

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 at 9.45am at Shannon College of Hotel Management, Shannon International  
Airport, Shannon, Co. Clare.**

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

**Officials Present:** Liam Conneally Director of Service, Jason Murphy Senior Executive Officer (Meetings Administrator), Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer, Karen Fennessy Administrative Officer (Age Friendly Officer) and Patricia O’Neill Staff Officer.

**Other attendees present:** Dr. Phillip J. Smyth Head of Shannon College of Hotel Management and Sean T. Ruane Associate Head of School (AH) for Community Engagement at Shannon College of Hotel Management.

Cathaoirleach John Crowe opened the meeting and welcomed all present. He thanked Shannon College of Hotel Management for hosting the meeting.

1. Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.

## **2. Shannon College of Hotel Management**

Dr. Phillip J. Smyth, Head of Shannon College of Hotel Management welcomed the Members and provided an overview of the College from its foundation in 1951 to present day and plans for the future. The college is Ireland’s only dedicated hotel management college, offering two Level 8 degrees in preparing students for careers in business and hotel management. Central to their ethos, is a focus on intensive practical training, extensive business studies and international work placements which ensures students graduate with a bachelor’s business degree and 21 months of relevant experience. It is estimated that the college has an economic impact in excess of €5 million per annum to the region.

Dr. Smyth also outlined the challenges presented due to the Covid pandemic, attracting careers in hospitality and accommodation for students in the area.

Liam Conneally, Director of Service thanked Dr. Smyth for his presentation and for providing an insight into the College. He acknowledged the legacy and reputation of the college is far and wide including its affiliation with the NUIG. Mr. Conneally added that Clare County Council would work with the College and assist where possible. He concluded by thanking the College for the invite and looked forward to coming back in the future when students are present to get a full flavour of the college.

## **3. Karen Fennessy – Age Friendly Officer**

Karen Fennessy, Age Friendly Officer addressed the meeting and provided information in relation to Telehealth Care.

Telehealth care is an assistive technology that provides a service of remote assistance to vulnerable people, with physical and sensory impairment and their carers in their homes, thereby helping to manage the risk to their independence, well-being and health. The various schemes including the

providers of this technology, that work with Age Friendly Ireland, along with the benefits that each provider has to offer and also the costings associated with same was outlined.

Ms. Fennessy also updated the Members in relation to the Walkability Audit in Shannon which was part funded from Cllr. Donna McGettigan and Cllr. Gerard Flynn's allocation under the General Municipal Allocation (GMA). A draft report has been completed and following further review with the staff in the Shannon MD a briefing will be held with the Members for their participation and input. It is intended that this audit will inform Active Travel grant funding applications. Improved accessibility is the first step to Shannon becoming an Age Friendly Town.

Shannon Airport is also liaising with the Age Friendly Officer in making the airport age friendly.

The Members thanked Ms. Fennessy for her detailed presentation.

#### **4. Town and Village Paint Scheme**

It was agreed that the total funding of €10,000 under the Town and Village Scheme 2022 for the Shannon MD would be divided equally between Drumgeely, Shannon and Cratloe Community Council with each receiving €5,000. This was proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman.

#### **5. Section 38 Parteen Town and Village Renewal Scheme**

The report and maps in relation to this Section 38 for Parteen was circulated with the agenda. It was proposed by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe.

Cllr. Michael Begley requested that notification of these works would be circulated via Parteen National School to parents/guardians. Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer agreed to this.

#### **6. Shannon MD Small Community Grant Scheme 2022**

A total funding of €24,000 was allocated to under the Shannon MD Small Community Grant Scheme 2022. A list of successful applicants was circulated with the Agenda.

This was proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman.

#### **7. Economic Development Update**

Liam Conneally informed the Members that work is continuing on the Urban Regeneration Development Fund application for Shannon Town. The legal detail on the lease arrangement for the site is currently being finalised and it will then come under the control of Clare County Council. A brief for the site is also being worked on to include types of uses and size of building on the site. To assist the Elected Members in terms of what the site may accommodate, site visits are being organised to other locations. Following from these site visits a presentation will be made at the next MD Meeting.

Mr. Conneally also referred to the recent incident in Shannon Town Hall which resulted in the temporary closure of the office. Repair works have now been carried out and he acknowledged the staff of the MD for their rapid response in getting the building back open.

Jason Murphy, Senior Executive Officer thanked the Management and Staff of the Shannon College of Hotel Management for liaising with the office in organising the hosting of this meeting in their building. The Members were also informed that the draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) is currently open for submissions or observations until 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The Members asked if there are any proposals by the Council in relation to acquiring a building next to the site for the proposed hub in the Town Centre. It was also emphasised by the Members that ownership of the site should be finalised before any expenditure is incurred.

Liam Conneally responded that ownership of the building next to the site is different to the site for the proposed hub. Nothing has been advanced on this building but any property that will add value will be looked at.

In relation to ownership of the site, Mr. Conneally stated that the Members requests in relation to ownership is clearly understood by the Council executives and to this end they are close to finalising the terms and conditions of the lease arrangement and will be in control before money is spent on the site.

#### **8. Roadworks Programme – update by Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer**

- Surface Dressing Programme will be completed this week subject to weather, our crew spent a significant portion of the month preparing roads. Projection for overlay Programme is scheduled for June.
- Footpaths in Shannon Banks will be completed by Friday, further drainage works scheduled.
- Town & Village Renewal Parteen – currently working through details with preferred tender.
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) for Drumgeely – Contractor due on site this month.
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme Bunratty – Section 38 to be submitted next week, update to community group before then.
- Active Travel for Meelick - engagement with landowners is continuing.
- Concept Design on Drumgeely TVR is ongoing in co-operation with our General Design Office.
- Concept Design on elements of the Newmarket On Fergus ORIS grant is ongoing in collaboration with the Council Architects in the Planning Department.
- Westbury Pump Station upgrade is now complete.
- Westbury wall - works ongoing.
- Line marking works will commence in two weeks.
- Drainage works are ongoing throughout the district.
- Bus shelter in Newmarket On Fergus complete.
- Improvements to sight lines at St. Helen's estate.
- Knocksaggart Pedestrian lights upgrade is scheduled for this week.

Issues raised by the Members and responses by Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer:

- Start date for the footpaths in Meelick – Tom Mellett responded that the office is in the process of finalising the agreement with the landowners, once agreement has been reached it will then go for Part 8 by the end of the summer. This will then be followed by tendering for works, engagement with the NTA with a possible start date either at the end of this year or early next year.
- Line marking at the Wells Church car park. – Tom Mellett responded that this car park is in private ownership. Any interested parties can contact the office to discuss.
- Pedestrian lights at Clonmoney National School. Tom Mellett advised that the power is connected, signs are on order and works will be completed within the next couple of weeks.

**9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

I am requesting Clare County Council to improve the sight distance at the turn at the old water tower in Carrnakilla, Newmarket On Fergus due to safety concerns for all road users.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Clare County Council will arrange for a full assessment of this location with a subsequent design to be produced. Any following works will need to have a budget provided.*

**10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

I am calling on Clare County Council to ensure that there are sufficient resources in place for the hosting of the Women's Irish Open due to take place in Dromoland in September 2022.

**Jason Murphy, Senior Executive Officer replied:**

*Clare County Council is working with various stakeholders and agencies in respect of the anticipated Ladies European Tour proposed to be held in Dromoland Castle this coming September. The Fire Service as well as the teams in Shannon Municipal District, Tourism and Planning Departments have already met with organisers and other agencies in advance of an event management licence being applied for. As the project develops and the full requirements are known, we will provide appropriate supports to play our part in ensuring a successful event in this exceptional setting.*

This motion received the full support of all the Members.

**11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

That Clare County Council carry out drainage works on the side of the road fronting the houses on the section of road past Carrigoran House towards Mounment Cross. The piping of this drain would improve and enhance the entrances to these houses.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*The Shannon Municipal District Office cleaned this drainage system in 2021 and will arrange for the gullies and channels along this section of road to be cleaned again this year.*

**12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

I am requesting Clare County Council to carry out an assessment of the Shannon River Walk and put in place a work schedule for the upgrade of this scenic walk that is used by a considerable number of people.

**Seán Lenihan, Senior Engineer replied:**

*All are in agreement that the Shannon River Walk is a fantastic amenity for both the local community and visitors to the area and everything should be done to improve it where possible. Members will be aware of the longer-term plans to enhance and extend the River Walk, part of which will be contingent on the preferred option and final design selected for the Embankment areas which are currently being assessed as part of the Shannon Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme. If the preferred option involves raising, widening and strengthening of the embankments, we have instructed our design team to consider and incorporate where possible, measures to upgrade the walk. Dependent on ground conditions and flood patterns, it may be necessary to construct a sheet pile wall in some areas. Consequently, this will require a different solution to extend and enhance a walkway in the area and we will keep the Members informed of developments in this regard.*

*That being said, the Council is committed to enhance pedestrian and cycle facilities in the area. Members will be aware of the €100k allocated this year by the TII to progress Greenway/Blueway development plans for the area and a preliminary scoping meeting and site visit has already taken place with Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers regarding the Shannon projects.*

*Furthermore, members will be aware of the ORIS funding received to improve some sections of the walk which are currently impassable. A Contractor has been appointed and this work is scheduled to commence in the coming weeks.*

*Finally, I am happy to discuss further options with Members and work with the MD Engineers to identify any additional works that may be possible to deliver in the short to medium term*

**13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

I am calling on the Senior Engineer to upgrade the existing entrance to Illaunmanagh Graveyard as the increased volume of traffic entering and exiting the public facilities is having an impact on safety concerns due in some parts to limited sight lines at the entrance.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon Municipal District has submitted a design proposal for Active Travel funding to cover footpath upgrades at this location.*

*The sight distance's as you emerge from the graveyard road will be included in these works. An interim improvement will be carried out in the meantime.*

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

Clare County Council removed the bottle bank from Shannon Leisure Centre in 2017 and this decision has inconvenienced members of the public in Shannon with limited access to the Recycling Centre in Smithstown. What I am requesting is the provision of a mobile unit located within the environs of Shannon Town to safely facilitate people accessing a bottle bank. I would suggest possibly 1 day a week on a trial basis.

**Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer replied:**

*The original site at the leisure centre is no longer suitable due to resurfacing works at the centre which will not facilitate the turning movements of the collection vehicles which service the bring banks without potentially damaging the new surface.*

*We are currently working with the Municipal District Office in trying to establish a new bring bank site in Shannon in addition to the recycling centre. The site will need to be readily accessible for safe vehicular access and be in a well lit area to facilitate users. We are currently investigating the ownership and suitability of a number of sites.*

*It is not possible at this time to provide a mobile unit due to transport logistics and the provision of a suitable site but we will continue to look to provide a permanent location.*

*We will keep the members informed of progress.*

Cllr. Gerard Flynn reiterated his support for the motion with the need for such a facility within the environs of Shannon Town and that this request be given further consideration.

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That this MD would carry out repairs to the footpath at Kilmurry Road, Sixmilebridge adjacent to Mill Court housing estate (R462).

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Funding has been provided to introduce a Pedestrian Crossing along this road. The scope of the original works has been expanded to cover the footpath from Fredericks Square to the Broadford Road junction.*

*If further repairs are required these will be added to our annual Footpath Repair contract.*

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

That this MD request the TII and Colas Roadbridge to replace all road markings at Portdrine flyover Cratloe.

**John Gannon, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*I confirm that I have submitted this request to the TII, and I am waiting for a response.*

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That this MD design and install a footpath and lighting between Bunratty Folk Park (Low Road) and the Minister Cross (L3040).

**Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Clare County Council has engaged with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and received a commitment of €100,000 to advance the Shannon Greenway project. This incorporates a pedestrian route from Sixmilebridge to Bunratty.*

*At recent meetings the necessity to incorporate pedestrian infrastructure to facilitate the Low Road has been highlighted and will form part of the project feasibility study.*

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

I call on this MD to make the Boreen, Slí na Mara pedestrian and cycle only use, with use for vehicles for emergency or official use only.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*This road is predominately used by walkers and cyclists. Its status as a pedestrian route was reinforced in the Shannon Town Green Infrastructure Plan 2013. The Shannon Municipal District Office in collaboration with our colleagues in the Transportation Dept. will begin the process of declassifying this road.*

*S12 Roads Act 1993 can be used to abandon a public road without effecting the public right of way over the road, there is a requirement to allow for objections and submissions as part of this process.*

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

I call on this MD to place a permanent flagpole at the monument at the Shannon Library. This will mean we will have somewhere official to fly our flag.

**Jason Murphy, Senior Executive Officer replied:**

*Clare County Council has a long tradition of flying our National Flag at our main County Buildings, Áras Contae an Chláir, in Ennis. This practice is carried out in accordance with Departmental guidelines. As there are flag poles already in place at Shannon Town Hall and having regard to the practices in place and the importance of consistency at all our public buildings, at this point I do not believe there is a need to install another flagpole in Shannon Town.*

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

I call on this MD to place a safe crossing from the junction/mini roundabout at the comprehensive school to the entrance to Shannon Town Park.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*A fully controlled Pedestrian Crossing point is currently available adjacent to the Fire Station. There are currently drop kerbs allowing for crossing from the Comprehensive School to the Park adjacent to the mini-roundabout. This location will be assessed for its suitability.*

**21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

I am requesting that the road markings in Ashview Drive housing estate be redrawn as they have been worn away and that the Area Engineer would assess the estate to see if any additional markings are required.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*An upgrade of these markings will be added to our lining contractors works schedule.*

**22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

There has been great work done on footpaths and roads in housing estates in the MD and a lot more yet to be done. There seems to be a problem arising where the grass is growing at a point where the road meets the kerbing. I am requesting that the Engineer considers remediation measures for this problem and solutions for future developments.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*This is an issue arising across the county, currently policy is to use E.U. approved herbicides to control the growth of weeds along road edges where they are problematic. Shannon M.D. uses a product which reduces the volume of chemical used by a factor of 20 and minimises drift of the spray.*

*The Municipal District Staff routinely target areas where grass is emerging and causing damage to the road's infrastructure.*

**23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

I am seeking an update on the 2022 resurfacing programme and the timelines for the works in Sixmilebridge.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Under the Schedule of Municipal District Works Main St Sixmilebridge is included for an overlay from the Garda Station to the bridge in the centre of town and we will also carry out overlay works from the railway bridge towards Shannon. Our current projection is for those works to be completed in June.*

Cllr. John Crowe stated that traffic calming measures throughout Sixmilebridge on the approach to the Square should be considered.

**24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

I'm requesting this MD to provide bags and dog waste bins along the Shannon Estuary Loop Route.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Clare County Council currently operates a leave no trace policy. To this end additional waste bins are not encouraged. Scoop bags are provided by our Environment Dept and available free of charge from the Shannon M.D. office upon request.*

At this stage of the Meeting it was proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan to suspend the standing orders to proceed with the business of the meeting



**25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That this MD would carry out spraying and general cleaning of the footpaths in Meelick housing estates as the weeds and grass are beginning to take over the footpaths and making it very dangerous for people walking.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*These works will be added to our current maintenance programme.*

**26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

I'm calling on this MD to reverse the decision to close off the entrance to Cluainin apartments Tullyvarraga as a matter of health and safety. There are a lot of residential care facilities within the above address which call on emergency services on a more regular basis. When there is an emergency and the eircode is given out the ambulance is not directed to the house but to the entrance that has been closed off by Clare County Council. The entrance has to be reopened or at the very least in the meantime that maps would be updated.

**Gareth Ruane, Senior Executive Planner replied:**

*The Cluainin housing development received planning permission to use a temporary access onto Cronan Lawn/Cronan Grove until such time as the remainder of the site was completed. The original planning permission for Cluainin clearly shows its permanent access route through the adjacent site and onto a roundabout on the Local Road L-3310 - Bóthar Luachra. There was a delay in developing the adjoining site and during this period, the temporary access remained in use. There were ongoing objections and concerns expressed by the residents of Cronan Lawn / Cronan Grove about the continued use of this temporary access.*

*Once the adjoining site was completed in January 2020, there was an obligation on the Council to ensure that the planning conditions for Cluainin development were complied with. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic there was a delay in carrying out these works, however the works to close the temporary entrance and link the development to the new permanent exit were completed in March 2022.*

*The Planning Department are finalising the taking in charge of the Cluainin development and this recommendation will be brought before the Shannon MD members during 2022 and as part of this process, the Planning Department has committed to reviewing and updating the signage for the Cluainin development.*

A discussion ensued in relation to this motion. It was agreed that any alternative entrance would require a separate application. Tom Mellett has agreed to discuss alternatives considered by the Planning Department.

**27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

I am asking this MD roads to erect a direction sign for Clonlara at Connor’s Cross (Clancy’s).

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*This Office will make arrangements for a directional sign to be erected.*

**28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That this MD would source appropriate funding to construct a pedestrian walkway along the R463 from Clonlara Cross (junction with R471) to Monaskeha (junction with L-7040).

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*This project will be nominated for an Active Travel project.*

Cllr. Michael Begley requested a timeline for this proposed project.

Tom Mellett stated that this proposal will be included in the nomination process to the NTA and subject to approval and funding in place it would envisaged that the project could be delivered with the next year or so.

**29. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

That this MD would source permanent funding for the annual treatment of invasive species, particularly Giant Hogweed, which is getting out of control particularly in the Mountcathrine/Gilloge/Shannon Banks areas.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*During 2021 this Office secured funding of €10,000 to complete a comprehensive treatment programme in the Errinagh Canal and Blackwater areas. This funding has not been made available in 2022 and we are currently looking for alternative funding streams to continue this work.*

*To date we have approved treatment along the public road from Clancy's Cross to Clonlara village via Mountcatherine.*

Cllr. Michael Begley stated as this is an environmental issue, funding should be sourced through the Environment department.

It was agreed that this motion would be submitted to Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Environment for consideration.

**30. AOB**

- Date for AGM – It was agreed that the AGM for the Shannon MD would take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 at 3pm at a venue to be decided.
- Cllr. Michael Begley stated that the decking and protection mesh on footbridge from Clonlara to Castleconnell needs replacing. Maintenance and repairs are carried out by Limerick City & County Council which is part funded by Clare County Council. Liam Conneally agreed to bring this to the attention of Limerick City & County Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Cathaoirleach

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

Meetings Administrator

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_