

MINUTES OF ROSCOMMON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE LOUGHNANEANE SUITE, ROSCOMMON ON 17th May, 2016 AT 4.00 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillor Kathleen Shanagher, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr M. Creaton, Cllr D. Connolly, Cllr O. Leyden, Cllr P. Fitzmaurice
Cllr. Nigel Dineen

OFFICIALS: Mr. Derek Caldbeck, A/Head of Finance, Housing, ICT & Procurement
Mr. John Mockler, Roscommon Municipal District Co-ordinator
Ms. Breeda Burke, Staff Officer, Roscommon Municipal District

15.16. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Leyden
SECONDED by Councillor Dineen

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Municipal District Meeting held on 21.03.2016.

16.16. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The members raised the following issues:

Councillor Leyden

- Commencement date for Phase 2 of the Castle Street project and if the pedestrian crossing could be included as part of this phase as outlined in the Town Plan.
- Speed limit review on National Roads and if the Cloverhill and Cloontuskert National schools could be considered as part of this.
- Requested update on the flooding crisis.
- The requirement for a traffic management plan for the Community Park and the need for a mini roundabout and suggested that they make submissions as part of the speed limit review.
- Opportunity to make submissions to request a 30km speed limit in all estates.

Councillor Fitzmaurice

- The N60 road from Harristown to Castlerea is in very bad condition.
- Request for line marking to be carried out in Castlerea town as a priority.
- Requested up to date information on the flooding crisis
- Requested that all flooding diversion signs be taken down.
- Stated that the traffic calming works carried out at Carrick National School were of poor design.

Councillor Creaton

- Enquired if any agreement was reached with local farmers in Castleplunkett.
- Agreed that there was a major problem at Carrick and a set down area was required.

Councillor Dineen

- Enquired when the road at Castleplunkett will be put back to a double lane.
- Stated that there was a serious and dangerous issue at Carrick National School outside Ballinlough and works would have to be carried out to make it safer.

Councillor Shanagher

- Mentioned the entrance to the Community Park in Lisnamult and the meeting that will take place on Thursday 19th May in an effort to put a traffic management plan in place.

Mr. John Mockler, Roscommon Municipal District Co-ordinator responded to the issues raised:

- John Mockler confirmed that he would inspect the works carried out at Carrick and that we will need to apply for funding from the TII if works are required.
- John Mockler stated that we are waiting on the results of the speed limit review and following that speed limits at National Schools will be considered.
- John Mockler informed the Councillors that we are currently in talks with land owners in Castleplunkett and that we will ensure that all diversion signs are taken down. John stated that funding was allocated for works south of Castleplunkett. He also stated that the relief works in Ballinaphuill are under way but not yet complete. John Mockler gave a commitment to e-mail all of the Councillors within 14 days with a comprehensive update on the flooding crisis.
- John stated that works were proposed for Knockalaghta and that there was no easy solution for it. He confirmed that there was no proposal to allocate funding to North of Castleplunkett but that we still intended to employ a Hydrogeologist to investigate the problem with the turloughs.
- John Mockler informed the meeting that a Part 8 was required for the second phase of Castle Street and that it might go before the September meeting of the Council. John explained the no parking requirements that need to be met either side of a pedestrian crossing and agreed to explore all options as part of this process. John explained that Castle Street has been narrowed so as to provide the necessary space for footpaths and to slow traffic down.
- In response to enquiries from all Councillors as regards the River Jiggy, John Mockler informed the meeting that the OPW had a meeting with Road Design about the River Jiggy. Road Design is also looking at the Ballinagard Road and money may come from the flooding allocation towards this.
- John Mockler informed the meeting that drawings were prepared and forwarded to the OPW for a meeting concerning the Galway Road.
- John Mockler committed to installing a speed monitor at Cloontuskert N.S. in Quarter 3.
- In response to Cllr. Fitzmaurice's enquiry concerning Briarfield, John Mockler stated that any works required at Briarfield will be subject to funding and that we will follow it up.

17.16. ROSCOMMON MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION

Derek Caldbeck gave an overview to the Councillors on the new Municipal District Funding. He informed the meeting that members agreed on the 11th April, 2016 that the Executive would draft up guidelines for consideration. Draft guidelines were presented to all the members and Mr. Caldbeck asked that they familiarise themselves with the draft guidelines and welcomed any suggestions over the next few weeks. It was agreed that recommendations could be forwarded to the Roscommon Municipal District up to Tuesday 31st May, 2016. This would allow guidelines to be amended and ready to go before the CPG meeting in June and then go forward to the Plenary Meeting by June or July.

- Cllr. Fitzmaurice welcomed the additional funding and the importance of it for small groups. He highlighted the insurance difficulties for groups placing items in public places and asked that the Engineer in the Municipal District approve the placing of such items.
- On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fitzmaurice
SECONDED by Cllr. Creaton
It was **AGREED** by the members that works carried out in towns and villages such as flowerbeds, baskets and signs will be included in the Irish Public Bodies Insurance Schedule for Roscommon County Council.

- John Mockler stated that most groups have their own insurance policies and that they should continue on this basis. He stated that insurance needs to be looked at on a case by case basis and who is carrying out the maintenance is a factor we have to take into consideration.
- Cllr. Fitzmaurice stated his intention to raise the issue of insurance at the forthcoming CPG.
- Cllr. Connolly sought clarification on the role the Municipal District Co-ordinator will play in the evaluation of the applications for funding.
- John Mockler informed the Councillors that prior to the evaluation meeting that he can inspect all applications for funding if required.
- Cllr. Leyden welcomed the additional funding but felt that 10% - 20% is a high percentage for community groups to contribute. It was agreed by the members that 5% - 10% is the preferred contribution to be included in the guidelines.
- Cllr. Leyden informed the meeting that groups will not know the outcome of their Leader Funding Applications under late September and requested that our application process for the Municipal funding will take account of this.
- John Mockler stated that as the 12 month drawdown of the money following grant approval has to be adhered to. Therefore groups will need to have their applications for funding project ready.
- Cllr. Fitzmaurice requested clarity as regards groups getting amenity grants and if they would still be eligible to apply for this funding for another project.
- Derek Caldbeck explained that provided it was a different project they would be eligible to apply for this funding.
- Cllr. Shanagher welcomed the additional funding and the bonus it will give volunteer groups. She stated it is an opportunity to develop the county and hopes that it will benefit the economy.
- Cllr. Connolly looked for clarification from the other members regarding the evaluation process. Members agreed that they need to be involved in the allocation of the funds.
- Cllr. Dineen wants the process reviewed after the first year as part of the budgetary process.
- Cllr. Leyden enquired if applications could be rolled over to the following year instead of having another call if there were sufficient applications already submitted.
- Derek Caldbeck responded that it could be included in the guidelines and that it was open to the members to make any suggestions they felt would improve the process.
- Cllr. Connolly enquired if all members were happy with the minimum amount of €1,500 mentioned in the guidelines. It was agreed that €1,500 was a reasonable minimum figure.

18.16. UPDATE ON THE ROADS PROGRAMME

John Mockler gave an update on the Roads Programme as follows:

- Tender for overlay is back and we are in a holding period before we can appoint a contractor.
- The prices are back for the road reconstruction projects but no works have started yet.
- We intend to start the Ballyleague to Scramogue road by the end of May to have it completed in time for the Triathlon and then carry on to the Ballyfinnegan road in Ballintubber.
- There are no major issues surrounding the roads programme apart from Phase 2 of Castle Street Project.

- Cllr. Leyden re-iterated the need to take a look at the traffic management of Castle Street and around Roscommon town in general. She hopes that everything will be open to consultation and get an opportunity. She stated the need for more disability car parking spaces on Main Street in Roscommon town.
- Cllr. Shanagher endorsed the need for more disability car parking spaces on Main Street.
- John Mockler agreed to have an update on this ready for the next meeting.
- Cllr. Dineen requested that the Ballyfinnegan road in Ballintubber is patched now as it cannot be left any longer without being repaired.
- John Mockler stated that it is unlikely works will be carried out to the road at Ballyfinnegan and further up the village until the main contractor carries out his work. He explained that it is the surface on the Ballyfinnegan road that failed and not that there are pot holes. He also referred to his meeting with the Ballintubber Tidy Towns and mentioned his commitment to the Tidy Towns to provide extra help ahead of the mass in the graveyard and the arrival of the Americans.
- Cllr. Dineen enquired about the strip of footpath requiring repair in Ballintubber.
- John Mockler stated that it was on the list of works and might be done out of our footpath funding towards the end of the year.
- John Mockler acknowledged the voluntary efforts and the work carried out in Ballintubber.
- Cllr. Shanagher agreed with John and commended the people of Ballintubber for their efforts to keep the village looking well.
- Cllr. Leyden requested that the footpaths outside Rogue & Co. be repaired as a matter of urgency. She stated that the slabs need to be taken up as it is a health and safety issue.
- John Mockler stated that no decision was made on the allocation of the footpath funding.

19.16. TOWN TEAMS

John Mockler referred to the handout setting out the role of the town teams, how they will be governed, their terms of reference and the need for an action plan. All of the members agreed that everything is good well with the town teams.

20.16. NOTICE OF MOTION- PUBLIC TOILETS AND TOURISM AMENITIES AT PORTRUN

Notice of Motion from Councillor Leyden – 2/16

“That Roscommon Municipal District upgrades the slipway in Portrun and proactively addresses the lack of tourism amenities in the area by considering social enterprise solutions in cooperation with the local community on public land in Portrun”.

Question:

Has a solution been finalised to address the issue with public toilets in Portrun (which were built on public land) to ensure access to the facility?

Councillor Leyden spoke on her notice of motion and informed the meeting that the toilets were built on public land. She understands that an agreement is in place concerning sharing the maintenance between Waterways Ireland and Roscommon County Council. She highlighted the following items

- Slipway at Portrun is not sufficient and needs to be upgraded and maintained by Roscommon County Council
- Portrun needs to be developed further as it has huge tourism potential
- There is an opportunity to be proactive in developing a Tourism Centre/Craft Shop/Cafe in Portrun. Roscommon County Council should grasp the opportunity now to develop such a facility at Portrun.

- There should be a facility available for storage of boats and kayaks.
- There is a strong community spirit in Portrun and a great enthusiasm
- The playground surface needs to be repaired

John Mockler read the reply as follows

Roscommon Municipal District will develop a design for an upgrade to the slipway at the Portrunny amenity area in cooperation with Waterways Ireland and Inland Fisheries Ireland. We will then seek funding for this development to proceed to construction.

The Roscommon MD and Community & Enterprise Section will liaise with the local development association and other agencies to identify sources of funding for projects that will enhance tourism amenities in the area and improve the area from an economic and community development perspective.

- John Mockler explained that the toilets were closed because of vandalism and that Waterways Ireland put the locks back on. Therefore people using the boating facilities only have access to the toilets. He gave a commitment to discuss the toilets at the next meeting with Waterways Ireland.
- Cllr. Fitzmaurice suggested that the new municipal allocation could be considered for projects at Portrun. He requested that an audit be carried out on the life buoys in Portrun and elsewhere in the county to ensure that they are all in place for the summer season.

- Cllr. Shanagher agreed with Cllr. Leyden that there is a great need to develop Portrun
- On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Leyden
SECONDED by Cllr. Dineen

It was agreed that the Roscommon Municipal District use some of its funding to develop Portrun.

- Cllr. Leyden agreed to check dates for a possible meeting next week with the Enterprise & Development Committee to follow on after the meeting with Waterways Ireland scheduled for this Thursday.

21.16. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS were extended to:

The teachers and pupils of Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál Ros Comáin who were crowned All Ireland Champions on winning Féile Drámaíochta with their musical production Rí na Leon.

21.16. VOTES OF SYMPATHY were extended to:

The Connor Family, Kilrooskey on the death of Carmel Connor

22.16. AOB

The members raised their concerns regarding the double yellow lines recently painted on the road outside the swimming pool where bus drivers parked when dropping school children to the swimming pool.

- Cllr. Creaton requested that the parking area for the construction workers be used for bus parking for the pool.
- Cllr. Connolly supported this idea and wants the schools facilitated.
- Cllr. Leyden agreed with this and wants to keep the children on the same side of the road as the swimming pool to avoid any unnecessary risk to the safety of children.
- Cllr. Dineen would also like 4 – 5 bus parking spaces to be provided in this area.
- Cllr. Fitzmaurice supported the idea of using the area where the construction workers were parking and asked for action immediately.
- John Mockler stated that he was involved in discussions with the Gardai Síochána and they were in favour of putting the double yellow lines on the road all the way down to

the junction. John confirmed that the area the members referred to was in the ownership of Roscommon County Council and he agreed to speak with John O'Rourke. He explained that any area would only be a drop off area for buses bringing children to the pool.

- Cllr. Leyden welcomed any ideas to sorting this problem out as a matter of urgency and asked for road marking to show where the new bus drop off point will be.
- Cllr. Shanagher enquired when the signage for the new car park will be erected and if there is a need for a crossing for pedestrians at the Bank of Ireland.
- Cllr. Leyden enquired how the Green 1 hr car parking spaces were working in Castlerea Town and expressed her wishes to look at this idea for Roscommon Town.
- Cllr. Fitzmaurice stated that there were 12 green 1 hr green car parking spaces in Castlerea Town provided from Town Team funds. He explained that they are a huge success and self regulatory. He mentioned that it might be a good idea to have the loading bay area a different colour also.
- Cllr. Leyden mentioned that a loading bay area is required at Harlow's Pub in Roscommon Town.
- Cllr. Shanagher agreed and requested a full review of disabled car parking spaces in Roscommon Town. She would like to incorporate the 1 hr green car parking spaces in the complete review of the town so that a comprehensive plan could be put together.
- Cllr. Leyden agreed with this and mentioned the benefit of free parking in Roscommon Town.
- John Mockler indicated that all of the above can be included in a full traffic management plan for Roscommon town.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach

Countersigned