

**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 08<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2020 AT 2.00 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. A. Dolan

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly, 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. V. Loughnane, Senior Planner, Mr. B. Dunne, Executive Planner, 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.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Broderick

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2019** **MDB20001**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Keaveney.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly and with reference to MDB19057 Page 1, Mr. Mitchell advised that tender documents had issued for Phase 2 of the N63 Ballygar Traffic Calming Project. In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Mitchell advised that he would arrange to circulate to the members a detailed drawing of Phase 2 of the Project.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty and with reference to MDB19057 Page 2 in relation to the R328 Moylough to Clonberne Road, Mr. Mitchell advised that the Post Works Road Condition Survey Report has been received from Tara Mines and an update on same would be given to the members at the next meeting.

In response to Cllr. Geraghty and with reference to MDB19057 Page 2, Mr. Mitchell advised that the issue of signage at junctions in Williamstown would be reviewed by the engineering staff of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly and with reference to MDB19058 Page 2, Mr. Farrell stated that the Part 8 Planning Application for Bridge Court, Ahascragh had been deferred at the previous Meeting and advised that he would seek an update on its current status from the Mr. Michael Owens, Acting Director of Services.

**MEMBER BRIEFING ON THE UPCOMING REVIEW OF THE GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021 - 2027**

**MDB20002**

Ms. Loughnane and Mr. Dunne presented a briefing to the members on the Review of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021.

Ms. Loughnane advised that she envisaged that the process of reviewing Galway's County Development Plan 2015-2021 would take approximately 2 years. The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy which provides a strategic vision she advised came into force on the 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 and would provide the backdrop for the Galway's County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.

Ms. Loughnane advised of the statutory process and timelines involved in the review of the County Development Plan. Ms. Loughnane advised that it is expected that the Draft County Development Plan will go on public display towards the end of March 2020 and that a Public Consultation Issues Paper on the high level concepts of the Plan is being prepared for the end of March 2020. Ms. Loughnane advised that as part of the process both members and public can make submissions to the Planning Authority in relation to the review of the County Development Plan including the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Processes.

Ms. Loughnane stated that there are 14 settlements identified in the County and advised that the Settlement Strategy provides a planning framework for the location of population and development over the six year life span of the County Development Plan. Ms. Loughnane and Mr. Dunne referenced the various elements which would form part of the County Development Plan including the: Spatial Strategy, Core & Settlement Strategy; Landscape Character Assessment; Urban and Rural Housing; Energy/ Renewable Energy; Information and Communications Technologies, Land Use Integration and Sustainable Transport Strategy; Landscape Conservation and Management and Climate Change. Ms. Loughnane advised that workshops for the members would form part of the review process with the expectation of the County Development Plan being adopted in 2022.

All of the members thanked Ms. Loughnane and Mr. Dunne for the detailed briefing of the upcoming review of the Galway County Development Plan. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Ms. Loughnane advised that the Settlement Strategy sets out the strategy for the future development of settlements and the rural area and she advised that settlements have been identified as villages and towns with a population of over 500. Ms. Loughnane

advised that this would not be to the detriment of smaller settlements as she advised there were specific policies and objectives identified for these locations in order to allow them to develop. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Ms. Loughnane advised that lack of sewerage and water services in villages was a concern and that Galway County Council have been liaising with Irish Water with regard to same. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Ms. Loughnane advised that the recording of Protected Structures in the County Development Plan did not prohibit development at the site. Ms. Loughnane advised that Planning Permission is needed for work carried out on a protected structure that would materially affect its character. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Ms. Loughnane advised that guidelines on the development of Windfarms would be in line with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Ms. Loughnane advised that the County Development Plan will contribute to assisting Ballinasloe in attracting investment and industry to Ballinasloe and she advised that the Council are in continuous consultation and co-operation with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland on this matter. In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Ms. Loughnane advised that the County Development Plan will support the progression of Dual Tracking on Irish Rail Lines.

In response to Cllr. D. Geraghty, Ms. Loughnane advised that while the County Development Plan will be bound by National Policy/Regulations, the focus of the review will be on being pro-active.

In response to Cllr. Dolan, Ms. Loughnane advised that the Planning Department are looking at different ways of connecting and communicating with the Public with regard the Public Consultation Process including the use of social media, on line submissions forum together with the more traditional methods of communication. In response to Cllr. Dolan, Ms. Loughnane advised that the Planning Department will consider the concept of individual workshops on specific topics but in the main she advised the Planning Department will be consulting with the members via County Development Plan Workshops, via the Planning SPC and other SPC's. In response to Cllr. Dolan, Ms. Loughnane advised that Census Data will be used in the review of the County Development Plan.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and M. Connolly, Ms. Loughnane advised that with regard to Transport and Housing Need requirements, the Planning Section would be referencing the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan for Galway.

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

**MD820003**

Mr. Farrell provided the members with a copy of the Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture Programme (February – April) and he asked the Members for their participation in the promotion of Galway 2020 within their communities. Mr. Farrell advised that Lighting Ceremonies would take place in Clifden, An Spidéal, Tuam, Ballinasloe, Portumna and Athenry on consecutive nights from 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020 making way for an open-air finale in Galway City on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. Mr. Farrell advised that the lighting ceremony in Ballinasloe would take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 from 6-8pm. Cllr. Dolan asked

the Members if they would encourage local groups in their areas to participate in the Lighting Ceremony to be held in Ballinasloe.

Mr. Farrell advised that the closing date for receipt of applications under the Community Support Scheme 2020 was the 16th January, 2020. Mr. Farrell advised that applications had been invited from Community and Voluntary “not for profit” Groups for funding towards activities and events which benefit local communities throughout the county, and support sustainable economic, community and cultural development. In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Farrell emphasized the importance of submitting quality applications and he stated that the Community and Enterprise Department were available to provide advice and support in relation to the specifics of the Scheme and preparation of applications. Mr. Farrell stated that the Community and Voluntary Groups had been contacted with details of the Scheme via the Public Participation Networks (PPN).

Mr. Mulryan referred to the practice of cutting grass and its financial implications in 11 private estates in Ballinasloe Town where he stated 17% of the 2020 Parks and Opens Spaces Budget for the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would be required for the continuation of this practice in 2020. Mr. Mulryan asked for consideration to be given for the discontinuation of this practice in 2020. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Mitchell advised that the estates in question have been taken in charge by Galway County Council and that grass cutting in private housing estates is not carried out by Galway County Council in any of the other Municipal Districts. Cllr. Dolan asked that in future one week’s advance notice with full information be given to the members where policy change/s are being proposed at Municipal District Monthly Meetings.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly that: “Ballinasloe Municipal District honour the commitment by Galway County Council at the ending of Ballinasloe Town Council and the coming into being that the 11 Estates concerned have open spaces cut in 2020.”

A counter proposal was made by Cllr. Dolan and seconded by Cllr. Keaveney that: “Detailed information on the 11 estates is e-mailed along with detail on quotations for grass cutting to Councillors 1 week in advance of next meeting – relevant next Council meeting in February - Agenda Item”.

A roll call vote on the counter proposal was taken first and the result was as follows:

**For:** Cllrs. Dolan and Keaveney (2)  
**Against:** Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly and Geraghty (3)

A roll call vote on the original proposal was taken second and the result was as follows:

**For:** Cllrs. M. Connolly, D. Connolly, Dolan, Geraghty and Keaveney (5)

The original proposal was carried.

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

MDB20004

No business arising.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

MDB20005

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that a light survey had been undertaken at Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe and advised that he is awaiting a report from Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers on this matter.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that the Road Safety Audit at Creagh Junction was progressing with Phase 1 - Feasibility Report - now complete and Phase 2 – Detailed review, modelling & design development - ongoing.

In response to Cllrs. D. Connolly and Dolan, Mr. Mitchell advised that the issue of the provision of additional footpath paving at the end of Main Street and River Street would be reviewed when the Town Enhancement Project was completed as he advised that these locations did not form part of the current contract with SIAC.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that he would assess the paving at the triangle section in Ahascragh.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Mulryan advised that he had referred the River Suck Back Channel issue to the Environment Section of Galway County Council for investigation.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly with regard to roads to be taken in charge, Mr. Mitchell asked that Cllr. M. Connolly would arrange to provide further details.

In response to Cllr. Dolan with regard the Ballinasloe Tennis Club site, Mr. Farrell advised that this was being progressed by way of a Section 183 Notice.

In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Farrell advised that Ballinasloe is one of the towns being considered for funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund - Category 2 projects where a decision on same will be taken in February, 2020.

In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Mulryan advised that work commenced on Main Street on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 and that this was in line with the agreed road closure documentation. Mr. Mulryan advised that all businesses had been made aware of when the work was due to commence.

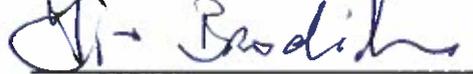
In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Farrell confirmed that the Tourism Officer, Ms. Ruth Mulhern had been appointed. Cllr. Dolan asked that the Tourism Officer would engage with Fáilte Ireland with regard to Ireland's Hidden Heartlands initiative.

In response to Cllr. Dolan, Mr. Mulryan advised that the provision of a temporary bus shelter on Dunlo Hill was progressing.

Mr. Mitchell asked that the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe be deferred in order to accommodate the preparation and publication of the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) 2020. It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe would take place on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 at 2.00 p.m.

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

Submitted, Approved and Signed



(Cathaoirleach to sign here)

19.02.2020

(Date)