

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on
Tuesday 18th January, 2022 at 9.45am in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, Clare County
Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Councillors Present: Councillors John Crowe (Cathaoirleach), PJ Ryan, Pat McMahon, Gerard Flynn, Donna McGettigan, Pat O’Gorman and Michael Begley.

Officials Present: Liam Conneally Director of Service, Jason Murphy Senior Executive Officer (Meetings Administrator), Brian McCarthy Senior Planner, Sean Lenihan Senior Engineer, Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer, Carmel Greene Senior Executive Officer, Steve Lahiffe Acting Senior Executive Engineer and Patricia O’Neill Staff Officer.

Cathaoirleach John Crowe opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

1. Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on 16th November 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr Pat McMahon and agreed by all.

Matters arising:

Cllr. Gerard Flynn referenced Notice of Motion no. 9 from the November Meeting and requested that a Senior Official for the Environment Section and the Environmental Patrol Warden for the Shannon MD attend the next meeting of the Shannon Municipal District to discuss the ongoing issue of illegal dumping in the district.

Cllr. Flynn also referenced Notice of Motion no. 13 regarding a request for traffic calming measures in Corrib Drive. He stated that while he supported the Motion, he requested that consultation take place on proposals for traffic calming in Corrib Drive.

It was agreed to take item no. 4 at this stage of the meeting

4. Disposal by lease of site at Lodge Road, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare - proposed leasee Sixmilebridge/Kilmurry Men’s Shed Association.
Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer outlined to the Members that back in 2015, Clare County Council entered into a 5 year lease agreement with the Sixmilebridge/Kilmurry Men’s Shed Association to allow them to use the former Sixmilebridge Courthouse for their activities. During this time the Men’s Shed have carried out a number of improvements to the interior of the building and have been successful at this location. It is now proposed to enter into a further lease of 4 years and 11 months. This was proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.

2. Endorsement of the Shannon Town Centre Masterplan

Liam Conneally, Director of Service addressed the meeting and outlined that that there are two aspects to delivering this plan, a statutory and a funding element.

In relation to the statutory element, there has been significant progress on this and the Masterplan will have to be incorporated into the current review of County Development Plan in the coming months. Mr. Conneally acknowledged the support of the members and all relevant stakeholders for their engagement and also thanked the staff in Planning in progressing this plan.

In regard to funding, as the Masterplan is nearing completion a new application will be made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) within the coming months. Mr. Conneally added that an application can only be made if Clare County Council have control over the site and to that end progress is continuing on the acquisition of a site in the town centre. An update will be provided to the members on completion of the brief and application preparation.

All the Members voiced their support for the Masterplan and commended the great work done by Brian McCarthy, the staff of Strategic Economic Initiatives Unit and the Shannon MD Office. It was agreed that the positive engagement from members of the public, residents, business groups and all stakeholders into making the Masterplan will guide and inform the development of Shannon Town Centre into the future.

Following consideration by the Elected Members of:

- a) The Draft Shannon Town Centre Master Plan (November 2021);
- b) The associated Screening Report for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment;
- c) The submissions received from the public consultation process;
- d) The Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Southern Region;
- e) The policies and objectives of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) and Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as amended);
- f) The statutory obligations of any local authority in the area;
- g) The proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the plan relates;

The endorsement of the Shannon Town Centre Masterplan was proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Donna McGettigan and agreed unanimously by all

Liam Conneally concluded by welcoming the unanimous support from for all the members and added that there will be further engagement with the stakeholders forum representing various sections of the Shannon community which will feedback to the members.

3. Shannon Flood Relief Scheme

Mr. Seán Lenihan outlined that following on from the Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment (CFRAM) study and the Shannon Town and Airport Embankments study it was agreed that both the town and airport would be looked at collectively given that they are both hydraulically linked and are interdependent on each other. Clare County Council continue to work closely with Shannon Group and key stakeholders in the advancement of this scheme. The scheme is considered a major capital investment with estimated costs expected in the region of €30 million depending on findings of the site investigation works. He also added that both consultants from the Flood Relief scheme and the N19 Access Road scheme are working in tandem with each other and in regular contact regarding various aspects of their respective schemes.

Mr. Lenihan then introduced PJ Griffin from RPS Consultants who were appointed in July 2020 to advance the scheme.

PJ Griffin, RPS Consultants outlined the 5 stages of the scheme and the anticipated timeline for each.

- Stage 1 – Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design - to be complete by mid 2023.
- Stage 2- Planning/Development Consent Process – from mid 2023 to 2024

- Stage 3 – Detailed Construction Design and Tender - 2025
- Stage 4 – Construction – to commence in 2026 and complete by 2029
- Stage 5 – Handover of works – to commence in 2029 and complete by early 2030

Mr. Griffin stated that the Hydraulic Assessment is currently underway (stage 1) which will be followed by a collaborative workshop. It is intended at the end of this stage that they will be in a position to identify the preferred scheme and bring this forward for Planning.

The Members thanked both Sean Lenihan and PJ Griffin for their comprehensive presentation. The difficulty encountered by residents and businesses in obtaining insurance cover was also highlighted.

Seán Lenihan informed the members that the Airport have recently carried out essential maintenance works to existing airport embankments. He concluded that the Project Management Office is committed in delivering this scheme but noted that there are also environmental challenges.

At 11.00 am, as proposed by Cllr. John Crowe, a minute's silence was observed in memory of Aisling Murphy, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, who was murdered while out running in her home town last week. The members extended their sincere condolences to Aisling's family, friends, colleagues and pupils and also called for the urgent introduction of legislation and a more consistent approach to tackle gender-based violence in Ireland following the murder of Ashling Murphy.

4. Disposal by lease of site at Lodge Road, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare – *dealt with earlier in the meeting.*

5. Economic Development – update by Liam Conneally, Director of Service/Jason Murphy, Senior Executive Officer.

Liam Conneally advised the members that Clare County Council and the University of Limerick are continuing to work together on the preparation of Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) application for the north campus of UL and it is anticipated that this application will be lodged with the Government within the week. Mr. Conneally reflected that it was 2 years ago when this project was first initiated from a proposal by Cllr. Pat McMahon and former Cllr. Bill Slattery before the Southern Regional Assembly.

Mr. Conneally added that a lot of work is progressing on capital projects through the Project Management Office, including the N19 Access Road and Shannon Flood Relief Scheme. These are critical pieces of infrastructure which are also being assisted through the Clare Economic Forum and a number of other fronts.

The members welcomed the progress on this application and commended Liam Conneally and his team along with UL representatives for advancing this application. The Members stated that Clare's Oireachtas Members should put their full support behind this application and lobby the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Liam Conneally stated that the relationship between Clare County Council and UL has strengthened. A briefing session will be organised for the Clare Oireachtas members and Shannon MD members.

At this point Liam Conneally excused himself from the meeting

Jason Murphy updated the members as follows:

- The roads crew responded to fallen trees and debris in the aftermath of Storm Barra in December.
- The unveiling of a plaque in Shannon Town Park to commemorate the late Cllr. Mike McKee took place in December.
- In 2021 Shannon Municipal District office worked closely with Clare County Council's Arts Officer, local musicians and event managers in promotion of the outdoor musical performance programme throughout the district and it is anticipated that this will continue in 2022.
- The Shannon MD office will continue to liaise with the Project Management Office in regard to the Springfield Flood Defences Project.
- Support from Cllrs. John Crowe and PJ Ryan was acknowledged on the works progressed under the TVR scheme for Sixmilebridge.
- Sixmilebridge has been chosen as the first town in Clare to have a masterplan developed under the new Town Centre Masterplan Initiative (Phase 1). €100K in funding has been provided for this project from the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- €180k has also been secured under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) for Newmarket On Fergus.
- Drumgeely TVR – works on the pathways into embankments have commenced.
- Building on the success of the Green Flag Award for Shannon Town Park in 2021, an application will be lodged again in the coming months for the Green Flag award for 2022 in respect of Shannon Town Park. The contribution from all involved including Cllrs. Gerard Flynn and Donna McGettigan in securing this prestigious award in 2021 was acknowledged.

6. Road works programme – update by Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer.

- Footpath contract is continuing. Moving on to Newmarket On Fergus later this week before moving to other areas in the district.
- Winter preparation drainage works complete.
- Prep work carried out on roads in anticipation of the 2022 Roads Works Programme.
- Sixmilebridge Town and Village Renewal Scheme – ground works completed prior to Christmas. Tom acknowledged the contribution of all parties from the Members, design team, contractor, business, residential and community group for bringing this scheme to fruition.
- Bunratty Town and Village Renewal scheme – Surveys are currently being carried out on the ground and the Shannon MD office are working with Bunratty Local Development and all relevant stakeholders.
- Upgrade to pedestrian crossing in Dernish Lawn, Shannon complete.
- Upgraded barriers at Clonlara pedestrian crossing completed.
- The Roads crew have also responded to the clean-up of illegal dumping in the district.
- The office responded to an unauthorised access and closed the access.
- Grass cutting – The same contractor as last year is appointed for the coming grass cutting season in 2022. The first cut will take place in March. Meetings will take place with the Tidy Towns group to discuss biodiversity throughout the town.

The Members raised the following:

- Concern was raised by residents regarding the excess speed of vehicles on the road between Tradaree and Cluain Airne. While modifications had been carried out to this road this has

not improved the situation. It was requested that this be revisited with a view to putting in place revised traffic calming measures.

- Update requested on the footpaths in Tradaree and Delacey Park.
- Update requested on the installation of public lights on the new stretch of footpath in Meelick and also at Clonmoney National School.
- That favourable consideration be given to the completion of a section of road in Bonnabinnna, Cratloe under the forthcoming Local Improvement Scheme.
- That the members be informed of what works are being proposed, the extent of the project and a timeline on the proposal to upgrade the sewerage network in Meelick.
- As the upgrade to the watermain from Corbally to Larkins Cross is due to commence, detail is requested on when these works are due to commence in light of the traffic disruption this will cause.

Tom Mellett responded to the Members queries as follows:

- Tradaree and Cluain Airne – The original design is currently under review. A full assessment of the works carried out and identify what additional measures can be carried out.
- Delacey park – works will be finished in the coming week. Thanks was expressed to the School for their co-operation during these works.
- An update from the ESB will be sought in relation to the new public lighting in Meelick and Clonmoney NS.
- Irish Water will be requested for an update including the scope and timeline of the Meelick Sewerage scheme.
- Upgrade of watermain from Limerick to Corbally is imminent. Traffic diversions will be in place and Irish Water will take cognisance of volume of traffic and are aware of their obligations on that front.
- The Transportation Department will be writing out to applicants inviting them to engage under the Local Improvement Scheme in the coming weeks.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am calling on Clare County Council to clean up the area surrounding the pump house in Drumgeely located adjacent to the river walk and Drumgeely housing and also to put in place fencing around the pump house to deter further illegal dumping of waste and anti-social activity. The restoration of the local footpath that links on to the river walk would be helpful in the re-routing of pedestrians away from the pump house.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Shannon Municipal District Crews completed a tidy up of this location in December and again during the first week of January. The location is at the bottom of Drumgeely Hill adjacent to a storm water pumping station, the embankment walk and Lynch Park. Fencing off the area surrounding the building will not of itself reduce the instances of large-scale dumping but may deter anti-social gatherings. Fencing has not been allowed for in our budget for 2022 and so I will seek funding opportunities to complete.

This Office is preparing a tender to upgrade the embankment walk from the Airport access on Drumgeely Hill to the Lynch Park side, in support of this project we will arrange for better access along the established path linking to the Drumgeely Hill road.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am calling on Clare County Council to install traffic lights at the junction of Bóthar Droim / Bóthar na Rinne and the entrance to The Skycourt Shopping Centre and locate the existing pedestrian lights in to the design at the junction.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Current government and mobility policy seeks to encourage more people to choose to walk or cycle, reducing unnecessary car use and creating a high quality urban environment that promotes healthy lifestyles and creates additional footfall in our town centres. To support this a range of funding opportunities have emerged including Active Travel, Town Centre First Policy, URDF. Shannon town has been included under Active Travel funding for a Mobility Plan.

This will explore modes of transport, desire lines for walking and cycling routes and means of connectivity between the town centre of Shannon and adjacent residential, commercial and recreational areas as well as routes from the outer town settlements.

The existing pedestrian crossing has recently been upgraded and safely functions for the range and scale of pedestrian usage.

It is considered any change would be premature pending the outcome of a more detailed integrated study.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am calling on Clare County Council to request Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to enhance the Shannon Town Roundabout. The current landscaping on the roundabout is causing considerable difficulties for road safety as it is overgrown and an eyesore to the public and does nothing for the image of Shannon Town, Shannon International Airport and the potential of Shannon's Industrial Areas to attract vital employment for the County.

John Gannon replied as follows:

I will put this request forward to the TII at our next scheduled meeting which is on the 19th January 2022.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn added that an offer had been made from the Aviation Sector to place a piece of aircraft on the roundabout which would symbolise the Airport while also enhancing the area.

Tom Mellett stated that engagement will take place with the TII and community groups in relation to the proposed enhancement of the roundabout.

This motion was supported by all the members.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am requesting Clare County Council to extend the public lighting in Ballinacragga, Newmarket On Fergus along the route of the recently upgraded footpath due to a large number of pedestrians walking and cycling in this area.

Anne O'Sullivan replied as follows:

We will examine this request further, however there is currently no funding available for the lighting of this 1.7km section of footway & cycleway. The scale of this project would be significant and there are no plans at present to extend the lighting on the R458.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That Clare County Council would widen the upper Carrigoran road, Newmarket On Fergus for the safety of all road users.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Shannon Municipal District Office has proposed the Carrigoran to Bellsfort section of this road for the National Transport Authorities Active Travel Programme. The proposal is to introduce a footpath along the road edge linking Bellsfort to Newmarket-on -Fergus. These works will incorporate safety measures for all road users.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested clarification on the response to this motion regarding the proposal to introduce a footpath. Tom Mellett responded that the safety of all road users would be considered as part of the design process.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am requesting Clare County Council to install safety bollards and road markings at Stonehall National School, Newmarket On Fergus as identified by the Department of Transport for the safety of all.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

The Shannon Municipal District Office has carried out improvements on each approach to the School in 2021. We have submitted the school for a Low-Cost Safety Scheme in 2022, should it be successful a design will be prepared to determine the most appropriate traffic calming measures.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I call on this MD to look at traffic calming measures in the Gleann Rua/Cluain Donn area of Ballycasey. This is an area that is almost like a cul de sac where a lot of children play and residents are concerned with the speed and visibility of traffic.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

It is the intention of this office to introduce a crossing point from these adjoining estates onto the upcoming Ballycasey Active Travel Project. Traffic Calming measures will be required to facilitate this crossing and will form part of the design process.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I call on this MD to look into traffic calming measures on the Gort road. This road is heavily used particularly during school hours, residents are concerned about traffic in the area.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

An Assessment of this road linking Drumgeely to Bothar na Rinne will be carried out to identify what issues are arising and potential solutions for them. A budget will then need to be identified.

The Members requested that the residents be consulted on such proposals.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I call on this MD to reduce the green space directly opposite St John's school in Drumgeely. This is quite a small area and delivery trucks are having to go up on this area to turn around. This being directly outside a school is causing safety concerns. I am also requesting that the white lines be repainted in the parking spaces in the same area.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

I have requested my colleagues in the Road Design Office to check on the turning capacity at this location and recommend the scale of adjustment required.

The members requested that an assessment take place of the overall area as residents have limited access to their homes.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I request that this MD install rumble strips on all approached roads to Poulawilly Bridge and to realign the road as there have been crashes on this road in recent times.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This will be added to our schedule of works.

Cllr. Pat O’Gorman added that adequate signage should be put in place to alert people that they are approaching a series of bad bends.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley

I request Clare County Council to extend the public lighting that stops before the Tail Race Bridge Parteen to incorporate the bridge for both drivers and pedestrians in the interest of safety.

Anne O’Sullivan replied as follows:

The lighting of this bridge has been investigated previously and due to the level and nature of constraints including the HV electricity line and the required clearances, the ownership of the structure (ESB) and the potential of introducing a hazard to traffic with glare it is not considered as a feasible project.

18. Notice of Motions submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon

I request this MD to investigate a solution to solve the problem of flooding on the roadway at Mogullaun, Newmarket On Fergus road number L3166 and including eircode V95NY05.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This office will assess flooding at this location and propose a solution.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

That this MD would carry out surface repairs and drainage to the road known locally as the Line Road between the Gullet Cross and Poulawilly Bridge, Cratloe

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

It is the intention of the Shannon Municipal District Office to include this road in the 2022 Surface Dressing programme, budget permitting.

At this stage of the meeting it was proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn that the standing orders be suspended to complete the business of the meeting.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman.

That this MD would carry out alignment works to Fianne Cross, Meelick, as it is very dangerous and there has been a fatality here in recent times

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

I have requested accident details in relation to this junction in order to find out if there is a pattern or accident type. This will inform design outcomes.

I will keep the members informed of progress.

Cllr. PJ Ryan stated that the landowners at this junction are willing to give land to facilitate the realignment at this location.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman

That this MD would carry out repairs to the R462 between Cratloe Cross and Sixmilebridge, (1) road subsiding near the cul de sac at Cratloe Cross (2) manhole cover below the level of the road at O’Gorman’s Cross (3) road subsiding near Killeen Cemetery.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Each of these locations will be assessed to determine the scale of the problem and what is required to ensure they are maintained to an appropriate standard.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

I am requesting Clare County Council to carry out a mobility plan for Sixmilebridge. It would be an opportune time for such a plan considering the current preparation of Clare County Development Plan 2021-2029.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

The Department of Rural & Community Development announced funding of €100,000 to develop a Town Plan for Sixmilebridge. A mobility Plan will form part of this plan and will consider modes

of transport, desire lines for walking and cycling routes and means of connectivity between the commercial centre and residential areas.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

That Clare County Council would install lights on both slipways at the junction of the N18 in Cratloe.

Anne O'Sullivan replied as follows:

This request will be forwarded to TII for their consideration and response. These slip roads are part of the National Road infrastructure and are operated and maintained by the Motorway Maintenance and Renewals Contract (MMaRC) operator.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

I am requesting Clare County Council to carry out works on the L7121 in Ballymorris, Cratloe as it is in a bad state of repair and has deteriorated further due to the volume of traffic on this road.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This road will be assessed and maintenance carried out as appropriate.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That provision be made for an overlay of a short section of the access road from Clonlara Village junction to Glor Na Shruha, which is breaking up and subsiding, particularly over the sewerage line.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

Clare County Council have applied for a Town and Village renewal project covering the centre of Clonlara Village. Should this be successful it will lead to a significant upgrade to this area. Any substantive works will be dependant on the outcome of this application.

In the meantime remedial works have taken place to repair this location.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

That blocked drains at "Heffernan's bend on the L-3050 (Clonlara to Doonass) road and at Humphries bend on the L-3058 between Mountcatherine bridge and Connors Cross be cleared.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This has been assessed and repair works will follow.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That a road gully near the lights at Parteen bridge be reset as the area surrounding it is crumbling.

Tom Mellett replied as follows:

This has been assessed and repair works will follow.

28. AOB

Cllr. Donna McGettigan proposed that representatives from Halo Care and Age Friendly Ireland make a presentation to the members at the March meeting of the Shannon MD. This was seconded by Cllr. John Crowe.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Signed: _____

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____