

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 12th July, 2017 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. A. Donohue

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. T. Broderick, D. Burke, M. Connolly, D. Connolly, M. Finnerty.

Oifigigh: Ms. C. McConnell, A/Director of Service, Mr. M. Owens, A/Director of Service, Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Service, Mr. M. Raftery, Chief Fire Officer, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Mr. A. Headd, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. F. McEvoy, Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, A/Assistant Engineer, Mr. C. Ryder, Landfill Manager, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

Mr. Tommie Aherne, Cleaghmore, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Phoebe Walshe, Liscappul, Aughrim, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mr. Ger Moloney, 79 Hymany Park, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF (A) THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE, 2017 AND (B) THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14TH JUNE, 2017

MDB17035

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 14th June, 2017 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Broderick.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 14th June, 2017 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB17034 Page 2, Mr. Owens explained that Galway County Council's Allocation Policy sets out the methodology involved when the

Council's Housing Department allocate social housing and Mr. Owens also referred in particular to: priority to be accorded to eligible applicants; assessment of need; transfers; the work of the Allocations Committee and the interaction involved as part of this process with outside agencies i.e. Gardaí, HSE and Tusla. In accordance with the Council's Allocation Scheme, Mr. Owens explained that should a housing applicant refuse two offers of housing within their areas of choice within a twelve month period their application will be suspended for 12 months. Mr. Owens stated that if a person who is on the Homeless list refuses a house, they are then deemed to be no longer eligible for homeless services and the basis of their housing need will be re-categorised on the Housing List.

Mr. Owens advised that in dealing with anti social behaviour issues, the Council has available to it: Housing Legislation, Galway County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2015 – 2017 which he stated is based on the national legislative framework and the Council's Estate Management Strategy. Mr. Owens explained that all valid anti social behaviour complaints when received are categorized from high priority to low priority – Category A, Category B and Category C. Category A, Mr. Owens explained includes drug activity as per legal definition and Category B includes: non drug related criminal activity; violence/harassment/intimidation; vandalism and public order. Mr. Owens explained that due to the nature of the activity covered by Category A and B, the response was led by the Policing Authority and that the Council liaised closely with An Garda Síochána while ensuring that no actions were taken that might prejudice a criminal investigation, prosecution or the securing of a conviction. All actions by the Council will follow and be influenced by the outcome of any criminal investigation. He emphasised the importance of all such incidents being reported directly to An Garda Síochána in addition to the Council. Mr. Owens advised that Category C complaints includes: noise/disturbance, rubbish or dumping and graffiti and he stated while Category C complaints may be referred to the Gardaí they are normally dealt with by Galway County Council in accordance with the terms of the tenancy agreement and the policy and legislative framework. He advised that the response includes supporting the tenancy in sustaining their tenancy through compliance with the terms of their tenancy agreement.

Mr. Owens advised that it is a small minority of tenants that cause anti-social behaviour problems, while recognising the potential for such behaviour to have an adverse impact on the neighbourhood and wider community. Mr. Owens advised that the ultimate sanction with regard to anti- social behaviour is eviction of the tenant. Mr. Owens explained that the Council does not itself have the powers to evict a tenant as it is necessary for the Council to bring a case before the Courts in order to get an Eviction Order. Mr. Owens advised that the Council has a statutory obligation to meet housing needs and that there is a significant burden to prove to the Court that the proportionate response to the behaviour is the sanction of an eviction and to make an individual or family homeless. Mr. Owens advised that seeking an Eviction Order must only be as a last resort and he advised that it would be necessary for the Council as part of this process to show that all other reasonable actions had been taken to allow the tenant to sustain their tenancy.

In response to Cllrs. Broderick and Donohue, Mr. Owens advised that there is ongoing co-operation with the Gardaí. Cllr. Donohue advised that he would raise the issue of anti-social behaviour at the next Joint Policing Committee Meeting.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB17034 Page 3, Mr. Headd advised that that the stretch of road at Killure was not part of the 2017 Roads Programme and that there were no resources available to do this work.

PART 8 PROPOSAL FOR CREGGAUN, BALLINASLOE

MDB17036

Mr. Owens referred to the amended Traveller Accommodation Programme approved at the July, 2017 Plenary Council Meeting which he stated included a number of Capital Projects. Mr. Owens advised that capital funding was now available for the demolition and redevelopment of Site 1, Creggaun, Estate Management and Enhancement Works and that the Part 8 Proposal for same would be published in the newspaper in July, 2017 with the intention that the Part 8 Proposal would go before the members at the September, 2017 Plenary Council Meeting. If approved Mr. Owens advised that it was intended that the project would then at this stage go to tender. Mr. Owens stated that the project had an estimated construction period of 10 months.

In response to Cllr. Finnerty, Mr. Owens advised the overall cost of the project was approximately €250,000, €150,000 he stated to be taken from the 2017 allocation and the remaining cost to be subject to the 2018 allocation.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Owens advised that Site 1, Creggaun has been deemed unfit for occupancy and that Galway County Council's Tenancy Sustainment Strategy supported the Council in monitoring the obligations of tenants. Cllr. Donohue welcomed the additional funding.

PRESENTATION ON THE DELIVERY OF FIRE SERVICES IN MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MDB17037

Mr. Michael Raftery, Chief Fire Officer presented a report on the Galway Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS). The C.F.O. advised that the total expenditure for 2017 for the GFRS is estimated at €11.07 million, approximately €7 million of which he stated will be expended on the annual wage/salary costs including pensions. The C.F.O. stated that GFRS has 1 Full Time Station whose Headquarters is located at Fr. Griffin Road, Galway City and 10 Retained Fire Stations located in Athenry, Ballinasloe, Carraroe, Clifden, Gort, Loughrea, Mountbellew, Portumna, Tuam and Inish Mór. The C.F.O. stated that there are currently 154 operational personnel employed in GFRS; 36 Full Time and 12 Retained Fire Fighters are employed in the Full Time Station at Fr. Griffin Road; a total of 106 Retained Firefighters are employed in the 10 retained stations and that GFRS has a total 34 fire appliances plus general support vehicles.

Mr. Raftery set out the Organisational Structure for the GFRS and provided detail with regard to all of the following: Fire Cover Areas, Summary data for the GFRS 11 Stations, Fire and

Rescue Operations, Fire Appliances, Operations of an Emergency nature, GFRS key issues, Health and Safety, Training, Communications, Fire Prevention, Community Fire Safety, Performance Indicators, Major Emergency Management, Keeping Communities Safe and specific data with regard to GFRS within the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

All of the Councillors thanked the Chief Fire Officer for his comprehensive presentation and commended the Fire Service for the valuable work they provide to local communities.

In response to Cllr. Donohue, Mr. Raftery advised that most calls to the GFRS are genuine with only a small percentage of calls deemed to be false alarms and that the GFRS are part of a team including both the Civil Defence and Galway County Council which deals with flooding issues when they arise in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, the C.F.O. explained the procedures for dealing with Major Emergencies and the training involved in same. The C.F.O. also explained how the Regional Communications Centre in Castlebar (CAMP) operates and the process involved when a fire call is received.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Raftery advised that there are 12 Retained Firefighters employed in the Ballinasloe Fire Station which is a 2 Pump Station and 9 Retained Firefighters in the Mountbellew Fire Station which is a 1 Pump Station. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Cullen stated that to employ Full Time Firefighters in each of the Retained Fire Stations as opposed to the Retained Fighters as is currently the case, would mean the Council incurring very significant cost increases in wages due to the wage costs involved in employing Full Time Firefighters.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly, Finnerty and Burke the C.F.O. advised that Cross Boundary agreements are in place with adjoining Fire and Rescue Services.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, the C.F.O. advised that the GFRS Training Budget for 2017 is €490k.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB17038

Mr. Cullen and Mr. Ryder provided an update to the members in relation to the East Galway Landfill. Mr. Cullen advised that the tender process for the construction works has been completed and that the contract which he stated is valued at approximately €8m excluding VAT had been awarded to Gibson Brothers Ltd. Mr. Cullen advised that work would commence on this project on the 24th July, 2017 and advised that a significant increase in traffic volumes to the Landfill on the Haul Routes would result as large quantities of material would have to be transported to the site. Mr. Cullen stated that this increase in traffic could possibly be threefold and that it was expected that these works would continue for the next 15 months approximately. Mr. Cullen explained that in due course the level of traffic would reduce.

In response to Cllr. Donohue, Mr. Cullen advised that there was no flexibility with regard to the use of any other routes other than the Haul Route as this was the stipulated route in the original Planning Permission.

In response to Cllr. Donohue, Mr. Ryder advised that Gibson Brothers Ltd. would be making contact with local quarries as part of the process in order to ascertain if they could provide any of the materials, however, he advised that the materials which are required to be used have very specific requirements.

In response to Cllr. Broderick in relation to the loss of some waste from trucks on route to the Landfill, Mr. Ryder advised that he would look into this matter. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly with regard to Road Traffic Safety at the local National School and the local pitches during this period of time where there will be increased traffic, Mr. Cullen advised that he would discuss this issue with the Contractor.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Cullen advised that the carrying out of Winter Maintenance on the Cappataggle to Kilconnell Road is a function of the Roads Department and that the budget for same would come from the Landfill Budget. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Cullen advised that applications for Planning Permission would not be affected as a result of the expected additional traffic on the Haul Route.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB17039

No business arising.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB17040

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Headd advised that the provision of double yellow lines at the Railway Hotel would involve a review of the Ballinasloe Traffic Management Plan and that no resources were available at present to undertake this review.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Cullen advised that Galway County Council has no role in conveyancing where banks are involved in the sale of commercial properties and he stated that it is up to the purchaser to make diligent checks. In response to Cllr. Donohue, Mr. Cullen stated that when commercial properties are sold where rates are outstanding, the Local Authority has the power to pursue the rateable occupier. Mr. Cullen also explained that judgment mortgages may also be obtained by the Local Authority and registered against properties. Mr. Cullen advised that Mr. Mullarkey, Head of Finance should be able to advise further in relation to this matter.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday, 13th September, 2017 at 2.00 p.m. in the Municipal District Offices of Ballinasloe.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

13/9/17

(Date)