**Minutes of the June 2020**

**Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee,**

**held at 2.30pm on Thursday 11th June, 2020,**

**in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,**

**New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**Present:**

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

**Officials:** Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer & Meetings Administrator, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Mairead Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer

**Item No. 1. Minutes of the March 2020 Meeting of Municipal District Ennis Committee   
 held on 10th March at 10.30am**

*This item was agreed by members.*

**Item No.2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**Item No.3. Section 183 Disposal of Property – Property at No. 8 Gort Industrial Estate, Co. Clare (report herewith)**

*Proposed by Cllr. A. Norton seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.*

Cllr. Flynn asked that a condition be added to the disposal of property. He asked that the sum of money involved be invested in a digital hub or co-working space in centre of town. Carmel Green, SEO agreed to check the legality of the condition and revert if any issues arose.

**Item No. 4. Notice of Motions**

As Cllr. J. Flynn had to leave meeting early it was agreed to commence with his Notice of Motions.

**No. 3 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

Development of Ennis Town Bus Service.

Further to my previous related notice of motions going back over 10 years I ask for a progress report on efforts to put in place an Ennis Town Bus service.

**Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

The National Transport Authority, NTA, are progressing plans for a Public Bus Service for Ennis along with other large towns across the State. The NTA has visited Ennis on a number of occasions over the past number of years and any information or data requested has been forwarded.  The Public Bus Service for Kilkenny is now in operation and the NTA hopes to progress other public bus service projects in the coming years, subject to funding availability following Government formation.

*Cllr. J. Flynn welcomed response from Eamon O’Dea but highlighted need for this to be pursued.*

**No. 10 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn and seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy**

Developments of Ennis Walking and Cycling amenity Routes.

Further to my previous related notice of motions going back over 10 years I ask for a progress report on report prepared by Earthroute on potential Ennis Walking and Cycling amenity  Routes

**Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

The updated Recreational Trails in Ennis and Environs by Earthroute funded by the Councillors from the General Municipal Allocation will be brought before the Councillors for their consideration at the July Ennis MD meeting. Projects can be identified from the updated report and submitted for funding through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme from the Department of Rural and Community Development or similar funding sources.

*Cllr. Flynn highlighted that it can be seen from the Covid-19 pandemic the importance of walkways and cycle routes. He acknowledged that all Cllrs had funded the updated Recreational Trails in Ennis from the GMA. Cllr. Flynn looked for update on Greenway and Blueway projects in County Clare for the next meeting.*

**No. 1 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy and seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

As it will be a while before we will be back up and running, and based on contributions received from the public, I would ask that Market building be utilised as a community areas with tables and chairs provided so that visitors to Ennis can avail of a coffee and a treat, purchased from our takeout restaurants, all the while practising social distancing of course.

**Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer replied as follows:**

The Temporary Ennis Town Centre Mobility Plan Stakeholders Group are currently reviewing all measures on an ongoing basis to assess their effectiveness to ensure that the public can access Ennis safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. All additional measures including the use of public spaces and the market building will be examined by the group to evaluate their merit for Ennis as a whole, and to ensure they are responsive to the changing needs of Ennis town as it moves towards recovery.

*Members welcomes response to Notice of Motion. Cllr. Colleran Molloy said she was happy for the stakeholder group to examine this issue.*

**No. 2 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

I am requesting projected timelines for construction of the Clarecastle Town and Village Renewal Scheme, and the advance works of the Irish Water sewer rising main along Quay road and Barrack Street.

**Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

The Water Services Section has been in contact with Irish Water and their designers RPS who have confirmed that the submission for funding approval for the 311metre advance works in the centre of Clarecastle will be reviewed at the IW July budget meetings.

Following IW budgetary approval the works will be scheduled with their contractor Shareridge and the works should be completed in 4 weeks. Subject to IW budget approval it is likely that the pipe-laying works should be completed in late August – early September and the Ennis MD will have tendered the Urban and Village Renewal works to dove tail behind the IW project.

*Cllr. P. Murphy welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion and thanked Eamon O’Dea.*

**No. 4 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor and seconded by Cllr. P. Daly**

This motion calls on Clare County Council to introduce traffic calming measures on John Paul Avenue/Shallee Drive, Cloughleigh in an effort to reduce traffic speed in the area.

**Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

There are existing speed ramps in this area. The Ennis MD will carry out traffic speed counts at John Paul Avenue &Shallee Drive to determine the levels of traffic speed in the area.  Once the traffic speeds are evaluated the Ennis MD will determine whether further traffic calming is required. If traffic calming is required, proposals will be brought to the Ennis MD Councillors for their approval. The Ennis MD can consider submitting the proposals for funding under a low cost safety scheme or an alternate funding stream will be required for these works.

*Cllr. M. Nestor welcomed the response, highlighting that the existing ramps are a couple hundred yards from the entrance to Cloughleigh and that by then some motorists have built speed.*

**No. 5 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard and seconded by Cllr. M. Nestor**

CarrigDubh, Tobarteascáin.

The residents of CarrigDubh are requesting that Ennis MD install two speed bumps/ramps.

CarrigDubh is a new estate with many young children. The Residents have contacted me as they believe speed bumps/ ramps are necessary for both health and safety reasons (traffic calming and to ensure access of emergency vehicles) along with child safety.

**Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

The Ennis MD will carry out a traffic speed survey at the entrance to CarrigDubh to determine the levels of traffic speed in the area. Once the traffic speeds are evaluated the Ennis MD will determine the means of reducing traffic speeds, if required, and bring proposals to the Ennis MD Councillors for their approval. It should be noted that the provision of speed ramps as a traffic calming measure where there is no through road will not meet the Council’s present warrants for provision of traffic calming. The Ennis MD will require a funding stream for these works.

*Cllr. M. Howard welcomed response from Eamon O’Dea*

**No. 6 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton and seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy**

Can I ask Ennis MD to look at the entrance to Waterpark house as there can be pools of water that stay on the surface after rain showers and also the trees to be tidied up around the gate to help give off more lighting for people who are walking in the area.

**Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

This matter was brought to the attention of the Ennis MD Office and the sections of footpath where the ponding occurs are listed for replacement. The trees in the vicinity of the street lighting will be examined and necessary works carried out after the nesting season.

*Cllr. A. Norton welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion and thanked Eamon O’Dea.*

**No. 7 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly and seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy**

I ask Ennis MD to upgrade the Nutfield Road, Barefield, as it’s in poor condition, presently.

**Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

This is a tertiary road that is in the West Clare MD and maintained by the Ennis MD. Any structural work on this road will be by means of a Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) and subject to application to the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Transportation Section has confirmed that they have not received an application for a CIS project on this road and that there are existing 2019 projects that need to be prioritised for a modest 2020 funding. It would be prudent that an application is made for a CIS so it will be considered for funding.

*Cllr. P. Daly welcomed the response to the Notice of Motion and will make the public aware of the need to make an application under the Community Involvement Scheme.*

**No. 8 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy and seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

In light of the dangerous conditions that pertain on the R352 Tulla Road from Spancilhill Cross to Kilfilum Cross (Toureen) as result of its narrowness and due to the flooding that occurs due to the unfinished drainage, and the ongoing & continuous concerns about speeding along this stretch:-

1. that traffic calming measures such as VMS signs be installed;
2. that this section of roadway be designed to address these dangers, and that funding for the works be sought from the Department;
3. that clarification be given that when the Solar Farm permission granted under PP19-180 is developed & connected to the grid, that ducting along this stretch will require the upgrade of this section of road.

**Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

The section of the R352 Tulla Road west of Spancilhill was part of a road improvement scheme under the Specific Improvement Grants from the then Department of the Environment. Phase one of the scheme at Spancilhill Cross was completed. The later phases were not completed due to budgetary reasons and subsequent prioritisation of the type of schemes funded by the Department of Transport (Bridge Structural Repair Works).

The Ennis MD will discuss the project with the Transport Senior Engineer and the Road Design Section to confirm that the warrants are present for a scheme application on this section of the R352 and what information is required for an application process.

Any proposal will be subject to its priority within work required in the Ennis MD and then its subsequent priority in Clare County Council’s list of works for submission to the appropriate Government Department.

1. The Ennis MD will carry out speed surveys and traffic counts on this section of the R352 to establish the level of speeding at this location.
2. A meeting will be arranged between the Ennis MD Office and the Senior Engineer in Transportation to confirm the process required for an application and its priority in the Road Design Office.
3. Harmony Solar Knockanoura Ltd. were given a 10 year permission for a solar farm at Cahershaughnessy near Spancilhill. The connection to the national grid is not defined in the application and any ducting works on the road network will be subject to a Road Opening Licence.

*Cllr. C. Molloy welcomed response to Notice of Motion and asked that a focus could be kept on this as much as possible.*

**No. 9 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. M. Howard**

That Ennis Municipal District consider introducing lifeguard cover this summer to Ballyalla lake. With travel restrictions and schools being closed people may very well be staying close to Ennis rather than "heading for the coast”.

**Brendan Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

Ballyalla Lake in Ennis will have lifeguards on duty this season, initially on a weekend basis for June and daily in July/August.

For swimming advice and precautions, visit the Water Safety Ireland website <https://watersafety.ie/recreation/>

*Members welcomes response to Notice of Motion and hope to see Ballyalla Lake return to way it was years ago. Cllr. P. Murphy thanked Clare McGrath and acknowledged her support for employing lifeguards at Ballyalla Lake.*

*Carmel Kirby, Director of Services thanked Clare McGrath for her support and acknowledged how lucky Clare County Council were to have a high qualified Water Safety Officer and Lifeguards in Clare.*

**No. 11 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Nestor and seconded by Cllr. M. Howard**

This motion calls on Clare County Council to carry out works at Drumcliffe cemetery to improve the layout of the cemetery between section B and section E. At the moment there is a row of trees acting as a barrier between both sections. The works being sought would seek to clear back this barrier allowing for greater visibility/connectivity between the old and new parts of the cemetery.

**Bernie Haugh, A/Senior Executive Officer replied as follows:**

The 100 metres of mature trees provide a natural shelter belt to what has the potential to be a bleak elevated area of the site. In addition, these trees serve to mark the different approaches taken to cemetery provision in Drumcliffe over the years, from the historic section B to the more recent lawn cemetery located within Section E. Some tree pruning, particularly where the trees encroach on the path in Section B, could be carried out with a view to tidying up and improving the visual appearance of this area and this office will arrange to have this work carried out shortly.

*Cllr. M. Nestor thanked Bernie Haugh for her reply. He welcomed the response that work would be carried out in the area and create connectivity between new and old graveyard. He highlighted how important it is that no one feels left out.*

**No. 12 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard and seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy**

Drumcliffe Cemetery.

Following numerous reports of plants, flowers and ornaments disappearing off of graves in the St Brigid's Section E. I request this MD install CCTV to deter this appalling and upsetting behaviour.

**Bernie Haugh, A/Senior Executive Officer replied as follows:**

In the past six months this office has received two complaints in relation to flowers etc being removed from graves in the lawn cemetery section in Drumcliffe.

While I appreciate that such an incident is upsetting for family members of the deceased, the installation of CCTV in an extensive area such as Drumcliffe cemetery in response to isolated incidents, presents a difficulty for Clare Co. Council under GDPR in the justification of a CCTV scheme in terms of lawfulness and proportionality, as well as being prohibitively expensive.

The Burial Grounds staff will continue to monitor the situation on site.

It should also be noted that the placing of flowers and ornaments on individual graves impedes the orderly maintenance of a lawn cemetery such as St. Brigid’s Section E

*Cllr. M. Howard informed the meeting that she was very disappointed with response received. She advised that what is happening in the graveyard is borderline criminal and that we have ethical duty to monitor what goes on here as it is place of respect. Graves are constantly being interfered with and a number of people have highlighted to Cllr. Howard their upset at what is happening.*

*Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer acknowledged the comments made and will revert to Rural Development for further update. She encouraged members of public to contact Clare County Council with any issues they come across in Drumcliffe Graveyard.*

*Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy queried if the maintenance of the graveyard was undertaken by council staff or a contractor. Eamon O’Dea Senior Executive Officer replied as far as he knows there is a combination, a council caretaker is employed but grass is cut by contractor but would confirm with Rural Development Section.*

*Carmel Kirby Director of Services acknowledged that while a number of motions on Drumcliffe have been raised in last two years, a that a lot of good work has been carried out by Rural Development at the graveyard. She advised that the issues raised would be referred to Rural Development.*

**No. 13 Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Daly and seconded by Cllr. A. Norton**

I request Ennis MD to connect the sewer from Cluain Ros Leamhain to Aughvaldy Bridge on the main Tulla Road, Roslevan.

**Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:**

Irish Water are the public utility and Water Services Authority tasked with the provision of water and wastewater services infrastructure. All new connections or extensions of services must be made to Irish Water by the interested party.

The full details on how to apply for such connections are contained on Irish Waters website [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie) .

*Cllr. P. Daly informed meeting that this motion has been raised previously prior to establishment of Irish Water. He requested that the council forward this motion to Irish Water.*

**Item No. 4. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence

**Item No. 5. Any other Business**

Cllr. M. Nestor requested that the issue of Knockaderry Grove be kept on the agenda.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor of Ennis

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_