

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, BALLINASLOE ON WEDNESDAY, 10th JUNE 2026 AT 2.00 p.m.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. E. Parsons

I LATHAIR FREISIN:

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

Oifigigh: Mr. D. Mitchell Director of Service, Mr. C. Harley Senior Engineer, Mr. P. Batty Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. P. McLynn, Executive Engineer, Ms. Hazel Fox, Town Regeneration Officer, Ms. A. Monaghan Staff Officer, Ms. A. Spelman Meetings Administrator.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF BALLINASLOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th MAY 2026 AND MATTERS ARISING
MDB26032

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Municipal District of Ballinasloe held on Wednesday 13th May 2026 were approved by the Municipal District Members and signed by the Cathaoirleach, on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly and Harney and seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly.

Matters Arising

- Cllrs. D. Connolly, M. Connolly, Harney and Parsons expressed their concern with the quality of the grass cutting being carried out in Ballinasloe. Mr. Batty confirmed that he had met with contractors and they were committed to improving their performance going forward.
- Cllrs. M. Connolly and Geraghty asked that grass cutting at junctions be carried out as a matter of urgency to ensure road users have adequate visibility. Cllr. Geraghty stated that there needs to be adequate funding provided to ensure that this grass cutting can be carried out on an annual basis.
- Cllr. M. Connolly asked for an update on the traffic calming projects at Newtown, Mountbellew and Menlough village. Mr. Batty confirmed that Consultants had been appointed to prepare a preliminary report on same and that they were working on same. Mr. Batty confirmed that the preparation of a strong preliminary report would ensure that a strong application would be submitted to the Department for funding. Cllr. M. Connolly asked that these projects be prioritized.

- Cllr. Harney asked for an update on staffing in the MD.

**BALLINASLOE TOWN CENTRE FIRST PLAN – MS. HAZEL FOX, REGENERATION OFFICER,
URBAN AND RURAL REGENERATION TEAM**

MDB26033

Ms. Fox presented her report on the Ballinasloe Town Centre First Plan. The members thanked Ms. Fox for her comprehensive report and for the work carried out on the project.

The following matters were raised:

- Cllr. M. Connolly and Parsons stated that the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme would have a bearing on the plan and asked that it be fast-tracked to ensure we could move ahead with such projects.
- Cllr. Geraghty stated that small businesses were the heart of all towns and all efforts should be made to help small businesses thrive in our towns and villages.
- Cllr. Geraghty stated that there was no footfall in Ballinasloe and that parking is an issue with encouraging people to come and shop in the town.
- Cllr. Geraghty cautioned about creating attractive open spaces that could encourage anti-social behaviors from some in the community and asked that the team would engage with An Garda Síochána while working on aspects of the plan.
- Cllr. M. Connolly encouraged improvements in the Fair Green as it is such a unique facility in the town.
- Cllr. M. Connolly asked that the issue of casual trading with Ballinasloe and other villages be re-visited and for new bye laws to be prepared.
- Cllr. Harney asked that the Ballinasloe Stories Centre be incorporated within Dooleys' Corner building which is being renovated.
- Cllr. Harney stated that it is important to attract new businesses into the town and that it is important that the Council are pro-active in dealing with vacant buildings.
- Cllr. Harney asked that members be provided with an update on the Joint Retail Task Force and how it will benefit towns in the County.
- Cllrs. D. Connolly and Parsons stated that members had put a lot of work into the Local Area Plan and asked that recommendation within same be acted upon.
- Cllr. D. Connolly stated that it was important to retain the green integrity of the Fair Green.
- Cllr. D. Connolly praised the work carried out under the Town Enhancement Project and asked that connectivity to the rail station be addressed.
- Cllr. D. Connolly praised the plan in that it showed a vision of what can be provided in Ballinasloe in the future.
- Cllr. Parsons welcomed the inclusion of the River Suck Project within the plan and that the current feasibility study being carried out will feed into the plan.

- In response to Cllr. Parsons, Ms. Fox confirmed that the identified projects will all have individual feasibility studies on same and that each will involve further public consultation.
- Cllr. Parsons raised the issue of parking in the town and its impact on businesses in the town.
- Cllr. Parsons raised the issue of CCTV forming part of the plan to deal with anti-social behaviour.
- Cllr. Parsons asked that liaison would happen with the Just Transition Activator. Ms. Fox confirmed same.

All the members endorsed by majority the Ballinasloe Town Centre First Plan.

UPDATE ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

MDB26034

Mr. Batty provided an update on Municipal District Activities. The members thanked Mr. Batty for his comprehensive report and congratulated all the staff in the Ballinasloe MD along with Ballinasloe Tidy Towns and Ballinasloe Community Employment Scheme in ensuring that Ballinasloe ranked No. 5 in the Irish Business Against Litter Results 2026.

The following matters were raised:

- Cllrs. Harney and Geraghty expressed concern with delays to the Creagh Junction Project and requested a timeline on same.
- Cllr. Harney asked that gully's in the town be cleared of vegetation and cleaned.
- Cllrs. D. Connolly and Harney asked that footpaths in the town be assessed to ensure that any hedges or trees overgrowing footpaths be cut back as there were some locations where the public had to step off footpaths because of the obstruction.
- Cllr. Harney asked if trees planted in the town centre during the Town Enhancement Project be assessed as some were growing too large and tall.
- Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the projects at Kildoonney, Caher Cross and Cul na Canalach.
- Cllr. D. Connolly asked that ramps be provided at footpaths in Ballinasloe and villages for ease of access for public.
- Cllr. Geraghty welcomed all the work carried out in the MD but asked that additional staffing be provided.
- Cllr. Geraghty asked that additional discretionary funding be provided to Local Authorities to enable them to progress with their own priority low-cost safety schemes and expressed dismay that Galway County Council can only progress projects with the approval of the Department of Transport.

- Cllr. Parsons asked for clarification on who is responsible for watering the flower towers in Ballinasloe and if local businesses can adopt towers in front of their businesses. Mr. Batty advised that he would revert with an update on same.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

MDB26035

Mr. Mitchell gave an update to the members on the recruitment of engineering staff in the Ballinasloe Municipal District and advised that recruitment was ongoing with the Public Appointments Service. Cllr. D. Connolly asked for an update on the recruitment of 80 additional staff for Galway County Council and how many would be appointed to the Ballinasloe Municipal District. Mr. Mitchell advised that he would revert with a response.

Mr. Mitchell requested that the members meet to discuss projects to be carried out with the additional LPT monies allocated to each MD.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BALLINASLOE CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

MDB26036

Cllr. Parsons congratulated all involved with the maintenance and upkeep of Ballinasloe and on the great result from the Irish Businesses Against Litter (IBAL) competition.

Cllr. Parsons advised that there would be a Women in Politics Conference to be held on the 17th and 18th June and asked members to circulate within their parties and communities to encourage women who are interested in pursuing a career in politics to attend.

Cllr. Parsons advised that she would keep working on the restoration of services at Portiuncula University Hospital via her work with the Health Forum Committee and asked that the members support her on the issue. All the members agreed that a focus must remain on this issue.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY/CONGRATULATIONS

MDB26037

Votes of Sympathy

The Fahy Family on the passing of Maeve Fahy, Killaan, Woodlawn

The Parker Family on the passing of Ian Parker, Ballinasloe

The Quinn Family on the passing of Eileen Quinn, Ard Mhuire, Ballinasloe

The Forde Family on the passing of Paul Forde, Fiddane, Kilkerrin

The Lohan Family on the passing of Mick Lohan, Summerville, Moylough

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MDB26038

No business arising.

It was agreed that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District would take place on 8th July at 2pm.

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Signed: 

Dated: 8/7/2026

