

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON
ON MONDAY, 19TH OCTOBER, 2020 AT 2.15 PM.**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Laurence Fallon, Cathaoirleach **PRESIDED**
- MEMBERS:** Cllr P. Fitzmaurice, Cllr D. Kilduff, Cllr T. Crosby, Cllr A. Waldron, Cllr O. Leyden, Cllr T. Ward, Cllr N. Dineen, Cllr V. Byrne, Cllr I. Connaughton, Cllr J. Cummins, Cllr M. Mulligan, Cllr J. Murphy, Cllr J. Naughten, Cllr K. Shanagher and Cllr L. Callaghan.
- OFFICIALS:** Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive
Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Martin Lydon, Director of Services
Shane Tiernan, Director of Services
Liam Bergin, Director of Services
Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator
Michelle Carney, Staff Officer
Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator
- Apologies:** Cllr M. McDermott and Cllr J. Keogh

105.20 THE LATE JOSEPHINE CONNAUGHTON RIP

The Cathaoirleach paid tribute to the late Josephine (Josie) Connaughton, mother of Cllr Ivan and wife of former Cathaoirleach Martin Connaughton. A former postmaster in Athleague, she will be sadly missed by her family and all of the people of Athleague

Cllr. Crosby, Cllr Leyden, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Naughten, Cllr Mulligan, on behalf of their groupings, all spoke warmly of Mrs Connaughton and her contribution to her native parish and expressed their sympathy to Cllr. Ivan and former Cllr. Martin and the extended Connaughton and Fannon families on their loss.

The Chief Executive on behalf of the management team and staff expressed his sympathy to the Cllr. Ivan and the Connaughton family at this sad time.

Cllr. Ivan Connaughton thanked everyone who had sent messages of sympathy since his late mothers passing and thanked all of the members for their kind words.

A minute’s silence was then observed.

106.20 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Mulligan
SECONDED by Cllr. Shanagher
It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the Plenary Meeting of 27.07.2020

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Crosby

SECONDED by Cllr. Cummins

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the Plenary Meeting of 28.09.2020

107.20 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Leyden enquired if there was an update on letter sent on behalf of the members to the Minister for Communications for a meeting to discuss the Just Transition fund.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that all correspondence received to date is included in the Agenda Pack but will follow up with the Department on the matter.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Ward

SECONDED by Cllr. Dineen

That a letter be sent to the OPW to allocate the necessary funding to carry out a survey on the cost of the works required to alleviate flooding at Lough Fuinshinagh.

108.20 MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Management Report for September 2020 noted.

109.20 DISPOSAL OF LANDS - HOUSING

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Cummins

SECONDED by Councillor Byrne

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of property pursuant to the provisions of Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 of particulars of property which it is proposed to dispose of at the location in County Roscommon and to the persons set out in the schedule hereunder. Particulars of the property which the County Council proposes to dispose:

The Property: Site comprising 0.41 hA at Grange Beg Td., Boyle, Co. Roscommon

The person(s) from whom the land was acquired: Kathleen O'Rourke, Grange Beg Boyle, Co. Roscommon

The person(s) to whom the land is to be disposed of: Francis Harrington, Grangemore, Boyle, Co. Roscommon

The consideration proposed in respect of the disposal: €83,000

110.20 DISPOSAL OF LANDS - HOUSING

On the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor Crosby

SECONDED by Councillor Murphy

It was **AGREED** that the Council consent to the disposal of property pursuant to the provisions of Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 of particulars of property which it is proposed to dispose of at the location in County Roscommon and to the persons set out in the schedule hereunder. Particulars of the property which the County Council proposes to dispose:

The Property: Site comprising 0.14 hA at Killappoge Td., Boyle, Co. Roscommon

The person(s) from whom the land was acquired: Anthony Lee, Portabello, Croghan, Boyle, Co. Roscommon

The person(s) to whom the land is to be disposed of: Anthony Beirne, Portabello, Croghan, Boyle, Co. Roscommon

The consideration proposed in respect of the disposal: €7,250

111.20 MEMBERSHIP OF JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE (JPC)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Cllr. Dineen

It was **AGREED** to appoint the following community nominees to the Roscommon Local Community Development Committee:

Tim Dolan	Athlone Chamber	Athlone MD
Bernard Kearney	Muintir na Tire	Roscommon MD
Luke Stephens	Comhairle na nOg	Roscommon MD
Caroline Haran	PPN	Boyle MD
Felicia Loughrey	PPN	Roscommon MD

112.20 MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC)

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fitzmaurice

SECONDED by Cllr. Dineen

It was **AGREED** to appoint the following nominees to the Roscommon Local Community Development Committee:

Lynne Keery	GRETB	State Agency	Second 3 year term
Tom Kellegher	Teagasc	State Agency	Second 3 year term
Carina Lennon	Roscommon Leader Partnership	Local & Community	First 3 year term
Jim O'Connor	IFA	Farming	First 3 year term
Gareth Scahill	Castlerea Town Teams	Business	First 3 year term

113.20 SPECIAL MEETING FOR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In accordance with Section 11(4)(d) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) the Elected Members may issue directions to the Chief Executive regarding the preparation of the Draft Development Plan.

It has been agreed with the Cathaoirleach that a Special meeting will be held on 12th November in the Council Chamber.

114.20 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolutions from other Local Authorities:

- **29th Sept, 2020 – Copy of letter from Louth County Council**
Letter written to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage to state Council's concerns around the impact the Covid-19 crisis has had on the financial position of the Council and will continue to have with the follow on impact on the provision of essential services. The Minister is urged to ensure financial support is made available to all Local Authorities to compensate for the impact of Covid 19 and protect the provision of essential services.
- **2nd Oct, 2020 – Resolution from Galway County Council**
That Galway County Council calls on Debenhams to grant their former Debenhams employees an additional two weeks' redundancy payment, in addition to the statutory two weeks' payment, in recognition of the years of loyal service they have given the company.
- **7th Oct, 2020 – Notice of Motions from Meath County Council**
 - Motion 9.7 – "That Meath County Council calls on the Minister for Health, the Department of Health and NPHET to make available weekly or bi-monthly, details of confirmed COVID-19 cases on a townland basis. This would ensure further compliance with COVID-19 measures and encourage the principle of "We are all in this together" bringing communities together to reduce the spread of the virus locally."
 - Motion 9.8 – "Meath County Council calls upon the Departments of Communications, Climate Action and Environment & Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine & Health to introduce a remunerated DUMP [dispose of unwanted medicines properly] scheme, through pharmacies to promote the safe and appropriate disposal of animal & human medicines, to reduce pharmaceutical waste in the environment."
- **9th Oct, 2020 – Notice of Motions from Wexford County Council**
"That Wexford County Council call on the Government to amend the remit of Irish Water to fund County Councils to allow them to deal with, increase capacity in and manage rural waste water systems in our rural villages with a population of less than 3,000, to protect the survival and growth of rural Ireland."

Other Correspondence:

- **12th Oct, 2020** - Details of successful projects in Roscommon under Accelerated Measure - Round 3, funded by the Department of rural and Community Development.
- **12th Oct, 2020** - Report on the latest IBAL Survey – Nationwide and Roscommon.

115.20 UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS - ROADS

Mr Shane Tiernan, Director of Services updated the members on the Roads Capital Schemes as follows:

All projects subject to compliance with Covid-19 Health and Safety regulations and restrictions. This has implications for contractors and it is intended to carry out as much work as possible on all projects subject to restrictions.

N5 Scramoge to Ballaghaderreen: 33.4km in length and extends from the east tie-in point of the N5 Ballaghaderreen By-pass to Scramoge and bypasses Frenchpark, Bellanagare, Tulsk and Strokestown. Archaeological testing and resolution is ongoing. Fencing, topographical proof survey and geotechnical investigations are ongoing. Advance diversion of Authority & Utility apparatus is ongoing. The main construction contract tender documents were issued to the pre-qualified candidates on 22 July 2020. The

tender process in respect of the main construction contract is ongoing.

N60 Oran Road Realignment Project involves the realignment of approximately 3.4 km of the N60 National Secondary route including 1.7 km of offline construction and 1.7 km of online widening to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is currently ongoing, to date approximately 90% of the land cases have been settled. To date approx. 98% of the works have been completed. The Certificate of Substantial Completion was issued to Wills Bros Ltd. on the 18th September 2020. There are some minor works ongoing comprising accommodation works, signing & lining and snagging. The completion of the works also includes the implementation of necessary alterations to the local road network including the Donamon Junction.

N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Upgrade: This project comprises the improvement of the N61 Road between Ballymurray and Knockcroghery which will incorporate a bypass of Knockcroghery village. Work continued throughout 2020 on the assessment of the route corridor options. It is anticipated the emerging preferred route corridor will be identified in Q4 2020.

N61 Coolteige Phase 1 Road Project involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 2.9km of a section of National Secondary Road on the northern outskirts of Roscommon Town predominately to Type 1 single carriageway standard and is now substantially complete.

N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Realignment Project involves the realignment of approximately 4km of the N61 National Secondary route from a location immediately north of Tulsk village to Clashaganny. The identified emerging preferred route corridor has been identified and is currently available to view on Roscommon County website. The Design Team is currently undertaking technical and environmental surveys within the Preferred Route Corridor and is developing the road design to a level of detail sufficient to identify the land take requirements.

N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Project involves the provision of a transport solution, which may include a new bridge crossing of the River Shannon, to relieve the significant traffic congestion on the N4 through Carrick on Shannon. The extents of the project include a 21 km section of the N4 national primary route extending from Drumharlow townland in County Roscommon to Faulties townland in County Leitrim. Under the Section 85 Agreement in place Leitrim County Council is the Lead Authority. Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd. (Arup) completed Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) in July 2020 and are currently undertaking a Constraints Public Consultation (running from 5 October 2020 to 23 October 2020) to inform the public of the project. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a virtual public consultation which can be accessed through the project website.

CFRAM Carrick on Shannon (and Cortober) Flood Relief Scheme

A Section 85 agreement is in place with Leitrim Co Co the lead authority on the project. Ryan Hanley have been appointed as Design Consultants. The opening public consultation process took place in July 2020 - August 2020. The hydrology workshop has been completed and the Constraints report ongoing and the habitat and screening reports ongoing and the project can be viewed online. Roscommon County Council attend the Steering Group Committee meetings.

Galway to Athlone Cycleway

RPS have been appointed by Westmeath County Council as Design Consultants. They have been working on the Project Brief and Project Appraisal Plan. Roscommon, Galway and Westmeath each have a Project

Engineer assigned to the Project. A Project Office has been set up in Ballinasloe and will open to the public in late August, subject to Covid-19 guidelines. A total of 5 Public consultations events took place from 10th – 14th August presenting the study area and requesting input from the public with 524 participants. This is the first for four public consultation events before planning permission is sought. Over 800 submissions received and are being reviewed. A Code of Best Practice is currently being developed.

Broadband: A recent update was given to members on the progress of the rollout of broadband. The BCP's have been rolled out in rural areas and are now going live which will be a big help to those who are located most distant from high speed broadband fibre network. We expect to be tendering National Broadband Ireland have carried out surveys in towns and villages across the county in what is known as the intervention area to allow them to roll out high speed fibre broadband in those areas.

Other Projects – Active Travel Measures:

We received over €1m in funding under this new initiative this year and we are actively progressing these projects across the county which include footpaths, widening of footpaths for cycleways. We also have received an additional €500k for climate adaptation works on roads across the county.

The members welcomed the report and discussed as follows:

- Need an outcome for the preferred route for the Knockcroghery By-Pass before the end of the year as planning permissions are restricted until this is confirmed and TII have been consulted on this matter.
- The TII have agreed that the realignment of the Donamon Junction will be changed to meet the concerns regarding the junction.
- Whatever can be done to promote the towns such as Strokestown, Tulsk, Frenchpark and Ballinagare and that will be bypassed as a result of the N5 project must be a priority for the Council. The process to install proper advance signage must be commenced to facilitate and promote the historical and tourist attractions in the area.
- The work carried out on the N61 from Roscommon town is a great success.
- Welcome the upgrade works on the Tulsk to Clashaganny section of the N61 as this section of road is quite dangerous
- Disappointed that the N61 north of Tulsk is not included in proposed upgrade works.
- A proposal has been submitted to the TII that the N61 be upgraded to a National Primary route as over 13k cars per day travel on the Athlone to Roscommon section. A complete new road is required due to the road safety concerns on such a busy road. An upgrade of the turning lanes need to be done immediately and there is adequate road space to do this.
- When will the appropriate assessment be completed on the R362 as this is a vital piece of infrastructure of the Old Tuam Road and must also include the immediate installation of a roundabout at Cloonakilla NS to allow for turning vehicles.
- A cycle route from the Greenway to Roscommon town would be desirable
- Welcome the progress of the N5 project and cooperation of the landowners to date, however the surface of the road from Rathcroghan to Ballinagare need to be upgraded immediately.
- Compliment the work done on the Tulsk Village project but there are still some issues to be completed.
- Will the upgrade at Scramogue Cross be included in the N5 project and will lighting upgrade be included?
- Welcome the N60 upgrade works completed at Oran and the ongoing works from Ballymoe to

Castlerea.

- The Arm Cashel and Meelickaduff section of the N60 has been constantly neglected and has there been correspondence from TII on why no funding has been forthcoming.
- Is it the Council or TII who makes the decision on the preferred route for Knockcroghery Bypass (N61)?
- Over €200M will be spent on the N5 Project over the next 5 years and where possible, it is critical that local employment be utilised.
- Welcome the reopening of the LIS Scheme to upgrade small roads.
- R446 from Athlone to Ballinasloe - a new roundabout and pedestrian crossing at that location is required because of the impact of the new Cholaiste Chiaran secondary School.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Byrne

SECONDED by Cllr. Murphy

It was **AGREED** to write to the TII for confirmation as to when funding for the realignment of the N61 road, north of Tulsk will be approved.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Kilduff

SECONDED by Cllr. Ward

It was **AGREED** to call on the TII to immediately install turning lanes at major junctions on the N61 from Ganleys roundabout to St Brigids GAA junction.

Mr. Tiernan addressed questions raised:

- The NRDO in Roscommon will decide on the preferred route for the N61, expected in November/December 2020. This will have to be then agreed with TII. It is a priority of RCC to have this route upgraded to National Primary route and has been included in Draft Development Plan and it is pivotal issue for the development of Roscommon town. Representations will be made at highest level on this project to TII as linkage to Athlone.
- Contractors have been appointed to carry out a traffic study as part of the Athlone Strategic Transport Assessment in conjunction with Westmeath Co Co including the turn off junctions. Before we receive any indication of funding such a project, this assessment should be completed and the TII have contributed €60k to the study.
- A dedicated team is looking at all signage requirements and how it will impact on smaller towns on the N5 upgrade including 'brown signage' -these signs typically highlight local amenities etc.
- The Department allocated €200k in 2020 for R362 and it is expected to progress this project next year with an Appropriate Assessment. There will be a challenge in relation to the land at Clonakilla school and a decision will have to be made to get the best value from the €200k allocated.
- The sum of €220k was allocated from TII to widen footpaths, construct new footpaths and install toucan crossing on R446 and L2027 at Crannagh Summerhill/Drum Community Centre
- The LIS scheme will be advertised in November. Substantial progress has been achieved in recent years with small number of schemes on hand to complete.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Naughten

SECONDED by Cllr. Ward

To write to the Minister for Transport and The Taoiseach regarding the strategic importance of the N61 and that it be designated a national primary route

The Chief Executive stated his commitment to seek to have the N61 upgraded to National Primary status

due to the repositioning of Athlone. He asked that the Council complete its work on the survey to ensure that the best possible proposal is made to the Department for this to happen. Cllr. Naughten agreed to withdraw his letter to the Department until this work is complete.

The Cathaoirleach complimented the staff on the amount of work done on progressing schemes in 2020 to date.

The Chief Executive also paid tribute to the work of the NRRO in progressing the N5 to its current stage at an unprecedented rate for such a scheme.

116.20 UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS - REGENERATION UNIT AND C&E

Ms. Majella Hunt, Director of Services presented a report on the projects that are being delivered by the Regeneration Unit:

- The initiatives commenced in 2017 with funding available from Government under various schemes to regenerate towns and villages
- 2017:
 - Seven town and Village Scheme with approved cost of €850k
 - CLAR Funding projects continued with 20 projects at a cost of €605k
 - Outdoor Recreation Scheme (new) for smaller projects at cost of €118k
 - All projects now completed.
- 2018:
 - Funding increased for Outdoor recreation Projects
 - Town and Village Projects – 8 projects funded at a cost of €1.1M
 - CLAR – 11 projects funded at cost of €313k
 - URDF and RRDF Scheme introduced for the period 2018 – 2027 with significant funding for large projects – 2 projects approved to commence in Roscommon under the RRDF scheme in Boyle and Castlerea at a total cost of €4.3m. These projects have reached the final stage of approval with detailed design completed and awaiting approval from the Department to go to construction stage.
 - Under the RRDF Scheme two projects approved for Roscommon town:
 - Public Realm Works involving the upgrade of the Square and Main Street with investment of €5.8m. Detailed design completed and full gateway approval from Department received. Meeting with contractor this week on pre appointment for this 12-18 month timeline.
 - Preparatory Concept Project for Roscommon Town- €470k cost approved
 - Outdoor Recreation Scheme: 5 projects at cost of €1.4m All projects are nearing completion, the most significant of which is the Cycleway in Boyle.
 - Historic Towns Initiative: 1 successful project in Boyle at cost of €168k also complete
- 2019:
 - Town & Villages - 6 successful projects at cost of €940k
 - Outdoor Recreation Scheme – 7 projects at a cost of €650k
 - RRDF – 1 project at Monksland at cost of €3.8m applied for and has moved to first stage of

detailed design with consultants just appointed.

- CLAR – 10 schemes at cost of €350k
- Failte Ireland Destination Initiative(new) - €470k approved
- 2020:
 - RRDF –applied for one project in Ballaghaderreen – an initial development concept for the town. This was approved for design stage and consultants currently being appointed.
 - Town and Village (Covid19) funding – 15 projects approved at cost of €450k
 - Historic Towns Initiative: 1 successful project in Roscommon Town (Abbey St and Church St) at cost of €190k ongoing.
 - Outdoor Recreation Scheme – four applications to be submitted by 1st December.
 - RRDF – three projects in Boyle, Strokestown and Elphin awaiting Part 8 approval from the Boyle Municipal district members and due to be submitted by 1st December.
 - Just Transition Fund (new)- one successful project approved and two more ready to be submitted at next call.

In total over 100 projects are live at a total investment of €23m plus €5m matched funding from Roscommon County Council to end of 2019. If the 2020 projects submitted are successful this will increase to €30m with matched funding of €7m.

In addition smaller projects under CEP and Creative Ireland funding streams are also ongoing.

The Cathoirleach thanked Ms. Hunt for her very comprehensive overview of the work of the Regeneration Unit and thanked her and her staff for their work. The investment will see a substantial change in the county, particularly in many urban areas and make our towns more effective. He paid tribute to the communities and staff for the quality of the applications submitted for approval, and the high success rate of the applications as this is a competitive tendering process.

The members discussed the report as follows:

- The substantial sum of €23m already approved from 2017 to date is a great endorsement of the county and reflects the commitment of the Elected Members, staff and the community.
- There is a new found confidence in Boyle because the lead of the Council investment in the hotel and cycleway.
- Maintenance agreement in the future to clean off the leaves on the Boyle cycle track as can be dangerous at this time of year.
- Submissions in relation to Part 8's for the projects in the Boyle MD need to be considered in context of parking needs.
- Welcome the funding to smaller towns and villages in particular.
- The Monksland Hub will be of great strategic importance and we look forward to the consequent employment opportunities it should create. Can the upgrade of the Monksland road network at the Old Tuam Road be considered as part of this project?
- Welcome improvement works in Athleague, Ballyforan and Creagh.
- Important that the members have supported the projects and approved €5m matched funding through maintaining the LPT increase.
- Welcome the Historic Towns Initiative – can businesses be consulted to work together to avail of the grant for projects?

- Are there any other sources of funding available outside of these schemes for projects that are not successful to date.

The Chief Executive welcomed the extraordinary level of investment in the county and the work of the Director and her team to bring the projects to fruition. He thanked the Members for their decision to support the contribution of the Local Property Tax towards the funding of the projects.

In reply to the queries from the Members, the Director confirmed that the HTI funding is for conservation projects and not maintenance of buildings. She advised that all villages are encouraged to submit Expressions of Interest for projects but must be mindful of the strict criteria necessary to complete applications.

117.20 CHIEF EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

The Chief Executive invited the Director of Services, Liam Bergin to update the members regarding the increased cost of disposal of hazardous waste in the Civic Amenity Site in Roscommon and the consequent implications:

- There has been a noticeable increase in the amount of paint cans (hazardous waste) brought for disposal to the Civic Amenity Site this year.
- There has been a consequent increased cost to the Council in paying for the disposal of this paint as the intake volume has increased and contractors have tripled their costs.
- Roscommon is the only local civic amenity site providing this disposal service, with none in the adjoining counties of Leitrim and Longford.
- The increased cost of providing the service in 2020 is envisaged to be €60k if no changes are made. In order to continue providing the service, a separate charge for disposal of hazardous waste will have to be implemented immediately.
- The proposed change is to have a separate charge of € 3.50 for disposal of up to three tins of paint at any one time.
- As this is an executive function, a resolution is not required from the members

The members discussed as follows:

- It would be preferable to continue to provide the service if possible
- Difficult to reconcile increased disposal charges when illegal dumping is a continuing and escalating problem.
- This matter should have been discussed at the appropriate SPC before considering introduction of the proposed charges.
- Charges for paint disposal are in operation in Ballinasloe CAS
- This is not an unreasonable proposal and should serve the needs of most domestic users and unlikely to lead to increased dumping.

In response to the discussion Mr. Bergin confirmed that he would have preferred to bring the matter to the next SPC but due to the cost implications, action must be taken immediately by the Executive.

118.20 NOTICE OF MOTION

As the agreed time of two hours allocated to the meeting under Covid -19 regulations had expired, the Motions were deferred to the November meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday, 23rd November, 2020.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Petrizio Bohan

Meetings Administrator

Liam J. Lally

Cathaoirleach

Petrizio Bohan

Countersigned