

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 10th May, 2017 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. D. Burke

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh: Ms. C. McConnell, A/Director of Service, Mr. M. Timmins, Director of Service, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Ms. M. Ni Chionna, Senior Engineer, Mr. F. McEvoy, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, A/Assistant Engineer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

Bishop John Kirby, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

Fr. Colm Allman, Garbally College, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Fr. John Garvey, Presbytery, Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mrs. Anna Soden, Portnick, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH APRIL, 2017

MDB17025

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 12th April, 2017 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. Donohue and with reference to MDB17016 Page 2 in relation to St. Brigid's Hospital, Ballinasloe Ms. Gardiner advised that no further correspondence had been received from the HSE. Cllr. Donohue advised that he had contacted Mr. Carroll, Environment Section with regard to the possibility of using this site as a proposed car park for Creagh Cemetery, Ballinasloe at this location.

In response to Cllr. Donohue with reference to MDB17019 Page 2, regarding attendance at Public Information Meetings held by the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office, Ms.

Ni Chionna advised that she would consult with the Environment Section regarding the advertising of these Public Information Meeting who she advised would in turn liaise with the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office Regional Director.

REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS – NATIONAL ROADS

MDB17026

Ms. Ni Chionna made a presentation to the Councillors on the National Road Speed Limit Review - Route N63. Ms. Ni Chionna advised that Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland were issued from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in March, 2015 and that subsequent to this, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) undertook a review of all speed limits of the National Roads in Galway. Ms. Ni Chionna presented in detail 4 No. maps of the N63 which set out for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe where the existing Speed Limits currently exist and where any Speed Limit changes are being proposed.

Ms. Ni Chionna advised that it is proposed that 100 km p/hr speed limits will be reduced to 80 km p/hr speed limits on the N63 at locations where there is a history of accidents; where the roads are bendy and where the roads do not meet a certain width. Ms. Ni Chionna advised that she was bringing this information to the Municipal District of Ballinasloe in an advisory capacity prior to issuing draft byelaws for public consultation. After considering submissions, the amended draft byelaws will go to the Municipal District meetings before the final document would go before the full Council in the Autumn of 2017.

In response to Cllr. Broderick with regard to future funding for National Roads, Ms. Ni Chionna advised that the proposed changes to the Speed Limits would not affect future funding for National Roads in the County. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Timmins advised that Transport Infrastructure Ireland would have the final say in relation to the implementation of 80 km p/hr Speed Limits in the County and he advised that the TII's recommendations with regard to the revised Speed Limits were as a direct result of studies carried out at the locations in question through means of traffic counts and speed flows in conjunction with the Road Safety Authority. Mr. Timmins advised that the national policy was geared towards ensuring that roads are safe for cars, cyclists and walkers.

Cllr. Broderick raised concerns with regard to the bridge in Newbridge and the approach road near the National School in Moylough.

Ms. Ni Chionna advised that Galway County Council are currently doing a review of Speed Limits for Regional and Local Roads in the County and advised that the Council is accepting submissions with regard to same. Ms. Ni Chionna also advised that two of the submissions received to date, copies of which she circulated to the Councillors, were within the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. In both cases the concern was raised due to dangerous overtaking.

**PRESENTATION BY MS. ELAINE O'RIORDAN, GALWAY COUNTY BIODIVERSITY PROJECT
MANAGER, NUI GALWAY ON BEHALF OF THE GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL INVASIVE
SPECIES WORKING GROUP.**

MDB17027

Ms. O’Riordan presented the “Draft Invasive Species Strategy for County Galway” to the Councillors. Ms. O’Riordan advised that in 2015, a working group was assembled which included GCC staff members from all sections within Galway County Council for the purpose of developing a policy and strategy for dealing with invasive species in County Galway. Ms. O’Riordan advised that the group set out a number of themes for discussion as part of the development of the Strategy including Target Species; Awareness; Recording, Mapping Education and Training; Galway County Council Projects and Properties, Environment, Planning and Best Practice. Ms. O’Riordan advised that when the draft strategy was compiled, a meeting was organised with representative from other agencies and organisations to discuss how efforts could be co-ordinated with the Council in the management of invasive species. Ms. O’Riordan also advised that work has already begun on many aspects of the strategy including awareness; mapping and controlling invasive species in certain areas by Galway County Council Staff and Community Groups. Ms. O’Riordan advised that the costs associated with surveying and controlling invasive species in particular are likely to be very high and a commitment of several years is required to tackle to the problem. Ms. O’Riordan advised that funding will be sought from Central Government, Local Councillors, partner agencies and other sources to be identified.

Ms. O’Riordan advised that the focus of the Strategy was in the categorisation in order of importance the species of highest concern and the best practice with regard to managing them. Ms. O’Riordan explained that Invasive Alien Species are plants and animals that have been introduced to a new area outside of their normal range, where in the absence of natural controls such as predators or disease, spread rapidly and cause ecological, health and or economic impacts in their new environment and that the economic cost to Ireland was estimated at approximately €200 million annually. Ms. O’Riordan advised that it is expected that the draft Invasive Species Strategy will be brought before the full Council shortly for adoption.

In response to Cllr. Burke, Ms. O’Riordain advised that the current Legislation in relation to control of invasive species is weak and she stated that that the onus is on landowners to eradicate invasive species plants and that is an offence to allow it to spread.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR’S BUSINESS

MDB17028

No business arising.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH’S BUSINESS

MDB17029

No business arising.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB17030

Cllr. Broderick expressed concern with regard to the lack of mental Health Services in Ballinasloe.

Cllr. Broderick paid tribute to all involved in the actions taken to have Coláiste an Creagáin, Mountbellew remain open and he thanked the staff of the GRETB for reversing their decision.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday 14th June at 1.00 p.m. in the Municipal District Offices of Ballinasloe.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday 14th June at 2.00 p.m. in the Municipal District Offices of Ballinasloe.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ailbhe Forde', written over a horizontal line.

(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

14/6/17

(Date)