

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER, ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT 2.00 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. Keaveney

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Cllrs. T. Broderick, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, D. Geraghty, Dr. E. Parsons.

**Oifigigh:** Mr. L. Hanrahan, Director of Services, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Mr. E. Mulryan, Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. E. Lydon, Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator.

The Members and Executive welcomed Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Francis Parsons to the Municipal District of Ballinasloe who was co-opted to Galway County Council at the July, 2020 Meeting.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2020** **MDB20038**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Geraghty.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB20034 Page 2, Mr. Hanrahan advised that Departmental approval has been received for the purchase of the site at Dunlo Hill and that Preliminary Engineering and Architectural Reports are being prepared. Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that that liaison with local property owners would take place.

With reference to MDB20034 Page 2, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the O’Cualainn Housing Project at Poolboy, Ballinasloe Stage 1 Development is currently progressing. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Clúid 18 unit development in Ballinasloe is currently being allocated and that Cluid are seeking planning permission for the development of a further 8 units.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly and with reference to MDB20033 Page 1, with regard to amendment to MDB20028, Mr. Mulryan advised that contact has been made with the

landowners for visibility improvement works at the junction of L6302 with the N63 (Dempsey Cross) and that works are expected to progress shortly.

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

MDB20039

Mr. Hanrahan advised that the first round of Public Consultations for the Athlone to Galway Greenway took place during August, 2020 where he advised approximately 500 persons attended 5 Public Consultation Events held throughout the County. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the feedback from these events is being considered.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that there are in excess of 3,400 persons on Galway County Council's housing waiting list with approximately 540 of those in the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. Mr. Hanrahan advised that two thirds of all Housing Applications are for small units and he stated that the majority of applications in Ballinasloe North and Ballinasloe South are for one and two bedroom units. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Council's Capital Programme will concentrate primarily on the construction of one and two bedroom units. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the waiting list figures presented included figures for HAP Applications. In response to Cllr. Dr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the age profile breakdown of applicants had not been included but he stated this can be provided.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy is currently being reviewed where it is open for the various stakeholders to make comments. Mr. Hanrahan stated that a key part of anti social behavior work involves working closely with the Housing Liaison Officers, the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and the Local Garda Siochana. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that any tenants affected by anti-social behaviour can request a transfer. In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council's Housing Adaptation Grant 2020 allocation for has been received which he advised is a grant for Older People and People with a Disability living in private houses.

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

MDB20040

No business arising

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

MDB20041

Mr. Eugene & Mrs. Winifred Burke, Moylough, Co Galway.

Mr. Tony Carr, Kilnahown, Auhtrim, Co. Galway.

The Family of the late Nora (Nonie) Deane, Polshask, Williamstown, Co. Galway.

The Family of the late Patrick ( Paddy) Coady, Springfield, Williamstown, Co. Galway.

The Family of the late James (Jimmy)Heneghan, Ballinastack, Glenamaddy, Co Galway.

The Connaughton Family, Springfield, Williamstown, Co. Galway.

The Family of the late Frank Dooley, Portnick, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

The Family of the late Joan Nolan, Ardross, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

MDB20042

Mr. Mulryan presented details with regard to: a) funding received for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe to the value of €826,000 for Active Travel Measures and b) funding received to the value of €285,000 for Climate Action Adaptation Measures for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. All the members welcomed the additional funding for 16 projects in total. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mitchell advised that the current deadline for expenditure on these projects was the end of November, 2020.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that the damage to Route R328 from Moylough to Clonberne did not show up in the post survey carried out by Tara Mines and because of Covid 19 travel restrictions relevant personnel have been unable to travel from England where the Company is based. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Mitchell advised that no definitive decision can be taken by the Company until they can arrange to travel over and assess the situation. Mr. Hanrahan asked that Tara Mines be afforded time to address the issues raised post Covid-19. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Mitchell advised that the Leitra area would also be assessed.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that he expected the Town Enhancement Project to be substantially complete by the end of September, 2020 at which time he advised minor works and snagging lists would have to be completed and closed out. In response to Cllrs. Broderick and D. Connolly with regard to the affect the project has had on local businesses Mr. Mitchell commended local businesses for their resilience in how they have handled any issues which arose in this project. In response to Cllr. Broderick, both Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Hanrahan stated that all town enhancement projects are very complex and that by their nature they can impact on business communities in towns.

Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, the following resolution to be forwarded both to Roscommon County Council and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage was agreed: "That Roscommon County Council should re-open or at least explain why the Fire Station in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon is closed. This service is so valuable to the local areas of Castlerea in Co. Roscommon and is so important to neighbouring County Galway Towns and areas, near Castlerea".

In response to Cllr. Dr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would liaise with the Director of Community, Enterprise and Economic Development and ask that contact be made with both Enterprise Ireland and the I.D.A with a view to relaying and discussing the impact which the closure of Aptar has had on Ballinasloe. All the members expressed concern for the employees who have been affected by Aptar's closure and the knock on impact which the closure will have on Ballinasloe.

In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mulryan advised that the public toilets at Dunlo Recreational Park would re-open by the end of September, 2020.

With regard to the Covid-19 Restart Grants which are being administered by Local Authorities Cllr. Broderick raised concerns with regard to non-compliant businesses being

able to access Covid-19 Restart Grants. Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would relay Cllr. Broderick's concerns to the Head of Finance. Mr. Hanrahan advised that 1217 businesses were paid 1<sup>st</sup> Restart Grants by Galway County Council and that 320 applications had been received for the Restart Grant Plus Scheme. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Covid 19 Restart Grant was available to businesses with a turnover of less than €5m and employing 50 people or less, which were closed or impacted by at least a 25% reduction in turnover up to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the closing date for receipt of submissions/observations on the Draft 2022-2028 County Development Plan was the 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. Mr. Hanrahan advised that he would ask the Director of Service with responsibility for Planning to provide information on submissions/observations received.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly Mr. Mulryan advised that he would request an update on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme for the next Municipal District Meeting of Ballinasloe Monthly Meeting.

It was agreed that the next Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October, at 2 p.m. and that the Draft Budgetary Plan Meeting for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, at 2p.m.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved and Signed

  
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(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

14.10.20  
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(Date)