

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ONLINE (VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS) ON WEDNESDAY, 14th JULY 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. E. Lydon, Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Assistant Engineer, Mr. N. Raftery, Technician Grade 1, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Mr. E. Moloney Meetings Administrator.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH JUNE 2021 **MDB21089**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 9th June 2021 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. Broderick and seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly.

Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to Cllr. Brodericks, Parsons and M. Connolly and with reference to MDB21086 Page 3, Mr. Hanrahan advised that he had raised the issue of co-ordination with Roscommon County Council with Forward Planning Department in respect of areas around Ballinasloe. Mr. Hanrahan advised that there would be communication between both Local Authorities in the preparation of the draft Galway County Development Plan 2022 – 2028. Cllr. Geraghty asked that this consultation would take also into consideration all towns on the border with County Roscommon.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB21086, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the issue of flooding at Cleaghmore could be addressed at the September Meeting when the draft Local Area Plan will be brought before the members.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME 2021

MDB21090

Damian Mitchell provided an update on the Local Improvement Scheme 2021. He advised that funding was provided in the amount of €876,000 which would facilitate 28 Schemes of which 7 were in the Ballinasloe Municipal District. Mr. Mitchell advised that while there has been media mention of further funding being made available, he advised that Galway County Council had not received any official correspondence on same to date. Mr. Mitchell advised that if this funding comes available, it would be most welcome and schemes would be taken from their supplementary list. All the members welcomed the current funding. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly who expressed the view that funding overall for this area was inadequate, Mr. Mitchell advised that Galway County Council is currently receiving approximately €800,000 per annum to progress Local Improvement Schemes. He agreed that additional money would be welcomed to progress outstanding schemes. In response to Cllrs Keaveney and Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that 2 herd numbers are required to progress a Local Improvement Scheme. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Mitchell advised that the current scheme is closed to new applications but the Roads Department will hold new applications on file for processing when a new scheme opens.

GALWAY ATHLONE CYCLEWAY

MDB21091

Mr. Hanrahan presented an update on the Galway Athlone Cycleway. He advised that the second Public Consultation on the 5 route corridor options for the Galway to Athlone Cycleway took place over the 5 weeks from 25th January until 1st March 2021 and that 11,600 submissions were received of which 95% were positive. Mr. Hanrahan advised that there was good support for 4 of the 5 corridors, with very little support for the railway corridor. Mr. Hanrahan advised that there are currently 7 people working full time on liaison with landowners and that over 250 meetings have taken place with landowners to date with the concept of running the greenway along farm boundaries beginning to gain some acceptance. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Hanrahan advised that there is currently no emerging preferred route to and that a decision on a preferred route is expected to happen in early 2022. Mr. Hanrahan advised that it is expected that an application will be made to Bord Pleanala in 2023. Mr. Hanrahan asked all members to engage with the team with any issues. In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Director of Transport and Mr. Alan Farrell in Community and Enterprise Section were engaging with the Community Group in Ballyforan and that a Memo of Understanding is in place to show Galway County Council are supporting the Ballyforan Cycleway. Mr. Hanrahan advised that meetings were taking place between parties on an ongoing basis.

TO CONSIDER THE REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED), THE PROPOSED WORKS CONSISTS OF – CONSTRUCTION OF TWO BUS LAY-BYS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE R446 TO SERVICE NATIONAL AND LOCAL BUS ROUTES AND OTHER ANCILLARY WORKS – BUS SHELTERS, PLATFORMS, SIGNAGE, SIGNAL CONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, BICYCLE STANDS, SIGNAGE AND OTHER WORKS

MDB21092

Mr. Mitchell presented details on the Part 8 Application. In response to Cllr. E parsons Mr. Mitchell advised that the project has been designed to allow for accessibility. Mr. Mitchell advised that paths to and from the location will be accessible and will be progressed via Active Travel Projects. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Mitchell advised that the design presented includes for a bus shelter with seating and with space for wheelchair users. In response to Cllrs. Geraghty and Parsons, Mr. Mitchell advised that consultation took place with Public and Private Bus Operators with regard to the proposed project. Cllr. Broderick paid tribute to Cllr. D. Connolly on his work involved in progressing the project from it's early stages. On the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly seconded by Cllr. Parsons the members approved the Part 8 application.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB21093

Mr. Hanrahan advised that meetings had taken place with the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival Committee and the Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Co-ordinating Committee which brought together representatives from An Garda Siochana, ISPCA, Public Health, Order of Malta, Department of Agriculture and Event Management Company. Mr. Hanrahan advised that following on from public health advice, it was agreed that the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival 2021 would not take place. Mr. Hanrahan advised that a joint Public Statement would issue to that effect. Cllr. Broderick requested that the members be circulated with the Statement prior to it being issued. All the members expressed disappointment with the outcome while acknowledging that the decision had to be made and that the public in general accepted that these events could not proceed. It was requested that additional focus now be placed on the 300 Anniversary Celebrations in 2022 and planning for same should start immediately.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB21094

Cllr. D. Connolly and all the members welcomed Mr. Fahey, A/Senior Executive Engineer and Mr. Morrissey, Executive Engineer to the Engineering Staff of the Ballinasloe Municipal District. The members all wished Mr. Lydon well and thanked him for his hard work and dedication over his time as Executive Engineer with the Ballinasloe Municipal District.

Cllrs. D. Connolly and Parsons asked that co-ordination would take place with Bord Na Mona with regard their Biodiversity Action Plan at Ballyforan, Blackwater Bog and Castlegar Bog.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that progress on the Inner Relief Road in Ballinasloe was linked with a current Planning Application for the National School in Society Street and that will provide an update can be given at the September Meeting in conjunction with the LAP.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

MDB21095

Votes of Sympathy

The Finn Family, Castleblakeney on the death of Mary Kate Finn

The Connolly Family, Ballinlass, Mountbellew on the death of Paddy Connolly

The Flanagan Family, Newtowndaly on the death of Michael Flanagan

Votes of Congratulations

The Galway Minor Hurling Team on winning the All Ireland Final

The U20 Ireland Rugby Team, which features 2 players for Ballinasloe

U15 Mountbellew Moylough Skehanagh Hurling

U12 Ballinasloe Camogie

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB21096

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that the section of the N63 at Longford Hill has been included in the draft 3 Year Programme with the TII. Mr. Mitchell advised that the section at Derreen would be assessed via the N63 Defects Maintenance System and that funding for upgrades will be applied for via same.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that there are ongoing discussions with Tara Mines with regard to assessing the damage to the R328 Clonberne Road.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Mitchell advised that the recruitment of a temporary Technician for the Ballinasloe Municipal District is in progress, however he could not provide an exact timeline on when the position will be filled.

Cllr. Parsons asked that maintenance issues at Ballinasloe such as weeding, repairs to benches be addressed.

Cllr. Parsons paid tribute to the Ballinasloe Tennis Club who are developing 2 Tennis Courts and multi-purpose games complex.

In response to Cllr Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that the roads leading from Williamstown could be included in the 3 Year Roads Programme when it is being prepared.

Cllr. Geraghty expressed concern for the Horticultural Sector which is now having to import peat compost due to Bord na Mona no longer being in a position to supply demand.

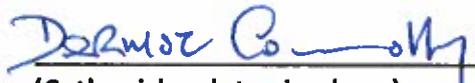
In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that the Contractor has been appointed for the 20 Minute Hill Road Project and that work would commence on same in august.

Mr. Hanrahan and Mr. Mitchell asked that the members progress day to day road and town maintenance issues with the local Engineering Staff directly. Mr. Hanrahan asked that the Monthly Ballinasloe Municipal District Meetings be a forum for policy discussions and decision making.

It was agreed that the next Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on **Wednesday, 8th September @ 2 p.m.**

CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

8/9/2021

(Date)

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