

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMER, ARAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. D. Connolly

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh: Mr. L. Hanrahan Director of Services, Mr. D. Mitchell Senior Engineer, Mr. F. Fahey, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Morrissey, Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Assistant Engineer, Mr. N. Raftery, Technician Grade 1, Ms. V. Loughnane, Senior Planner, Mr. B. Dunne, Executive Planner, Mr. B. Corcoran, Assistant Planner, Ms. D. Kelly, Clerical Officer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Mr. E. Moloney Meetings Administrator.

As a mark of respect for the four people who died following a crash on the M6 Motorway at Ballinasloe, it was agreed by all to hold a minute's silence.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th JULY 2021 **MDB21097**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 14th July 2021 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Keaveney.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly and with reference to MDB21093, Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council had received no formal request to review the decision to cancel the Ballinasloe October Fair. Mr. Hanrahan advised that Galway County Council, who form part of the Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Co-ordinating Committee, will ensure that Public Notices are erected to state that the Fair has been cancelled and that entrance to the Fair Green will be restricted. Mr. Hanrahan advised that additional information with regard the holding of large scale non-ticketed public events will form part of the Government announcements on the 20th October. Mr. Hanrahan advised that he will meet with the co-ordinating Committee in Autumn with a view to focusing on the 300th Anniversary Celebrations in 2022.

A number of members stated that a very clear message needed to go out that the Fair was cancelled for 2021.

DRAFT BALLINASLOE LOCAL AREA PLAN

MDB21098

Valerie Loughnane briefed the members on the preliminary stages of the incoming Ballinasloe Local Area Plan. Members were also informed that it is intended to publish the draft plan towards the end of October 2021 for a period of 6 weeks, which will be followed up by the Chief Executive's Report by the first quarter of 2021 – i.e. mid-January 2021. The rationale behind the timeline proposed is to facilitate adequate and proper consideration by the members of the CE Report for the County Development Plan towards the end of October 2021. The submissions received for the CDP that relate to Ballinasloe will be considered within the overall context of the incoming LAP.

Members were also informed that it intended that a workshop be held as part of the engagement process before the plan goes on public display. It is envisaged that this forum will be held towards the end of September. Over the course of the public consultation period, it is intended to hold a webinar to facilitate members of the public, in addition to an appointment service which be held in the Civic Offices of Ballinasloe. Members were asked to arrive at a mutually agreeable date for the workshop and to advise Forward Planning of same. It was emphasized that liaison with Roscommon Co. Council would take place to ensure that the Creagh area of Ballinasloe would align with the objectives and plans for the rest of Ballinasloe.

Brian Corcoran informed the members that the current LAP in respect of Ballinasloe is due to expire shortly. Members were again informed of the differing timelines in comparison with that of the County Development Plan with process beginning with the publishing of the draft LAP for a period of 6 weeks. Submissions received for the CDP informed the Forward Planning Section of the prevailing issues of the incoming LAP.

Cllr M. Connolly observed the importance of a proper and sustainable water infrastructure in light of the allocation of residential units under the incoming CDP. In addition, he noted that engagement with Irish Water was fundamental to overcoming the current challenges faced by the infrastructure in-situ.

Cllr. Broderick noted the engagement between Galway County Council and Roscommon County Council with regard to the boundary issue in Creagh. He further noted that proper provision would need to be made with regard to amenity in the town of Ballinasloe in line with the consideration of four routes of the proposed greenway passing through the hinterland of Ballinasloe.

Cllr. Dr. Parsons in her observations noted that disability access in the town is extremely disproportionate particularly in light of the view of Bus Eireann's decision to a bus route in town. She also queried the possibility of introducing a safe swimming area around the River Suck to provide an amenity in the town in addition to ensuring that regular testing of the water would be conducted in light of the river becoming a local swimming area.

Cllr Geraghty Raised the issue of population growth and its decline in recent years particularly in relation to industry and commerce. He observed that that there are many positives to be garnered from the location of the town but any proposed plan needs to acknowledge this and make provision for proper development delivery.

Cllr D. Connolly noted the progress made by the Forward Planning Section to date but stressed the importance of providing sustainable infrastructure so as not to impede the progress made thus far. He also asked for clarity on the various easements and rights of ways that abound the town given the historical nature of some of them.

In responding V. Loughnane stated that Ballinasloe within its remit of being a 'key town' will be a key focus of the any devised plan going forward. The National Planning Framework guides future planning within the County so that as the population grows, any growth is sustainable in line with social and economic objectives with a collaborative approach being adopted, and any objectives set forth will enhance any future funding activity.

Ms. Loughnane also noted that there is on-going engagement with Irish Water and that all efforts to obtain national funding for water infrastructure upgrades are being utilized. She further noted that any new units proposed will be fully serviced in a manner that will not be to the detriment of older housing units. It was also noted that there is heavy engagement with the NTA and TII with regard to how the Greenway will be facilitated through proper provision of resources. In remarking on Cllr. Geraghty's remarks, she noted that as a policy document, that the LAP will facilitate commerce where it can do so in conjunction with the input of IDA Ireland & Enterprise Ireland. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly comments on historical rights of way, Ms. Loughnane noted that the draft plan will provide for same. In remarking upon comments of Cllr. Francis Parsons, Ms. Loughnane noted that it is necessary to liaise with the Environment Section.

The members were again reminded to engage with the Forward Planning Unit in coming weeks in respect of any comments / observations about the incoming LAP draft.

Finally, she requested that members revert through the chair with an agreed date to hold the workshop on the Ballinasloe LAP.

It was agreed that the workshop would be held on 29th September 2021 at 5.30 p.m. on Microsoft Teams.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB21099

Mr. Hanrahan advised that a meeting had taken place with the Community Group in Ballyforan to discuss the Ballyforan Cycleway. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the proposed 10km section of the Greenway Project which is being funded under the Just Transition Fund would not commence until 2023 due to Licensing Agreements with Bord Na Mona. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the 4km Bridge Bog Loop project was ready to proceed.

Mr. Hanrahan welcomed Clar Programme Funding for County Galway, including playground projects, road safety projects, Community Development Projects and funding towards the East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support and Ability West.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that the development at Dooley's Corner, Ballinasloe was at design stage. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the regeneration of derelict sites in towns and villages formed part of the Governments "Housing For All" Housing Plan. Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the development at Dunlo Hill. Cllr. Parsons welcomed the inclusion of Clann's Baile an Ri Scheme in Ballinasloe for being shortlisted in the ICSH People's Choice Awards and urged the members to vote for the scheme.

Mr. Mitchell advised that applications were now open for inclusion in the Community Involvement Schemes and the closing date for receipt of the Schemes was the 16th September.

Mr. Mitchell advised that work on the Multi Annual Roadworks Programme had commenced and asked that the members would contact their Area Engineers if they wished to have specific roads included in the Programme.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB21100

Cllr. D. Connolly paid tribute to the Area Engineers for their work in progressing footpath projects at Deerpark Junction, Garbally Demesne and Mackney.

Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the commencement of the Pedestrian Crossing Project at Brackernagh.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked that the issue of the Ballinasloe Inner Relief Road Project be kept current.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked that the Aughrim Interpretative Centre be discussed with a view to how it can be used and promoted in the future.

Cllr. D. Connolly expressed concern at the cancellation of the Bus Eireann Route 20.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

MDB21101

Votes of Sympathy

The Mannion family Glenamaddy on the death of Carolann Mannion RIP.

The McLynn family and Philip McLynn on the death of their mother Philomena McLynn RIP.

The Barrett family and Damien Mitchell on the death of Jo Jo Barrett RIP.

The Doherty Family Ballinasloe on the death of Seamus Doherty RIP.

The Tobin family Williamstown on the death of Michael Tobin RIP.

The Carrig family Ballinasloe on the death of Stehen Carrig.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB21102

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the HSE own the Aughrim Dispensary building. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the HSE have put out a public notice looking at selling the building and are appointing a valuer and will come back with a price. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the process is in its early stages and will be sold via a regulated process. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that it is proposed that the building could be used as a base for local Community Employment Schemes participants.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly who raised the situation re front line staff vacancies, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Director of HR is responsible for recruitment and that she has advised that there are a number of active panels at present. Mr. Hanrahan advised that as per the briefing at the CPG, Galway County Council is finding it hard to fill roles.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Fahey advised that the Footpath Project at Beechlawn will commence shortly.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Fahey advised that the Footpath Project at Poolboy will commence after the project in Beechlawn is completed.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Fahey advised that Galway County council had completed their drainage works at Beechlawn.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Fahey advised that he was available to meet with the Cllr. Parsons and other groups to discuss specific maintenance issues in the town. Mr. Fahey asked that Cllr. Parsons contact him to organise same.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Fahey advised that a Contract had been awarded for the cleaning of the Canal in the town.

In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Fahey advised that the Channel and swallow hole in Glenamaddy was the responsibility of the OPW and that he had been in contact with the OPW to stress the importance of the work involved and the time constraints involved. Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Geraghty, the following resolution was agreed "I propose that Galway County Council put pressure onto the OPW to clean out the swallow hole and channel which is under their remit on the Glenamaddy Turlough to help with flooding issues on the turlough. This needs to be done in the next 2 weeks while water levels are low".

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that following the completion of the Creagh Junction Safety audit, an application was made for the Creagh Junction Project under a Specific Improvement Grant Application but it did not receive funding. Mr. Mitchell advised that an application will be made again for funding under the Specific Improvement 2022.

Mr. Moloney reminded all present that Covid Declarations must be submitted prior to attendance at Municipal District Meetings.

It was agreed that the next Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on **Wednesday, 13th October @ 2 p.m.**

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed


(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

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(Date)