

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 14th SEPTEMBER, 2016 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. D. Burke

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh: Ms. C. McConnell, A/Director of Services, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Mr. A. Headd, A/ Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. F. McEvoy, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. K. Coyne, Rapid Co-Ordinator, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer to the meeting and congratulated him on his appointment as Senior Engineer in the Roads and Transportation Department. The Cathaoirleach also thanked Mr. Mitchell's predecessor, Mr. Leahy for his services to the Council and whom he stated has taken up appointment as a Senior Engineer with Clare County Council.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13th JULY, 2016

MDB16046

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on the 13th July, 2016 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Finnerty, seconded by Cllr. Donohue.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB16044 Page 7, Ms Gardiner advised that a response dated 2nd September, 2016 had been received from Minister for Health, Simon Harris, T.D. with regard to the July Resolution of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe in relation to the Emergency Department at Portiuncula Hospital. The response was welcomed by the members and was read into the Meeting: "Dear Ms. Gardiner, Thank you for your letter concerning assurance that there will be no downgrading or closure of the Emergency Department at Portiuncula University Hospital in Ballinasloe.

I am happy to confirm that there are no changes planned with respect to the status of Portiuncula University Hospital Emergency Department.

A review of Saolta emergency provision had previously raised concerns re staffing levels at Portiuncula. The Saolta University Healthcare Group is happy to report that a second ED consultant and a number of additional medical consultants are now in position. Therefore, there are no longer concerns with respect to the safety of staffing levels within the Portiuncula ED.

Given sustained pressure on the hospital system nationwide, my current focus is on investment in our health services.

I trust that this clarifies the matter for you.

Yours sincerely, Simon Harris, T.D., Minister for Health”

With reference to MDB16042 Page 4, Cllrs. D. Connolly and Broderick asked for an update on Kilconnell Water Supply to be provided at the October Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB16043 Page 5, Mr. Headd advised that the position regarding Gateway Scheme employees based in Ballinasloe had not changed. Mr. Mitchell advised that he is in contact with the Human Resources Department with regard to recruitment of employees.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB16045 Page 7, Mr. Headd advised that Galway County Council had been in contact with the contractor responsible for maintenance of the CCTV in the town.

In response to Cllr. Finnerty and with reference to MDB16045 Page 7, it was agreed at the request of Cllr. Burke that the issue of the sulky racing be addressed at the Fair and Festival Committee Meeting.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME 2016 – OVERVIEW

MDB16047

Mr. Kieran Coyne, Rapid Co-Ordinator with Community, Enterprise and Economic Development Department made a presentation to the members with regard to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2016. Mr. Coyne advised that the central aim of the scheme is to support the revitalisation of towns and villages in order to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future. Mr. Coyne advised the members with regard to the types of activities which can be supported through this Scheme and he stated that the 2016 Scheme has two categories of eligible towns/villages namely: Category 1: Towns/Villages with population of < 5,000 and Category 2: Towns with population of 5,000 – 10,000. Mr. Coyne advised that the Scheme will be co-financed by Government at a maximum rate of 85%. 15% of the project cost Mr. Coyne stated will be provided by the Local Authority/other partners with a minimum 5% cash contribution required. Mr. Coyne

stated that at least 50% of the project proposals and 50% of the value of the funding sought from each Local Authority should be in respect of Category 1 Towns with populations of 5,000 or less and that a maximum of two Category 2 Projects (towns with populations of between 5,000 and 10,000) will be funded in any county. Mr. Coyne advised that an allocation of €380,000 would be made available to Galway County Council. Mr. Coyne also advised the members in relation to the selection process and funding rules.

Mr. Coyne advised that the lead in time for the 2016 Scheme was very short and because of that he stated that there was a need to focus on schemes which were ready to go and had a good geographic spread. Mr. Coyne advised that an analysis of 44 projects had been undertaken which included submissions made by local communities and that 8 projects would be selected overall.

All the Councillors while they welcomed the new Scheme, they expressed concern about the requirement for matching of funds by local community groups, the rushed aspect of the scheme and the amount of funding available.

Ms. McConnell stated that it was hoped that the new Scheme would be multi annual and that a minimum of €190,000 would be available for Category 1 Schemes which apply to smaller towns and villages. She advised that the Community, Enterprise and Economic Development Department would be developing workshops for local community groups to ensure they are prepared for any subsequent schemes and that Community Groups should get their projects submitted to Kieran Coyne as soon as possible.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB16048

Following on from the development of the M17, Mr. Mitchell advised of the proposed reclassification of specific roads and he advised that further details would be brought to the members at a later stage.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB16049

In response to Cllrs. Burke and Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. McEvoy advised that he had a contractor in place to rectify the problem at Dunlo Recreational Track, however, he advised that was awaiting approval of funding from the Corporate Services Department.

On the proposal of Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, the following was agreed: "I propose that Municipal District of Ballinasloe receive a detailed update at the next meeting on estates to be taken in charge by the Council within Ballinasloe Town and the wider Municipal District".

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB16050

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Ms. McConnell confirmed that County Rate cannot be increased during the adjustment period.

In response to queries raised by Cllr. Broderick, Ms. McConnell advised that the Transport Infrastructure Ireland can bypass the regular planning permission process in the development of strategic infrastructure and online services on the motorway network. Cllr. Broderick expressed dissatisfaction with the inequality of this process.

Cllr. D. Connolly stated that greater public awareness was required with regard to the availability of pre planning meetings with staff in the Planning Department which he stated are available to the general public.

In response to Cllr. Finnerty, Ms. McConnell advised that the approval of a Part 8 Planning Application is a reserved function. Ms. McConnell stated that as part of this process, a Part 8 Planning Report has to be provided by the executive to the members prior to such a decision being taken where she stated it was open to the members to accept or reject same.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. McEvoy advised that there were issues regarding availability of manpower with regard to cutting of grass in housing estates and in parks and open spaces in the town. Mr. McEvoy advised that it was intended to progress maintenance of green areas subject to resources and that that hedge cutting had now commenced in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. Cllr. D. Connolly expressed dissatisfaction with the level of service with regard to grass cutting in the town.

In response to queries raised by Cllrs. D. Connolly and Donohue, Mr. McEvoy advised that he would assess the situation at Moher.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and Burke, Mr. McEvoy advised that river maintenance works at Deerpark had commenced.

Cllr. D. Connolly commended the work of Sean Canney T.D., Minister for State at the Office of Public Works OPW and Flood Relief, however he expressed concern at the timescale within which the proposed works are due to commence. Cllr. D. Connolly also expressed concern that areas that were subject to flooding in 2015 were not being addressed as part of the CFRAM process.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. McEvoy advised the Town Enhancement Project is due to commence in 2017.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

14/9/16

(Date)