

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD AT BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICE, COUNCIL CHAMBER, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE at 2.00 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. Finnerty

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Cllrs. T. Broderick, D. Burke, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, A. Donohue.

**Oifigigh:** Ms. C. McConnell A/Director of Service, Mr. L. Gavin, Director of Services, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, Mr. F. McEvoy, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn A/Graduate Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2015** **MDB14070**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Burke.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to Minute No. MDB14065 Page 2, Mr. Gavin advised that the Derrycahill Bridge project is to be advanced by Roscommon County Council with a monetary contribution being made by Galway County Council.

In response to Cllr. Burke and with reference to Minute No. MDB14069 Page 4, Ms. Gardiner advised that no response had been received to the letter which had issued to Minister Alan Kelly on the 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 requesting that the necessary infrastructure be provided in the town of Ballinasloe in order to ensure e-fibre broadband is provided to serve Main Street, Ballinasloe.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to Minute No. MDB 14065 Page 2, Mr. Gavin advised that the Western CFRAM Public Consultations would commence shortly and that the OPW has provided €1.9m to Galway County Council towards flood alleviation projects. Mr. Gavin also advised that the next allocation of funds to Galway County Council by the OPW will

be based on the recommendations of the CFRAM report. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Gavin advised that in addition to the €1.9m there was a separate allocation of funding provided for the Derrymullen project by the OPW.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Gavin advised that a meeting with all the stakeholders with regard to the East Bridge and Station Road projects was being held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2015.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Gavin advised that he would seek clarification from the OPW with regard the what obligations if any are placed on Insurance Companies to reduce insurance premiums for householders in areas where flood alleviation measures have been undertaken.

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ABANDON A PUBLIC ROAD – SECTION 12 OF THE ROADS ACT, 1996**  
**MDB14071**

On the proposal of Cllr. Donohue, seconded by Cllr. Burke, the Council approved the abandonment of the following public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with:-

**M6 Service Road, Poolboy/Dunlo, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway**

Road commencing at its junction with the LT84133 and LT84134 in the townland of Poolboy and extending northwards for 30 Meters in the townland of Poolboy and extending in a westerly direction for a distance of approximately 859 meters and ending at its turning bay in the townland of Dunlo.

**TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM MS. CATHERINA BLEWITT, WEST REGIONAL BUSINESS & RELATIONSHIP MANAGER, IDA**  
**MDB14072**

Ms. Blewitt advised that:

- The main objective of IDA Ireland is to encourage Foreign Direct Investment, to work with the FDI Companies already in Ireland and to ensure staff numbers are maintained and increased at these companies.
- IDA Ireland work as part of a team in doing their work in that they work with the planning sections of Local Authorities, the Indigenous Sector and Enterprise Ireland etc.
- The IDA Strategy for 2010 – 2014 had been very successful in attracting FDI into the larger urban area and that the focus of the current IDA Strategy for 2015 – 2019 was more on Regional Development.

- There are clear trends which show that FDI Companies are looking for locations of scale, international connectivity, telecoms, good road access, property options, evidence of startup communities and innovation at a local level etc.
- The client will always choose the location after undertaking due diligence and site location visits together with pre investment queries and research on availability of property options.

Ms. Blewitt advised that IDA Ireland markets regions where the IDA feel there is a match and at present there are 89 IDA supported companies in the West Region employing 18,000 persons. Of those, Ms. Blewitt advised that 63 IDA supported companies are based in Galway employing 14,000 persons of which the majority are in the Medical Technologies/Technical Sectors, i.e. Boston Scientific, Medtronic, Covidien. Ms. Blewitt advised that the target in the current Strategy for 2010 – 2014 is to facilitate approx 92 – 99 projects for the West Region.

All of the members expressed concern about the lack of investment in the town of Ballinasloe and queried what actions could be taken in order to promote Ballinasloe as an Investment Centre. Ms. Blewitt advised that the IDA will continue to market Ballinasloe and other towns in the Region and advised of the challenges for the IDA in trying to get companies matched to specific towns. Ms. Blewitt stated that Ballinasloe Town had much of the criteria required to attract investment including a good rail and road network; 13 hectares of development land along with property space. Ms. Blewitt referred to Aptar and Creagh Medical Ltd. both companies which are currently based in the Business Park in Ballinasloe and stated that Aptar is an IDA supported company and that Creagh Medical Ltd is an Enterprise Ireland supported company.

Ms McConnell advised that adequate lands have been zoned for FDI in Ballinasloe in the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015 – 2021 and she also referred to the infrastructure upgrade which is currently being undertaken in the town and the rail and road networks as positives in attracting FDI.

Ms. McConnell also advised that 25 submissions had been received on the Draft Ballinasloe Local Area Plan 2015 – 2021.

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS**

**MDB14073**

Mr. Gavin advised that five Community Involvement Schemes had been approved by the Roads and Transportation Department for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe and details regarding same he advised had been circulated to the members.

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS**

**MDB14074**

Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Burke it was agreed that " This Council proposes that we again write to the Minister for Health and HSE West to get further

update on the proposed 50 room 100 bed unit for Portiuncula Hospital . We are requesting the Minister and the HSE seek planning for this extension and the project go to the building stages as soon as possible.”

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MDB14075**

In response to Cllrs. Broderick, D. Connolly and Donohue, Mr. Gavin advised that it was open to the members to include Nutfield Cross as a funding project under the Low Cost Safety Schemes.

Discussion took place with regard to the progression of Phase 1 of the Ballinasloe Main Drainage Advance Scheme and all the members raised concerns over the perceived lack of consultation by the Contractors on this project with the business community in the town. Mr. Gavin in response referred to stakeholders involved which he stated included Irish Water, the Contractors and Galway County Council and stated that Galway County Council were doing everything in their power to ensure that the least possible disruption would ensue while the contract is in progress. Mr. Gavin re-iterated Galway County Council’s commitment to this project and advised that Galway County Council’s appointed Liaison person on this project was Mr. Whelan, Resident Engineer whom he stated had considerable experience in this area. Mr. Gavin stated that both Mr. Whelan and Mr. Headd would be available to discuss with business owners and members of the public any issues they may have.

In response to Cllr. Finnerty, Ms. McConnell advised that she would arrange to invite the Director of Service/Senior nominated staff member from Housing Department to attend the next monthly meeting of the MD of Ballinasloe in order to brief the members about the Housing Unit’s Policies and Plans for the Ballinasloe Area. Cllr. Donohue complimented the staff of the Housing Section on the improvement works carried out at Bridge Court, Ahascragh.

Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty it was agreed that the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would write to Minister Alan Kelly and CEO of Irish Water and state that “This Council is calling on Minister Alan Kelly and the CEO of Irish Water to give back the discretion to Councils to engage with the public when getting connections for new houses and also to extend this flexibility to Council to engage with people in the replacement of lead pipes etc.

I propose that we write to Minister Alan Kelly, T.D. and C.E.O. of Irish Water Mr. John Tierney to request this kind of work is taken care of at Council level”.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved and Signed

Mr Paul Finnan

(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

15/07/15

(Date)