The Members acknowledged Cllr T. McNamara and Cllr A. Norton who will be meeting the Minister of Health to pursue the issue of the delivery of a model 3 Hospital in Ennis.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____