

Minutes - September 2022
Ennis Municipal District meeting
10:30a.m. on Tuesday 6th September 2022
Council Chamber and on-line

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

Officials: Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Ian Chaplin, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Niamh O'Connor, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator, Lily McLnerney Staff Officer.

Apologies: None.

Chair, Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy opened the meeting welcoming all present.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the July 2022 Meeting of Municipal District of Ennis and the Annual General Meeting of Municipal District of Ennis

This item was proposed by Cllr. M. Nestor, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by all Members.

Item No. 2. Matters Arising

- (i) Cllr. Flynn referenced his notice of motion no. 3, advising that he continues to seek the potential for the Council to take over cutting of the grass on the distributor road in Cappahard estate.
- (ii) Cllr. Flynn referenced the outstanding elements of the junction works at Corovorrin, including putting bollards on the approach and the necessary surface coating on the dropped kerb overdrive area.
- (iii) Cllr. Flynn reminded all of his notice of motion no. 6 from the July meeting of Ennis M.D. regarding clean-up of the Corovorrin river.

Item No. 3. (i) Section 38: Traffic Calming Measure - Cluain Ros Leamhain estate, Tulla Road, Ennis

Report and map had been circulated in advance of the Meeting.

This item was proposed by Cllr M. Howard, seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor and agreed by all Members.

(ii) Section 38: Traffic Calming Measure - Clonroadmore at Éire Óg, Ennis.

Report and map had been circulated in advance of the Meeting.

This item was proposed by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy and agreed by all Members.

Item No. 4. GMA Allocations for approval

Councillor Specific Allocations

Project	Amount Allocated
Banner GAA Club	€5,150.00
Clare Agricultural Show	€1,000.00
Sláinte an Chláir	€1,000.00
French Court Residents Association	€450.00
Gallows Hill Residents Association	€1,000.00
Ennis Chamber - Ennis International Fantastic Film Festival	€1,000.00

Specific Financial Contribution

Franciscan Friary	€ 1,000
St. Columba's Church	€ 1,000
St. Vincent de Paul	€ 1,000
St. John's Community Games	€ 1,000

Purple Flag

Purple Flag Accreditation – assessment expenses	€360
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This item was proposed by Cllr. J Flynn, seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor and agreed by all Members.

Item No. 5. Notices of Motions

No. 1 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy

That Ennis Municipal District request the Clare GAA County Board honour the All-Ireland Hurling Teams of 1995 & 1997 during half-time in the upcoming Clare Club Hurling Final.

No Response Required

This item was seconded by Cllr. M Howard and agreed by all Members.

Cllr Colleran-Molloy referenced the 25-year anniversary of the Clare All-Ireland Winners of 1995/97, advising she wants to ensure they are acknowledged at the County Club Hurling Final.

No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton

I ask Ennis MD to write to the TII to Replenish the ash trees that have died from the ash dieback along the Motorway and ask Ennis MD to do the same in Barefield and other area around the Ennis municipal District and appropriately dispose of the dead ones.

Tommy Scott, Senior Executive Technician, responded as follows:

Ash dieback is a disease that effects the Common Ash tree (Fraxinus Excelsior).

It was first identified in Ireland in 2012.

The disease will cause most of the Ash trees in this Country to die over the coming years.

Across Europe where this disease has been widespread for a longer time, a small percentage of the trees have proven to be naturally disease tolerant.

Working with this natural phenomenon Teagasc, in conjunction with its counterparts across Europe, are conducting research on the development of disease tolerant trees from which, it is hoped the future Ash trees will be grown.

Until this critical research and development work is complete it will not be possible to replenish the Ash trees lost to the disease therefore this request is premature.

This item was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and approved by all Members.

Cllr Norton acknowledged the response and commented that it was important over time to replenish the lost trees. Cllr Howard supported this notice, having raised a similar one to the Council previously. She added that replenishment should be with native Irish trees, especially considering that bamboo is becoming the wood of choice in the manufacture of *hurleys* since the ash problem emerged.

No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly

I request Ennis M.D. to arrange for public lighting to be installed from the two pubs in the village down to the school at Barefield.

Ian Chaplin, A/SEE responded as follows:

There is existing public lighting at and around the school and the junction where the 2 pubs are located. The area in between has been assessed and a quotation for installation of lighting was sought. The length in question between the pubs and the school is approximately 200m. A quotation was sought for the Supply and install of 5no. 10m columns and 54w LED fittings complete with ancillary equipment and wiring. The cost of this work was quoted at approx. €7,000 and extra costs would be Civils work (€3,000) and ESB connection costs (€1,000). There are a few trees that would need to be cut back that are interfering with the location where the lights would be installed, this work can be carried out by the MD. Overall cost for installation would be approximately €11,000.

If a budget can be provided for this work, Ennis MD will arrange for the work to proceed.

This item was seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor and agreed by all Members.

Cllr Daly acknowledged the response and would welcome any source of funding to enable the lighting to be carried out. This Motion was supported by Cllr Colleran-Molloy.

No. 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn

I ask Ennis Municipal District to liaise with the residents of Beechgrove Estate in Toonagh, to prepare a plan to upgrade the derelict piece of ground at the end of their estate which was formerly an amenity space which the residents understand this ground was ear-marked for a play-area. Clare County Council erected swings there around 1980 which were used for years.

Siobhan O'Reilly, Administrative Officer, responded as follows:

The site in question at Beechgrove Estate in Toonagh is not in the ownership of the Clare County Council. However, the Rural & Community Development Officer will liaise with the Beechgrove Estate residents regarding their plans and to advise on possible funding source for same.

This item was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by all Members.

Cllr Flynn highlighted the 16 houses in the estate whose residents look after the green area. He pointed out that swings had been erected by the Council in the 1980s and that the area is also renowned for its biodiversity. Cllr Flynn welcomed the response and future communication with the Rural & Community Development Officer.

No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy

I am requesting a report on how many Disabled parking spaces are currently available in Ennis and I am proposing that additional Disabled parking is made available in the Town Centre. This follows representations from a number of constituents expressing concern at the shortage in availability of the aforementioned and it is vital that Ennis is inclusive to all.

Ian Chaplin, A/SEE responded as follows:

There are 78 Disabled car parking spaces currently allocated in the Ennis MD urban area. This figure includes 4 Disabled car parking spaces yet to be constructed in Lower Market Street and the Friary car park areas in Q4 of 2022. A Section 38 was approved for these works earlier this year.

There are disabled car parking spaces available at key priority locations in the Town centre area including Abbey Street car park, Templegate car park, Bank Place, Lower Market Street amongst others. The Public realm works along with the upgrading of the existing disabled car parking spaces will enhance the universal accessibility of the town centre.

Over the last number of years, Ennis MD have upgraded 22 disabled spaces in compliance with the National Disability Authority's guidance document on Universal Design of the Built and External Environment. Ennis MD will continue to upgrade the existing spaces and provide new spaces where possible and where funding allows.

This item was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by all Members.

Cllr Murphy acknowledged the response and the reported additional 4 disability parking spaces by the end of 2022. Cllr Flynn supported this Motion and commended the upgrade work on 22 no. parking bays. Discussion ensued around active travel funding schemes. Leonore O'Neill, SEO, advised that a notice of motion on this topic had been submitted to the September Council Meeting. The members requested a future briefing from the Road Design Office on the status of schemes in the Ennis MD area.

No. 6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr M. Howard

Is it possible to synchronise traffic lights to improve the flow of traffic at busy times?

Ian Chaplin, A/SEE responded as follows:

Having consulted with our Traffic Lights providers, it is possible to link the traffic lights in the town but this is now considered old technology. Linking would have been in operation historically when other traffic light solutions were not available.

For instance, Kilrush Road/Carmody street junction has a MOVA (Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation) operated set of traffic lights, which has 4 pedestrian crossing elements as well as right turn filters and vehicle actuated loops on each approach. MOVA junctions operate at approximately 20% greater efficiency than VA (vehicle actuated) junctions. The controller for the lights is adaptive depending on the demands called for by vehicles on each approach and also pedestrians attempting to cross.

Linked systems are less pedestrian friendly in that they do not operate as quickly to meet the demand or call to cross from the pedestrian when the push button is placed because the priority in a linked system is to keep traffic flowing in a particular direction. Also with linked systems capacity would drop overall at the junction. It must be noted that traffic flows can change throughout the day, maybe from East/West in the morning and evening to North/South during the day. Therefore, an adaptive system such as MOVA is much more suited to the changing requirements.

This item was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly and agreed by all Members.

The response was welcomed by Cllr. M. Howard. Cllr Daly reminded the meeting of a recent motion requesting a right-turn filter lane for traffic exiting Clare Road at Darcys' Corner. Ian Chaplin, A/SEE clarified that this right-turn had been given due consideration but was deemed too tight to be successfully implemented. Cllr Flynn also supported this Motion stating it is important to protect the most vulnerable road users. Ian Chaplain reiterated that the MOVA system represented the most modern and balanced system as it optimises throughput for all road users.

No. 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor

This motion is requesting Clare County Council to assess the possibility of creating a footpath between John O'Sullivan Park, Lee's Road and Drumcliffe graveyard due to the large volume of people walking the road.

Ian Chaplin, A/SEE responded as follows:

There is approximately 1km between the 2 locations mentioned. There are a number of constraints along the route consisting of narrow road width, existing stone abutments of old railway bridge, existing stone walls and boundary walls to properties and graveyard. There would likely be requirement therefore to obtain land to allow for the footpath installation whilst facilitating two-way traffic. To examine the feasibility properly would require a full topographic survey of the route. The footpath project would therefore have a significant cost and a funding source would have to be identified for same.

Ennis MD will liaise with the Road Design office to determine if this could be considered for future active travel funding.

This item was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by all Members.

Cllr Nestor reported that he had brought this Motion forward following requests from a number of residents for this popular walking route. He acknowledged the obstacles outlined in the response, recommending the referenced topographic survey be carried out. Cllr Howard supported this Motion, highlighting Tierney's Yard and graveyard as the most difficult areas. Cllrs Daly and Flynn supported this Motion also.

No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly

I ask Ennis M.D. to deal with overhanging branches from the edge of Ballyallia Lake to the Templemaley/Stonepark four cross-roads.

Tommy Scott, Senior Executive Technician, responded as follows:

The Ennis M.D. will examine the overhanging branches along this section of public road and pursue measures to deal with any hazards identified.

This item was seconded by Cllr. Colleran-Molloy and agreed by all Members.

Cllr. Daly welcomed the response.

No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr C. Colleran-Molloy

That the vegetation growing out onto the footpath on the Quin Road connecting to the Fergus Greenway be cut back as it is obstructing use of the footpath with pedestrians being required to move onto the road.

Ian Chaplin, A/SEE responded as follows:

The vegetation overgrowth out on to the footpath has now been removed.

This item was seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor and agreed by all Members.

Cllr Colleran-Molloy acknowledged the response. The notice of motion was supported by Cllr. N. Nestor and Cllr J. Flynn who also reminded the Meeting about the previous request for consideration of a barrier at the Quin road exit of the River Fergus Walkway as a child-proofing hazard measure. Ian Chaplin, A/SEE confirmed that this issue is being given due consideration and that drop-kerbing for wheelchair access will also be provided.

No. 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy

As a matter of urgency, due to ongoing difficulties being experienced by customers of Irish Water in the Ard na Greine (St. Ann's Terrace in particular), St. Michael's Villas and St. Flannan's Terrace areas, I am requesting that Ennis Municipal District and Irish Water come to an agreeable compromise in order to facilitate the Mains Rehabilitation and Road Reinstatement Works between Captain Mac's junction and Station Cross Roundabout that were to be carried out during the Christmas Holidays of last year. The quality of water in some dwellings is deplorable and has led to sickness and malfunctioning of dishwashers, washing machine's etc.

Ian Chaplin, A/SEE responded as follows:

Ennis MD have been in discussion with Water Services and Irish Water in relation to this project. A meeting is due to take place shortly between all parties to finalise discussions on programming, road reinstatement and timing for the works. Ennis MD would like the works to be scheduled at a time that least inconveniences the public, including local residents and commuters along the route as there would have to be road closures and diversions to allow the works to proceed.

This item was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly and agreed by all Members.

Cllr Murphy acknowledged the response and looks forward to Irish Water and Ennis M.D. reinstating the original works programme as this is now becoming urgent due to the poor water quality especially in Ard na Greine. Cllr. Daly supported this Motion.

No. 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard

There are often traffic tailbacks at the junction of Drumcliffe Rd (Watery rd) and the Gort Rd. Is it possible to create a longer left filter lane in the large green area to allow traffic to flow, especially for school traffic in the mornings?

Ian Chaplin, A/SEE responded as follows:

At the junction there is a filter lane for left turning which facilitates a couple of cars. The junction will be monitored to assess the level of queuing at peak times. A full topographical survey and design would be required to assess in greater detail and a funding source would be required to progress any proposed works

To provide a longer lead in left turn lane as suggested would require the removal of the existing footpath, construction of new footpath set back by 3m, a new road lane to be constructed which would be 3m wide, and approximately 30m long, diversion of services at the junction and possibly from underneath the existing footpath, tree removal and road lining.

This item was seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor and agreed by all Members.

Cllr Howard whilst acknowledging the response, outlined how she had hoped for a more immediate potential solution at this junction, given the volumes of traffic to both the Gaelscoil and St. Annes. Cllr Nestor supported this Motion.

No. 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor

This motion is requesting that works be carried out on the steps behind the Grotto in Hermitage to ensure that they are safe for use for residents in the area.

Ian Chaplin, A/SEE responded as follows:

The location has been assessed by Ennis MD. The steps leading up to the grotto are in an accessible condition including steel handrails to aid access to the grotto itself. The concrete base and mosaic style tile used at the top of the grotto has become fractured.

We will request the Rural Development Officer to engage with the residents association to advise on a possible funding source for same. If a funding source can be identified, Ennis MD will facilitate necessary repair works being carried out at this location.

This item was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly and agreed by all Members.

Cllr Nestor reported that a number of residents had highlighted the poor state of the steps at the grotto which are hazardous in their current state. He acknowledged the response and hopes for a successful outcome via the Rural Development Officer. This Motion was supported by Cllr. P. Daly.

Item No. 6 Correspondence

None.

Item No. 7 Any Other Business

- (i) Members joined Chair Colleran-Molloy in paying tribute to outgoing Assistant Staff Officer Mairead Griffin who has transferred from Ennis M.D. to the Roads section. Warm wishes were expressed to Mairead for her helpful and dedicated service, her hard work and attentiveness to Members and she is wished every success in her future role.
- (ii) Members joined Cllr. Mary Howard in expressing condolence to the families of the many bereaved over the past couple of months.
 - Oliver Moylan R.I.P. Condolences to Peter, Dorothy and family.
 - Bee Loughnane R.I.P. Condolences to Barry, Harry, Neila and Aron.
 - Caitriona McMahon (nee. Browne) R.I.P. Condolences to Kieran, Hugh, Sarah and Lee, her mother Maire, and all the family.
 - Patricia Callaly R.I.P. Condolences to Paddy and Eoghan and family.
 - Florence Considine R.I.P. Condolences to Tara, Fergal and all her family.
- (iii) Cllr Howard expressed appreciation for the immense efforts of Kieran and Theresa Shanahan for arranging the very successful visit to Ennis of the Twinning Committees in August.
- (iv) Cllr Howard extended congratulations to the Arts Office and commended local band “*Los Paddys*” for their involvement in producing an excellent *Ennis European Culture Week* which culminated in a concert in Glor showcasing European music and dance. Cllr Colleran-Molloy also mentioned the vibrancy and diversity of this event.
- (v) Cllr Flynn announced his imminent resignation from the Board of *Ennis 2040 DAC* as a conflict of interest had arisen due to his involvement in an appeal to An Bord Pleanála, against the proposed data centre on the Tulla Road. He stated however that he would not object to the data centre subject to the 100% use of green carbon energy. The Mayor advised that the MD meeting was not the forum for raising this matter.
- (vi) Cllr Murphy advised of a proposal being formulated by residents of St. Flannan’s, to apply under the relevant legislation, for the changing of the name of the laneway known locally as “the old car road”. SEO Leonore O’Neill confirmed that this proposal should be forwarded as a notice of motion at the October Meeting of Ennis M.D.

- (vii) Members joined Cllr. P. Daly in expressing condolences to the families of the late Tom Earley R.I.P, who had dedicated many years in the service of Fianna Fail in Brussels.

- (viii) Members joined Cllr. C. Colleran-Molloy in extending condolences to the family of the late Eileen Naughton R.I.P., Kilnamona. Cllr Colleran-Molloy described how Eileen had been influential in her following a political career.

The Meeting ended at 11:32 a.m.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator

Date: _____