

**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 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 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, Ms. E. Curran, Administrative Officer, Mr. E. Lydon, Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, A/Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Raftery, Technician Grade 1, Ms. A. Monaghan, Staff Officer, Ms. A. Gardiner, Meetings Administrator.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020** MDB20006

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

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB20005 Page 5, Mr. Mitchell stated that the footpath paving works to be carried out at River Street after the completion of the Town Enhancement Project will be completed to the same standard as the footpaths in the ongoing project.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly and with reference to MDB20001 Page 1 regarding the N63 Ballygar Traffic Calming Project Phase 2, Mr. Mitchell advised that there are 3 design options being assessed. Mr. Mitchell stated that he will organise to meet the members regarding the options and when agreement is reached the project will proceed to Tender Stage.

In response to Cllr. D. Geraghty and with reference to MDB20001 Page 1, Mr. Mitchell advised that he has requested additional information from Tara Mines in relation to the Post Works Road Condition Survey Report received from Tara Mines. Mr. Mulryan stated that Engineering staff inspected the R328 route from Moylough to Clonberne and

have identified a number of sections with defects which he advised are the subject of ongoing discussion with Tara Mines.

In response to Cllr. Dolan and with reference to MDB 20002 Page 2, Mr. Farrell advised that the development plan process including the public consultation element is enshrined in the legislation and Statutory Guidelines are in place which set out the timelines involved for the review of Galway County Development Plan 2021 – 2027. He advised that it was his understanding that the Planning Department would facilitate public engagement by way of workshops, on line submissions forum, public consultations days, social media and the traditional methods of communication. In reference to the Municipal District of Ballinasloe region, Cllr. M. Connolly stated the importance of addressing and highlighting villages without Waste Water Facilities in the review and referred to the importance of the continuation of one-off housing in Rural Areas.

With reference to MDB20001 Page 2 in relation to the Part 8 Planning Application for Bridge Court, Ahascragh, Mr. Farrell advised that due to ecological assessment undertaken as part of the process this project will be subject to assessment and decision by An Bord Pleanála rather than Part VIII.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB20005 Page 5, Mr. Mulryan stated that a light survey has been completed at Dunlo Street which appears he stated to be in compliance with the required lighting standard. Mr. Mulryan stated that a recommendation to enhance lighting levels in the immediate vicinity of the Zebra Pedestrian Crossing point is currently being considered by Galway County Council.

In response to Cllr. Dolan and with reference to MDB20005 Page 5, Mr. Farrell advised that the closing date for applications for funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund - Category 2 is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Mr. Farrell advised that the regeneration were examining a number of towns and that while Ballinasloe was still in the mix he could not confirm it would be submitted on this occasion as the Council could only submit three applications and there were a number of factors to be considered. He said that consideration is being given to the potential for Ballinasloe under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund where a second call for proposals was recently announced. Mr. Farrell advised that the URDF was established to support more compact and sustainable development, through the regeneration and rejuvenation of Ireland's cities and other large towns, and that Ballinasloe is eligible to apply under this as well as RRDF although an application should be submitted under one scheme only. He advised that the fund supported integrated urban developments that enhance the urban area in question, so that it becomes an attractive and vibrant place in which people choose to live and work, as well as to invest and to visit. Mr. Farrell stated that a requirement in the proposal is to show a direct linkage between the proposal and the relevant Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the National Planning Framework. Cllr. Dolan stated that as Ballinasloe's population is in the region of 6,000 she was concerned that Ballinasloe would have to compete with much more populated towns for funding under this scheme. Following discussion on the proposal of Cllr. Dolan, seconded by Cllrs. Keaveney, Broderick, D. Connolly; Geraghty and M. Connolly, the following resolution was agreed: "All Councillors in Ballinasloe Municipal District support the prioritization of an application

specifically Town Parks from this District in the Rural Regeneration Fund. I propose that Galway County Council executive consider this application as a matter of priority in this District”

**TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED WORKS OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

MD820007

Mr. Farrell presented the Draft – Municipal District Schedule of Works 2020 for the following Service Areas: Environment, Housing and Recreation and Amenity.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Farrell advised that the figure of €74,699 for Burial Ground Maintenance did not include monies for capital funding towards extensions to Burial Grounds. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Farrell advised that the Environment Section are responsible for matters regarding Burial Ground extensions and that individual queries could be raised with them. In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mulryan advised that the upkeep of Creagh Burial Ground was mentioned specifically in the Draft Municipal District Schedule of Works 2020 as Galway County Council is responsible for the operation and maintenance of this Burial Ground which he advised includes undertaking interments.

Cllr. D. Connolly referred to the level of funding of €34,739 available for Local Authority Estate Maintenance and stated that the issue of illegal dumping in some Local Authority Estates needed to be addressed.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that the Parks and Open Spaces budget for 2020 of €136,406 included the cost of cutting of grass in the 11 private housing estates in Ballinasloe as agreed in the January 2020 Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that he was not aware of any changes to opening hours at Dunlo Recreational Park. In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Mulryan advised that he would arrange to have the lane adjacent to the Dunlo Recreational Park inspected for alleged littering/illegal dumping.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Draft Municipal District Schedule of Works 2020 - Roads Programme 2020 for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe. All of the members thanked Mr. Mitchell and the staff involved in the preparation of the Draft Roads Programme 2020.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that Galway County Council had received approximately €1million in funding towards the upgrade of reclassified roads. Mr. Mitchell advised that the Department specified last year that the funding needed to be spent on the R446. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would consult with the Department in order to ascertain if the same direction will be in place for 2020. Mr. Mitchell stated that the funding would go towards the worst areas identified following PSCI surveys. Cllr. M. Connolly suggested that a proportion of the monies allocated should be used on the R446 in the Ballinasloe Municipal District Area and Mr. Mitchell agreed to consider same based on the PSCI survey.

In response to Cllrs. M. Connolly and Keaveney, Mr. Mitchell advised that a decision was made not to transfer a proportion of the Supplementary Restoration Maintenance allocations to the Restoration Improvement allocation in the Ballinasloe Municipal District area for engineering reasons.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that Irish Water are responsible for the reinstatement of public roads after carrying out works unless an alternative agreement has been reached between Irish Water and Galway County Council.

Mr. Mitchell advised that the Village Upgrade Scheme will not be proceeding in 2020 and that applications to upgrade Villages could instead be made under the various grants available in the Community and Enterprise Department.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that the allocation of €40,000 for Noise Mapping was to fund the preparation of a Noise Mapping Plan.

Cllr. Keaveney welcomed monies allocated towards Bridge Repairs at Cloonacat, Glenamaddy and asked that the works be progressed as a matter of urgency due to safety concerns.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell confirmed that there is no fixed policy as to what projects will be undertaken by Council Staff or sent out to tender. Mr. Mitchell advised that decisions are made locally based on manpower availability, complexity of the project and health and safety issues.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that opening of water tables would be carried out under discretionary maintenance and drainage funding. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Mulryan asked that specific areas of concern in relation to the opening of water tables be submitted to the Area Engineer for consideration to be addressed within available resources

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that a Road Safety Audit had been carried out at Brackernagh and it was decided that it was not necessary to have an additional pedestrian crossing at this location.

In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Mitchell advised that there is no National Primary Road in the Ballinasloe Municipal District Area.

In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Mitchell advised that the Pavement Condition Index Survey was an independent survey which is carried out on both rural and urban roads in the County.

Following discussion in relation to the opening of the Galway to Athlone Cycleway Project Office in Ballinasloe, on the proposal of Cllr. Dolan which was seconded by Cllr. Keaveney the following resolution was agreed: "That with opening of Greenway Office in Ballinasloe planned for March, 2020 I propose to extend an invitation to the New Greenway Office to

meet the Municipal District of Ballinasloe in next 2 months and deliver plan for the following 12 months”.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly which was seconded by Cllr. Keaveney the Annual schedule of proposed works of maintenance and repair to be carried out in the Ballinasloe Municipal District was adopted.

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

**MDB20008**

All the members congratulated the newly Elected Oireachtas Members and paid tribute to all of the candidates who had put their names forward for the General Election for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Dáil. In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Farrell advised that the timing of the General Election had added to the complexity of the compilation of the Register of Electors and that staff had put a lot of work into the preparation of same. Mr. Farrell advised that the preparation of the Register of Electors was an onerous process which involved work of Council Staff along with Compilers and others. He advised while the Council endeavor to work with the best information, there is an onus is on an individual to ensure that they are registered to vote. Mr. Farrell stated that if the Members had any specific issues in relation to the compilation of the Register of Electors they should be addressed to Register of Electors staff or the County Secretary.

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

**MDB20009**

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that there are approximately 125 Outdoor Staff employed by Galway County Council. Mr. Mitchell asked that the Members bring issues of concern regarding routine road maintenance in the Ballinasloe Municipal District direct to the Area Engineering Staff. Mr. Mitchell advised that there is currently a road network of approximately 1600km's in the Ballinasloe Municipal District and that it is not possible to open all the water tables and cut hedges on this road network.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that the issue of flooding at Station Road was being monitored. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that an unsuccessful Minor Works flood relief application to protect four properties at Clonfert had been made to the OPW and that Galway County Council are currently reassessing this application for re-submission to the OPW. Cllr. Broderick welcomed the funding allocated by the OPW for flood mitigation works at Curragh, Kilconnell.

The Cathaoirleach raised an issue in relation to Ballinasloe Life Magazine and queried if it had been supported by the Council or if it was part of BACD. Cllr. D. Connolly stated that he considered that the Magazine should be non partisan if it was part of BACD or in receipt of public funds. Cllr. M. Connolly advised that he would raise this matter with BACD. Cllr. Dolan stated that Ballinasloe Life was doing an excellent job and that she considered that it was inappropriate that the matter was raised in the Chamber.

Cllr Dolan stated that there was no Chamber of Commerce to represent the business people in Ballinasloe and that this was an issue for the town which needed to be addressed.

Mr. Farrell advised that while Galway County Council are happy to work with and engage with the business community in Ballinasloe, the establishment of a local Chamber of Commerce in Ballinasloe would rest with the local businesses to establish and manage such an organisation. He said that the Council work with BACD in the absence of another business group and support initiatives that are of benefit to businesses.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

**MDB20010**

**Votes of Sympathy**

Mr. Michael Gannon, Liskea, Williamstown, Co. Galway

**Vote of Congratulations**

- On being elected to Dáil Éireann: Sean Canney TD; Ciaran Cannon TD; Michael Fitzmaurice TD; Claire Kerrane TD; Denis Naughton TD and Anne Rabbitte TD.
- Ms. Eimear Noone on becoming the first woman to conduct at the Academy Awards.
- Ms. Beibhinn Parsons on being selected to play for Ireland's Women Rugby Six Nations Team 2020.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MDB20011**

Cllr. Dolan welcomed the erection of the temporary bus shelter at Dunlo Hill.

Cllr. Dolan paid tribute to all who had taken part in the Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture Opening Event in Ballinasloe Town and she expressed her disappointment for all involved in the organisation of the major event which was cancelled for Galway 2020 Opening Ceremony in the city due to the bad weather.

In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Mulryan advised that illegal dumping issues on private property should be addressed to the Environment Department.

Cllr. P. Keaveney paid tribute to Galway County Council staff who attended to fallen trees due to the storms.

Cllr. P. Keaveney referred to where sheep had been attacked by dogs and appealed to dog owners to keep their dogs under control.

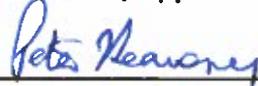
In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Mitchell advised that the emergency out of office hours (including weekends) call service number was manned all the times by call center staff in Cork. Mr. Mitchell stated that any specific issues regarding calls not being answered by this service should be referred directly to him.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Farrell advised that the rate demands issued to customers had been based on the basis of the agreed Galway County Council 2020 Budget. Mr. Farrell advised that specific queries with regard to rate demands issued should be addressed directly with the Revenue Collectors and/or with the Finance Department.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

**Submitted, Approved and Signed**

  
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**(Cathaoirleach to sign here)**

11.03.2020  
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**(Date)**