

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 13th NOVEMBER, 2019 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. T. Broderick

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill: Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly, A. Dolan, D. Geraghty, P. Keaveney

Oifigigh: Mr. A. Farrell, A/Director of Services, Mr. D. Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Mr. E. Mulryan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, A/Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Raftery, Technician 1, Mr. E. Lydon, Executive Engineer, Mr. B. McDonagh, Executive Engineer, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator. Mr. P. Matthews, Fáilte Ireland.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9th OCTOBER, 2019

MDB19052

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 9th October, 2019 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Geraghty, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to Cllrs. M. Connolly, Geraghty and Keaveney with reference to MDB19046 Page 1, Mr. Mitchell advised that he would convene a meeting between the members and Mr. Pender, Senior Engineer, NRPO in order to discuss all aspects of the N63 Ballygar Traffic Calming Project.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty and with reference to MDB19050 Page 4, Mr. Mulryan advised that he would seek further clarification from Irish Water on plans/proposals for the upgrade of Ballygar Sewerage Scheme. Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Dolan and Geraghty expressed disappointment with the progress and investment in sewerage schemes in towns and villages in County Galway and also referred to the disparity that exists from towns and villages that have existing Sewerage Schemes in comparison to those that do not have existing Sewerage Schemes. Mr. Mitchell explained how the provision/upgrade of Wastewater Treatment facilities are assessed and prioritized by Irish Water which he stated is in accordance with their Assessment of Needs Protocol. Cllr. Broderick advised

that at the next plenary Council Meeting he would propose inviting Irish Water to make a presentation to the full Council in relation to future plans for County Galway.

In response to Cllr. Dolan and with reference to MDB19051 Page 4 Mr. Farrell advised that he and other officials were in ongoing communications with Galway 2020 and that he had raised the issue of the need for local businesses to be informed and engaged so they can avail of the opportunities presented by designation for Galway 2020. He advised that he was aware that there were 2 Projects being supported under the Small Towns Big Ideas Initiative for Ballinasloe and that Ballinasloe was one of six towns in the County which will be involved in the Galway 2020 Opening Ceremony. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Farrell advised that the Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture Programme will include events throughout County Galway including Ballinasloe. In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Farrell advised that traffic management was one of the key areas to be managed for the Opening Ceremony along with other key events throughout the delivery of the programme for Galway.

In response to Cllr. Keaveney and with reference to MDB19050 Page 3, Mr. Mitchell advised that he is awaiting a post works road condition survey report from Tara Mines for the R328 Moylough to Clonberne which he stated would direct and inform further action on this matter.

With reference to MDB19049 Page 3, Cllr. D. Connolly asked that the damage caused during the October Fair to the green area in Garbally Drive be assessed and that the issue of parking at this location be reviewed in 2020.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and M. Connolly and with reference to MDB19050 Page 3, Mr. Farrell advised that he understood that a number of the members were in direct communication with the Planning Department in relation to this matter. Mr. Farrell stated that there were legislative provisions in relation to planning and 5G masts and that these would guide the process advising that he understood that there were issues being raised that would not be appropriate to comment on at the Municipal District meeting.

Cllr. D. Geraghty stated that the provision of Broadband in rural areas is to be welcomed and he praised the Cairde App which he stated is the brainchild of Muintir na Tire Group. Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. D. Geraghty, seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly, it was agreed "To invite Gerry Costello of Community Alert to talk about Community Alert and Munitir na Tíre, Cairde App and Broadband necessity to carry out full knowing's and workings for older people in our Communities to restrict and fully stop crime in all our areas by Community alert programmes".

With reference to MDB19051 Page 3, Mr. McDonagh provided an update on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme. In response to Cllr. Dolan with regard to timelines proposed, Mr. McDonagh advised that the expected completion date of Q2 2025 is in line with projects of this size and complexity. Mr. McDonagh advised that Stage 1 involved preparation of the scheme development and detailed design of the project, in collaboration with the

Engineering Consultants where the development and identification of a preferred option for Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme would be undertaken and also the completion of all environmental statutory obligations. In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. McDonagh advised that the OPW are the lead authority for this project and that his role was that of Project Liaison Officer with all the stakeholders in the project. Mr. McDonagh advised that in early 2020 Ms. Rosemary Lawlor from the Office of Public Works would be available to provide a presentation on the project to the Municipal District of Ballinasloe members. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly in relation to the spend on the project to date, Mr. McDonagh advised that he would revert to the members on this. Mr. Mulryan advised that the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme was one of first 4 schemes approved under CFRAM which he advised would involve a significant investment of approximately €8.5 m in flood protection for the town of Ballinasloe and its environs and that accordingly it was an extremely welcome and positive project for Ballinasloe Town.

(b) The Minutes of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2020 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 23rd October, 2019 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Dolan.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993

MDB19053

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Broderick, the Council approved the declaration of the following roads to be a public roads, the statutory procedure having been complied with:

- (a) Road commencing at junction with Local Road L7425 (178901, 228132) in the townland of Cloonamerahgun and extending east for a distance of 144 metres in the townland of Collolla and finishing at the Gleab National School (179028, 228193) in the townland of Foats.

PRESENTATION FROM MR. PADDY MATTHEWS, FAILTE IRELAND ON HIDDEN HEARTLANDS

MDB19054

Mr. Matthews presented an update on Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. Mr. Matthews commended the turnout at the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe for the Public Consultation and Information evening. Mr. Matthews advised that while the brand itself is only 18 months and that they are working from a low base, he advised that a dedicated team of five have been working hard to promote and develop the brand and the region. Mr. Matthews outlined the achievements over the past six months, which included: Tourism, Heritage and Rural Recreation Officers from across the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands region completing Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism Management Programme and the running of Accredited Service Excellence, Sustainable Tourism and Taste the Island Workshops. Mr. Matthews outlined the highlights of the Hidden Heartlands Summer Campaign, which he advised had a total reach of 3 million and included print articles and radio slots. Mr. Matthews advised that Fáilte Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Website Improvement Programme which was launched in June, 2019 would focus on developing a full web

improvement plan for the participating businesses. He also advised of the launching of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands at Meitheal 2019 which he stated had representation from 28 tourism businesses in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands across all nine counties. Mr. Matthews advised that the region has, over the past 6 months, hosted Tour Operators from international markets and have welcomed international media outlets. He also advised that the Hidden Heartlands' Team have attended at overseas sales events. Mr. Matthews advised of priorities for the 6 months ahead which he stated includes: the publication of the Shannon Tourism Masterplan and the Beara Breifne Way Activation Plan; the website improvement programme; creation of tourism networks to encourage tourism businesses to work together more effectively; preparation for Meitheal 2020; creation of new itineraries for both tour operators and consumers; continuing with national and international publicity; continuing with the Taste of the Island initiative, the roll out of Destination Towns Funding Programme with Local Authorities and installation of Hidden Heartlands county boundary signage. He said that the local authorities had a key role to play and that he was liaising closely with staff in Galway County Council. He stated that he was confident that this productive relationship would assist and maximise opportunities for East Galway.

The members thanked Mr. Matthews for his comprehensive and informative presentation. In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Matthews advised that the Tidy Towns Scheme was started by Bord Fáilte in 1958 and while it supported the initiative, it did not provide funding towards same. In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Matthews advised that funding would be given to provide information sessions for businesses on Search Engine Optimization (SEO) via the Local Enterprise Offices. Cllr. D. Connolly stressed the importance of developing the Beire Breifne Way and the continuing development of the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre, the Battlefield Trail along with Tourist locations at Clonfert and Banagher and the amenity of the River Suck. Cllr. M. Connolly paid tribute to the Hidden Heartlands open evening which took place in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Matthews advised that it was important to look for joined up thinking in projects when seeking funding for tourism projects. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Matthews advised that each county had been invited to submit an application for a Destination Town and that these applications were currently being considered. Mr. Farrell advised that an application had been submitted for Clifden Town under the Programme and that this had been agreed with Fáilte Ireland in accordance with the scheme. Mr. Farrell advised that he understood that this was a Pilot Project and that if the project was a success, that it may be replicated with further calls.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Farrell advised that the Tourism Officer for Galway County Council had been appointed.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB19055

No business arising

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB19056

No business arising

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB19057

Mr. Farrell advised that the Ballinasloe application under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund 2019 – Category 1 had not been successful on this occasion and that feedback was awaited. In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Farrell advised that it was considered that a reasonably strong application which reflected the desires and needs of local stakeholders had been prepared in partnership with BACD and other community organisations in the town. He said that Council had engaged Orla Casey, Momentum Consulting whom he advised is an experienced Consultant in this field with a strong track record of successful applications and delivery. He advised that the application took a “whole of town” approach which included the Advance Unit which BACD want to develop in Creagh and that this was a cornerstone of the application.

In response to queries regarding the process, Mr. Farrell advised that there were tight timelines around the submission of the application and that while it would have been preferable to have more time for all to feed in to the final draft prior to submission that this was not possible. He said that he was confident that there had been a good engagement process with the stakeholders and that personnel had been available for discussion on the application.

In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Farrell acknowledged that the application had not been successful for a second time, stating that should a further application be made, that careful consideration would need to be given to all elements. Mr. Farrell said it was important that all stakeholders were cognisant that it was a competitive application process and there were no guarantees on the success of individual applications, stating that all involved in the development of the application had a key input. Cllr. M. Connolly expressed his disappointment on behalf of BACD and local businesses. In response to Cllrs. Dolan and Geraghty, Mr. Farrell advised that the members are notified of funding opportunities and timeframes when they are received and that once the funding dates for 2020 are known that they would be circulated to the members. Mr. Mitchell confirmed that this was also the case with regard to schemes for funding in the Roads and Transportation Directorate. Following discussion, on the proposal of Cllr. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney the following resolution was agreed: “I propose that timelines for relevant Community and Enterprise funding is circulated for 2020 at earliest Municipal District Meeting”.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that the new Engineering Area Boundaries for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe have been agreed and that internal operational General Services Supervisor’s regions are in the process of being finalised with a view to the new engineering areas being operational from January 2020. Cllr. D. Geraghty asked that the existing crews be retained and that additional staff be provided.

Cllr. Geraghty stated that there are junctions in Williamstown where signage is inadequate and asked that they be assessed.

In response to Cllrs. M. Connolly and Dolan, Mr. Mulryan advised that road budgets for each Municipal District were allocated on a pro-rata basis per km.

In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Mitchell advised that the Town Enhancement Project was due to be completed in early May 2020 subject to contingencies.

Cllr. Dolan asked that the provision of additional bus shelters in Ballinasloe be considered.

Cllr. Dolan asked if funding towards the provision of Christmas Lights for Ballinasloe Town could be made available.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday, 11th December, 2019 at 2.00 p.m.

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

11.12.2019

(Date)