

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 21st February, 2018 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. A. Donohue

LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh: Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Service, Mr. J. Cullen, Director of Service, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Ms. N. Heffernan, Administrative Officer, Mr. F. McEvoy, Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, A/Assistant Engineer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

Ms. Nonie Burke, Station Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mr. Andrew Hamill, 16 Kilgarve Park, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Ann Donnellan, 3 St. Theresa's Park, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mr. Mick Dillon, 1 Ashfield Drive, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Julia Reynolds, Gurteen, Mountbellew, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17th JANUARY, 2018

MDB18006

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 17th January, 2018 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. M. Connolly and with reference to MDB18005 Page 3, Ms. Gardiner advised that a response had been received from Minister Eoghan Murphy, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government dated 25th January, 2018 with regard the December Resolution of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe in relation to the Waste Transfer Station at Pollboy. Ms. Gardiner advised that the letter of response referenced various aspects of Planning Legislation and guidelines involved in the planning processes.

Cllrs. M. Connolly, D. Connolly and Donohue expressed their disappointment with the response as received. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that in his opinion the residents have no option but to consider going down the legal route. In relation to the Section 140 and the

discussion which took place at the Plenary Council Meeting around same, Cllr. Donohue referred the members to the Chief Executive's answer which he stated was clear in that the use of Section 140 is prohibited in respect of an executive decision required under the Planning Acts.

**TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS (SMDW) 2018
(TO INCLUDE ROADS PROGRAMME AND ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING, RECREATION AND
AMENITY SCHEDULE OF REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE)** MDB18007

Mr. Cullen presented the Draft Municipal District Schedule of Works 2018 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe for the Service Areas of Environment, Housing and Recreation and Amenity. Mr. Mitchell presented the Draft Municipal District Schedule of Works 2018 (Draft Roads Programme 2018) for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe

All of the members thanked both Mr. Cullen and Mr. Mitchell and their staff for all of the work involved in the preparation of the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) 2018.

In relation to the Service Area of Recreation and Amenity and in particular with reference to correspondence which issued to the residents in Private Estates in Ballinasloe with regard to grass cutting, Mr. Mitchell advised that since October 2017 the issue of funding for grass cutting in private housing had been flagged to the Members. Mr. Mitchell advised that in all Housing Estates taken in charge by Galway County Council throughout the County, grass cutting is the responsibility of the individual Residents Associations. Cllr. D. Connolly expressed concern with the correspondence which had issued to residents and asked that the letter be withdrawn. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mitchell advised that the allocation of €136k did not include for grass cutting of Local Authority Housing Estates. Mr. Farrell advised that grass cutting in Local Authority Housing Estates is funded under the Housing Service Area - Estate maintenance. In response to Cllr. Finnerty, Mr. Mitchell advised that there is no allocation for grass cutting in private Housing Estates under Parks and Open Spaces. Mr. McEvoy advised that a tender had issued on the e-Tenders Public Procurement Website for the cutting of grass in 18 public green areas in Ballinasloe and that the closing date for same was the 6th March, 2018. In response to Cllr. Finnerty, Mr. McEvoy stated that the tender is based on mulching which means regular cuts. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Cullen advised that the Roads Programme formed part of the Municipal District Schedule of Works 2018. Following discussion, it was agreed that Mr. McEvoy would go to tender and get a costing for grass cutting for the 11 private housing estates in Ballinasloe. Mr. Cullen advised that funding for grass cutting in private estates could not be provided for under the Service Area (Recreation and Amenity) but he stated that if Councillors wished, funding could be provided under discretionary funding such as Local Road Maintenance and/or Notice of Motions. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly which was seconded by Cllr. Finnerty, the following resolution was agreed: "I propose that Galway County Council withdraw letter issued to 11 Estates that grass cutting would not be carried out in 2018 and that Galway County Council find the resources to continue to carry out this service in future".

Cllr. Donohue and all the members welcomed the funding of €300k for Nutfield Cross under Specific Improvement Grants as set out in the Draft Roads Programme 2018 and also the funding of €250k for the Village Upgrade Scheme in Ahascragh in 2019. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mitchell advised that annual funding for the Village Upgrade Scheme is comprised of €250k from Discretionary Fund and €250k from Galway County Councils Capital Fund. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mitchell advised that funding for Bridges is based on need for repair and is not proportionate to Municipal Districts. Cllr. Broderick asked that this situation be assessed. Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the €133,628 Drainage Grant. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. McEvoy informed the members of the Housing Estates in which Galway County Council had implemented the 30km/h speed limit signs and he advised that the contract for same was ongoing. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that regulations with regard to “Children at Play” Signage is covered under the Traffic Signs Manuals and that each specific application would be taken on a case by case basis.

Following discussion, the Draft Municipal District Schedule of Works 2018 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe was approved on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Finnerty.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR’S BUSINESS

MDB18008

Mr. Farrell advised that the closing date for receipt of applications for the Galway County Council Community Support Scheme 2018 was the 1st March, 2018.

Mr. Cullen advised that Galway County Council’s Housing Department is due to roll out a Planned Maintenance Programme over the next number of years which he advised would aim to ensure that the Council comply with its obligations towards minimum standards in its Housing Stock. Mr. Cullen advised that the work would involve inspecting all Local Authority Houses in relation to: electrical issues, fire safety, smoke alarms, health and safety etc. Mr. Cullen advised that an item in relation to this matter will be on the Agenda for the Plenary Council Meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 26th February, 2018.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH’S BUSINESS

MDB18009

Cllr. Donohue expressed concern and disappointment in relation to an article published in the Westmeath Examiner where a TD from the area stated that 3,500 jobs had been lost in Ballinasloe over the last decade. Cllr. Donohue questioned these figures and he stated that such publicity created a poor image for Ballinasloe. Cllr. Donohue stated that a more positive reflection for Ballinasloe is that Galway County Council had granted planning permission to Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd. (BACD) for a 1,300 square metre Advanced Technology Building at Creagh and that more focus should be put on same.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB18010

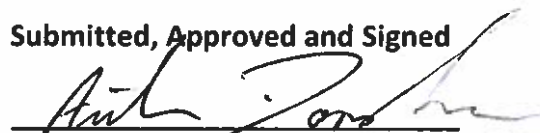
Cllr. D. Connolly requested an update on the Speed Limit Review.

Cllr. Finnerty proposed and it was agreed that Cllr. M. Connolly on behalf of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe attend the meeting due to be held on Tuesday 27th February, 2018 between Galway County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday, 21st March, 2018 @ 2.p.m.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed

 21/3/18.
(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

21/3/18
(Date)