

**Minutes of the September 2019
Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee,
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 10th September, 2019,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

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

Officials: Carmel Kirby, Director of Service Physical Development, Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Ian Chaplin, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Bernadette Haugh, Meetings Administrator, Eugene Crimmins, Staff Officer and David Talty Clerical Officer.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the July, 2019 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9th July, 2019.

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

**Item No. 2. Matters Arising:
St. Flannan's College to Kilrush Rd, Ennis.**

Members had a lengthy discussion on the new traffic calming measures from St. Flannan's College to the Kilrush Road, Ennis. There was unanimous welcome for the commitment given by management that a full review of the scheme would take place. While members supported the plans in principle and welcomed, in particular, the promotion of a healthy and safe lifestyle for children cycling to school there was concern regarding the proliferation of bollards needed to provide a safe cycle lane. The Members queried if an independent safety audit could be conducted to assess its compliance with National Safety Guidelines.

In addition there was comment from the Members regarding the extent of the narrowing of the carriage way. Members, while accepting that narrowing the carriage way was necessary to contribute to traffic calming with specific regard to speed, questioned if the carriage way had been excessively narrowed. They also raised concerns with regard to the fact that the two-way cycle lane terminated at the Kilrush road; the main thoroughfare to the new Ennis National School, where children using the cycleway were forced to dismount and cross the busy Kilrush road to get to the school.

There was significant discussion regarding the arrangements for school bus parking and parent drop-off arrangements at St. Flannan's school. Members were unanimous in their opinion that the current arrangement for buses and parent drop-offs were insufficient. A number of members suggested that St. Flannan's College should be asked to reopen the back entrance to the college allowing for possible bus and parent drop-off of students in the safety of the school property.

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development thanked the Members for their comments both positive and negative. She noted that retrofitting cycle lanes can be difficult and giving priority to pedestrians and cyclists over cars was the appropriate thing to do going forward. She acknowledged the Members concerns noting that, while the scheme had gone through the public consultation process, the time period from initial concept design to the

physical delivery of the scheme on the ground can be considerable and once in place it may not be as envisaged by some.

The Director agreed that the Council would conduct a full review of the Scheme.

As regards an independent safety audit, the Director advised that the Low Cost Safety Scheme at St. Flannan's was approved and funded by central government on the basis of best practice designs submitted. She confirmed an in-house safety audit would be conducted to ensure the scheme complies with National guidelines & standards.

**Item No. 3. (i) Update on Parnell Street, Lanes and Bow-ways project
(ii) Update on O'Connell Square, High Street, Barrack Square and Old Barrack Street project**

Update on Parnell Street, Lanes and Bow-ways project

Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer gave an update on the above projects. She advised Members that Parnell Street, Lanes and Bow-ways project was progressing on schedule and that Clare County Council were in communication with the Street Traders Association. Prequalification tenders were due for return by 12th September, with an appointment date of mid-December, with construction to commence in late January 2020 and expected completion of the project in late November 2020.

She further advised that Irish water had committed to works between October 4th and November 23rd 2019 to repair the sewer line and replace the water mains on Parnell Street.

Members welcomed the project acknowledging the overwhelming support for the project from residents and the business community in Ennis.

Update on O'Connell Square, High Street, Barrack Square and Old Barrack Street project.

Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer gave an update on the above projects. She advised that the first public consultations would take place at the Civic Rooms, Drumbiggle, Ennis on the 24th and 25th of September which she anticipates will inform the detailed design. Drop-in clinics for the business community would be held on the 24th September 2019 with drop in clinics for residents and the general public taking place on the 25th September 2019. She further advised that an information drop had been made to all the businesses. A Part VIII for the project is expected in February 2020.

The Members welcomed this project noting the historic significance of the location and invited the public, schools & business community to get involved and engage in the public consultation process to avail of the opportunity to put forward their vision for Ennis town centre.

Item No. 4. General Municipal Allocations Specific Projects

A report on the GMA Allocations for Cllr. specific projects was circulated to the Members

Please see hereunder Specific Projects submitted by the members of Ennis Municipal District for 2019.

Year	Councillors Specific Projects	Committed
2019	Barefield Tidy Towns	€288.75

The following is a project to which the members previously committed funding from their specific contributions. The committed funding has been reallocated due to a shift in the member's priorities.

Year	Councillors Specific Projects	Committed
2019	Barefield Defibrillator	€288.75

This item was proposed by Cllr. Murphy seconded by Cllr. Howard and agreed by members.

Item No. 5. Declaration of Public roads regarding Gort Leamhán and Gort na hAbhana, Rosslevan, Ennis

- A report from the Planning Department dated 2nd September 2019 on the Declaration of Public Roads in Gort Leamhán, Rosslevan, Ennis was circulated to the Members

This item was proposed by Cllr. Howard seconded by Cllr. Murphy and agreed by members.

- A report from the Planning Department dated 2nd September 2019 on the Declaration of Public Roads in Gort na hAbhana, Rosslevan, Ennis was circulated to the Members

This item was proposed by Cllr. Collieran Molloy seconded by Cllr. Howard and agreed by members.

Item No. 6. Notices of Motions

No. 1 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy.

That Ennis Municipal District request Irish Water extend an existing dry sewer line, which I understand has already been laid in the public road in an easterly route from Jimmy Macs house at Ballymacahill Cross, Rosslevan to past the Creche, to the existing Sewerage pumping station at the entrance to Rathban Estate, thereby allowing for new connections to public sewerage system.

Cyril Feeney, SE, Water Services and Environment Section replied as follows:
We have forwarded the Notice of Motion to Irish Water and are awaiting their reply.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion

No. 2 NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy.

I request this Municipal District Council demand that Clare County Council use the powers it has under the Control of Horses Act 1996, to remove the horses which are causing havoc on the Kilrush Road.

Padraic Flynn, Chief Veterinary Officer replied as follows:

Six separate inspections have been carried out between the 9th August and the 21st August at the Kilrush Rd. On each of these inspections there were no horses on the road nor was there evidence of horse activity on the road. If horses are in a public place, and where there is a possible danger to the public, An Garda Síochána ordinarily advise the council of the issue. To date there have been no such reports from An Garda Síochána. Where horses are found

on public roads Clare Co Council have the power, under Section 37 of The Control of Horses Act 1986 to impound the horses.

The Members acknowledged the reply and advised the public to contact An Garda Síochána and Clare Co. Council if they encounter horses on the public road.

No. 3 NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.
That Ennis Municipal District address the neglected green area and the road and paths in St. Michaels Villas, which is long in need of attention.

Eamon O’Dea Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The Ennis MD Office have outline drawings from a previous examination of this open space. These drawings can be reviewed and brought before the Councillor for comment. A means of funding this work and similar projects to this work needs to be identified for works to proceed following public consultation process.

Members supported this Notice of Motion and referenced that this was an issue that had come before them in the past. They noted that it was generally a quiet area of the Town with a number of elderly residents and an active Residents Association.

Ian Chaplin, A/Senior Engineer outlined that there are concept drawings available for the Members consideration and input, prior to the preparation of a more detailed design and these would be circulated to the Members. However, he advised that there is no funding source available for progressing detailed design at this time.

Members agreed to review drawings as a first step and discuss at a future briefing.

No. 4 NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.
That Ennis Municipal District carry out road marking works in the Cloughleigh area to improve road safety

Eamon O’Dea Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The Cloughleigh Road including Circular Road roundabout is identified in the 2019 RWP for new asphalt surfacing which is due to proceed late August – early September and the road markings in this section will be renewed as part of the works. The Ennis MD Office will examine the road making on the remaining section of Cloughleigh Road and replace those that are in need of maintenance. The stop lines and yield lines in Cloughleigh will be inspected and upgraded where necessary.

Members welcomed the reply. They noted that there was a busy community centre, school and church in the area.

No. 5 NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

In light of the consistent traffic chaos around school starting and finishing times, I am asking the Ennis MD to undertake a school specific transport/traffic survey with the aim of developing a traffic management plan for the area so as to alleviate congestion around school drop off and collection times. In developing the plan all stake holders, schools, parents, business’ etc. should be consulted.

Eamon O’Dea Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The Ennis MD Office is in contact with the Principals and Board of Management of most of the primary schools prior to commencement of the school year to co-ordinate the provision of school wardens. In recent developments of the new school in the Ennis MD one of the requirements was the development of a mobility plan for each of the schools that identifies

the present means of transport used by the pupils and the proposed adjustment of that mode of transport to more active methods of transport.

As part of the Ennis 2040 process a new mobility plan for the town will be undertaken and the provision of alternate means of transport will be part of the plan. This process will have input from a number of organisations and the public.

No. 6 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

Re Kildysart road/Ballaghafadda tourism zoned lands, I am requesting that;

- i) that this site is promoted as an anchor destination for the Shannon Estuary Way Initiative.
- ii) that consideration be given to providing camping, caravan and campervan facilities as well as on the water activities ie kayaking, pedal boats, canoeing, etc at this location.
- iii) that all relevant agencies and groups work together to develop an appropriate overall vision to develop and fund the site.
- iv) that this project dovetails with the already existing adjacent potential of both Killone (Newhall) lough and Ballybeg woods.
- v) that the channel that connects Killone (Newhall) lough and Ballybeg lough is cleared of the mud, weeds and silt that are hindering the flow of water between the two loughs and subsequently affecting the quality of fish-life and associated angling.
- vi) That the widening of the Kildysart road along the verge of the site is incorporated as part of the project.
- vii) Possible funding streams are discussed and
- viii) that the Ennis Municipal District members are briefed on the progress of this project in the near future.

Leonard Cleary, Director, Rural Development and West Clare Municipal District replied as follows:

i) that this site is promoted as an anchor destination for the Shannon Estuary Way Initiative.

The Council considers that this site has the potential to be promoted as an anchor destination long the Shannon Estuary Way. The Council also notes that the landbank was purchased with the dual objective of providing a new County Burial Ground on the adjoining zoned (community) lands as well as some tourism functions.

ii) that consideration be given to providing camping, caravan and campervan facilities as well as on the water activities i.e. kayaking, pedal boats, canoeing, etc at this location.

This site as referred is zoned for tourism and presents an opportunity for development which complements its location directly adjacent to Ballybeg Lough (Ref. County Development Plan). The Council will review all potential uses in relation to the zoning matrix, site suitability, servicing, demand, operational models, flood risk and other relevant assessments including stakeholder consultation to determine best use. The amenity and recreational potential of the site for the Municipal area is recognized and the development of an appropriate parklands/ wetlands experience on and adjacent to the lake will be governed by ecological assessments and requirements to ensure a sustainable and appropriate use of the land and the lake. In terms of the potential use of Ballybeg Lough, development proposals will be assessed with consideration to special conservation interest bird species and relevant planning and environment policies.

iii) that all relevant agencies and groups work together to develop an appropriate overall vision to develop and fund the site.

The Council's Rural Development Directorate will be engaging with stakeholders including local groups and state agencies as required to develop an overall vision in line with the County Development Plan.

iv) that this project dovetails with the already existing adjacent potential of both Killone (Newhall) Lough and Ballybeg woods.

Any proposals will be reviewed and developed with consideration of potential links with existing assets of archaeological, amenity or physical in so far as practical within the restrictions of ecological assessment, access and land ownership.

v) that the channel that connects Killone (Newhall) Lough and Ballybeg Lough is cleared of the mud, weeds and silt that are hindering the flow of water between the two Loughs and subsequently affecting the quality of fish fish-life and associated angling.

The Rural or Physical Development Directorates can review who the appropriate agency might be to address this issue. The Council property holding includes a proportion of the lake but does not extend to this channel at present. As noted in the County Development Plan, and development proposals, which would include works, will be assessed in terms of the potential use of Ballybeg Lough by special conservation interest bird species and relevant policies.

vi) That the widening of the Kildysart road along the verge of the site is incorporated as part of the project.

The site is located along a proposed cycle route and the extent of road widening will be dependent on the scale of the development proposed and in line with planning and development requirements.

vii) Possible funding streams are discussed and

The Council is reviewing funding stream options for the development of this complex site. There is potentially a revenue stream from the County Burial Ground element; however, other funding sources will be required to develop the site. This may be in the form of grant aid funding, development levies, leasing or other initiatives to provide funding. The Council anticipates that this site will be developed in phases to respond to available funding sources.

viii) that the Ennis Municipal District members are briefed on the progress of this project in the near future.

The Council's Rural Development Directorate has commissioned a survey of the lands and is undertaking a desktop study to determine the order of magnitude and scope for the site. The Council will be in a position to brief the Elected Members of Ennis Municipal District by Q4 2019.

Members welcomed the detailed reply from the Director of Rural Development. They commended Cllr. Murphy for his foresight, following on from his championing of the Shannon Estuary way. They acknowledged that this worthy initiative was a natural progression from the Shannon Estuary Way initiative and had the potential to be a tourist facility that would benefit the wider Ennis Municipal District area. Members acknowledged the potential for angling and a camper/ caravan park at this location. Cllr. Murphy informed the chamber that a similar site in Cobh was so successful that it now required expansion. Cllr. Murphy thanked his colleagues for their support and referenced the Tralee Wetland Park as noteworthy in that it may have parallels for this proposal.

No. 7 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

I request Ennis MD to fell trees in three particular areas of the town;

- A) Inis Carragh (opp. House number 4)
- B) Park Avenue (opp. House numbers 7 to 12)
- C) Greendale (opp. House numbers 1 to 4)

Tommy Scott, SE Technician, Ennis MD replied as follows:

The trees in question will be assessed by consultant Arborist and the remedial action (including felling where deemed appropriate) will be carried out.

No. 8 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

That Ennis Municipal District will work with others to put in place a solution to prevent drunk and disorderly behaviour occurring at the O'Connell Monument in the town centre.

No response required

This Notice of Motion prompted significant discussion by the Members who raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in the town centre and in particular O'Connell Square with consensus that anti-social behaviour is first and foremost a matter for An Garda Síochána. They noted the concerns of the business community and the adverse impact anti-social behaviour can have on commercial activity and tourism in the town.

Cllr. Flynn raised the possibility of erecting iron railings around the monument as had been in place in the 1950's as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour around O'Connell Square. Members debated this proposal and while they supported the sentiment of the motion, they did not support the solution proposed by Cllr. Flynn on health and safety grounds. Other suggestions included the provision of temporary planters placed on the steps of the monument which could be removed for planned public events.

Following extensive debate the Members agreed to issue an invitation to Chief Superintendent Mr. Sean Colleran to attend a future meeting of the Ennis Municipal District. They also referenced the success of the 'See it – Say it' initiative in Tralee and the Members unanimously supported its introduction in Ennis. It was agreed to await a formal response from An Garda Síochána as to their willingness to adopt this initiative before progressing same.

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development acknowledged the concerns raised by the Members regarding the anti-social behaviour in the town. She advised the members that an initial review had identified 14 locations in the town, as areas of concern. She advised that it required a multi-agency solution. She advised that the former Chief Superintendent had addressed members and that she was conscious that there was considerable restructuring ongoing in An Garda Síochána at present. She further noted the continued support and cooperation of An Garda Síochána on a broad range of Council issues. The Director committed to inviting the Chief Superintendent to a meeting of Ennis Municipal District as soon as his schedule would permit.

No. 9 NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

I request that Ennis Municipal District repair and or replace the damaged fencing at Ivy Hill (opposite Houses No 27 - 40).

Eamon O'Dea Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The Ennis MD has sought quotes for this work and it will proceed once the funding of the works is approved.

No. 10 NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

That appropriate speed signage and traffic calming measures be introduced on the Kildysart Road after the Shop as residents are concerned with speeding there.

Eamon O’Dea Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The Ennis MD provided a VMS speed sign on the incoming lane a number of years ago. We will carry out speed surveys and identify if the speeding is an isolated issue or a persistent issue. The details of the surveys will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána.

No. 11 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy.

Re lower Ballybeg/Ballybeg cross area; That road safety at Ballybeg is improved by consideration of a pedestrian bridge crossing the stream adjacent to the existing bridge (or provision of a footpath on the existing bridge as there isn't room for two cars to pass anyway), that street lighting is improved at this location down to the main Kildysart cross and that the second footpath in the lower Ballybeg estate is repaired.

Eamon O’Dea Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The provision of a pedestrian bridge or extension of the existing culvert will require design, Section 50 approval from OPW and a funding stream for the proposed works. Clare County Council has reserved the required lands to provide for a footpath on the east side of the Ballybeg stream in the transfer of Water Services Assets to IW. The assessment of the street lighting has been forwarded to the Engineer in charge of public lighting. The second footpath in the lower Ballybeg Estate is in reasonable condition and is not a priority for works at this time.

Cllr. Murphy welcomed the reply and acknowledged that a footpath on the bridge was in his opinion the more feasible option. Cllr. Collieran Molloy asked if a ‘Stop & yield’ option could be considered.

No. 12 NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard

"That Ennis Municipal District carry out works at Drumcliffe Cemetery to increase the number of water taps available".

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development replied as follows:

Clare County Council’s Burial Ground Unit is committed to providing quality services to families of loved ones at Drumcliffe cemetery. The provision of additional water taps at Drumcliffe Cemetery, particularly to serve St. Brigid’s (lawn Cemetery) section would involve trenching along the pathways through the existing burial grounds and as such may provide to be problematic and prohibitively expensive. The Council is very conscious of the risks to kerbing etc. at burial plots.

The Burial Grounds Unit will look into the alternatives including providing water by way of large temporary containers that may achieve a similar outcome without disrupting visitors to the cemetery or burials during construction work.

Members welcomed the reply and the proposal to provide an interim solution at Drumcliffe by way of containers. However, Members queried if in light of the expense of purchasing a plot and maintaining a grave, if the Council could look at providing extra taps in the long term. Members also raised the issue of the general condition of footpaths at Drumcliffe Cemetery.

Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development noted that the Members had raised a number of concerns relating to Drumcliffe Cemetery in recent times and proposed a briefing from the Rural Development Directorate with the Elected Members to provide an update on the concerns raised. It was agreed to circulate previous NOM’s to the Members for inclusion of any additional concerns and circulate the full list of items to the Rural Directorate by way of information in advance of the briefing.

No. 13 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. C. Collieran Molloy.

I ask Ennis MD to remove the two walls that are on Council property at Cahercalla Road.

Eamon O’Dea Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The Council are presently arranging works with a householder whom has ceded the land to provide for a footpath to the front of this property. The narrow section that is adjacent to this location is subject to a planning permission at present and the Ennis MD Office will be in contact with the landowners following the completion of the planning process.

Item No. 7 Correspondence:

Bernadette Haugh, Meetings Administrator read out correspondence from An Cumann Camógaíochta an Clár, dated 20th July, 2019, thanking the Ennis Municipal District Members for a contribution of €1,000 towards improvements to a kitchenette at the county grounds.

Item No. 8 Any other business:

- Cllr. Flynn welcomed Residents from Corrovorrin to the public gallery and queried progress at Corrovorrin on behalf of the residents.

Ian Chaplin, A/Senior Engineer informed Members that a review had been completed at Corrovorrin and that a signalised junction was proposed for Q4 2019. Members welcomed the update from the A/Senior Engineer while noting the commitment of residents in the area to resolving longstanding issues in Corrovorrin.

- Cllr. Flynn queried the operation of the Mill Wheel.

Leonore O’Neill informed members that the wheel can only be operated for short specified periods and required supervision. She requested that Members would make their preferences for operational times known to Ennis MD.

- Cllr. Howard queried if there was any update on the Shanaway Junction.

Leonore O’Neill advised that design work was underway regarding Shanaway Junction with a report to be submitted to the TII shortly

- Cllr. Colleran Molloy welcomed the recent positive upgrades to Ballybeg road noting that the area still needed a road design. She commended Clare County Council on the works done in securing and cleaning the site at Skehanagh after the vacation of the illegal encampment and asked if a costing had been finalised. She further requested an update on the illegal encampment on the Kilrush Road.

Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer informed the Members that there was still one bill outstanding for the clean up at Skehanagh but the estimated costs were €5,500 plus accommodation works. She advised she would seek an update on the status of the illegal encampment on the Kilrush Road from the Social Directorate but cautioned that the information available for public release would be limited as the matter is the subject of ongoing High Court proceedings

- Cllr. Nestor requested an update on works at Tim Smythe Park regarding dressing rooms.

Leonore O’Neill committed to providing an update to the Members regarding same.

- Vote of Sympathy:
Cllr. Colleran Molloy expressed her sympathy to Bernadette Haugh, Meetings Administrator on the recent death of her father, Mr. Matthew Haugh.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____