

MINUTES OF ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM 8 - ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON, ON THURSDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2018 AT 9.30 AM

PRESENT: Councillor Laurence Fallon **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr T. Ward, Cllr I. Connaughton, Cllr J. Keogh and Cllr J. Naughten.

OFFICIALS: Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Diarmuid MacDonnacha, Athlone Municipal District Co-ordinator
Paul Browne, Executive Engineer
Fiona Fallon, Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr P. Kilduff

44.18 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor John Keogh
SECONDED by Councillor Tony Ward

It was **AGREED** to adopt the Minutes of the Athlone Municipal District Meeting held on 26th July 2018.

45.18 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

46.18 CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Department of Transport had already been circulated to Members.

47.18 NOTICE OF MOTION

10.18 Notice of Motion Councillor John Keogh

“That Roscommon County Council install an adequate number of Speed Ramps on the Old Tuam Road, Monksland, as a speed reduction measure so as to reduce the risk of a fatality or serious injury and further that it installs a number of pedestrian crossing (zebra) near the bus stop close to the Council’s office so as to allow safe road crossing to the Community Centre and Council Offices and after the Arrabawn co-op to allow safe road crossing to access Cushlea Pitches. In addition, pursuant to Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act 2004, I call on Roscommon County Council, at the time of passing bye-laws in respect of speed limits on all roads in the County (including housing estates), to reduce the speed limit on the Old Tuam Road to 40kmph bearing in mind that the road is populated with residential dwellings and entrances to housing estates containing many young children”.

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:

Roscommon County Council acknowledges that there is a problem with excessive speed on the Old Tuam Road and in this regard we will investigate the introduction of Traffic Calming systems in order to reduce same. The Municipal District Office will also contact the local community Garda to request that more regular speed checks be carried out.

The introduction of Speed Ramps on any road requires public consultation with all interested parties including local residents, elected members, Gardai, HSE & Bus Eireann. Department of Transport/TII standards require that ramps be placed at 80 to 100 metre centres along the length of all roads where this treatment is applied. In the case of the L2047 Old Tuam Road approximately seventeen (17) individual ramps would be required from the Co-Op to the River Village Roundabout.

Updated Speed Limit Bye-Laws are currently under consideration at Council Plenary level following lengthy consultation with the elected members. A Speed Limit review is carried out every 4 to 5 years. In this case a speed limit of 40kmh is not appropriate for the Old Tuam Road as it is not an Estate Road.

Councillor Keogh submitted a signed Petition with 300 names from Local Residents in accordance with the above Notice of Motion. Funding must be sourced to address speed in the area as a matter of urgency.

11.18 Notice of Motion Councillor John Naughten

“That Roscommon County Council install speed ramps on the Old Tuam Road in the interest of public safety”.

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:

Roscommon County Council acknowledges that there is a problem with excessive speed on the Old Tuam Road and in this regard we will investigate the introduction of Traffic Calming systems in order to reduce same. The Municipal District Office will also contact the local community Garda to request that more regular speed checks be carried out.

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**On the PROPOSAL of Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Keogh**

It was **AGREED** that a Letter is sent to Athlone Gardai outlining the concerns of the Councillors and Members of the local Community regarding lack of adherence to speed limits on Old Tuam Road, and to include Petition from 300 local residents.

**On the PROPOSAL of Councillor Naughten
SECONDED by Councillor Keogh**

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council install Flashing Speed Limit Lights at 2 locations on the Old Tuam Road as a matter of urgency, subject to funding being available.

**On the PROPOSAL of Councillor Fallon
SECONDED by Councillor Ward**

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council carry out a Traffic Safety Audit for the Old Tuam Road.

Councillor Keogh advised he was willing to defer **Motion 10.18** until the next Municipal District Meeting as there may be bye-laws introduced across the county and this area may be included in this.

12.18 Notice of Motion Councillor Tony Ward

“That Roscommon County Council install footpaths and also install a drainage system and resurface the road into Cluain Broc, Danesfort and Daneshill housing estates. Can the Area Engineer inform the meeting when will the improvement work commence”

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:

The resurfacing of this road will be included in the proposed 3 Year Roads Programme currently

being prepared.

**On the PROPOSAL of Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Naughton**

It was **AGREED** that drainage work be carried out in this area in 2018 and be included for resurfacing in Programme for 2019.

48.18 CIVIC RECEPTION REQUEST

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Ward
SECONDED by Councillor Naughten

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council honour at the next Civic Reception, the Kiltoom-Cam U-12 girls soccer team who were crowned All-Ireland champions at the Community Games held at the University of Limerick

It was also agreed that in future only groups that win Gold National Medals will be honoured at Civic receptions.

49.18 QUESTIONS

Question No. 10.18 - Councillor John Naughten

Parkway Site

"That Roscommon County Council provide a update on what measures are going to be taken next to address the situation with the condition of the Parkway site, Monksland, Athlone".

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:

This site has been placed on the Register of Derelict Sites. A prosecution under the Waste Act is currently being pursued by Roscommon County Council's Environment Section.

Question No. 11.18 - Councillor Tony Ward

Turning Lane at Curramore Junction

"Can the Area Engineer Mr. Diarmuid MacDonncha inform meeting and give update on the progress that has been made with TII on providing a left hand turning lane with road marking at the Curramore junction on road L2022-0"

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:

Eugene Dwyer has confirmed that he applied to the TII 2 months ago to appoint consultants from the TII's Framework list to consider options at the location referred to. The Consultant's brief is to examine and make recommendations on that section of the N61 from Ganly's Roundabout to Kiltoom Stores. A reminder will be sent to TII to progress our request.

Question No. 12.18 - Councillor Tony Ward

Dysart Traffic Calming

"Can the Area Engineer Mr. Diarmuid MacDonncha please inform the meeting when will work commence on installing road marking and road safety signage and flashing lights at the village of Dysart".

The Meetings Administrator circulated the following reply:

This project has been funded by the TII under their Low Cost Improvement Scheme. A design is currently

being prepared and the project will be completed by November.

50.18 VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS / SYMPATHY

As recorded at the Plenary meeting on Monday 24th September 2018

51.18 A.O.B

Hedgecutting Grant Scheme

Councillor Connaughton updated Members on a pilot scheme that is currently in place, and at an advanced stage, in Galway County Council.

Local committee/landowners take responsibility for

- Lodging an application for the Grant
- employing a registered contractor that has indemnity insurance
- engaging in agreements with landowners,
- marking out roads

Councillor Keogh suggested that Councillor Connaughton pursue piloting this scheme in the Athleague area with a view to seeing how this works.

Councillor Naughten suggested that €5,000 of the €10,000 budget for this Scheme be used by Athlone MD for hedgecutting in the area as roads are in a chronic state and €5,000 remain in place for applications made under this scheme.

Councillor Ward and Councillor Fallon suggested that any balance left in this budget should be reviewed before the next MD meeting. This balance should be used for hedgecutting in the area.

Councillor Connaughton advised that this Scheme and Budget should be reviewed at the next MD meeting and rolled out.

Repair of Roads

Councillor Keogh raised the following issues:

- Creagh – complimented RCC that drainage and lights have been on Shannonbridge Road and looked for an update on timelines for footpaths and roundabout works at Creagh
Diarmuid MacDonncha advised this was submitted as a Scheme for Capital funding but no success. There is a contract in place for maintenance of Suckfield Roundabout.
- Kidlawn – understood that this road was on the Roads Programme but need to get remedial works done as it is like a river flowing.
- Antrane to Clonbulia - water pipe exists on centre of road and cars are getting caught on it.
Diarmuid MacDonncha advised works have been carried out.
However, Councillor John Keogh advised that road is collapsed at Joe Burkes house

Councillor John Naughten raised the following issues

- Lights and footpaths from Dolans garage, Ballinasloe
- Line marking opposite Dolans garage. No yellow line
- 5 no. Signs blocking view at Ballymullavil junction to Tuam Road
Diarmuid MacDonncha advised he will have a look at these signs
- No line marking from Rooskey cross to Taughmaconnell
- Dangerous depression in road at Taughmaconnell Road (at Kildeas concrete)
Paul Browne confirmed that contractors are doing these works
- progressing Part 8 at Cloonakille

Councillor Ivan Connaughton raised the following issues

- Expressed his delight that works were commencing in Athleague in the forthcoming week
- Bridge at Kilbegnet – a commitment was given to house liable to flooding. What is the update? Diarmuid MacDonncha advised that Low Cost Safety is being implemented at this location shortly and he will look to include this as part of these works
- Low Cost safety measure at Araghty. Landowner willing to give land at bad corner free of charge in order for works to take place. Ivan can arrange meeting with landowner and Engineers.
- Castlestrange should be included in 2019 Roads Programme

Councillor Lawrence Fallon stated that he was delighted that works are commencing in Athleague

Public Lighting

Councillor Ward raised the issue of Public Lighting at Castlesampson School. 2 lights will be erected under the Clar Programme. Diarmuid MacDonncha confirmed that this work will be carried out by a local contractor, piloting solar powered Public Lighting as previously requested by Councillor Keogh.

Councillor Keogh requested an Update on Public lighting from Mill Bar to Waterville.

Diarmuid MacDonncha stated that a Rural Regeneration & Development Funding application is being submitted by RCC to the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr. Ring

Clar Funding

Taughmaconnell School were unsuccessful under Clar. Requested that letter be sent to Department as misinterpreted.

Majella Hunt confirmed that she is working on this and making progress.

Funding for Roads

Councillor Keogh asked if, further to meeting with Minister Ross, is there any indication of any further funding. An Engineer from the Department has visited Roscommon since this meeting.

Parkway Site

A number of Members requested an update on any safety measures that may be proposed by RCC on this site.

Cllr Naughten requested that RCC intravene as soon as possible as this site is a serious public safety issue and is getting worse

Councillor Tony Ward referred to RCC previous estimated cost of €15,000 for removal of fence. He queried when these works will commence. He proposed that a letter is sent to Minister Eoghan Murphy for lands be purchased for Construction of Local Authority housing and amenities in Monksland/Bealnamulla area.

Fiona Fallon clarified that a letter was issued to Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy, as a result of Motion passed at the previous meeting, requesting approval for funding to purchase this site for Local Authority Housing. She advised she will follow up with Mr. Murphy before next MD meeting for an update.

Majella Hunt again advised that the site is in private ownership, registered on derelict sites register, no correspondence from the developer. However, there has been a significant change in the last couple of months and awaiting outcome of legal proceedings. Will update members if any progress.

Vermin in Private House

Councillor Lawrence Fallon sought advice, or a solution, for a constituent who has reported that there is a vermin infestation in an adjacent vacant semi-detached property.

Both properties are privately owned. It is not the responsibility of RCC as not a council property, not derelict and not a refuse issue, not responsibility of HSE as no litter. It is difficult to identify the owners of

the property.

He queried if in the absence of a solution can we declare empty as a derelict site?
Councillor Fallon proposed that options are examined.

Diarmuid MacDonncha advised that the matter has been referred to the Housing Section who are pursuing the issue with the owner.

Derelict House

Councillor Keogh queried if the derelict house, known as Moores in Monksland, was proposed to be demolished or what were the Councils intentions for same

Diarmuid MacDonncha advised that this house is the responsibility of the Housing Section and there has been no decision made on what to do at this location.

Lough Funshinagh

Councillor Tony Ward raised the following issues

- Has there been any results of studies at Lough Funshinagh. €72,000 provided for scoping. Locals know that the issue is there is 1 outlet blocked (a swallow hole at Lisphelim end).

An update was given by Councillor Fallon that after last meeting consultants were tendered for. 5 tenders were submitted. Consultants have been appointed, Malachy Walsh & Partners.

Need to bear in mind what other landowners downriver might be affected/flooded by any works done locally to resolve their flooding issue. have been given assurances that this should resolved in 3 months. Minister Kevin (Boxer) Moran, Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief, has given a commitment that this problem will be solved.

Funding for Housing

Councillor John Keogh queried if government have provided funding to purchase individual houses. He received a call from a tenant who is being evicted and the landlord advised them to contact RCC to purchase the house as RCC had received funding to purchase houses.

Majella Hunt advised she will contact with the Housing Section for information on funding.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 27th September, 2018.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:



Meetings Administrator

Cathaoirleach



Countersigned