

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 AT 2.30 p.m.**

**CATHAOIRLEACH:** Cllr. E. Parsons

**I LATHAIR FREISIN:**

**Baill:** Cllrs. T. Broderick, M. Connolly, D. Connolly, D. Geraghty, P. Keaveney,

**Oifigigh:** Mr. L. Hanrahan Director of Services, Ms. R. Lowe Senior Engineer, Mr. M. Melody, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. Batty Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Raftery Technician Grade 1, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. A. Spelman Meetings Administrator.

The members expressed sympathy to all families whose children died or were injured following the tragic car crash in Headford.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH**

**MDB23006**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. M. Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Peter Keaveney.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

In response to Cllr. Parsons and with reference to MDB23001 Page 2, Ms. Lowe advised that she would ask Mr. Prendergast to provide an update to the members regarding timelines for noise mapping.

In response to Cllr. Parsons and D. Connolly and with reference to MDB23001 Page 2, Ms. Lowe advised that an audit of speeds could be completed for the Sarsfield Road and then reviewed by the Area Team.

With reference to MDB23001 Page 2, Cllr. D. Connolly asked that an update be provided on cycle parking in the town.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**MDB23007**

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach on the proposal of Cllr. P. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly and with reference to MDB23003 Page 3, Ms. Lowe advised that she would provide an update from the Taking in Charge section in relation to the Ballinasloe MD.

In response to Cllrs. Broderick, Keaveney and M. Connolly and with reference to MDB23006 Page 4, Ms. Lowe advised that a bond system was in place via the Map Road Licencing System in respect of road openings. Ms. Lowe also advised that the Roads Act makes it an offence for roads to be damaged without the authority or consent of the Roads Authority. Ms. Lowe advised that there were limited circumstances where emergency works can be carried out. In response to a query re Iarnrod Eireann she noted that Iarnrod Eireann has certain powers in respect of sections of roads at or over railway lines. In respect of forestry roads and entrances Mr. Batty advised all that new Legislation was in place which dealt specifically with this issue, which includes mandatory consultation with the Roads Authority and a requirement for formal written agreement.

In response to Cllr. Broderick and with reference to MDB23002 Page 2, Ms. Lowe advised that the Roads Department were currently assessing accident data for Cappataggle Cross.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly and with reference to MDB23006 Page 4, Mr. Hanrahan advised that expressions of interest had been sought for new staff for the Motor Tax Office in Ballinasloe and that the situation will be assessed once all staff had been trained.

In response to Cllr. Parsons and with reference to MDB23003 Page 3, Mr. Hanrahan advised that there would be no loss of accessibility to public during or after construction at St. Josephs apart from managed temporary stoppages as the need arises.

In response to Cllr. Parsons and with reference to MDB23003 Page 3, Ms. Lowe advised that she would request an update on the Ballinasloe Townparks Relief Road project.

In response to Cllr. Parsons and with reference to MDB23002 Page 3, Mr. Batty advised that a location had been identified for bike parking at the Civic Offices and that the work would take place once preparatory work was carried out for the Roads Programme 2023.

**PRESENTATION FROM GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH REGARD TO THE IMPENDING CRISIS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS IN GETTIGN SUPPORT THROUGH THE TUS SCHEME AND THE RELATED SHORTAGES IN THE RURAL SOCIAL SCHEME WHICH ARE HAVING AN IMPACT ON THE OPERATION OF CHARITIES, COMMUNITY GROUPS, SPORTS CLUBS/PITCHES, SCHOOLS, PARKS AND GRAVEYARDS AND RELATED COMMUNITY SUPPORTS**

**MDB23008**

Mr. Steve Dolan, Mr. Sean Broderick and Mr. Sean Larkin made a presentation on the status of TUS Schemes and the Rural Social Schemes and asked for the support of the members in relaying their concerns to their relevant parties and elected members in Dail Eireann. They referenced shortage of participants, pay differences between supervisors on Community Employment Schemes versus their TUS and RSS Schemes which was causing supervisors to leave their posts. They put forward their solutions with regard widening eligibility rules, reducing quota's, retaining persons already on schemes, looking to bring Ukrainian Nationals onto the schemes. They expressed concern with the national Job Path Programme. The representatives asked that the members would make representations on their behalf to help make the changes necessary to ensure the continuance of the schemes. The members thanked the representatives for their presentation. Cllr. M. Connolly stated that the work done by these schemes was immeasurable and stated that the members must do all they could to halt the decline in the schemes. Cllr. Keaveney recommended that participants be retained on the schemes once eligible. Cllr. Broderick asked for clarity on why a new Job Path Scheme was set up when there was full employment. Cllr. Broderick asked why Tus participants are eligible for 9 months versus 12 months on a CES Scheme. Cllr. D. Connolly asked that the government would treat people with respect. Cllr. D. Geraghty stated that lack of staff was affecting the private sector also as the country is dealing with full employment. In response to Cllr. Geraghty, Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that that many Ukrainians are working with GRD on these schemes. Cllr. E. Parsons urged all the members to contact their Oireachtas Members to ensure the TUS and RSS Schemes remain viable. On the proposal of Cllr. T. Broderick; seconded by Cllr. E. Parsons, the following resolution was agreed "that a letter be sent to the relevant department to query what is the purpose of the recent five-year renewal of the Jobpath contract, given it was identified as a necessity during high unemployment rates, now with a record low number on the live register <4%, why has it been renewed? The millions being spent on this contract could be positively redirected to RSS/TUS schemes on the ground".

**PRESENTATION ON THE FRAMEWORK PLAN FOR EAST GALWAY ECO PARK BY THE ENVIRONMENT SECTION**

MDB23009

Mr. Melody made a presentation to the members on the plan for the East Galway Eco Park. The members thanked Mr. Melody for his presentation. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Melody advised that the issue of the naming of the park could be dealt with via the consultation process and offered that the use of a regional name could potentially present strategic advantages for the project. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Melody advised that they had examined operating models used by other amenity parks in conjunction with Cycle Ireland with regard the proposed kiddies bike park. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Melody advised that the project options would be assessed for income and expenditure. Mr. Melody advised that solar power could be assessed in the future but at present a contract was in place with a company who were providing power via gas extraction from the site. In response to Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Melody advised that the second entrance would be specifically for pedestrians and cyclists and that the site would be cordoned off to ensure safe access for the public. In response to Cllr. Keaveney, Mr. Melody confirmed that the size of site is 60 hectares. Cllr. Parsons asked that a dog park be provided at the area. Cllr. M. Connolly welcomed the news of the ECO Park to East Galway. In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, Mr. Melody advised that it was part of the remit

of the Consultants to match design with funding sources criteria for the development of the site. Mr. Melody advised that the site already have a lot of trails in existence. In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Melody advised that the site was fully engineered and that the aftercare period for the facility is for 30 years. Cllr. D. Connolly paid tribute to all the work carried out by the East Galway Landfill Liaison Committee. Cllr. Broderick asked that the final funding via the Landfill Liaison Committee be assessed and completed. Mr. Melody advised that he would organise a teams meeting with all the members to discuss the Eco Park in further detail and tease out any issues prior to the consultation process commencing.

In response to Cllr. Parsons, Mr. Melody advised that that tenders were being assessed for the appointment of consultants for a Preliminary Report on the development of an amenity at Pollboy Landfill.

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

MDB23010

Mr. Hanrahan provided an update on projects in the Ballinasloe Municipal District. In response to Cllr. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan advised that the estate in Ahascragh would open in Q3 2023. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Dunlo Hill project was progressing well following discussion with OPW. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Part 8 for St. Josephs would be brought before the next Plenary Meeting.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that a domestic violence refuge would be provided at the old nursing home of St. Brigid's Hospital.

In response to Cllr. D. Connolly, Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that Galway County Council have a homeless service which they provide with the support of Cope Foundation. Mr. Hanrahan confirmed that there is no homeless providers in Ballinasloe. Mr. Hanrahan advised that the Housing Section is working with families who have received notices to quit from their landlords.

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

MDB23011

Cllr. Parsons advised that she had been invited to attend the Chalonnes-sur-Loire 62<sup>nd</sup> Festival Fetes des Vins d'Anjou. On the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly it was agreed that Cllr. Parsons would attend the festival and represent the Ballinasloe Municipal District.

Cllr. Parsons advised that a meeting was to take place in in May in Athleague to discuss the proposed Suck Valley Way Project. Cllr. Parsons stressed the need to access Just Transition Funding for the Ballinasloe Municipal District. Cllr. Broderick asked that a lead person for securing funding be nominated from Galway County Council Staff. Mr. Hanrahan advised that Mr. Farrell, Director of Service Community and Enterprise would work with the members and local groups in progressing projects. Mr. Hanrahan asked that the project detail be provided and he would forward to Mr. Farrell. Cllr. Geraghty asked that any proposals are discussed and agreed with local communities prior to funding applications.

Mr. Hanrahan advised that a meeting would be arranged between Mr. Farrell and the members of the Ballinasloe MD to discuss funding applications for the Just Transition Fund.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS**

**MD823012**

The Crehan Family on the death of Rita Crehan, Corraneena, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe  
The Lyons Family on the death of Cormac Lyons, Kilmalaw, Aughrim, Ballinasloe  
The Dowd Family on the death of Essie Dowd, Lowville, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe  
The Hewitt Family on the death of Heather Hewitt, Knockanarra, Williamstown

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**MD823013**

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly with regard safety improvement works at junctions on the N63, A, Ms. Lowe said that she would seek an update from the National Road Design Office on proposed projects in the Ballinasloe MD on the national roads.

In response to Cllr. M. Connolly, D. Connolly, Broderick and Parsons Ms. Lowe advised proposed upgrade works at Creagh Junction would be assessed by the Active Travel Team and that the consideration of bringing the second set of lights back into operation should be included as part of a broader package of works. Ms Lowe noted that the layout of the northern T-junction is not suitable as it includes a left-slip lane which then has to give way for right-turning vehicles. Ms Lowe advised that the entire junction merits a re-design to make it much more pedestrian and cyclist friendly and that the Active Travel space may provide the best opportunity for funding. Ms. Lowe noted that significant work had already taken place to assess the junction and this will form a solid basis for further work, subject to funding and approval by the NTA.

Cllr. D. Connolly asked that additional funding be provided to the Civil Defence when preparing the Annual Budget 2024.

Cllr. Keaveney paid tribute to the Glenamaddy Theatre Festival who are hosting the 2023 All-Ireland Confined Drama Finals from April 13<sup>th</sup> to April 21<sup>st</sup>. He invited all to attend.

Cllr. Parsons and all the members congratulated Cllr. Broderick for Broderick's Pub winning Galway Pub of the Year at the 2023 Irish Restaurant Awards.

It was agreed that the next Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May @ 2 pm.**

**CHRIOCHNAIGH AN CRUINNIU ANSIN**

**Submitted, Approved and Signed**

  
**(Cathaoirleach to sign here)**

12/04/23  
**(Date)**